



From the Desk of the Technical Secretariat

WORK PLAN

As a result of the XX Vice-Ministerial Meeting, held in Mexico City in November and December 2015, the Technical Secretariat (TS) engaged in a review of the documents on the structure and operations of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) from its inception in 1996 to date and compiled them in one document.

In addition, a biannual Work Plan was developed in December and the first weeks of January, based on the vice-ministerial agreements emanated from the meetings held in 2013, 2014 and 2015. These documents were consulted and shared with various bodies of the RCM, such as the President pro tempore (PPT) and the Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the members of the Troika (Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador).

Please refer to the documents attached as appendixes.

FIRST COORDINATION MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE 2016

In January 2016 the TS met with Vice-Minister María Andrea Mataros, Undersecretary for Consular and Migration Affairs, and her team in Honduras to discuss the efforts implemented to date by the TS in regard to the agreements emanated from the XX Vice-Ministerial Meeting, and to support the actions to be carried out by the PPT during this year under the proposed theme of *Shared and Differentiated Responsibility*.

The line of work was defined at this meeting: to coordinate and mainstream this theme in accordance with the objectives of the Work Plan.

The TS welcomes the PPT, led by Vice-Minister María Andrea Mataros and her team.



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FIRST HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE TROIKA

The First High-Level Meeting of the Troika was held in San Salvador in the first week of February.

During the meeting, Vice-Ministers and their respective technical teams discussed various topics of interest to the RCM, including the compiled documents and the review of the general objectives of the Work Plan submitted by the Technical Secretariat.

In addition, the next steps for sharing the documents with the RCM Member Countries were discussed, as well as the schedule for this year, the presentation of the theme selected by the PPT, strengthening of the RCM and matters of regional interest such as the flows of Cuban and extraregional migrants.

Please refer to the attached documents.

THE PPT MEETS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International organizations and the RCM Technical Secretariat (TS) met with the President pro tempore (PPT) and its team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, with the aim of joining efforts. The objective of the meeting was to deepen the relations between the PPT and international organizations, to converse and to reiterate the support for the efforts of the PPT, TS and RCM.

FIRST MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE RCM

During the last week of January, the RCM Technical Secretariat (TS) met with the international observer organizations that are currently most actively involved in the RCM. Regional representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a representative from the Regional Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) participated in the meeting. In addition, the respective technical teams of the above-mentioned organizations attended the meeting as well.



The meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica with the objective of strengthening the links with observer organizations, discussing the current political climate and operational situation in the region and addressing opportunities to cooperate with the RCM based on the objectives of the Work Plan, mechanisms to join efforts and mechanisms for regular follow-up on the coordination.





The Workshop on Validation of Documents relating to Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents was well attended.

WORKSHOPS ON VALIDATION OF DOCUMENTS ON MIGRANT BOYS, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS

Workshops on Validation of the following documents were held during the week of March 7-12, 2016 in San Salvador: (1) *Regional Handbook for the Comprehensive Protection of Boys, Girls and Adolescents in the Context of Migration (IOM)*; (2) *Consular Protection Recommendations for Unaccompanied or Separated Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents and/or Those in Need of Consular Protection (IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF)*; and (3) *Common Indicators for the Registration of Unaccompanied or Separated Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents in Consular Actions by Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF)*.

During the workshops, representatives from RCM Member Countries, international observer organizations and civil society reviewed and discussed the contents of the documents and reached agreements.

This successful process is a milestone in the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents, since it reflects the high level of commitment regarding this matter.

The documents emanated from the workshops will be disseminated – as drafts and reports – to RCM Member Countries and civil society for input on April 15.

The final versions will be submitted for translation on May 5.

Vice-Minister Liduvina Magarín, as representative of the country that hosted the workshops, convened a press conference to share the success of this process. The Technical Secretariat of the RCM participated in the press conference as well.

ASSESSING THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON MIGRANT BOYS, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS

In an effort to understand the process of the work carried out by this Ad Hoc Group in the past three years, the Technical Secretariat (TS) of the RCM conducted an assessment of this initiative. Four work groups were established, including workshop participants who had attended two or more meetings of the Ad Hoc Group. In addition, representatives from international observer organizations and civil society participated as well. A questionnaire was administered, urging those involved in the process to participate.

On Friday afternoon, the final day of the meeting, the TS shared the first results. It was agreed to disseminate a report with an analysis of the results from this effort on April 15.



WORKSHOP ON CIVIL SOCIETY, MIGRATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Following up on the cooperation between civil society and the RCM, the PPT, the TS, the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) and CAMMINA, a workshop is being organized to discuss this effort in the context of the central theme selected for this year – Shared and Differentiated Responsibility.

The above-mentioned organizations are coordinating the agenda and logistical aspects for the workshop.

The workshop will be held in Honduras on May 17-19. The invitation, agenda and other logistical information will be sent to the focal points on April 23.

FIRST MEETING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

The Technical Secretariat (TS) and the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) met in mid-January, with the aim of strengthening and deepening relations with civil society, as agreed at the XX Vice-Ministerial Meeting held in Mexico City. The meeting was celebrated at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Mexico City.

During the meeting, the current panorama of migration was addressed. The meeting was facilitated by the Coordinator of the TS and Mr Oscar Chacón, member of RNCOM for the United States.

In addition, the TS shared information about the planning and consultation process conducted with the PPT, the Troika and international organizations. Furthermore, RNCOM suggested that the efforts of the RCM/RNCOM Ad Hoc Group be taken up again.

Subsequently, the PPT conducted a meeting with the Executive Committee of RNCOM. The mutual interest of strengthening the links with civil society were addressed during this meeting.

Vice-Minister Matamoros expressed her commitment with RNCOM to give continuity to the work of the Ad Hoc Group.



WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION AND HEALTH

The governments of Canada and Costa Rica, with support from the TS, are currently organizing a Workshop on Migration and Health. The event is scheduled to be celebrated in the last week of September. The participation of experts and international organizations expert on the matter is expected.

We expect to share additional information about the workshop during the upcoming meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM).

TECHNICAL MEETING OF THE TROIKA

A technical meeting of the Member Countries of the Troika (Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador) and the Technical Secretariat (TS) will be held in mid-April in San José, Costa Rica in the headquarters of the RCM.

The meeting objectives include following up on the work plans and addressing the organization of the upcoming meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM). After the technical meeting, the PPT and the TS will meet to discuss administrative and logistical matters relating to the organization of the meeting of the RCGM.

Your recommendations, to be considered at the meeting of the Troika in preparation of the meeting of the RCGM, are welcome.

The RCGM and the workshop on the theme selected by the PPT for 2016 will be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras during the week of June 6-10.



CALENDAR

May:

Workshop on Civil Society, Migration and Development (within the framework of the RCM/RNCOM Ad Hoc Group)
(Honduras, May 17-19)

June:

Regional Consultation Group on Migration and Workshop on the Theme of the PPT
(Tegucigalpa, Honduras, June 7-10)

September:

Workshop on Migration and Health
(San José, Costa Rica, September 28-29)

November:

XXI Regional Conference on Migration
(Tegucigalpa, November 15-18)



ABOUT THE RCM

The RCM is an inter-governmental forum established to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences for reflection and to promote cooperation in migration matters of common interest to the RCM Member Countries.

The Member Countries of the RCM are Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States. The RCM Member Countries meet regularly throughout each calendar year.

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Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

MEET OUR COLLABORATORS

Two brilliant young people are collaborating with us since January: Francisco Nieves and Carmen Vélez Oliver. They support us in the areas of Follow-Up and Evaluation and Social Communication.

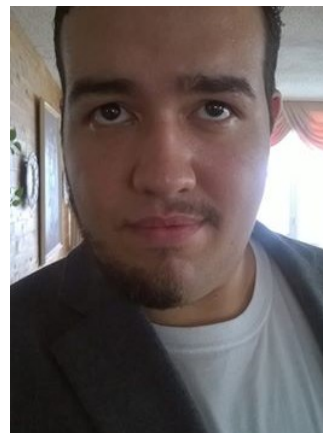


Carmen Vélez Oliver is 21 years old. She is currently in her fourth year of Communication at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in Puerto Rico.

Her work in the RCM is focused on social communication. Specifically, she supports the implementation of strategies to improve the website and informative materials of the RCM. In addition, she is involved in preparing communiqués, assessing campaigns and social networks, as well as other tasks related to communication.

Her wish is to contribute in addressing social issues and to be part of the transformation processes.

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Francisco Nieves is 24 years old. He just received his BA in Social Sciences emphasizing Social Action Research from the University of Puerto Rico.

His support for the RCM Technical Secretariat includes assessment and follow-up actions with a special focus on systematization and development of methodologies and analysis of processes such as the work of the Ad Hoc Group on Migrant Boys, Girls and Adolescents, among others.

Francisco has collaborated in research projects in communities of migrants in Puerto Rico.

