**PROPOSAL SEMINAR ON MIGRANT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

**Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, 2013**

The migratory reality that today we live in the region is very complex particularly that caused by child migration, be it for children and teenagers accompanied by their families or other adults or unaccompanied children and adolescents. While migration in the region has been a reality since ancient times, it should be noted that cultural and socioeconomic factors have hindered the visibility of child migration, therefore the local and regional coordination to address the problem.

In this regard, within the framework of the Regional Conference on Migration -RCM-, which is a multilateral forum in which participating countries share their perspectives of origin, transit and destination in migration issues, the conscious States about the attention and response to be given to child migration and other vulnerable groups have promoted several actions, among which are:

* Seminar on Migrant Women and Children, held in El Salvador in 2000,
* Approval of the "Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Children and Adolescents in Cases of Repatriation" in July 2009.
* Workshop on Boys, Girls and Adolescent Migrants and Refugees, held in San José, Costa Rica, in March 27th and 28th , 2012, following the decision rendered in the XIII Vice-ministerial Meeting of the RCM, held in Tela, Honduras, 8 -9 May 2008, and the initiative presented at the Vice-Ministerial Meeting held in La Romana, Dominican Republic, in June 2011, through which the Vice-ministers decided to approve the initiative of the International Organization for Migration -IOM- to conduct a "regional Forum on policies based on studies conducted by UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, amongst others, on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, in cooperation with interested international organizations"

In this sense, and taking into consideration the statement of the XVII Vice Ministerial Meeting held in Panama City in June 2012, to specifically address the reiteration of "the importance of the adoption and ongoing development to identify mechanisms of protection and assistance needs", and the decision to "include government experts in the attention and care of migrant children in the Liaison Officers Network for Consular Protection", just as the topics chosen by Costa Rica, in its role as Presidency Pro-Tempore 2013 (Integration, Migrant Children and Smuggling), Guatemala proposes holding a "Seminar in the Field of Migrant Children and Adolescents", which seeks to give continuity to the regional dialogue on the migration reality that today's unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents have to face, as well as the recognition and exchange of good practices implemented by Member States for the protection, care and comprehensive care for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, identifying regional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and regional approaches to child migration.

**Objectives of the Seminar:**

1. Jointly address the problem that arises from the migration of unaccompanied children and adolescents.
2. Visibility of unaccompanied child migration in the region, recognizing the risks and indentify prevention strategies.
3. Identification and sharing of good practices in a comprehensive approach regarding the unaccompanied child migration.
4. Identification of bilateral and regional mechanisms for strengthening and creating strategies to protect, support and rise comprehensive care for unaccompanied children and adolescents.

**Seminar´s Description:**

For the execution of the seminar it is expected to involve government institutions and civil society.

The Seminar would be divided into two blocks. A high level political block that would include presentations by country through high government officials, and a second would be a technical block, in charge of government delegates and civil society, experts in the field.

As methodology, two systems will be applied. One Plenary and simultaneous Dialogue Groups. To advance in objectives No. 1 and 2, the plenary will be proposed, while to advance the goals in objectives No. 3 and 4 simultaneous dialogue groups are proposed, responding to the different stages of child migration:

* Prevention
* Consular Protection and Repatriation
* Reception and Psychosocial Care
* Reintegration / Integration

Each dialogue group will consist of different government institutions together with the civil society, according to their competence. To consolidate the conclusions and recommendations a final plenary will be held, in which they will seek to identify the situation per country and regionally.

**Participants**

High-level technical and political delegates with knowledge on the subject, as well as the competencies and responsibilities of the institutions or agencies they represent: institutes of child and family protection, Immigration Offices, representatives of the Consular Directorates of the Foreign Affairs Ministries, Education Ministries, NGO´s working on migration issues, and NGO´s working in promoting the rights of Children and Adolescents.

**FIRST DAY** LOCATION: **ANTIGUA GUATEMALA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am |  **Registration and delivery of nametags for participants.** |
| 9:00 am – 11: 00 am |  | **OPENING**PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FIRST LADIESModerator: TBD Location: TBD  |
| 11:00 am – 11:30 am | COFFEE BrEAK |
| 11:30 am – 1:00 pm |  | SESSION: OVERVIEW OF CHILD MIGRATIONModerator: TBDLocation: TBD  |
| 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm |  | **LUNCH** |
| 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm |  | **PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS** |
|  |  | GROUP AModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP BModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP CModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP DModerator: TBDLocation: TBD |
| 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm |  | **COFFEE BREAK** |
| 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm |  | **CONSULAR PROTECTION, PROCEDURES AND REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENTS**  |
|  |  | GROUP AModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP BModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP CModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP DModerator: TBDLocation: TBD |
|  5:30 pm | Closure, Dinner´s Information and Afternoon in Antigua (Tourist Information Included)  |

 **SECOND DAY** LOCATION: **ANTIGUA GUATEMALA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9:00 am – 10:30 am |  | **RECEPTION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE** |
|  |  | GROUP AModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GRUOP BModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP CModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP DModerator: TBDLocation: TBD |
| 10:30 am – 11:00 am |  | COFFEE BREAK |
| 11:00 am – 12:30 pm |  |  **REINSERTION** |
|  |  | GROUP AModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP BModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP CModerator: TBDLocation: TBD | GROUP DModerator: TBDLocation: TBD |
| 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm |  | **LUNCH** |
| 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm |  | **IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:****DIVIDED BY COUNTRY**  |
| 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm |  | **COFFEE BREAK** |
| 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm |  | PRESENTATIONS BY COUNTRY ON IDENTIFICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS |
|  5:00 pm |  Closure |