**International Conference on Migration, Children and Family**

**Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**July 16-17, 2014**

***Roadmap: An Invitation to Action***

The International Conference on Migration, Children and Family, held on July 16-17, 2014 in Tegucigalpa, included representatives from the governments of the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, as well as the United Nations System, the Organization of American States, the Central American Integration System, international cooperation agencies and civil society.

The Government of Honduras would like to share what we consider to be the primary reflections and strategic lines that emerged from the Conference, which represent a framework for action and commitment to respond to the serious humanitarian emergency situation generated by the significant flow of unaccompanied migrant boys and girls to the United States, the majority of whom come from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

In this regard, the following is highlighted:

- The causes of this flow of migrant boys, girls and adolescents are manifold; particularly violence in all its dimensions, drug trafficking, poverty, inequality and social exclusion; lack of opportunities; domestic violence; family reunification; trafficking in persons; etc., as well as the false perception that if a boy, girl or adolescent or a family with a boy, girl or adolescent arrives in the United States they will not be returned to their country of origin.

- Every State – whether of origin, transit or destination – has the obligation to respect and ensure the human rights of migrants and the principles of the best interest of the child, access to international protection, non-discrimination, due process and family reunification. States should implement efforts in cooperation with the international community and civil society to address the causes of migration, with a special focus on access to health care, prevention of teenage pregnancy, education, employment, food security, housing and family income generating projects for returned migrants, as well as accompaniment of and follow-up for families throughout the process of reintegration into their communities.

- Given the subregional dimension of this situation, actions should be based on a principle of shared responsibility, integration and coordination, harmonizing efforts between countries of origin, transit and destination and with a firm commitment by all involved actors, including governments, civil society as a whole, the private sector and relevant subregional, regional and international organizations with experience in this field.

- The strategy to address this humanitarian situation with its causal links should consider short-, medium- and long-term actions. In this context, the humanitarian dimension should be addressed in the short term, with a special focus on unaccompanied migrant boys, girls and adolescents that are being held at the borders, in shelters or other centres and those that return to their countries of origin; in addition, attention should be drawn to the risks that are faced particularly by migrant girls, female adolescents and young women while in transit.

- To strengthen effective border control actions considering the human rights dimension. In this regard, it is essential that the immigration procedures implemented by relevant authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination are guided by the principle of the best interest of the child. The cases of migrant boys, girls and adolescents that disappear and do not arrive at their destination as well as victims of sexual violence, forced labour and sale of human organs are of particular concern.

- To have a platform in place to identify and address current issues – such as the humanitarian crisis that we are facing today – as well as structural issues, and another platform to follow up on boys, girls and adolescents and their families throughout their reintegration process, applying criteria for differentiated and individualized protection in order to support safe return processes and facilitating guided and sustainable return processes.

- To design and implement programmes aimed at facilitating the social reintegration of migrants, including education, access to health care, security and protection from violence as well as access to economic opportunities.

- To review, analyse, update and systematize international regulations with the aim of proposing a legal framework for the comprehensive protection of migrant boys, girls and adolescents.

- To strengthen the commitment of governments and other key actors to continue advocating for the protection of migrants through awareness-raising of the involved countries in binational, subregional, regional and international spaces for dialogue; in addition, to strengthen institutional-level communication mechanisms between countries and develop social communication campaigns for the general public, highlighting the risks of irregular migration and the options of regular migration.

- To implement effective actions to dismantle migrant smuggling and trafficking networks as well as transnational organized crime and drug trafficking in countries of origin, transit and destination; to investigate cases; to exchange information between countries and punish perpetrators of migrant smuggling and trafficking, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

- To strengthen regional and national protection and coordination frameworks, maximising regional mechanisms and platforms in Mesoamerica.

- Countries should strengthen relevant efforts, in the medium and long term, to address the structural causes and achieve sustainable development. This will enable addressing the root causes of migration, such as violence, poverty and inequality, and offering better opportunities to boys, girls, adolescents and youth for a dignified life. This involves investing in youth programmes, since this population group is the most important asset of a country and in addition, this is one of the ways to help reduce poverty.

The Government of Honduras considers that, in order to achieve all of the above, joint efforts are required in order to implement the following proposals:

FIRST: To design and implement a regional initiative based on previous experiences to eradicate the security emergency caused by the fact that organized crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering networks are located in our countries and, at the same time, promote economic development and social inclusion.

SECOND: To design and implement a programme with sufficient resources to enable effective border control actions and eliminate “blind spots”; to persecute, dismantle and permanently defeat coyote networks; to protect the human rights and physical and mental integrity of migrants, especially unaccompanied boys, girls and adolescents, in territories of transit. In addition, to coordinate joint efforts by relevant institutions in the countries of the region to implement dissuasion and protection actions.

THIRD: The United States should permanently establish a clearly defined migration policy in regard to the countries in the region; in addition, a large-scale and wide-ranging communication programme should be implemented as a joint effort of the US Government and governments of countries in the region to inform every citizen, leaving no room for confusion or lack of information.

[To disseminate information about] the rights, obligations and interdictions relating to irregular migration as well as the risks associated to travelling trough transit territories; to establish institutional structures and practices for irregular migrants that are detained in US territory, enabling expedited processes to resolve each situation on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the law, protecting the physical and mental integrity and respecting the human rights of migrants.

FOURTH: To implement effective institutional models for the reception of deported migrants in their countries of origin, with the aim of ensuring the following: an appropriate reception, promoting the dignity of individuals and families; adequate reintegration into the labour market and the education system; and personalized follow-up on individuals and families to ensure that they do not decide to migrate again.

Honduras expects to immediately initiate the consultations and negotiations that are required to establish a REGIONAL INITIATIVE as soon as possible in order to enable us to jointly address this humanitarian crisis in a definitive manner, recognizing our shared responsibility for achieving peace, security, well-being and justice for our peoples.

Tegucigalpa M.D.C., July 17, 2014