**Amendment to the Agreement for the Operation Fund of the Regional Conference on Migration to Assist Intra-Regional Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations**

***WHEREAS***

1. As a result of point 14 of the Conclusions from the meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on migration (RCGM), held in Panama City, Panama, 18-19 May, 2004, the Protocol for the execution of the *Guidelines for the Establishment of Multilateral and/or Bilateral Mechanisms among the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) on the Topic of the Return of Regional Migrants by Land* was prepared.
2. During the meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration, held December 4-6, 2012, in Panama City, Panama, representatives of the RCM Member Countries requested IOM to write a new draft of the Agreement for the Operation Fund of the Regional Conference on Migration to Assist Intra-Regional Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations, based on the comments and suggestions provided at the meeting by the different delegations.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, the parties to this instrument

**AGREE AS FOLLOWS**

**ONE.-** The available financial resources will be used to address humanitarian cases that are in highly vulnerable situations and require assistance beyond that provided for in the existing programs in each RCM Member Country.

In this regard, the following are considered as high vulnerability situations: (a) Unaccompanied, sick or wounded minors, (b) pregnant, sick or wounded women, (c) Unaccompanied elders older than 70 years; (d) any other sick or disabled person.

The maximum assistance that can be provided per case is US$1.000. The purpose is to turn the available resources into a seed fund that may grow with the cooperation of the governments concerned, international organizations, private foundations, private persons, etc.

**TWO**.- The regular authorization for the use of the funds will be directly approved by the IOM, according to the guidelines established by the RCM, without need for prior authorization from the TS or the Presidency Pro-Témpore (PPT) of the RCM.

**THREE**.- Upon receipt of a request for funding to support a return that, by its nature or its cost, does not fully comply with the established usage guidelines of the Fund, the IOM will submit this request to the TS for its consideration, who will make a decision on such funding.

**FOUR**.- The fund can be used for conducting air migrant returns when health conditions or security of the migrant so warrant.

**FIVE**.- When it comes to returns of minors or people who are sick or injured, the Fund may be used to cover the expenses of, at most, one person per case acting as medical or custodial escort when conditions warrant. In case several migrants requiring escorts are travelling together, by general rule, the expenses of one escort will be covered.

Original signed by:

Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) Presidency Pro-Témpore

International Organization for Migration (IOM)