



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración  
Regional Conference on Migration



## MIGRATION POLICY TRAINING PROGRAM

### CONCEPT NOTE

## CONTEXT

### 1. Global and Regional Migration Trends

#### 1.1. Migration Flows

The last five years has seen an increase in international migration, from the number of persons migrating to the visibility of this topic in global, regional and national agendas. Currently, the number of international migrants is estimated at 272 million worldwide<sup>1</sup>, of which, 52% are male and 48% are female, which confirms a trend towards a higher feminization of migration.<sup>2</sup>

In geographical terms, migration patterns vary from region to region. While the majority of international migrants born in Africa, Asia and Europe tend to reside within their regions of birth, in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America, the majority of migrants tend to reside outside of their regions of birth. In 2019, the distribution of international migrants based on income levels at the country of destination indicated that almost two-thirds of migrants reside in high-income countries (176 million), while approximately one-third (82 million) reside in mid-income countries, and 13 million in low-income countries.

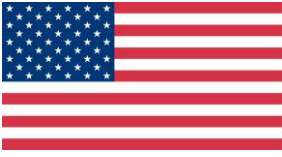
According to IOM's 2020 World Migration Report<sup>3</sup>, migration towards North America is a key aspect in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Latin American and Caribbean population residing in North America has increased considerably throughout the years, from approximately 10 million in 1990, to increase rapidly to 25.5 million in 2015, and then to 26.6 million in 2019. By the year 2019, Mexico was the largest migration Country of Origin in Latin America and the Caribbean, with approximately 12 million Mexican nationals living abroad. Mexico is the second largest country of origin in the world, after India. Furthermore, a significant amount of South American migrants reside in other parts of the region. Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reported 2.9 million and 5 million emigrants, respectively<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019): International migrant stock 2019, available at: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Source: IOM (2019), 2020 World Migration Report, available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/informe-sobre-las-migraciones-en-el-mundo-2020>.

<sup>3</sup> Source: IOM (2019), 2020 World Migration Report, available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/informe-sobre-las-migraciones-en-el-mundo-2020>.

<sup>4</sup> Source: IOM (2019), 2020 World Migration Report, available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/informe-sobre-las-migraciones-en-el-mundo-2020> and <https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform>



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Most Mexican migrants live in the United States, forming the largest country-to-country migration corridor in the world. However, it is also an important country of transit for migrants travelling north, towards the southern border of the United States. The combination of several social, economic and political factors are also turning it into a very alluring country of destination for international migrants.

United States of America continued to lead as the main country of destination for international migrants. Since 1970, the number of foreign nationals living in this country has quadrupled (from slightly under 12 million in 1970 and rise steeply to almost 51 million in 2019). Without taking the United States and Canada into consideration, the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)<sup>5</sup> sheltered approximately 2.5 million international migrants in its territories in 2019, with the following distribution:

Table 1 – Number of international migrants in RCM Member Countries, by Country of Destination (2019)

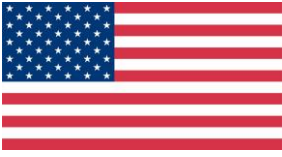
Country of Destination	Number of International Migrants
Belize	59,998
Canada	7,960,657
Costa Rica	417,768
El Salvador	42,617
United States of America	50,661,149
Guatemala	80,421
Honduras	38,933
Mexico	1,060,707
Nicaragua	42,172
Panama	185,072
Dominican Republic	567,648
TOTAL	61,117,142

Source: United Nations, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migrant Stock 2019, available at:  
<https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>

Comparatively, in 2019, 32.1 million RCM Member Country nationals immigrated to another Member Country of this regional consultation process. The main destination for Central American migrants is the United States (78% total), followed by Costa Rica (5.35%), Spain (4.18%), Canada (1.8%) and Mexico (1.6%). The remaining 9.07% are spread across 159 countries and territories around the world.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> This calculation only includes: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic.

<sup>6</sup> Other relevant intra-regional migration corridors include the migration corridor of Nicaragua, Panama and other Central American countries towards Costa Rica seeking temporary or permanent work, and migrants from Central American countries (mainly Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador) towards Belize. In the Caribbean, the most relevant intra-regional corridor is Haiti towards Dominican Republic. Source: UNDESA, cited in Source: IOM, UNHCR, SICA (2019), Baseline Study Findings on Migration and Displacement in the SICA Region, available at: <https://rosanjose.iom.int/SITE/es/biblioteca/hallazgos-del-estudio-de-linea-base-sobre-migracion-y-desplazamiento-en-la-region-del>



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Table 2 – Number of RCM Member Country international migrants that immigrated to another Member Country, by destination and origin (2019)

Country of Destination	Country of Origin										
	BEL	CAN	CRI	DOM	ESV	GUA	HND	MEX	NIC	PAN	USA
DOM		705	170		131	239	211	807	131	406	7,620
BEL		430			4,965	12,503	4,750	2,042			2,350
CAN	1,021		1,900	5,451	25,412	9,219	3,956	39,950	5,030	1,314	120,815
CRI	85	807		376	6,301	1,385	1,715	1,455	140,332	5,951	7,356
ESV	163	133	410	40		4,209	4,840	797	4,201	209	2,713
GUA	486	267	617	67	4,468		3,938	10,603	4,712	161	4,926
HND	197	197	469	87	4,167	2,385		792	3,994	232	3,812
MEX	955	4,846	1,619	1,190	5,483	20,552	6,803		1,891	981	381,156
NIC	14	137	5,733	39	1,395	979	6,360	399		239	2,020
PAN	60	1,120	3,926	2,790	1,845	961	758	2,804	5,698		8,904
USA	23,907	266,916	39,268	497,264	720,535	532,063	275,080	6,138,480	142,464	60,907	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82,468</b>	<b>1,445,054</b>	<b>178,368</b>	<b>1,936,490</b>	<b>2,367,495</b>	<b>1,750,374</b>	<b>969,133</b>	<b>18,835,680</b>	<b>796,845</b>	<b>225,111</b>	<b>3,524,930</b>

Source: United Nations, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migrant Stock 2019, available at: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>

One of the most relevant and tangible effects of international migration is remittance. In 2017, worldwide remittances reached USD 483 Billion, and in 2018, USD 689 Billion. In 2019, the three largest remittance recipients included India (USD\$ 78.6 Billion), China (USD\$ 67.4 Billion) and Mexico (USD\$ 35.7 Billion). The United States leads as the largest source of remittances globally (USD 68 Billion).<sup>7</sup>

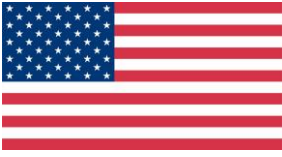
## 1.2. Migrant Protection and Assistance

Regarding international protection, according to 2018 data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicated that 68,200 refugees and 294,500 decision-pending asylum seekers originated from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The main destinations for these asylum-seekers are United States of America (76%) and Mexico (7%), and a very significant number of these (10%) have sought refuge in other countries of the region (mainly Costa Rica, Panama and Belize).<sup>8</sup>

Globally, the smuggling of migrants continues to be a criminal activity that subjugates thousands of migrants to an enormous risk to their physical integrity. Migrants who are subjected to smuggling require special attention, because in the majority of cases they are subjected to abuse, rape and exploitation

<sup>7</sup> Source: IOM (2019), 2020 World Migration Report, available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/informe-sobre-las-migraciones-en-el-mundo-2020>.

<sup>8</sup> Source: IOM, UNHCR, SICA (2019), Baseline Study Findings on Migration and Displacement in the SICA Region, available at: <https://rosaniose.iom.int/SITE/es/biblioteca/hallazgos-del-estudio-de-linea-base-sobre-migracion-y-desplazamiento-en-la-region-del>



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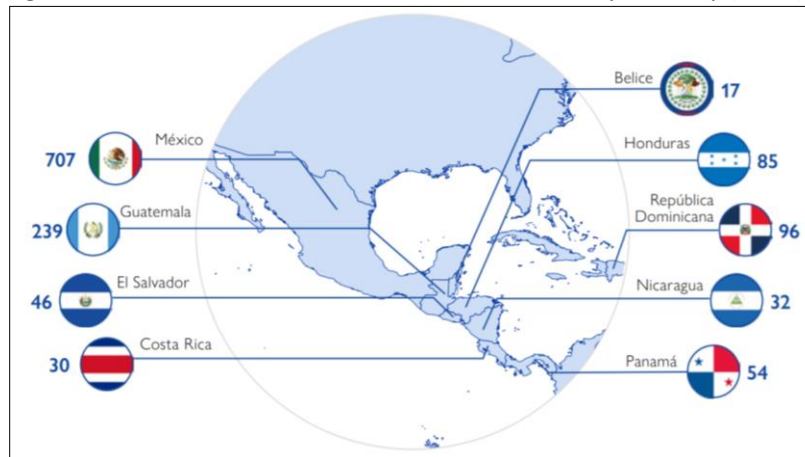


along the migration routes and can easily turn into victims of human trafficking. Many have even found death along the way. This continues to be a significant issue for the Latin American and Caribbean region, because people seek to avoid border control posts when advancing north through Central America and Mexico.<sup>9</sup>

Smugglers that operate at country borders throughout the region have seen the growth of an extremely profitable business, which are usually run by international criminal organizations. Frequently, migrants involved in smuggling tend to fall victims to violent practices; everything from bribery to mass kidnapping, extortion, physical and sexual aggression, torture, disappearances and assassinations. It is estimated that earnings generated by these criminal groups are between USD\$ 3 - USD\$ 10 billion per year. However, due to the illegal nature of this activity, there is no reliable global statistical source on the exact number of migrants that are smuggled each year.<sup>10</sup>

Regarding human trafficking, in 2018 according to the Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (CORETT)<sup>11</sup>, 1,306 trafficking victims were identified in Central America Central, Mexico and Dominican Republic. An estimated 49% of these individuals were girls, boys and adolescents under 18 years of age.

Figure 1: Number of Trafficked Victims Identified by Country (2018)<sup>12</sup>



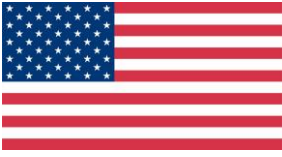
Source: [https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/sites/default/files/infografia-trata\\_de\\_personas-regional-enero\\_a\\_diciembre\\_de\\_2018\\_0.pdf](https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/sites/default/files/infografia-trata_de_personas-regional-enero_a_diciembre_de_2018_0.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Source: IOM (2019), 2020 World Migration Report, available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/informe-sobre-las-migraciones-en-el-mundo-2020>.

<sup>10</sup> Source: <https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/es/noticia/realizan-primer-congreso-internacional-sobre-el-trafico-ilicito-de-migrantes-en-costa-rica-0>

<sup>11</sup> The countries that integrate CORETT are: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

<sup>12</sup> An identified victim of human trafficking is understood to be the person who has been duly identified under that profile by the governmental institution that has the competence to do so, so that a series of rights and protection specific to his or her person are recognized and guaranteed.



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Irregular flows throughout Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean are quite dynamic, which in turn only increases its complexity and diversity. The majority of detentions performed at the United States-Mexico border have historically been Mexican nationals; however, in recent years, detentions of Central Americans from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador has surpassed Mexican nationals at the border. The phenomena known as “migrant caravans” started in October 2018. As the Honduran migrants advanced towards the Mexican border with the United States, thousands of other migrants from El Salvador and Guatemala joined the caravan. By the end of 2018, the caravan was integrated by thousands of migrants, many of which were children. Few were granted with humanitarian visas from Mexico, and others opted to return to their countries of origin.

Additionally, the flow of irregular migrants through Central America and Mexico has diversified considerably to give way to an important number of Caribbean migrants, as well as an increasing number of extra-regional migrants coming from Asia and Africa.

### 1.3. Migration Policy Design and Implementation

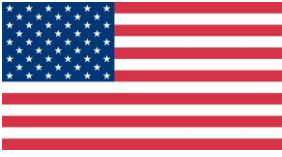
In a world that is ever so interconnected, migrants and their families are linked through family ties, economic exchanges and cultural connections. This potential can be used with proper migration governance. Well managed, migration can be a driver for the development of migrants themselves and their communities, in the country of origin, transit and destination. However, in order to achieve proper migration governance, certain conditions must be met due to the complexity of the issue and the political sensitivity of the aspects covered by it.

Aspects as diverse as the regulation of international travel and temporary movements, immigration, emigration, return, nationality, labour markets, economic and social development, industry, trade, social cohesion, social services, health, education, law enforcement, foreign policy, protection of vulnerable migrants (such as children, women victims of violence and victims of trafficking) and humanitarian policies are just a few examples of the most relevant.

Migration policy must be based on the respect of the rights of migrants; they must be designed and implemented using the best evidence available, under a whole-of-government approach, in conjunction with the collaboration and engagement of several public, private and civil society stakeholders. According to IOM, based on a worldwide 49-country study, only 55% of the countries have defined their domestic migration strategy in a programmatic document, and 39% reported that such strategy is aligned with their national development strategy.

An analysis based on the benefits and risks of the movement of people (locally and nationally) that is relevant to a State, is key to proper migration governance. A State must collect, analyze and use reliable data and information on demographics, cross-border movements, internal displacement, diasporas, labour markets, seasonal trends, education and health, and the need to protect migrants, among others.

Similarly, proper migration governance demands a whole-of-government approach. The nature of migration itself involves several stakeholders: the States and bordering countries, sub-national



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authorities, local communities, migrants and their families, diasporas, employers and worker organizations, among others. Also included, in addition to these stakeholders, are multiple inter-government and non-government organizations with mandates related to migration and humanitarian action.

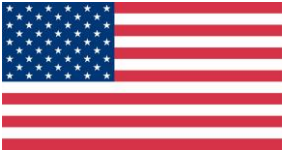
Finally, proper migration governance must also contemplate effective responses to mobility in situations of crisis. Crises have considerable long-term effects in migrants, displaced persons and society as a whole. Therefore, a concerted action by the international community is crucial to prevent and prepare for situations of crisis; supporting migrants, displaced persons and communities affected by situations of crisis, and foster their inclusion into the management of crises in conformance with humanitarian principles, and promote long lasting solutions that puts an end to displacement through the attention of the structural causes of crises. The effort to address the originating causes of crises and the related movement of populations must form part of a longer-term focus with the aim directed towards recovery, transition and sustainable development in consideration of the needs of migrants and their communities.

Strengthening existing capacities in RCM Member Countries to design, implement and evaluate migration policies is even more relevant now than ever before, especially in the context of the current sanitary crisis, which evidences all aspects of the migration phenomena and its link to other public spheres. Therefore, it demands the joint collaboration between public stakeholders, including the contribution from other stakeholders in the private and civil society sectors. This complex setting is critical in identifying and attending the needs of the most affected, particularly population groups in situations of risk and vulnerability. Consequently, it is critical to ensure the complementarities of competences and resources among the different institutions involved, fostering synergies and closing the gap when attending the current pandemic or other similar emergencies, including the design of policies, programs and projects that contribute towards the recovery of countries.

The Migration Policy Training Program presented in this document has the intention of contributing towards this purpose by expanding the benefits and defining the methodologies to design, implement and evaluate migration policies with a whole-of-government approach.

## RATIONALE

The importance of migration policies was duly acknowledged by Deputy Ministers and Chiefs of Member Country Delegations of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) at the XXIV Regional Conference held in the City of Guatemala in November 2019. As a result of this dialogue, the RCM Member Countries agreed to carry out several activities within the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan Framework, during the Costa Rican Presidency Pro Tempore (2020). One of these activities includes a regional workshop on Migration Public Policy and Governance.



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In order to attend the series of challenges proposed above, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) submits for consideration to the RCM Member States, a workshop oriented in strengthening the capacities of public stakeholders on matters of migration policy and other related public policies. Consequently, due to current global travel restrictions on holding actual face-to-face regional meetings, this proposal has been re-purposed as a Migration Policy Training Program with several activities that allows attaining the original objectives.

## OBJECTIVES

### General Objective

Strengthen the capacities of RCM Member Country public stakeholders on matters of migration public policy design, implementation and evaluation in order to establish essential elements for orderly, safe and regular migration.

### Specific Objectives

1. Identify recent experiences on evidence-based migration policy design and a whole-of-government approach.
2. Exchange best practices and lessons learned from the link between public, private and civil society stakeholders in initiatives that improve the design and implementation of migration public policies.
3. Disseminate and promote the use of migration data- and evidence-generating tools for the design, follow-up and evaluation of migration policies.
4. Analyze the challenges from the design and implementation of migration policies in the context of the current global crisis.

## METHODOLOGY

This activity will be implemented by a combination of tools, including:

- An online course (IOM E-Campus platform) issued with a Certificate of Achievement,
- A panel of experts, and
- A short cycle of virtual conferences (three sessions)

All contemplated tools will have a space for dialogue and presentations by Member Country Representatives. Below is a summary of the methodology:



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Tool	Core Topic
1. <b>Online Course</b> on regional migration trends (E-Campus)	Identify main migration trends for the design of evidence-based migration policies.
2. <b>Panel</b> of International experts	Challenges and innovations on Migration Policies
3. Short Cycle of <b>Three Virtual Conferences</b>	1) Principles and objectives on Migration Policies; tools for policy design, adoption and implementation. 2) Data and evidence for migration policy decision-making. 3) Integral Migration Policy: Cross-Cutting and Sectoral Issues

Prior to developing the virtual conferences and in coordination with the RCM Executive Secretariat, a brief online survey will be submitted to participants in order to better assess their level of knowledge on the matter and their expectations on the activity. After the cycle of virtual conferences has ended, the online survey will be resent to the participants in order to reassess their progress on the level of knowledge on the matter, and level of satisfaction in regards to the expectations and possible use of the knowledge acquired in daily work.

## PARTICIPANTS

The development of this activity seeks the specialization of participants regarding issues related to the design, implementation and evaluation of migration policies.

The workshop is intended for **five representatives per country**. We expect that the representatives designated by the RCM Member Countries participate in all activity sessions described in the above-mentioned methodology. Participants that satisfactorily complete all activities (online course, expert panel sessions and virtual conferences) will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Migration Policy Training Program. It is recommended that Member Countries assess the participation of individuals with the following profile:

- 2 representatives from the institution responsible for migration matters, specifically regarding the formulation, articulation and follow-up on migration policies.
- 1 representative from the institution responsible for foreign affairs, specifically regarding consular matters or the attention of national citizens abroad.
- 2 representatives from the institution responsible for planning or elaboration of national development plans.



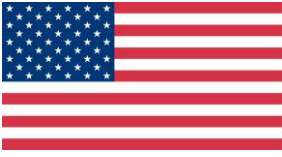


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RCM Observers and the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) are welcomed to participate. The RCM Executive Secretariat will send the invitation to focal points from Member Countries, who will also extend the invitation internally to relevant institutions and confirm applicants.

Focal points must submit a list of applicants to the RCM, including full names and emails per country. With this information, IOM will register applicants in IOM's E-Campus Migration Policy Training Program. Through the E-Campus platform, participants will receive an introductory questionnaire and access to the introductory course. Virtual Conferences will be held and recorded in a multilingual platform and hosted on the E-Campus platform with restricted access to program participants. The final questionnaire and Certification of Achievement will be uploaded to the platform. A forum will be enabled for subsequent participant exchanges, in addition to the exchanges held during the virtual conferences, as well as for uploading relevant resources. Simultaneous language interpretation will be available during the virtual conferences.



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## AGENDA

**20 July 2020**

### Virtual Introductory Course on Regional Migration Trends

- Participants are requested to complete the IOM online course (E-Campus platform) on Regional Migration Trends.
- It is recommended to begin with the course before the virtual sessions. Please complete this online course **before August Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

**22 July 2020**

### Expert Panel “Public Policy Innovative Answers to New Migration Dynamics”.

Time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00 – 09:10	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCM Presidency Pro Tempore</li> <li>• International Organization for Migration (IOM)</li> </ul>	Executive Secretariat - RCM
09:10 – 10:10	Expert Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Selee, President of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI),</li> <li>• Sergio Bueno, President of the Institute for the Study on Migration and Peace (ISMP)</li> <li>• Marie McAuliffe, Head of the Migration Policy Research Division, IOM.</li> </ul>	IOM
10:10 – 11:00	Participant Q&A and comments	Executive Secretariat - RCM
11:00 – 11:05	Virtual Conference Closing Remarks	Executive Secretariat - RCM



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29 July 2020

Virtual Session 1. Panel: Recent Experiences on Migration Policy Design		
Time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00 – 09:30	Migration Policy Guiding Principles: Migration Governance Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Michele Klein-Solomon, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director General of IOM</li> </ul>	Executive Secretariat - RCM
Time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:30 – 10:30	Panel: Recent Experiences on Migration Policy Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from three RCM Member Countries (to be confirmed)</li> </ul>	IOM
10:30 – 10:55	Participant Q&A and comments	Executive Secretariat - RCM
10:55 – 11:00	Virtual Conference Closing Remarks	Executive Secretariat - RCM

05 August 2020

Virtual Session 2: Evidence Use and Policy Integral Focus		
Time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00 – 09:30	Migration Policy Evidence-Generation and Monitoring Tools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migration Governance Indicators, Regional Liaison and Policy Officer, Rudi Maxwald, IOM.</li> <li>Governance Needs-Assessment, Research Officer, Estela Aragón, IOM.</li> </ul>	Executive Secretariat - RCM
09:30 – 10:30	Panel: Migration Policy Monitoring and Implementation Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative from three RCM Member Countries (to be confirmed)</li> </ul>	IOM
10:30 – 10:55	Participant Q&A and comments	Executive Secretariat - RCM
10:55 – 11:00	Virtual Conference Closing Remarks	Executive Secretariat - RCM



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**12 August 2020**

Virtual Session 3: Cross-Cutting Issues and the Link between Migration and Sectoral Policies		
Time	Activity	Facilitated by
09:00 – 09:30	Integrating Migration into Development Policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fabio Jiménez, Migration Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM).</li></ul>	Executive Secretariat - RCM
09:30 – 10:30	Panel: Mainstreaming Tools for Sectoral Policy Migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Labour Migration, International Labour Organization (OIT)</li><li>Gender and Migration, United Nations Development Programme (PNUD) and IOM.</li><li>Migration and Health (IOM)</li></ul>	Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RNCOM)
10:30 – 10:55	Participant Q&A and comments	Executive Secretariat - RCM
10:55 – 11:00	Virtual Conference Closing Remarks	Executive Secretariat - RCM