



GOBIERNO DE
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Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

XXVI
REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON MIGRATION

Meeting of the RCM Working Group on Border Management

Dialogue on Extra-regional Migration

Concept Note

Thursday, June 10, 2021





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Virtual Modality (Zoom Platform)

BACKGROUND

The approach of extra-regional flows is not new for the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM). Between 2015 and 2016, some countries of South America, and Central America, Mexico and the United States went through an exceptional situation as a result of the massive movement of migrants in transit, from Cuba, Haiti, Asia and Africa, with the aim of reaching to the United States.

In March 2017, the General Secretary of the Organization of American States (OAS) presented the regional report “Irregular Migration Flows to/within the Americas from Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean”. The document provided information on the irregular migration situation of people who come mainly from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean; determines the main reasons that motivate them to migrate; indicates their countries of origin; identifies the means and routes chosen, the challenges they face and the places of destination.

As a result of this situation that the region was going through, during the years 2017 and 2018 the RCM established an Ad Hoc Working Group on extra-regional migrants, with the purpose of addressing this issue with an approach of shared responsibility. Among the topics addressed during the dialogues in 2018, we have the following:

- Any country is susceptible to the presence of a contingent of extra-regional migrants.
- There are spaces to strengthen regional cooperation.
- The permanent cooperation of the countries of origin, transit and destination is required.
- Unilateral decisions affect the efforts of neighboring countries.
- It is essential to maintain fluid communication on migration issues in the region and to be prepared for any situation.
- It was recognized that most extra-regional migrants do not want to return to their country of origin.



With the relaunch of the RCM in 2019, the issues addressed by the Ad Hoc Group on Extra-regional Migrants began to be coordinated with in the RCM Working Groups, mainly those on Irregular and Mass Migration and Border Management.

Extra-regional migration in transit continues and added to the health emergency caused by COVID-19, the problem is accentuated, and the challenges of the countries are even more visible.

JUSTIFICATION

During the meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), held on December 2, 2020, the following was concluded:

1. To approve the reports from the Working Groups submitted by the Presidency Pro-Tempore (PPT) and to thank them for the advances made to date.

(...)

b. To ask the four Working Groups to hold quarterly meetings to strengthen dialogue on trends, challenges and exchange experiences with a results-oriented and shared responsibility approach.

In December 2020, the Working Group on Border Management recommended the following to the RCGM:

3) b. Reiterate the request of the Member Countries to hold quarterly meetings for each working group, with the objective of maintaining a dialogue among the Member Countries and sharing knowledge on the priority issues, with the support of the experts. The following topics are identified:

i. Determination of identity of migrants at borders.

ii. Extra-continental migration.

iii. Migration trends and related diagnostic studies.

iv. Current realities at borders: how to manage mass flows and protect people in need.

v. Non-Discrimination.

vi. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying the actions or measures for the transit of persons and the implications for neighboring countries.

vii. Creation of informative campaigns.



For the purposes of this meeting, extra-regional migration will be understood as the movement of nationals from other countries that do not belong to the RCM, but come from the American continent, as is the case of Cuba or Haiti. Likewise, extra-regional migration includes the term extra-continental, as it includes the movement of migration flows from other continents, such as Asia and Africa.

This dialogue will exclusively address the challenges surrounding extra-regional migration. Intra-regional migration is also addressed by the RCM, however, for this session the focus is on extra-regional flows.

OBJECTIVES

- Exchange information and good practices on the assistance and governance of extra-regional migrant flows.
- Provide elements for the regional approach to the phenomenon, based on the principles of shared responsibility, respect for the rule of law, human rights and international cooperation.
- Generate regional inputs to strengthen the dialogue during the meeting with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM).

METHODOLOGY

Virtual format

Duration: 2 hours maximum

Three context interventions on extra-regional migration from Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama will be presented during the first hour of the dialogue. There will be space for questions and comments from the panelists.

For the second part of the dialogue, based on three guiding questions, the moderator will encourage the participation of the countries of the region to discuss on the migration control of extra-regional flows, in order to identify common challenges and joint solutions, based on the good practices that they are currently applying, which are based on the assistance and protection of the human rights of the people in this migration flows.

Guiding Questions:

It is expected that all the eleven Member Countries participate in the dialogue, based on the following questions. Each country's interventions are requested to have an estimated time of five minutes for the three questions, to maximize time and ensure the participation of all countries.



1. What are the current migration management challenges that your country faces about extra-regional flows?
2. From your experience, what good practices in migration management of extra-regional flows can you share? For example: border control, management of temporary documents, identification of main travel routes and means of entry, registration mechanisms, medical and psychosocial care, temporary accommodation spaces, management of socio-cultural factors (food, language), coordination with places of origin (Asia, Africa, Caribbean), identification of people in vulnerable situations, etc.
3. Considering that extra-regional migration is a current reality in the RCM region, what solutions or proposals can you provide for a joint approach regarding the verification of travel documents, timely resolution of migration administrative processes and international protection, assisted return schemes, information exchange to combat criminal organizations dedicated to trafficking and smuggling of migrants, under the principles of shared responsibility, respect for the rule of law, human rights and international cooperation?

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participation of RCM focal points and officials who are in charge of applying migration policies and attention and assistance to extra-regional migrants is expected.

- **Members of the Working Group on Border Management**
- **Member Countries:** Officials or heads of areas of migration control, border management, national intelligence centers; officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs related to migration; and officials of the Ministries of the Interior.



AGENDA

Meeting of the Working Group on Border Management
Dialogue on Extra-regional Migration

Thursday, June 10, 2021 Virtual Format	
Time (Mexico City time)	Activity
09:45	Platform connection and testing
10:00- 10:10	Welcoming words <i>Mexico, Presidency Pro-Témpore (PPT) of the RCM</i>
10:10 – 10:50	Context Presentations: Moderator: RCM Executive Secretariat INM Mexico presentation: general context of extra-regional migration. Presentation by Panama: Update of extra-regional flows at the borders, Panama's experience as the first land entry point to the RCM region. Presentation of the OCAM PPT (Costa Rica): Protocol for extra-regional assistance. Questions to the panelists
10:50 – 11:40	Dialogue of Member Countries: participation of the eleven countries Moderator: INM Guiding questions: 1. What are the current migration management challenges that your country faces about extra-regional flows?



	<p>2. From your experience, what good practices in migration management of extra-regional flows can you share? For example: border control, management of temporary documents, identification of main travel routes and means of entry, registration mechanisms, medical and psychosocial care, temporary accommodation spaces, management of socio-cultural factors (food, language), coordination with places of origin (Asia, Africa, Caribbean), identification of people in vulnerable situations, etc.</p> <p>3. Considering that extra-regional migration is a current reality in the RCM region, what solutions or proposals can you provide for a joint approach regarding the verification of travel documents, timely resolution of migration administrative processes and international protection, assisted return schemes, information exchange to combat criminal organizations dedicated to trafficking and smuggling of migrants, under the principles of shared responsibility, respect for the rule of law, human rights and international cooperation?</p>
11:40 -11:50	<p>Closing Comments PPT and Executive Secretariat</p>
11:50	<p>Closing of the session Mexico PPT</p>