



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



**Regional Conference
on Migration 2022**

El Salvador • Presidency Pro-Témpore



GOBIERNO DE
EL SALVADOR

FORUM FOR THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT, ENGAGEMENT, AND CAPITALIZATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIASPORAS

**May 23 and 24, 2022
San Salvador, El Salvador**

Concept Note – Content

BACKGROUND

Migration is a phenomenon defined as the movement of people away from their usual place of residence, either across an international border or across a country¹. Although this movement is inherent to human nature, it is shaped by multiple factors, including drivers for migration in countries of destination such as labor market needs or quality of life; in countries of origin, unemployment or wage differences between countries of origin and destination can also drive migration; and finally, migration networks established on the basis of family, cultural, and historical ties. In other words, links cemented by members of the diasporas.

The presence of diasporas abroad represents a central factor in the migration process, as it influences the decision to migrate, as well as the integration in country of destination by increasing migrants' sense of belonging in their host communities. The involvement of diasporas in development issues such as poverty reduction or economic growth, humanitarian response or post-crisis recovery has generated growing interest among stakeholders and governments. One of the most documented contributions of diasporas is remittances because of their importance for the economic development of countries of origin². Globally, in 2021, remittances grew in most regions. The Latin America and Caribbean region reached a record level with a 21.6% increase in remittances, capturing US\$126 million³.

Considering the importance of remittances in the region, which exceeds 20% of the Gross Domestic Product in countries such as El Salvador (26.2%), Honduras (26.6%), and Guatemala (18%)⁴, the "RCM Discussion Forum with Diaspora Organizations: Towards strengthening investment and community development through the rapid, safe and economic transfer of remittances" was held under the previous Presidency Pro-Témpore. During the first session, IOM presented the study "Engaging the Diasporas of

¹ IOM (2019) International Migration Law N34 - IOM Glossary on Migration, available at, <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml-34-glossary-es.pdf>

² IOM (2021) World Migration Report 2020.

³ World Bank (2021) Remittance flows register solid growth of 7.3% in 2021. Available at: <https://www.bancomundial.org/es/news/press-release/2021/11/17/remittance-flows-register-robust-7-3-percent-growth-in-2021>

⁴ Ibid.



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Central America and Mexico: Opportunities and Challenges,"⁵ which identifies and characterizes existing Mesoamerican diaspora organizations, as well as areas of opportunity and challenges for their engagement. The purpose of the forum was to address these challenges and generate a dialogue regarding three areas of opportunity, such as linkages with countries of origin, integration in destination countries and the productive use of remittances. The second session focused on how to enhance the productive use of remittances through a high-level panel with representatives from diaspora organizations, the banking system and academia.

Following up on the forum held in 2021, the "Forum for the promotion, development, engagement, and capitalization of diaspora contributions" aims to take a more holistic approach to engaging with diasporas, including their economic, social and cultural contributions. This event is aligned with IOM's strategic approach to diaspora engagement, which sets out three main lines of action: enabling, engaging, and empowering diasporas as agents of development⁶.

In line with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this forum aims to improve the conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries (Goal 19, GCM) and to promote faster, safer, and cheaper remittance transfers and foster financial inclusion of migrants (Goal 20, GCM). Similarly, the forum contributes to SDG 17, which calls for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development through innovative partnerships, such as diasporas. Specifically, SDG 17.8 calls for the promotion of migrant partnerships of all kinds and their harnessing for development. Indirectly, the forum could contribute to SDGs 8, 9, and 12 by promoting diaspora entrepreneurship as a vehicle for job creation; increased industrialization, innovation, and trade; investment and participation in sustainable tourism, and others.

In April 2022, IOM, the Government of Ireland, and other participating states held the Global Diaspora Summit (GDS) to help states and partners take stock of achievements under Goal 19, contributing to the quadrennial International Migration Review Forum of May 2022. The proposed forum will allow the RCM countries to take back some inputs from this important global event, which will add to the discussions and proposals of the governments to land strategies for linking with the diasporas in the region.

⁵ IOM (2021) Engaging diasporas in Central America and Mexico: opportunities and challenges. Available at: https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/sites/default/files/el_involucramiento_de_las_diasporas_de_america_central_y_mexico_oportunidades_y_desafios.pdf

⁶ IOM (2021) *IOM's Strategy to Enable, Engage and Empower Diaspora*, available at: [IOM's Strategy to Enable, Engage and Empower Diaspora | Diaspora and Development](#).



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JUSTIFICATION

Contrary to predictions, remittances captured by certain countries of origin exceeded levels previously achieved during the pandemic, as migrants and diasporas turned to digital means to send money home during the crisis. The contributions of diasporas can be enhanced by taking a step back to analyze and establish the essential elements for effective diaspora engagement.

Following the priority line of action of the Presidency Pro-Témpore 2022 on diaspora empowerment, this forum is proposed to address the issue of engagement with diasporas, starting with creating an optimal ecosystem for diasporas to participate in development. To this end, we must think of engagement strategies sensitive to the particularities of the diaspora in each country (composition by gender, age, profession or occupation, level of education, motivations, and aspirations), based on a close relationship of trust to ensure the sustainability of their empowerment⁷.

In addition, it is worth noting that one of the conclusions of the meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) emphasized the importance of cooperation with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM). In view of the priority that this issue represents for both regions, it was proposed to link the "Regional Workshop on Empowerment of Transnational Communities of Migrants and South American Diasporas as Agents of Sustainable Development" scheduled for March 17 and 18, 2022, with this forum. The possibility of having the Pro Témpore Presidencies (PPTs) of each Conference (El Salvador and Chile) participate in the respective forums of each consultative process was raised to the SACM. This articulation of proposals would contribute to the formulation of a regional position that could be fed by the inputs from the Global Diaspora Summit, to be held in Ireland this year in early April.

In line with the Pro Témpore Presidency's Work Plan, this forum contributes to two of its cross-cutting themes by strengthening the capacities of participants for the formulation and implementation of their diaspora engagement and empowerment strategies. Simultaneously, this forum accommodates the cooperation of both consultative processes established in the region on migration (RCM-SACM) and the possible collaboration between RCM Member Countries to maximize the potential of the diaspora as a bridge between them.

⁷ IOM (2021) Building trust, mobilizing resources and ensuring sustainability. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/virtual-exchanges-maximizing-diaspora-engagement-building-trust-mobilizing-resources-and>



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OBJECTIVES

- **General objective:** Promote technical dialogue among RCM Member Countries to strengthen government strategies for diaspora promotion, development, engagement, and capitalization.
- **Specific objectives:**
 1. To analyze the elements that make up an efficient strategy for the diaspora promotion, development, and engagement.
 2. Identify good practices on strategies for engaging and integrating diasporas in countries of origin, transit, and destination.
 3. Contribute to the integration of a regional approach (RCM-SACM) concerning the promotion, engagement, development, and capitalization of diaspora contributions.

METHODOLOGY

The "Forum for the promotion, development, engagement, and capitalization of the contributions of the diasporas" will take place in a hybrid manner, face-to-face in San Salvador, El Salvador and online. It is proposed to implement a series of methodologies, including spaces for dialogue, expert panels, presentations by representatives of RCM Member Countries, and other guests from diaspora organizations.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The forum is addressed to **two representatives** per country (possibly at the level of the Directorate of Departments), with the following distribution:

- One representative from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (Directorate of Consular Affairs)
- One representative of organizations or agencies in charge of diaspora identification, liaison, or integration.

In the case of El Salvador, which holds the Pro-Tempore Presidency of this forum, we propose to extend the invitation also to institutions in charge of education, health, labor, and other relevant areas.

The observer organizations of the RCM and the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) that wish to participate are welcome, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries, which are focal points of the RCM.



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AGENDA

May 23, 2022

Session 1		
Time	Activity	Facilitates
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Mariella Portal, Vice-Minister of Diaspora and Human Mobility, RCM Presidency Pro-Témpore • Michele Klein-Solomon, IOM Regional Director for Central America, North America, and the Caribbean 	RCM Executive Secretariat
09:15 – 10:15	Linkage with the diasporas as an heterogeneous group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practices presentation (15') – El Salvador • Good practices presentation (15') – Jamaica • Good practices presentation at the municipal level (15') – Mexico 	IOM
10:15 – 10:30	Q & A	RCM Executive Secretariat
10:30 – 10:45	Recess	
10:45 – 11:45	Panel: Enhancing diaspora participation through the consolidation of trusting relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Alexandra Déllano, The New School • Representative at consular level (El Salvador) • Diaspora representative 	PPT
11:45 – 12:00	Q & A	RCM Executive Secretariat
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:00	Capitalization of the contribution of diasporas beyond remittances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larisa Lara, Transnational communities and digital communications officer, IOM 	RCM Executive Secretariat



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14:00 – 14:15	Q & A	RCM Executive Secretariat
14:15 - 15:15	Diaspora as human and social capital: financing, integration, and sustainability of its empowerment, World Café <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In countries of origin • In countries of destination and transit 	IOM
15:15 – 15:30	Recess	
15:30 – 16:30	The regional vision following the Global Diaspora Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerardo Pérez, Director of Diaspora and Development, RCM Pro-Tempore Presidency • PPT SACM representative Chile (to be confirmed) • Representative of Engagement and Development Directorate, Dominican Republic (to be confirmed) 	Larisa Lara, IOM
16:30 – 16:50	Q & A	
16:50 – 17:00	Closing of session 1	

May 24, 2022

Session 2		
Time	Activity	Facilitates
08:00 – 16:00	Field visit to diaspora-funded activity (El Piche and Intipucá)	