

## Concept Note

IV Regional Congress on Women Migration Contexts  
**“Women on the move: gender equality, human rights and autonomy”**  
With the Support of the IOM and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
El Salvador

14 – 15 July, 2022

### BACKGROUND

The Member Countries that make up the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) recognize the relevance, growing participation and new patterns of women associated with the feminization of migration. Thus, the realities of women in migration contexts have a very significant impact on the region, which requires an effective and differentiated approach at the regional and national levels in the RCM Member Countries.

Since 2017, under the leadership of El Salvador as Presidency Pro-Témpore of the RCM, discussions on the topic of "Migrant Women" have been promoted. This effort to position the topic at the regional level responded to the characteristics of the region's migration dynamics, along with positioning the RCM as a regional process of reference for the protection and assistance to migrant women in the various stages of the migration process.

The **I Regional Congress: Women in Migration Contexts**, was held in 2018 under the Presidency Pro-Témpore of El Salvador, aiming to open a space to enrich knowledge on the intrinsic link between women, migration, and development; in this context, the "Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration"<sup>1</sup> were presented and approved.

The **II Regional Congress on Women in Migration Contexts: "Women in migration: gender, human rights, and empowerment. Challenges and Perspectives,"** was held in 2019 under the Presidency Pro-Témpore of Costa Rica. During the Congress, the application of the "Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration" was followed up. In addition, working groups, panels and colloquiums were held on the following topics: women and labor; data with a gender perspective; migrant children and adolescents; the role of women and their protagonism in the 2030 Agenda; women and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration; violence against women and public policies; trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, among others.

In addition to these efforts, and to the request of the Member Countries to make the Regional Congress a space for dialogue to be implemented periodically, in September 2021, the **III Regional Congress on Women in the Contexts of Migration, "Women on the Move: Gender Equality, Human Rights and Autonomy,"** was held in Mexico City. Under the Presidency Pro-

<sup>1</sup> [Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration | IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean \(iom.int\)](https://www.iom.int/publications/guidelines-on-assistance-and-protection-of-women-in-contexts-of-migration)

Témpore of Mexico<sup>2</sup>, the topics analyzed ranged from the economic empowerment of migrant, refugee and returnee women under an intersectionality perspective; to the challenges to guarantee the human rights of women and girls in contexts of mobility in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the "Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration," which have been followed up since the second congress held in Costa Rica in May 2019. At the end of the Congress, an Extraordinary Declaration of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) was presented, reiterating its commitment to promote effective and non-discriminatory regional migration policies that guarantee the rights of women and girls in mobility<sup>3</sup>.

## JUSTIFICATION

According to information from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), it is estimated that 281 million people have crossed international borders and that, in the region, 52% are girls, adolescents and women.<sup>4</sup> Women and girls leave their places of origin in search of new survival alternatives due to pressures from organized crime, poverty, lack of opportunities, environmental deterioration, natural disasters, persecution, or job insecurity, among others. A significant number of women and girls flee their places of origin also due to structural cultural factors that encourage expressions of violence against the most vulnerable segments of society, such as gender-based violence, homicides, domestic abuse, human trafficking, forced marriages or various forms of discrimination including those related to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Therefore, the IV Regional Congress will highlight the importance of recognizing that:

a) Migrant women make important social and economic contributions to their countries of origin, transit and destination. In some cases, migration offers them opportunities for economic and social development. Migration experiences, when positive, can help empower women and girls by increasing their self-confidence, autonomy and control over their lives; their exposure to different gender norms can contribute to the achievement of gender equality in their communities of origin.<sup>5</sup>

Migrant women can maintain a higher level of autonomy and benefit from the new norms, skills and expertise they bring with them upon return and reintegration into their home communities. The acquisition of assets upon their return also contributes to improving the situation in which they develop; a high percentage of women who return to their country of origin start their own businesses and others are self-employed, suggesting that they have more financial capital.

<sup>2</sup> View [III Congress on Women in Migration Contexts Calls for Respecting Human Rights and Working for Gender Equality in the Region | International Organization for Migration \(iom.int\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> View [Declaration FINAL-ENG.pdf \(crmsv.org\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> IOM at Regional Conference on Migration (2019). *Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration*. Available at:

[https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/lineamientos\\_mujeresmigrantes\\_eng.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/lineamientos_mujeresmigrantes_eng.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The impact of migration on migrant women and girls: a gender perspective: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/41/38), 15 April 2019.

Migration allows them to become agents of change and development for themselves, their families, and communities. The predominant role of women in the economic reactivation post COVID-19 pandemic is reiterated, therefore, the right conditions must be generated for it to take place.

b) The importance of access to security, protection, and basic social services, particularly access to health, and the challenges for Member Countries to provide them to women and girls in contexts of mobility, is highlighted.

c) Migrant women can be disproportionately affected by the intersectional discrimination that occurs when various categories of exclusion converge, as well as by the design of programs that lack a gender perspective.<sup>6</sup>

According to the *Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration*, “intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy-making which addresses multiple types of discrimination and helps to understand how different identities affect the access to rights and opportunities”.

In this particular context, it is essential to continue strengthening the agenda of gender equality and human rights of women and girls, as well as to give continuity to the contributions and commitments of previous congresses, particularly the follow-up to the implementation of the *Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration* by the Member Countries, to strengthen the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in public policies aimed at the migrant population, channeled through the leadership of the RCM, as well as to encourage Member Countries to strengthen the institutionalization of migration policies with a gender perspective.

## OBJECTIVES

### General Objective

To promote the exchange of experiences and good practices, the dissemination of knowledge and generate a dialogue aimed at presenting proposals for the care of women and girls in conditions of mobility and for the development of their autonomy and empowerment from the approaches of gender, intersectionality, human rights, and inclusion.

### Specific Objectives

- To generate a dialogue that will allow for the expansion of knowledge about migrant women and girls in the region, especially in the context of the pandemic, and to share good practices and experiences related to actions taken by the countries to protect their rights, as well as for the development of their autonomy.

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<sup>6</sup> [Challenges and responses for gender mainstreaming in regional migration policies | IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean \(iom.int\)](#)

- Reiterate the importance of the real (re)integration of migrant women in terms of substantive equality in the various spheres of life, and not only in the productive fabric, recognizing their capacity for agency and diverse contributions in the countries of origin, transit, destination, and return.
- Promote exchanges among Member Countries to identify areas of opportunity to strengthen the gender approach in public policies aimed at the migrant population, based on the application of the *Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in contexts of migration* in each of the Member Countries and the recommendations of the working groups.

## METHODOLOGY

The IV Congress will be held in bimodal format (face-to-face and online transmission), on July 14 and 15, 2022, and will be organized by the Presidency Pro-Témpore of the RCM in El Salvador, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador and different actors on behalf of the Government of El Salvador, in coordination and with the technical and financial support of the IOM and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

A methodology focused on continuous exchange, participation and collective construction is foreseen, therefore, several activities will be carried out:

- **Panels of experts.** Specialists from Member Countries and organizations on specific topics will promote exchange, dialogue, and learning.
- **Thematic roundtables.** The purpose of these will be horizontal exchange and collective discussion among representatives of the different countries, international organizations, and civil society organizations. There will be two working tables.
- **Closing Plenary.** In this space the results derived from each of the thematic tables will be presented and will facilitate the construction of agreements on an action sheet.
- **Rapporteurships.** Two people will report on the development of the Congress, identify the progress of the topics in the region and the areas of opportunity.
- **Field visit.** A new activity is included in this IV Edition of the Congress, there will be a field visit to "Ciudad Mujer" and the "Ventanillas de Atención al Migrante". As a space for exchange of good practices in-situ, combined with artistic and cultural activities.

## PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

The participation of three officials from each of the Member Countries is expected, with the following profile:

- National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (Ministries, Directorates and National Women's Institutes) and/or,
- Institute/Directorate of Migration and other instances related to migration issues and/or,
- Ministries of Foreign Affairs, areas related to migration issues.

Likewise, a broad participation of civil society organizations is considered, particularly the Regional Network of Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) and RCM Observer Organizations; national and international experts on the subject, and migrant women who will share their personal experiences and/or success stories.

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day 1: 14 July, 2022		
Time (GMT-6)	Activity	Facilitator
8:00 – 8:30	Registration of participants Hotel venue: Hotel Intercontinental, San Salvador	RCM Executive Secretariat
08:30-09:00	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Luis Alonso Serrano Echeverría, Executive Secretary of the Regional Conference on Migration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Mariella Portal, Vice-Minister of Diaspora and Human Mobility, RCM Presidency Pro-Témpace</li> <li>• <i>[Rosa Girón, Director of Human Mobility and Attention to migrants presents the video with the greeting of the Vice-Minister]</i></li> <li>• Michelle Klein Solomon, IOM Regional Director for Central America, North America and the Caribbean.</li> <li>• <i>[Paola Zepeda, IOM Project Coordinator presents the video with the greeting of the IOM Regional Director.]</i></li> </ul>	RCM Executive Secretariat and PPT
09:00-9:50	<p><b>ROUND TABLE:</b></p> <p>Launching of Platform 126 for migrant women in transit and destination who are victims of GBV, Vice-Ministry of Diaspora and Human Mobility-Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women.</p> <p>Video summary of "Platform 126"</p>	<p>María Lillian López, ISDEMU Executive Director PPT El Salvador</p> <p>Margarita Libby, IDB Chief of Operations in El Salvador</p>



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración  
Regional Conference on Migration



**Conferencia Regional  
sobre Migración 2022**  
El Salvador • Presidencia Pro Témpore



		Rosa Girón, Director of Human Mobility and Migrant Services
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09:50-10:10	Official photograph of the IV Congress of Women in Migration Contexts	
10:10 – 10:20	Coffee Break	
10:20 – 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEMATIC TABLE 1</b> <b>Challenges and recommendations for migrant women's economic autonomy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Guidelines and Innovative actions for economic empowerment of migrant women in the region". María Noel Vaeza, UN Women Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (10 minutes)</li> <li>• "COMMCA's Economic Empowerment Agenda". Eileen Menjivar, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of STM-COMMCA (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Presentation of the Migrant Women's Planning Guide and its potential as a reference tool for strategic actors" Ana Maria Tribin, Specialist on Public Policies and Development, UNDP (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Women entrepreneurs and advocacy expectations on behalf of migrant women". Fátima Escobar, President of the Network of Women Entrepreneurs of El Salvador (10 minutes) Issa Argueta and Dina Nuñez FOMEECA</li> <li>• Space for presentation and comments on experiences related to economic autonomy of migrant women in the region by the delegations and space for life stories of migrant women (45 minutes).</li> </ul>	Moderator: ISDEMU – El Salvador (tbc)
10:20 – 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEMATIC TABLE 2:</b> <b>Protection of migrant girls and women.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Call towards the implementation of the recommendations for protection on trafficking in women and girls in migration contexts." Leticia Bonifaz, Specialist CEDAW Committee</li> </ul>	Moderator: Ana Irma Rodas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs El Salvador

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Achievements and regional strategic actions on prevention, protection and attention to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants" Alejandra Flores, CORETT Chair.</li> <li>• "Trafficking in persons: links between the areas of security, migration, and protection". Hefer Morataya, Director of Democratic Security of the Central American Integration System (SICA).</li> <li>• "Measures or actions considered by the CIM to eliminate the challenges in guaranteeing the human rights of women and girls in the context of mobility in the face of the post-pandemic of COVID 19." Alejandra Mora, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), of the Organization of American States (10 minutes). (tbc)</li> <li>• "Overview of women domestic workers in the region", Ana María Méndez Chicas, ILO</li> <li>• Protection Needs of Migrant Women, Quxabel Cardenas, RNCOM.</li> <li>• Interventions of Member Countries, for questions and answers, and sharing of experiences.</li> </ul>	
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch break	



1:30 – 2:00	Visit to the information stands (data, publications, learning opportunities, visibility of best practices by country and materials by special guests).	Tables will be set up by country to place relevant information they wish to share.
2:00-2:15	Presentation of the results of the study: "Risk factors and care needs of migrant women in Central America and the Dominican Republic" (15 minutes). Paola Zepeda, Regional Project Coordinator	Moderator: RCM Executive Secretariat
2:15-2:30	Presentation of Experiences of Refugee Women in the region, UNHCR. Maria Bances, Senior Regional Protection Coordinator (15 minutes)	
2:30-2:45	Questions and answers, country interventions (20 minutes)	
2:45 – 3:00	Active break for delegations: Self-care	Lyhelis Torres
3:00 – 4:45	<p><b>Space for RCM Member Countries</b></p> <p>Presentation on progress regarding the implementation, challenges, and good practices of the "Guidelines for the Assistance to and Protection of Women in Contexts of Migration":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space for dialogue between country delegations, aimed at identifying good practices aligned with the implementation and monitoring of the "Guidelines for the Assistance to and Protection of Women in Contexts of Migration". (10 minutes per country)</li> <li>• El Salvador: "Assistance Service Windows for people on mobility". Directorate of Human Mobility and Assistance to Migrants, PPT.</li> <li>• Conclusions by the Protection Group – RCM</li> </ul>	<p>Moderator: RCM Executive Secretariat</p> <p><i>Coffee Break will be served during the dialogue among countries</i></p>
4:45 - 5:00	Closing of Day 1 Session	PPT
6:30 – 8:30	Cultural Activity Welcome Cocktail Reception Hotel Ranch Area	PPT

Day 2: 15 July, 2022		
Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:00 – 8:30	Registry for Day 2	RCM-ES
8:30 – 10:00	Thematic colloquium: "Data on female migration, innovative ideas for their reintegration".  Country Interventions, 10 minutes per country.	Moderator:  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, El Salvador
10:00 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of video summary of the congress. PPT</li> <li>• Preliminary results and follow-up agreements. SE-CRM and IOM (10 minutes)</li> </ul> Read out of the Extraordinary Declaration of RCM: "Autonomy and Empowerment of Migrant Women", by authorities from El Salvador.  -Logistical orientations	Moderator:  Luis Alonso Serrano Echeverría, Executive Secretary of the RCM.   PPT and RCM-ES
11:00 – 12:00	Departure of participants from the hotel to "Ciudad Mujer Comunitaria" (San Martin area).	PPT and RCM-ES
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch (venue to be confirmed)	
1:15 – 3:00	Tour of the different inter-institutional stands that make up "Ciudad Mujer Comunitaria" and the Women Entrepreneurs of "Surf City".	PPT
3:00 – 3:30	Return to the hotel	
3:30 - 4:00	Evaluation of the day with dynamic and interactive facilitation.	PPT and RCM-ES
4:00 – 5:30	Comments from participants Closure of the Congress	PPT and RCM-ES