



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

XXVI
REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON MIGRATION

CONCEPT NOTE

SECOND FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION MEETING TO IDENTIFY TRENDS ON IRREGULAR AND MASS MIGRATION

October 1st, 2021

CONTEXT

Given the presence of regional and extra-regional irregular migration flows, the Working Group on Irregular and Mass Migration has proposed three Follow-up Meetings that, in addition to being part of the activities of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) – a multilateral mechanism with the purpose of promoting efforts related to effective migration governance, to the protection of the human rights of migrants and to address the main challenges faced by the region - seek to respond to the mandate of the Working Group itself, which is to strengthen the governance of mixed migration flows considering the reality of the migration dynamics in the region, to promote strategies and to carry out actions that prevent irregular migration.

These Follow-up Meetings have also been proposed in response to the request of the Member Countries to the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) in December 2020, which established:

Instruct the four Working Groups to hold quarterly meetings to strengthen dialogue on trends, challenges, and exchange of experiences, with a focus on results and shared responsibility.

Based on this context, on April 28, the First Follow-up and Evaluation Meeting was held to identify trends on irregular and mass migration in the region, which was attended by 57 people and was held virtually.

During the meeting, three topics proposed by the Presidency Pro-Témpore of Mexico were discussed: I) Good practices to discourage irregular and mass migration; II) Strengthening migration regularization processes and international protection systems; and III) Border management and training for the adequate care of people in vulnerable situations and to identify their needs.



In this exchange of ideas and opinions, special emphasis was placed on the need to provide urgent and comprehensive assistance to migrants under the principles of shared responsibility, respect for human rights, national sovereignty, and international cooperation. Likewise, the Member Countries of the RCM identified irregular and massive flows of migrants as one of the priorities for attention due to the operational challenges they imply.

Both the ideas and discussions gathered from this exchange, as well as the concern expressed by the Member Countries about having a Regional Strategy to Address Irregular and Mass Migration, have made it possible to formulate a proposal to address these migration flows in a comprehensive and regional manner.

JUSTIFICATION

The challenge of addressing irregular and mass migration resides in ensuring adequate assistance and protection to these migration flows, within a framework of full respect for the rights of migrants, regardless of their migratory status, and in observance of the sovereignty of the countries involved in providing such assistance.

The actions for the assistance of these flows are framed within the sovereignty of the Member Countries and their installed capacities, but at the same time, the urgency of the humanitarian assistance required by these regional migration flows, including for those who arrive from other regions of the world, must be recognized.

In this context, interdependence and shared responsibility between countries is essential and necessary to have regional mechanisms that address human mobility processes with common methodologies and preparedness to face new challenges that arise, such as the management of migration in situations of crisis.

Considering the above, it is imperative to combat the factors that cause irregular migration, to strengthen the procedures to aid migrants and to those with international protection needs, to work on border management complying to regulations and to effectively combat crimes such as smuggling of migrants and human trafficking.

Considering these situations and as a measure of shared responsibility among the Member Countries, it is wanted to establish a common floor of actions to discourage irregular migration and safeguard the human rights of migrants, in addition to combating related crimes. To this end, the Regional Strategy to Address Irregular and Mass Migration is proposed.

This Strategy incorporates the concerns, discussions and ideas raised throughout the year in the various activities carried out by the Working Group on Irregular and Mass Migration, therefore, its approach includes the voices of various actors, particularly those of RCM Member Countries,



with the objective of responding to their needs, to provide them with a reference document that facilitates border management and that may serve as a tool for regional migration governance.

For this reason, it is essential to make the most out of this space of dialogue and exchange to continue nurturing this document, so that it responds to the complexity of the phenomenon of irregular migration and that contains elements, based on the proposed Strategy, that allow each country to design or strengthen actions for the assistance or protection of migrants, with respect to their sovereignty, but with a regional focus and scope. All this bearing in mind that addressing the massive flows of migrants must be carried out in a coordinated manner and based on close communication between the Member Countries.

OBJECTIVES

General objective

- To present and discuss on the proposal of the Regional Strategy to Address Irregular and Mass Migration, to respond to the need of managing these flows within the region since this requires to be addressed urgently and comprehensively under the principles of shared responsibility, respect for human rights, national sovereignty, and international cooperation. It is worth mentioning that the Strategy has been developed based on the considerations expressed by the Member Countries during the First Meeting that took place in April, as well as the exchange of ideas that has taken place in the other activities organized by this Working Group.

Specific objectives

- To generate a space for constant dialogue and exchange that allows the consolidation of a fluid and effective communication between the Member Countries, regarding the assistance and protection of irregular and mass migration flows.
- To present and analyze the main topics that constitute the Regional Strategy for the assistance to and the protection of migrants in irregular and mass migration in the region.

METHODOLOGY

The session will be held virtually, in a round table format with a duration of two hours. The dialogue will be moderated and facilitated by the PPT of Mexico with the support of the Executive Secretariat of the RCM. In this session, the content of the proposed Regional Strategy to Address Irregular and Mass Migration will be presented; it will be sent in advance for review. Each of the main parts that comprise the Strategy will be discussed separately based on triggering questions, with the objective of generating feedback on the content as well as to identify elements, good



practices and general aspects that can be incorporated to continue strengthening this proposal. Member Countries are expected to make brief interventions in each segment addressing the questions posed by the moderator and make any contribution or comment deemed pertinent to the proposed Strategy.

Once the activity on September 30 is concluded, Member Countries will have 10 working days to send comments, if considered appropriate, so that they can be incorporated and the final version of the Strategy can be consolidated, then, it will be presented and submitted for the consideration of Member Countries during the Third Meeting planned as part of this activity throughout the last two months of the year.

Also, it is worth mentioning that the consolidated version of the Strategy will be sent to the observer organizations that are part of the RCM to carry out a review. This step is taken to ensure that the document has a regional vision with enough elements for its operation to be feasible and effective. If it is approved, it will then be submitted to the Regional Consultation Group on Migration and the Vice-Ministerial Meeting at the end of the year.

TRIGGERING QUESTIONS

Phase I. Prevention of irregular migration

Economic and social factors linked to the lack of well-paid jobs, poverty, marginalization, and exclusion, coupled with the search for better life opportunities may constitute some of the causes of international migration in the region. In this context, what steps, actions or programs do you consider a priority to combat the economic causes of international migration in the region, particularly in populations or territories with high migration rates?

Phase II. Monitoring system

The management and assistance of irregular and massive flows in the region points to the importance of communication and shared responsibility in migration matters in the region. In this regard, how could the various competent authorities be coordinated to provide comprehensive attention in a framework of cooperation under the basic principles of protection of human rights, regulation of the use of force and assisted voluntary return and within the framework of the sovereignty of each State?

Phase III. Activation of the migratory alert between countries for all stages of irregular and mass migration flow



After activating the communication between countries in the presence or the confirmed formation of a massive and irregular flow of migrants, what actions must be guaranteed and taken by the pertinent and competent authorities for the protection of the human rights of migrant populations in vulnerable conditions, based on the principles of regulation of the use of force and assisted voluntary return?

Phase IV. Assisted voluntary return

How can States support each other and include local entities and institutions and international organizations in the assistance to migrants in conditions of assisted return and with non-discrimination? What can be the participation of the rest of the countries of the region for the reception of their fellow citizens??

Phase V. Reintegration

After achieving a safe and orderly return of the migrants that comprise the irregular and massive flows, the Strategy proposes that the countries of the region work for the reintegration of migrants, including access to identity documents and employment opportunities. In this regard, what strategies could national governments implement in combination with the private sector and civil society organizations to avoid discrimination and promote inclusion and integration practices?

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

The objective of this meeting is to continue generating spaces of inter-governmental dialogue to discuss on the assistance and protection actions, based on cooperation between the countries, that are proposed in the Strategy that will be presented. Public servants who are decision makers and who have relevant information to generate updated and detailed exchanges on irregular massive flows; preferably, with experience in the design of joint strategies to address migration, are expected.

Also, officials of each Member Country in charge of the irregular and mass migration working group are expected. The participation of a maximum of 4 people per country is recommended.

Given that the meetings have so far been agreed as a space for intergovernmental dialogue, international organizations or civil society will not be convened on this occasion.



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AGENDA

Second Follow-up and Evaluation Meeting to Identify Trends on Irregular and Mass Migration

October 1st, 2021
(Mexico Time, GMT-5)

10:00 – 10:10 – Welcoming words and opening of the session

- *Presidency Pro-Témpore*
- *Executive Secretariat of the RCM*

10:10-10:20 – Objective of the session and context of the Regional Strategy to Address Irregular and Mass Migration

- *Presidency Pro-Témpore*

10:20 – 11:50 – Presentation and discussion on the contents of the proposed Regional Strategy to Address Irregular and Mass Migration

- *Presidency Pro-Témpore*
- *Member Countries*
 - a) *Phase I. Prevention of irregular migration*
 - b) *Phase II. Monitoring system*
 - c) *Phase III. Activation of the migratory alert between countries for all stages of the irregular and mass migration flow*
 - d) *Phase IV. Assisted voluntary return*
 - e) *Phase V. Reintegration*

11:50 – 12:00 – Recommendations and conclusions

- *Executive Secretariat of the RCM*

Moderator: *Presidency Pro-Témpore and Executive Secretariat of the RCM*