



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

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Catalogue of good practices and public policy recommendations on migration regularization and integration of migrants

CONCEPT NOTE AND PRELIMINARY AGENDA

September 22, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Migration trends in the region have changed considerably in the last decade, reaching in 2020 a total of 281 million people living outside their country of origin. Currently, there is a trend towards an increase in mobility, as well as a diversification of the ways in which migration is migrated and the profiles of migrants in the region. Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic register a total of 17,127,600 emigrants, mainly from Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. The final destination of most of this population is the United States of America and Canada, nations that, at the regional level, constitute the main countries of destination.¹

In the Central American region, Mexico and the Dominican Republic transit thousands of migrants in irregular conditions daily. Migration in irregular conditions can not only lead to exacerbate the situations of vulnerability to which migrants are exposed, such as abuses and exploitation in all phases of the migratory cycle, so it is pertinent to build programmes and processes of migratory regularization that allow transit by documenting and that those who are residing in an irregular condition in any of the countries of the region allow them social integration, economic, cultural and political of migrants.

The ways people move are constantly changing. Just as migration is a social dynamic that is constantly changing, so must the tools for its management. Thus, in recent years, added to the increase in migrants in each of the countries, there has been an increase in the number and diversity of people in an irregular condition in them. This has led States to develop greater initiatives to promote the regularization of migrants. Government authorities have generated temporary and permanent initiatives in conjunction with civil society organizations, the private sector and international organizations.

This situation highlights the challenges, opportunities and the need for countries to create migration governance systems capable of adapting and responding effectively to these flows, where comprehensive and flexible responses are generated that meet the specific needs of each country and at the same time guarantee the protection of migrants.

¹ UNDESA (2020) *International Migration 2020 Highlights*, available in <https://www.un.org/en/desa/international-migration-2020-highlights>



Several studies conclude that the available regularization policies and programmes, as well as those for regular admission, have not had the desired impact, in addition to entailing limited follow-up, causing gaps in the generation of data and the protection of migrants. This hinders the operationalization of public policies with a view to the management of migration and the maximization of its benefits for the economic and social development of the countries of destination.²

Against this background, there is a need for the States of the region to create and strengthen existing migration policies to promote the regularization and integration of migrants.

Given this, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) firmly defends the principle that migration is orderly and in humane conditions that benefits migrants and society. This includes the promotion of regular migration, understood as the movement of persons in accordance with the laws of the country of origin, transit and destination.³

In this regard, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports States in the definition and application of regularization measures that allow people to regularize their migratory status and thus guarantee the effective protection of the human rights of the migrant population, favor their social integration and reduce the risks associated with irregular migration.

Likewise, the Pro Tempore Presidency of the RCM recognizes the importance of consolidating efforts to promote the regularization and integration of migrants. This is reflected in the thematic line number 2 established by Mexico as Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Regional Conference on Migration for 2021: regional attention to irregular migration and the structural factors that cause it.

JUSTIFICATION

Given the increase in migratory flows in the region, there is a need in countries to get involved in migration regularization programmes and processes. This is in line with the guidelines and aspirations of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GMFD), the Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda itself. Also the Regional Conference on Migration (CRM) establishes that "the processes of human mobility are configured as one of the main challenges worldwide" which requires the commitment of governments to ensure this is safely and in order to facilitate the migratory regularization of the non-national population.⁴

Despite the fact that in the region States have made important efforts to promote migratory regularization, in many cases these resources remain inaccessible to migrants in an irregular condition, generating gaps in the generation of data and causing that in some occasions the risk to which migrants are exposed is increased. On the other hand, not all regularization programmes have been able to adapt to respond to changes in the migration phenomenon, especially in times of crisis. In addition to the fact

² Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Follow-up on Recommendations Made by the IACHR based on the Working Group on the Implementation of Human Rights Policies in the Dominican Republic*, 2018. IOM *Mechanisms on Labor Migration in Mesoamerica*, 2020.

³ IOM *IOM Glossary on Migration* (2019).

⁴ Government of Mexico, Pro-Tempore Presidency of the XXVI Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process) Mexico 2021.



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that not all people who are in mobility contexts know them or have information on how to access them and under what conditions.

In this sense, IOM, in collaboration with the RCM, has developed the ***Regional Study: Migration Regularization Programmes and Processes*** in order to solve the existing information gap on these programmes and processes in Member Countries with emphasis on Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, contributing to the strengthening or development of flexible and sustainable regularization processes that contribute to an adequate governance of migration and integration of migrants.

OBJECTIVES

General objective

Present the *Regional Study: Programmes and processes of migratory regularization* with the purpose of building an overview of the programmes and processes of migratory regularization that exist in the Member Countries of the RCM, with an emphasis on Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic, as well as the efforts in the region for the integration of migrants.

Specific objectives

- Identify the progress and challenges in the implementation of regularization programmes and processes in the region, as well as the integration of migrants.
- Analyze regional progress on migration regularization in the international legal context.
- Generate spaces for dialogue on the state of implementation, good practices, and lessons learned regarding the regularization and integration programmes of migrants in the region from the perspective of government actors.

SESSION METHODOLOGY

The activity "Catalogue of good practices and recommendations of public policy in the field of migratory regularization and integration of migrants" will be developed through the combination of various techniques, which will include: the presentation of the main findings of the Regional Study: Migratory programmes and processes of migratory regularization, presentations of experts and spaces for dialogue.



PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of the Member Countries that are focal points of the Working Group on Irregular and Mass Migration, as well as the organizations of the RROCM, and observer members of the RCM are summoned. The participation of people who have contributed to the realization of the Study from the interview or the questionnaire and public officials who are part of the ministries of migration or who work closely with migration regularization processes is also expected. The participation of a maximum of 4 people per country is recommended.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Date: September 22, 2021
Hours: 10:00-12:00 h (CDMX)

DURATION	ACTIVITY	FACILITATES
10:00 – 10:10	Welcoming remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidency Pro-Tempore, Mexico • International Organization for Migration
10:10-10:40	Presentation of the <i>Regional Study: Migration Regularization Programmes and Processes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidency Pro-Tempore, Mexico • International Organization for Migration. Research Unit
10:40.-11:00	Presentation 2. Department of International Migration Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Migration Law Unit. IOM
11:00-11:30	Presentation of cases on good practices on migration regularization and integration in some of the Member Countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Costa Rica
11:30-11:50	Dialogue space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidency Pro-Tempore, Mexico • International Organization for Migration. Research Unit.
11:50-12:00	Closure of the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidency Pro-Tempore, Mexico