

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



WEBINARS

REGIONAL TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Working Group on Border Management Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)

September 8-11, 2020

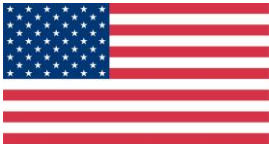
CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

At the beginning of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) at the Tuxtla II Summit in 1996, the countries of the region affirmed their commitment to work to harmonize legislation in order to criminalize and combat migrant smuggling and other related crimes.

The importance of migrant smuggling and its relevance in the region, its growing trend as the complexity that characterizes it, make it a topic of great interest within the RCM. Thus, the topic is mainstreamed into the three fundamental pillars of the RCM, on which the RCM Strategic Plan is based. The RCM specific working groups contribute to the monitoring of the actions defined to address the main regional challenges in migration matters, one of them being Border Management.

The mandate of the Working Group on Border Management is as follows: “In order to make border management more efficient, in the region, the Working Group on Border Management seeks to develop strategies and actions to ensure that the movement of migrants takes place in a safe, orderly and regular manner, to promote better institutional and regional coordination, to strengthen the capacity to identify profiles of people in or at risk of vulnerable situations, and verify the identity of people and their documents. The priority activities of this Working Group contribute to the strengthening of the RCM Member Countries in the implementation of border management mechanisms and the management of migratory flows”.



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According to the priority actions established for 2020¹, within the framework of the Strategic Plan of the Regional Conference on Migration 2019-2022, the Working Group on Border Management defined to implement the following activities:

1. Workshop to share best practices on the comprehensive combat of migrant smuggling and the establishment of a regional strategy for its combat, and the strengthening of capacities in the identification of irregular migrants and detection of fraudulent documentation
2. Articulation of joint actions between RCM and SACM on human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and fraudulent documentation
3. Follow up on recommendations 6.3 of the Guidelines for the attention and protection of women in the context of migration by the Working Groups on Border Management and Irregular and Mass Migration
4. To present a country report on the progress achieved on the implementation of recommendations 6.3 of the Guidelines for the attention and protection of women in the context of migration

Additionally, the RCM developed, with the technical assistance of IOM and UNODC, the Counter-Smuggling Work Plan 2019-2025². The approved plan has an implementation period of five years, and although it is non-binding, it shows the commitment and political will of the States to coordinate efforts in the fight against this crime.

Due to the emergency situation that has caused the Covid-19 pandemic, the RCM requested support from IOM and UNODC to develop the workshop in a Webinar version, focused on the exchange of good practices and capacity building for the comprehensive fight against Migrant Smuggling.

¹ Annex to the Strategic Plan of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) 2019-2022: Functioning and Priority Actions of the Working Groups.

² Approved during the 23rd Vice-ministerial Meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration in paragraph 9, subparagraph b of the vice-ministerial declaration



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OBJECTIVE

Strengthen the police and judicial bodies to fully combat the smuggling of migrants through the exchange of best regional practices in preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants, particularly in investigation techniques and police intelligence and cross-border judicial cooperation.

METHODOLOGY

The modality is virtual, in Webinar sessions. It will be developed in 4 sessions of 2 hours each, with a frequency of one session per day. It is expected to have the participation of various experts and government officials in the development of the sessions, followed by a guided space for exchange between the attendees, representatives of the RCM Member Countries.

The products of the Working Group (directory, trend mapping, and good practices repository) constantly updated by the RCM Chair, will serve as important inputs for the technical exchange.

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

The Workshop is meant for the representatives of the RCM Member Countries, and in particular the technical members of the Working Group on Border Management.

The presence of the following profiles of participants from each country is expected. Due it is on virtual modality, there is no restriction on the number of participants:

- At least two representatives, prosecutors or attorneys, with judicial responsibilities regarding crimes associated with the smuggling of migrants.
- At least two representatives, Director or Chief of the authority in charge of immigration control, responsible for supervision of the application of immigration laws.
- At least two representatives of the investigation units in charge of crimes associated and related to the smuggling of migrants.



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AGENDA

Date and time	Topic Content
Tuesday, September 8	TOPIC 1 : Investigation techniques and police intelligence on Smuggling of Migrants
09:00 – 09:30	<u>Opening remarks</u> <i>Presidency Pro-Tempore</i> <i>IOM</i> <i>UNODC</i>
09:30 -10:15	Technical Exchange (2 to 3 panelists) <i>Facilitator: PPT</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Participants' Questions and Answers
Wednesday, September 9	TOPIC 2: Cross-border judicial cooperation
09:00 – 09:15	<u>Opening remarks</u> <i>Executive Secretariat</i>
09:15 -10:15	Technical Exchange (2 to 3 panelists) <i>Facilitator: UNODC</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Participants' Questions and Answers
Thursday, September 10	TOPIC 3: Prevention and combat the smuggling of migrants
09:00 – 09:15	<u>Opening remarks</u> <i>Executive Secretariat</i>
09:15 -10:15	Technical Exchange (2 to 3 panelists) <i>Facilitator: IOM</i>



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10:15 – 11:00	Participants' Questions and Answers
Friday, September 11	TOPIC 4: Challenges and best practices in the fight against migrant smuggling in times of COVID-19
09:00 – 09:15	<u>Opening remarks</u> <i>Executive Secretariat</i>
09:15 -10:15	Technical Exchange (2 to 3 panelists) <i>Facilitator: IOM</i>
10:15-10:45	Participants' Questions and Answers
10:45 – 11:00	Closing remarks