



*REGIONAL NETWORK OF CIVIL ORGANISATIONS FOR MIGRATIONS –RNCOM*

**RNCOM Statement on the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**“Migration: human rights and development on gender equity”**

The Regional Network of Civil Organisations for Migrations (RNCOM) is set as a network of networks, committees and national forums; constituted by more than 300 members from 11 countries of the region: Canada, United States of America, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic. RNCOM was founded 16 years ago as a representative of the social organisations on the Regional Conference on Migrations, a regional multilateral forum set up on 1996 to implement regional policies.

RNCOM addresses its actions from a human rights approach to protect migrant and stateless people “apatride”, asylum seekers, refugees, indigenous communities, internally and cross-border forced displacements by Organized Crime; putting special emphasis on unaccompanied and separated children and youth, women, and human trafficking and smuggling.

RNCOM has a comprehensive approach, considering migrant people and refugees subjects with civil, political, economical, social, cultural and environmental rights, integrating gender equity and non-discrimination.

In such context, the network deals with different migrant population fluxes: the intra-regional, the south-north and south-south paths. These people migrate for socioeconomical reasons or the new forms of violence that are primary taking down the Central America region and Mexico.



## **Reflections and proposals**

From the complexity of the present situation, taking into account the multidimensionality of migrations, we take up a stance in front of the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, understanding and acknowledging that some of the agencies associated to the United Nations system include migration on their agendas, and some of them even have the mandate to tackle it. Therefore, we suggest that the United Nations system strengthens the generation of comprehensive strategies using a migration transversal approach in every agency, including *the human rights and development on gender equity perspective*. From our experience, we consider it to be possible through shared, multilateral and intergovernmental advocacy actions, including the International Community, social organizations for migrations and migrants, the civil society, unions, religious institutions, the academy and private companies.

Furthermore, *facing the international migration effects*, to RROCM it is essential that sustainability is based on the introduction of the migrant person and its family in the core of economical, social, psychological, cultural and intercultural, and environmental development policies.

The States and the International Community must be careful when analyzing and expressing in a simplistic view the relation between sustainable development and migration. Migration has commonly been understood as a contribution that benefits the global development by: promoting the earning of milliards of dollars in salary income, reducing the unemployment and enriching the human capital.

We consider that this analysis does not take into account the elevated costs and negative effects that are implied in the human displacement for both, the migrant people and the countries of origin. These processes involve familiar break-up, submission to human trafficking and/ or labour exploitation, disrespect for the human rights as for the social guarantees of migrant people and its families' world wide.

Moreover, we urge the promotion of actions to protect and recover the environment, avoiding a considerable amount of people having to flee or migrate due to environmental degradation, and the indiscriminate use of the natural resources that puts in danger the



life's reproduction and its continuity.

The sustainable development can neither be based on the ongoing violation of the fundamental rights of migrant people, nor in the abuse of the natural resources.

On the other hand, one of the pillar axes of RNCOM 2014 Action Plan has a standpoint on *migrant people human rights protection, putting emphasis on women and unaccompanied children and youth*, whose vulnerabilities increase while the risks of being caught by human trafficking networks and smugglers deepen. Regarding the frame of the fight against crime impunity, the Network carries out actions based on the attention, sensitization and prevention of the aforementioned felonies.

We are concerned with the irregular administrative condition that most of the migrants have in the transit and destiny's countries, whose condition depends on actions executed by the responsible civil servants operating in a high discretionary way, under the migratory systems of control, managing migration similarly to the penal system. Victims of such arbitrary judgments are "institutionalized" in the several existing attention, custody, apprehension and administrative centres, among others. This fact provokes the families' breakup, limits the access to the justice and the **Consular Protection**, which increases the migrants' vulnerability, and specially their right to freedom of mobility as they are treat as criminals.

Hence and favouring the discussion of respectful attention models with the human rights of migrants in deportation processes, we exhort governments to exchange information and learn from the good existing experiences and practices that, in means of attention, are found in the transit and reception migrant houses of the region, administrated by churches and civil society, some of them RNCOM members' working in coordination with the local and national authorities.

RNCOM has made alliances with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNHCR and IOM, developing and carrying out joint works from its creation. We acknowledge the advances in the dialogue, exchange and national, bi-national and regional collaborations with the States institutions' and the International Cooperation.

Consequently, we promote that beyond the work being carried out, a **transnational**



**approach** must be spurred in the cooperation and the alliances in co-responsibility with the States, in a **cross-sectoral, intergovernmental and interinstitutional way**, promoting the conception of countries as countries of origin, transit, destiny and return. Only in such way we can improve the migrations' management from a human rights and development perspective.

On the 1990 UN Convention's frame, RNCOM urges the United Nations to review and specify the approach regarding the migrant worker women and their families, to elaborate an **additional protocol** to include the enjoyment of the full and effective protection of their human rights. Moreover, we exhort the member States of this Convention, to promote the responsibility of the Committee of protection of the rights of the labour migrants and their families' (CMW), to receive allegations on human rights violations recognized in it, as stated in articles 76 and 77.

Finally, RNCOM urges the States of origin and destiny to draw attention to recruitment, selection and hiring of temporary workers processes, to establish an effective monitoring of the labour conditions and the fulfilment of the local and regional law and ILO's agreements, on the frame of the acquired compromises by States, taking into account and prioritizing the children's interest and the right of non-discrimination for any reason.

We recommend States to promote equality on the labour rights regardless of the migratory condition of people and their nationality.

RNCOM hopes that the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development is an opportunity to contribute to the integrated development, incorporating the migrant person and its family in the core of the whole process, including respect for their human rights.

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