







Extraordinary Declaration

VI Regional Congress on Women in Migration Contexts

Towards the protection, equality and empowerment of all migrant women and girls

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM) REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF MIGRANT WOMEN, ADOLESCENTS AND GIRLS, IN LINE WITH EXISTING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS.

We, the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), on the occasion of the VI Regional Congress on Women in Migration Contexts: **"Towards the protection, equality and empowerment of all migrant women and girls"**, led by Belize as the Presidency Pro-Témpore and held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on August 20-21, 2024,

Recognize that each stage of the migration experience, from the decision to migrate or stay, to the way in which migration is carried out, the routes and the networks used, and the risks and opportunities faced during the migration cycle, requires differentiated protection and humanitarian assistance, under a gender-based approach and considering their specific needs.

Recognize that migrant women face multiple rights violations and are exposed to greater risks during the migration cycle, day by day they are confronted with discrimination, racism, xenophobia, intolerance in multiple and other types of gender-based violence in multiple and intersectional forms, which increases their vulnerabilities.

Emphasize that the increasing participation and new patterns of women and girls, associated with feminization in the context of migration and human mobility, require an effective and differentiated approach, both at the regional and national levels.

Highlight the need to integrate a gender-based approach in all stages of policy development and programmatic and strategic actions, taking as a precedent the discussions and good practices shared during the VI Congress, aimed towards the respect, protection and fulfillment of the rights of all migrants and people in contexts of human mobility, without exclusion for gender and age reasons.

Express our concern for the constant increase of girls and adolescents in the migration flows through the region.

Highlight the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as women's empowerment. SDGs 5 and 10, which call for gender equality and the reduction of inequalities, are key to ensuring that migrant women and women in contexts of human mobility have access to equitable opportunities and are protected from violence and exploitation. Integrating these goals into our policies and practices not only ensures that migrant women and women in contexts of human mobility can fully exercise their rights, but also





strengthens social cohesion and promotes inclusive and sustainable development throughout the region.

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Reiterate the significant contribution of remittances to the development of countries, the contribution of diasporas as a means for poverty reduction, climate action, and sustainable development as established by the 2030 Agenda in its goals (5, 10.7, 13 and 16).

Reiterate the transformative role of remittances in the well-being of migrants and their families, and the need to pursue programs and instruments with a gender perspective that improve financial inclusion, as established by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in its objective 20.

Value the guiding principle of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration¹ on the gender perspective and the empowerment of all women and girls, which recognizes their independence, their capacity to act and their leadership as migrants².

Recognize the effective, systemic and differentiated approach to migration governance from the regional and internal level in the Member Countries of the RCM, building tools such as the thematic roadmaps created during this VI Congress, which take as a reference the Guidelines on Assistance and Protection of Women in Context of Migration³.

Urge the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration to adopt the Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in migration contexts, as well as to implement those recommendations aimed at guaranteeing a gender and human rights perspective in all stages of the migration cycle within the framework of their respective national policies.

Reaffirm our commitment to continue strengthening the effective mechanisms of coordination, information exchange and regional cooperation on protection and assistance, gender equality and empowerment of women, adolescents and girls in migration and human mobility contexts, through the leadership of the RCM, and within the framework of the RCM Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

Reiterate the willingness of the Regional Conference on Migration to continue the articulated work among Member Countries, observing agencies, civil society and other relevant actors; to ensure migration governance from a comprehensive perspective of rights and gender equality, ensuring spaces and tools for the development of mechanisms for the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights, especially the rights of women, adolescents and girls in migration contexts.

Appreciate the unconditional support of the Government of Canada, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and IOM for the realization of the VI edition of the Regional Congress on Women in

¹ United Nations General Assembly<u>. (2019). Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</u> (Resolution A/RES/73/195). United Nations.

² Countries that are not part of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration are not obliged to comply with the objectives and actions framed in the commitments of the Global Compact on Migration.

³ Regional Conference on Migration. (2017). <u>Guidelines for the protection and care of women in contexts of migration.</u>



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Migration Contexts, under the leadership of PPT of Belize and with the support of the Government of Guatemala.