



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
COSTA RICA 2020
Presidencia Pro-Témpore



XXV RCM
4 December 2020
Original: Spanish (translated to English)

XXV REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION
Presidency Pro-Témpore Costa Rica 2020
“Migration in Action”

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations of Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States, Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), gathered at the XXV Vice-Ministerial Meeting held online on 3-4 December 2020, have approved the following declaration:

WE CELEBRATE 25 years of the Regional Conference on Migration positioning the RCM as the most long-lived regional consultative process on migration matters in the American continent, as a dynamic forum which has held technical and Vice-Ministerial meetings on a regular basis thanks to the commitment of its Member Countries.

AFFIRM the importance of managing migration by sharing responsibility throughout the region as countries of origin, transit and destination that must foster safe and prosperous conditions that discourage irregular emigration, promote respect for existing regulatory frameworks on migration, provide access to humanitarian protection and temporary work programs, prosecute traffickers and smugglers, and accept the timely return of nationals while respecting minimum guarantees of due process.

WE REMEMBER that the RCM works to promote regional efforts aimed at strengthening effective migration governance; protecting the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations; promoting appropriate links between migration and sustainable development; defining strategic priorities; and addressing the main challenges faced in the region, as well as the strengthening, modernization and management of borders.

WE REAFFIRM that the RCM condemns trafficking in persons in the region, recognizing in particular the impact of this crime on migrant women, consider it necessary to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons through a comprehensive and international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent the crime, punish the traffickers and protect the victims, in accordance with international human rights instruments.

WE RECOGNIZE the exceptional situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore, we call for the promotion of solidarity, fostering cooperation and coordination of actions to mitigate the propagation of the virus and addressing in a responsible manner the



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challenges related to migration in view of this complex emergency situation which affects us all.

WE HIGHLIGHT that in these times of social distancing, the online tools have helped us see the possibilities to become more efficient, close and aware of the continuous need for coordination between the authorities of the governments of our Member Countries in order to transform challenges into opportunities.

WE RECOGNIZE the efforts of the RCM Member Countries, the Presidency Pro-Tempore, the Executive Secretariat, the Observer Organizations and the civil society organizations represented by RNCOM in conducting all the activities in a virtual manner throughout this year, thus demonstrating the resilience of the work teams, their ability to adapt and their commitment to ensure that the RCM promotes the exchange of experiences and addresses the realities and challenges relating to migration matters that are faced in the region.

REITERATING that joint work is essential to achieve regional agreements and policies that help us address the structural causes of migration; and that the current conference format allows us to address issues relevant to the region, such as labor migration, irregular and mass migration, and border management.

WE RECOGNIZE that only orderly, safe, and regular migration will successfully achieve the processes that optimize the multiple benefits that migratory cycles imply for countries of origin, transit, destination, and return.

WE REAFFIRM the pillars of the RCM and the importance of analysis of the current dynamics of migration and the perspectives of all the Member Countries of the RCM.

We recognize that the RCM is a legitimated space for dialogue, reflection and communication between authorities, as well as a space for creating synergies with civil society and international organizations, as key actors that participate in and collaborate with this regional consultation process.

We reaffirm the principles set forth in the Charter, and based on the recommendations of the RCGM, as well as the Strategic Plan and the discussions held during the XXV RCM, the Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations have agreed on the following



DECISIONS:

1. To thank the RCM Member Countries for their openness to dialogue on current topics, trends, priorities and challenges related to migration in the region.
2. To thank the Observer Organizations of the RCM for their presentation on the status of migration flows in the region.
3. To thank Costa Rica for its presentation of the report on the efforts of the 2020 Presidency Pro-Témpore.
4. To thank Observer Organizations of the RCM, especially IOM, ILO and UNODC, present in this XXV Meeting, for their strong support and participation in the RCM, and to invite them to continue strengthening this consultative process.
5. To thank the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) for its contributions and recommendations and to recognize the support of civil society in the management of migration.
6. To thank the participation of Argentina as an Observer Country of the RCM and congratulate it for assuming the Pro-Témpore Presidency of the South American Conference on Migration (SACM).
7. In regard to the strategic direction of the activities for 2021:
 - a. Establish clear objectives for the activities.
 - b. Develop clear conceptual notes for the realization of the activities.
 - c. Request that the Working Groups prioritise activities for 2021, with a focus on key issues for each year.
 - d. Establish effectively the participation profiles in the events and activities of the RCM to achieve the expected results.
 - e. Recognize the importance of dialogue between counterparts.
 - f. Focus on results-based programming, recognizing that the pillars and mandates have enriched and expanded the mandate of the RCM.
8. Regarding the proposal of new activities, request the Working Groups to present a prioritization. Moreover, make sure to share the respective concept notes, prior to their approval.
 - a. Consider, in the prioritization, the relevant approaches for the 2021 context, such as: irregular migration, labor migration, and vulnerability of migrants.
9. To take note of Mexico's request to host the III Regional Congress on Women in Migration Contexts, "Women in Migration: Gender, Human Rights and Empowerment.



Challenges and Perspectives”, with the support of the IOM and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to be held in 2021 on a date to be defined.

10. To update the schedule of the RCM as follows:
 - a. RCM-SACM Plenary Session, to be held in 2021, on a date to be defined, with support from the Government of Canada and organized with the support of Costa Rica.
 - b. Workshop on Migration and Health in the Americas, to be held in Costa Rica during the second half of 2021, with support from Canada and the United States and with technical support from ICRC, IOM and UNODC.
 - c. Workshop on Return and Reintegration, to be held in Mexico in 2021 with support from IOM, on a date to be defined.
11. To approve the budget of the RCM Executive Secretariat, in accordance with the table included as Annex A.
 - a. To encourage the RCM Member Countries to make their contributions to the budget of the RCM Executive Secretariat in a timely and appropriate manner. Particularly, to invite the RCM Member Countries with pending contributions to make their contributions.
 - b. Consider principles of flexibility in budget execution, incorporating surpluses from the previous year, with a view to meeting targets.
12. To thank the Executive Secretary and its team, who responsibly and diligently facilitated and contributed to the success of the XXV RCM and the activities planned for the PPT 2020. Furthermore, to recognize the good work of the Executive Secretary and his technical team, whose evaluation results are satisfactory and excellent.
13. To express support and appreciation to the Government of El Salvador as it assumes the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the RCM for 2022.
14. To welcome the theme “*A regional framework of migration governance and human rights, migration with inclusion*” adopted by Mexico for its term as President Pro-Tempore (PPT) in 2021, and to reiterate the support for the Government of Mexico during this period.
15. To thank the Government and the people of Costa Rica for their leadership and efforts to celebrate the XXV Vice-Ministerial Meeting and carry out the activities of the PPT 2020 online, recognizing the work performed by Costa Rica during its term as PPT to strengthen the operational structure of the RCM and promote joint efforts of States and this regional consultation process on migration with the aim of achieving effective migration governance in the region.