**Concept note for the Workshop to Evaluate the RCM**

**July 17-18, 2018**

**Panama City**

**Purpose**

The workshop will be a one-and-a-half-day dialogue on the RCM evaluation to properly weigh the VMs’ mandate and accordingly respond to it. As such the workshop will review the past, present and future of the RCM aiming at preparing recommendations and options for the consideration of the RCM VMs.

**Overview**

Even though the RCM has been a successful regional consultative process, over the years the VMs have expressed misgivings on a number of areas, from its functioning to its coverage; this has meant there have been various attempts to address in a piecemeal manner some of these apprehensions. All multilateral undertakings, from time to time, see the need to take a step back in order to assess their relevancy and consider whether they are still responsive to their mandates, the needs and interests envisaged at their beginnings; a sort of recalibration. At the RCM, we are now at one of these points. At the XXII RCM in San Salvador, the VMs discussed the need to evaluate the RCM after more than 20 year of existence. This will be the purpose of the workshop. In fact this workshop will be the first opportunity that a full day and a half is totally dedicated to review the RCM mandate and process. As a first step, the VMs also commissioned the drafting of a ‘*diagnosis on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.”* To draft this diagnosis, the IOM and the Technical Secretariat, using a questionnaire, canvassed all member countries. The diagnosis has been finalized and will be distributed to all participants ahead of the workshop. Over a day and a half, representatives of member countries, observer international organizations and civil society will brainstorm, deliberate, and exchange views on the “what” and “how” of the RCM aimed at preparing recommendations and options for the consideration of the VMs in response to their request.

**Proceedings**

The workshop will offer the opportunity to cover all relevant aspects of the RCM to be considered in the evaluation report. To prompt and focus the dialogue a ‘discussion paper’ will be drafted and shared with participants beforehand. The questionnaire and its results will be examined as the workshop will constitute the venue to expand, ask questions to clarify points. Also an overview of responses received at interviews and the current organizational structure as reflected in the RCM poster will be discussed.

**Topics to be included in agenda**

1. Introduction to workshop
2. Overview of discussion paper, questionnaire, interviews and responses
3. Discussion on mandate and overall coverage
4. Discussion of organizational structure
5. Draft recommendations for the way forward
6. Discuss possible options

**Evaluation Report**

The conclusions, recommendations and options of the workshop will constitute the key elements to be included in the final report.

**Tools to be used**

Besides the above-mentioned tools, during the years the RCM has produced a number of documents which will be available at the workshop and referenced in the final report. These include:

1. The Puebla Declaration, 1996
2. The Declaration of IV RCM, San Salvador, 1999, which closed the RCM membership
3. The Declaration of the VI RCM, San Jose, Costa Rica, 2001, setting up the Technical Secretariat, and the networks to combat TIP and migrant smuggling, and Consular Affairs
4. The document outlining the RCM Technical Secretariat’s tasks and responsibilities, 2001
5. The guidelines applicable to observer international organizations, 2002
6. The Mexico-Canada document titled ‘*strengthening the RCM after 8 years of existence”*, 2004
7. The Santa Fe document, 2011
8. The Declaration of the XX RCM, Mexico, 2015
9. The evaluation questionnaires responded by member countries and for interviews
10. The document “diagnosis on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats”
11. The discussion paper RCM evaluation
12. The RCM poster

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Workshop on the Evaluation of the RCM[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**July 17-18, 2018**

**Hotel Riu Plaza Panama (TBC)**

**Day 1**

**14:00-14:15 –** Welcome remarks, PPT

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| **Session 1** |

**14:15-14:30** Approval of Agenda **-** Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat (TS)

Introduction to Workshop **–** TS Coordinator, IOM, Consultant

**14:30 - 14:45** Regional Consultation Processes (IOM)

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| **Session 2**  *Scope: The Discussion Paper will be used throughout the workshop to focus the dialogue as it will contain a historical of what the RCM has been and done in terms of substance and process. In this segment, the responses of questionnaire and interviews will also be shared. It is expected that all delegations share their views on the RCM process aiming at identifying how it can be improved.* |

**14:45- 15:00** Overview of Discussion Paper **– (**Consultant)

**15:00 -15:30** Questionnaire, interviews and responses **–** (Coordinator of the TS and Consultant)

**15:30-15:45 Coffee Break**

**15:45 -16:15** Open discussion

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| **Session 3**  *Scope: This discussion is key to assess the currency of the RCM’s mandate (the What) or if this needs any updating. It is important that delegations are prepared to share what they would expect of the RCM. A discussion of the value added of the RCM is pertinent in this segment.*  *It is expected delegations share their 3 priority topics to be included in an exercise to gauge convergency of topics.* |

**16:15 -18:00** Discussion of the RCM mandate and overall coverage–(Consultant)

**Day 2**

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| **Session 4**  *Scope: The organizational structure reflects ‘the how” of the RCM and is the means to achieve the goals outlined in the mandate and strategic priorities. The structure establishes the day-to-day manner of RCM functions, outlines the key bodies and how they interact with all participants in the process. Once there is clarity on the mandate, the form or process will be much easier to grasp. Delegations are expected to share the way they would like the process to function and how to enhance it.*  *In this segment, the IOM will share its experience regarding the organizational structure of other Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), particularly the South American Conference on Migration (SACM).* |

**8:30 – 9:00** Review of Conclusions of first day– (Coordinator of TS)

**9:00 -11:00** Discussion of the RCM Organizational structure –(Consultant)

**11:00 – 11:15** Coffee Break

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| **Session 5**  *Scope: This session will address: a) constraints identified during the workshops proceeding, including budget and financial limitations; and b) after a full day of deliberations on the RCM mandate and organizational structure, delegations should be ready to propose a set of recommendation to re-launch the RCM. The recommendations will likely be grouped in options that reflect both ‘the what’ and ‘the how’ of the RCM.* |

**11:15 -13:30** Addressing Constraints to Success

**13:30 – 14:30** Lunch

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| **Session 6**  *Scope: Identified next steps and updates will be shared in this segment.* |

**14:30-15:30** Recommendations and possible options for the way forward –(Consultant)

**15:30 -16:30** Read out of Recommendations and Options, Next Steps and closing remarks**–** (Coordinator of the TS and Consultant)

1. Note : The workshop will be held using the Chatham House Rule which reads as follows: *When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)