



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
COSTA RICA 2020
Presidencia Pro-Témpore



**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM)
REGIONAL CONSULTATION GROUP ON MIGRATION (RCGM)**

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTECTION

28 September 2020

The Working Group on Protection held an online meeting on 28 September 2020, with participation of representatives from the following countries: Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States.

The Working Group on Protection submits its report to the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), as follows:

1. To thank Costa Rica for the report on advances in respect of the activities of the Working Group.
 - a. To thank Costa Rica, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the implementation of the II Regional Congress on Women in Migration Contexts, “Women in Migration: Gender, Human Rights and Empowerment. Challenges and Perspectives”, to be held in San José, Costa Rica in December 2019.
 - b. To invite the RCM Member Countries that have not already done this to refer their participants to the online workshop on the Regional Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), to be held on 6-7 October.
 - c. To thank UNICEF, ILO, IOM and UNHCR for their support in the organization of the webinars on “Best Interest Determination for Migrant and Refugee Boys, Girls and Adolescents”. To invite the RCM Member Countries to participate in the fourth webinar, to be announced shortly.
 - d. To thank the RCM Member Countries for their input and collaboration in the development of the directory of programmes for the integration and reintegration of migrants in countries of origin to enable migrants to access local labour markets and services.
 - e. To thank the RCM Member Countries for their input and collaboration in the development of the regional directory of institutions involved in the investigation and prosecution of migrant smuggling.
 - f. To thank the RCM Member Countries for their input and collaboration in the development of the mapping of best practices relating to programmes aimed at the sustainable integration and reintegration of migrant girls, adolescents and women to facilitate their access to the local education system and/or labour markets, migration regularization and basic services (legal aid, access to health care, etc.).
 - g. To remember that the actions to promote and disseminate, at the local and national level and among migrant populations, relevant information about the available programmes and tools to support processes of integration and reintegration of migrant girls, adolescents and women, are dependent upon collaboration to complete the previous activities.
 - h. To inform that an information collection tool will be shared in the next weeks to monitor the refugee status applications submitted in the RCM Member Countries.



2. To ask the RCM Member Countries to submit their comments on the following documents by 28 October, at the latest:
 - Directory of programmes for the integration and reintegration of migrants in countries of origin to enable migrants to access local labour markets and services;
 - Regional directory of institutions involved in the investigation and prosecution of migrant smuggling;
 - Protocol on regional coordination to improve, with an intersectional approach, inter-institutional coordination for the protection and assistance of migrant girls, adolescents and women, including LGBTI populations.
3. In regard to the proposed new actions aimed at complying with the Strategic Plan:
 - To conduct a Workshop on Return and Reintegration, with support from IOM, in Mexico in 2021 on a date to be defined.
4. To thank Canada and Costa Rica for the update on the Workshop on Migration and Health in the Americas to be held in Costa Rica in 2021, on a date to be defined.
5. To thank the observer organizations of the RCM for their reports, recommendations and analyses, especially IOM and ICRC, and to recognize their cooperation in the region.
 - To thank IOM for the support for the implementation of the III Regional Congress on Women in Migration Contexts and a webinar to follow up on the recommendations emanated from the II Congress. Financed by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
6. To ask the countries that have not already done this to submit their approval of the “Recommendations on regional coordination and information exchange mechanisms for the search for missing migrants in the context of migration”, developed with support from ICRC in compliance with the conclusions of the RCGM formulated in November 2019.
7. To thank the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) for the recommendations in matters relating to protection. In particular, the following has been recommended to the RCM:
 - a. To consider the possibility of including in the work programmes actions aimed at addressing new issues, such as the closing of borders and its impact on the rejection of persons with international protection needs, and the difficulties that this poses in regard to respect for the principle of non-refoulement; and in addition, the difficulties that have been faced by persons to re-enter their countries of origin.
 - b. To consider methodologies aimed at increasing the inclusion of civil society into the activities of the RCM.
 - c. To expand the concept and scope of protection actions to include persons at risk of becoming stateless, persons defending the human rights of migrants.
 - d. In monitoring refugee status applications, to assess the importance given to evidentiary material versus the reports of the refugee status applicants and the impact on the resolution of the procedure.
 - e. In addition, to include actions such as adopting complementary forms of protection for persons who have been denied refugee status and who are in highly vulnerable situations.