



## **SPECIAL DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION RELATED TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

The Vice-Ministers of Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, as Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), acknowledging that States have a common interest in cooperating in managing migration flows; in protecting refugees and migrants, and safeguarding the most vulnerable of them, such as women at risk, unaccompanied and separated girls, boys and adolescents, children and unaccompanied minors; in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration flows; in implementing and enforcing effective border controls, as well as of repatriation and return schemes; in eradicating trafficking in persons and combatting migrant smuggling and in strengthening the institutional capacities in order to facilitate access to justice for populations in context of international mobility and guarantee their rights;

Convinced of the importance of promoting a comprehensive approach to human mobility, as well as to generate support within the region for efforts towards the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

Taking into consideration that the Global Compact is expected to set out a range of voluntary principles, commitments and understandings among United Nations Member States, which in turn, should strengthen international cooperation to promote safe, regular, and orderly migration,

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development references the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development, and includes Sustainable Development Goals and Targets relating to migration including: 8.8 "Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment," 10.7 "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies," and 10.c "By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent";

Considering that migration has become a major issue on the current international agenda and that, in the spirit of international cooperation and of acknowledgement of the migratory reality faced by the different countries and regions, the Member Countries of the RCM seek to collaborate on comprehensive responses to this complex reality which represents both challenges and opportunities for local, national, regional and global development;



---

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración  
Regional Conference on Migration

In this vein, we have adopted the following declaration, which reflects shared views of the RCM Member Countries that should be considered in the negotiation and adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:

1. We reaffirm that States, in exercising their sovereign rights to manage their borders, should promote, in accordance with international law, immigration control mechanisms that protect and safeguard the human rights of migrants.
2. We recognize the positive economic, social, and cultural contributions migrants make to their countries of origin and destination.
3. We intend to foster international cooperation with the aim of strengthening States' capacities to adopt comprehensive and planned policies and procedures on migratory governance, to promote regular pathways as a means of facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration. Also we endeavor to strengthen, as appropriate and according to national legislation, programs intended to facilitate regular temporary or permanent mobility of persons with different labor skills
4. We acknowledge the need for States to promote the respect of the human rights of all migrants, including those of women, girls, boys and adolescents in countries of transit, and destination, in order to protect them against human rights violations and abuses, as well as to reduce their vulnerability conditions, in order to avoid their risk of becoming victims of exploitation.
5. We acknowledge that irregular migration is driven by a variety of factors, including the search of better economic opportunities, social exclusion, fractured families, food insecurity, economic inequalities, violence resulting from criminal activities, domestic and regional conflicts, human rights abuses, corruption, environmental impacts, climate change, and natural disasters.
6. We emphasize the need for countries of origin to consider the design and implementation of public policies that promote the economic and social development to the benefit of their citizens and which help address the root causes of irregular migration. We encourage countries of origin to promote information campaigns that warn of the risks associated with irregular migration and we also encourage them to prosecute, as appropriate, those persons engaged in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.
7. We acknowledge the importance of developing comprehensive local, national, regional, and global approaches to addressing the structural drivers of irregular migration in countries of origin, while promoting regular migration pathways.
8. We intend, as appropriate, to promote social, economic, cultural and civic inclusion of migrants in our societies; to foster respect for diversity and to work to counter intolerance, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia directed against migrants.



---

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración  
Regional Conference on Migration

9. We highlight the need to address, as appropriate, the causes of vulnerabilities of migrants by incorporating according to the circumstances, a gender perspective into migration policies; to strengthen national laws, institutions and programs to prevent, combat and punish gender-based violence; to support human trafficking victims; and to eliminate discrimination against migrant women and girls to help protect them against human rights violations and abuses.
10. We will accompany, as appropriate, the efforts implemented by the countries of return to promote the social and economic reintegration of the returned population so that returned people find development opportunities in their communities of return. Also, we will seek to promote the recognition of the qualifications, education and skills obtained by returnees during their stay abroad.
11. We recognize the importance of protecting the labor rights of migrants and the need to promote, as appropriate and according to national legislation, actions that provide them with practical and useful information at their arrival and during their stay. We also recognize the importance of generating decent work spaces for migrant workers of all productive sectors and the need to promote according to the circumstances, the hiring of regularized labor force, the regularization of the labor force, as well as circular migration, as an alternative to irregular migration.
12. We note the need to consider and reduce, as appropriate, the gaps in the provision of essential services available to migrants, in particular, facilitating, as necessary, their access to drinking water, food, housing, psychosocial support and health care, registration and obtaining of identity documents and labor insertion schemes, in accordance with national law, in order to facilitate and promote their integration in both destination and return communities.
13. We emphasize the importance and need for more and better statistical data on migrants and we call for the promotion of information generation and the use of standardized and, where possible, comparable and global methodologies.
14. We acknowledge the relevance of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Declaration of the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development towards the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees. We will promote cooperation and coordination to obtain, use, and strengthen existing financial, material and human resources effectively, given that the effective implementation of measures and actions in favor of migrants should, subject to availability, be accompanied by appropriate resources.
15. We will seek to adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing migration issues and, in the spirit of the New York Declaration, we will ensure, as appropriate and in accordance with our international obligations and national laws, that all people who come to our countries, including those who arrive in large displacements, are treated in a dignified, respectful, compassionate, gender-sensitive, and humane manner, irrespective of their immigration status.



---

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración  
Regional Conference on Migration

16. We will address, as appropriate, the special needs of all people who are vulnerable, such as women at risk, LGTBI persons, girls, boys and adolescents, especially of those unaccompanied or separated from their families, victims of violence, the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons who suffer discrimination for any reason, victims of human trafficking, human rights violations and exploitation.
17. We reaffirm that all migrants have the right to fair and equal process before competent authorities in accordance with the law, including in any judicial proceeding before a competent court.
18. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.