



- Free Translation -

Geneva, 19 November, 2012  
OP\_AMERICAS 12/22 PND/yhu

Your Excellency,

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as an independent and neutral humanitarian international organization, and in accordance with its mission, has the honor to request your Excellency, as the Presidency Pro-Tempore (PPT) of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) and the eleven Member Countries of this Conference, to grant the ICRC the status of Observer Organization and the privilege to participate in this quality in the Conference, either in the Vice-Ministerial meetings or in the meetings of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM).

Recently, the ICRC had the honor to participate as a special guest of Member Countries, in the RCM meetings held in November 2011, in Santo Domingo, and in June 2012, in Panama City. On the occasion of 17<sup>th</sup> Vice-Ministerial meeting chaired by your Excellency, the ICRC had for the first time, the opportunity to present to Member Countries the increasing humanitarian activities in favor of migrants performed in the countries of the region, as well as their concerns because of the particular vulnerability of these people.

Given the importance of the Conference as an effective multilateral mechanism and platform for dialogue, regional cooperation and coordination in the field of migration, and considering the space offered to the problems and humanitarian needs related to migration, I would like to strengthen exchanges and interaction of the ICRC with the RCM.

Your Excellency  
Francisco Álvarez de Soto  
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Presidency Pro-Tempore  
Regional Conference on Migration

Because of the nature of our institution, we have special interest in the RCM works and the exchange of opportunities offers. The ICRC ensures to attend, through its operational activities, in a diverse and direct way, the needs of the most vulnerable migrants, both at national and regional level. We would like to continue sharing these activities with Member Countries in the different meetings of the RCM.

The ICRC acts essentially with the National Red Cross Societies in the countries of the region, in accordance with the policy of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The independent, neutral and impartial humanitarian action carried out in the areas of protection and assistance in favor of persons concerning their duties, matches the goals formulated by the Puebla Process.

As your Excellency is aware, the ICRC has the observer status in different organizations or intergovernmental conferences, being universal, such as the United Nations (since 1990), or continental or regional. From experience we know that the fact of establishing close ties in the humanitarian fields of common interest encloses interaction and cooperation benefits with international and regional conferences or organizations such as the RCM. With this in mind, the ICRC wishes to contribute, as an observer, its reflections and experience, as well as offering a contribution from a specifically humanitarian perspective to the dialogue and work of Member Countries.

As support to my application, and as additional information, you will receive documentation on contributions, actions and humanitarian achievements of the ICRC for migrants, and a summary of the activities carried out by the representations of the ICRC in the signatories of the Declaration of Puebla and the RCM Member Countries.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Maurer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Maurer