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# Concept Note

# “Migration: A Shared and Differentiated Responsibility”

# President Pro Tempore of the Regional Conference on Migration

# Honduras 2016

Honduras is very pleased and honoured to assume the Presidency pro tempore of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) with the theme of **“Migration: A Shared and Differentiated Responsibility”.**

In recent years, the region has faced an increasing flow of differentiated irregular migration; that is, countries that previously were only sending, transit or receiving countries have taken on more than one of these roles in recent years, which has brought them greater responsibilities. Regardless of the role of each country, there is no doubt that the region shares a responsibility in regard to migration which cannot be delegated, and the only two ways to address this issue are with a human rights approach and in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

It is indispensable that each country recognize its responsibilities, according to the roles it plays, in order to provide a regional response to migration. An example of this approach is the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity of the Northern Triangle countries in Central America, driven by Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The Plan is a sub-regional strategy based on the commitment and political will of all three countries to create the necessary opportunities for development in the region, thus avoiding the need to search for them in the North.

Honduras endorses what Pope Francis said during the World Day of Migrants and Refugees in regard to supporting *“all who work to defend each person’s right to live with dignity, first and foremost by exercising the right not to emigrate and to contribute to the development of one’s country of origin. This process should include, from the outset, the need to assist the countries which migrants and refugees leave. This will demonstrate that solidarity, cooperation, international interdependence and the equitable distribution of the earth’s goods are essential for more decisive efforts, especially in areas where migration movements begin, to eliminate those imbalances which lead people, individually or collectively, to abandon their own natural and cultural environment”*.

In this regard, and based on the example of the synergy that has been created between countries of the Northern Triangle, Honduras expects to be able, during its term as President pro tempore, to count on the same commitment and political will of the other countries in accompanying these initiatives and thus, achieve the three specific objectives of the Regional Conference on Migration:

1. To promote exchange of information, experiences and best practices.
2. To foster cooperation and regional efforts relating to migration.
3. To strengthen migration management processes.

Honduras is proud to be the first country to implement the lines of action for the institutional strengthening of RCM, proposed by Mexico as outgoing President pro tempore. This will allow to develop coordinated efforts by the Troika.

Considering the three central themes of the Plan of Action of RCM (Migration Management, Human Rights, Migration and Development) for 2016, Honduras as President pro tempore takes on the following sub-themes:

1. Consular Assistance and Migration Protection
2. Migration: Rights and Obligations
3. Integration and Reintegration

1. **Consular Assistance and Migration Protection**

Consular capacity-building through workshops aimed at exchanging experiences and effective practices of countries in the region, and implementation of protocols for consular and migration assistance and protection, with a focus on populations in vulnerable situations. In addition, invigorating the communications between migration authorities of each country, as well as Secretariats and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and consular networks, in order to ensure more expedited assistance and full respect for the rights of migrants.

1. **Migration: Rights and Obligations**

The topic of migration is of a strictly humanitarian nature and therefore, should be addressed from a human rights perspective, ensuring full respect for human rights throughout the migration process. In addition, migration brings obligations to migrants and States. As part of the obligations of States and in order to respect the rights of migrants, it is necessary to ensure access to information about refuge and asylum, as well as appropriate follow-up actions and the granting of refuge or asylum, where applicable. In 2016, Honduras will promote information campaigns to enable migrants to learn about their rights and obligations in countries of origin, transit and destination. Furthermore, countries in the region will be invited to take on shared responsibility regarding this matter and to respect and inform migrants about their rights and obligations.

1. **Integration and Reintegration**

To continue promoting the establishment of reintegration policies for returned migrants and policies on integration in receiving countries, following up on the commitments taken on by the region at the XX Vice-Ministerial Meeting of RCM, and coordinating efforts between different sectors: civil society, the private sector, international organizations, cooperation agencies, faith-based organizations and the governmental sector.

The three sub-themes have been selected taking into account that it is necessary to develop “clear standards that can be implemented, that regulate reception and establish short- and long-term integration procedures, with attention to the rights and obligations of all”. Honduras intends to consolidate the various processes that have been developed within the framework of RCM and to achieve tangible results that reflect the importance of this space, for the benefit of our migrants.