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**THIRD MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON EXTRA -REGIONAL MIGRANTS**

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

3rd & 4th OF NOVEMBER, 2016

**CONCEPT NOTE**

BACKGROUND

The issue of extra-regional migration has been worked within the RCM framework since its beginning. During its first encounter in 1996, in Puebla, Mexico, the governments committed to control the flow of undocumented extra-regional migrants, in order to stop human trafficking and to ensure these migrants their human rights. In order to comply fully with this commitment, the extra-regional migrant subject has continued to be present in the RCM´s agenda until today.

The first agreements around this matter referred mainly to the return and reintegration of these migrants. During the IV RCM celebrated in 1999 in El Salvador, it was requested to the IOM to present a proposal of a general cooperation program for the return of extra-regional migrants. This same year, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, a seminar on Migration, Return and Reinsertion takes place, in which it was expressed “*the concern for the respect of the human rights of the extra-regional migrants stranded in the member countries of the RCM*”. It was also requested to the OIM to elaborate a proposal for a “Extra-regional Migrants Return Project”, which even though it had acceptance from the member countries, it was never able to be executed.

In 2004, during the IX RCM, which took place in Panama City, Panama, the *“General Framework for Implementation of the Program on Multilateral Cooperation for the Assisted Return of Extra-Regional Migrants Stranded in Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)”*, was approved. This framework established the assistance of the IOM for the assisted return of extra-regional migrants at the request of a member country of the RCM.

This subject was worked uninterruptedly within the RCM since its start in 1996. However, it was until 2011 that the *ad-hoc working group to discuss, analyze and define objectives on the topic of extra-continental migration flows in the region* (as it was named then) was created during the RCGM in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, though their first meeting was sustained in July 2012 in Panama. This same year a meeting was held in Mexico with the origin countries of these migrants in order to strengthen relations and promote the exchange of information.

****Since then, the group became inactive, but the topic was being worked in other instances despite it. In July of the present year in Panama City the ad-hoc working group was resumed and the main agreements since then have been based on the exchange of statistical information about the extra-regional migrant flows in the region as well as their routes, transportation and this persons profile in order to keep this information systemized in the RCM´s framework. On the other hand, it´s been sought to enhance relations and to strengthen the cooperation with the origin countries of these migrants trough a continuous exchange of information to allow a better control over this flow of migrants. Much work has also been done in order to combat the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking.

Following this commitments, the member countries of the RCM that participated in the Second meeting of the ad-hoc working group on extra-regional migrants, agreed to sustain a third meeting of the ad-hoc group.

In accordance with this agreement, the government of Costa Rica, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), convenes to the Third meeting of the ad-hoc working group on Extra-regional migrants, to follow up the work and agreements of the previous meetings of the ad-hoc group RCM-RROCM and the two meetings held with the countries of origin; also to follow up on the meeting with the SCM and the online meeting of the Technical Group on Extrarregional Migration Flows. The main objective of this meeting will be to do a critical revision of said agreements and from there define changes and improvements of these agreements, as well as eventually other agreements that allow the elaboration of a proposal for an action plan of the RCM, with specific recommendations to be submitted to Vice-minister´s considerations.

This meeting will last two days and it will use as a part of its supplies the previous agreements reached within the RCM´s framework about this matter, as well as the “Plan to strengthen the governance of extra-regional migrant flows in Mesoamerica”, presented previously by the IOM to consideration of the Member Countries.

The proposed encounter will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, the days 3rd and 4th of November of the present year.

**PARTICIPANTS**

It is considered the participation of the focal points of the RCM and the officials that have under their charge the responsibility of defining the migration policies and of attention and assistance to the extra-regional migrants.

**METHODOLOGY**

**Proceeding of the meeting.** The meeting will be divided into 3 blocks:

1. Revision of the progress in the implementation of the previous agreements elaborated within the RCM framework.
2. Precision of the agreements that were previously accepted but were not accurate enough to be implemented.
3. Elaboration of new agreements to integrate to an RCM action plan in the matter of extra-regional migrants that would be put into the Vice-minister´s consideration.

**Conclusions.** In full, the conclusions, recommendations and monitor mechanisms that will be presented to the Regional Consultation Group on Migration in their November session of the present year, will be defined.

**Preliminary Agenda**

**THIRD MEETING OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON EXTRA -REGIONAL MIGRANTS**

**DAY 1**

**Thursday, November 3rd 2016.**

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| Schedule | Activity |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | **Registration of participants**  **Welcome and inauguration**  Facilitates: Marcelo Pisani IOM Regional Director, Carlos Maldonado UNHCR Representative & Ms. Gisela Yockchen Director of Migration Department of Costa Rica. |
| 9:30 - 9:50 | **Participants Introduction**  Facilitates: TS |
| 9:50-10:10 | **Background , workshop objectives and revision of the agenda**  Facilitates: TS |
| 1st BLOCK. - Revision of the progress in the implementation of the previous agreements elaborated within the RCM´s framework. | |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | **Presentation about the “Critical Mapping Of Answer Mechanisms Before The Influx Of Extra-regional Migrants In The Region Of Central America” by the IOM.**  Presents: Cy Winter, IOM  Questions and answers |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | **Recess** |
| 10:45-12:00 | **Presentation by Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia & Haiti about the extra-regional migrant flows.**  Suggested Topic: Increased exit of Haitians citizens from South America.  Presents: Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia & Haiti.  Questions and answers |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | **OPEN DIALOGUE**  Conversation with Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia & Haiti about inter-regional cooperation mechanisms to approach the extra regional flows. |
| 12:30 – 1:15 | **Lunch** |
| 1:15-1:35 | **Presentation on the approach to the Extra-regional Migrants situation in Costa Rica.**  Presents: Ms. Gisela Yockchen Director of Migration Department. |
| 1:35 - 2:05 | **Presentation on the “Current state of the extra-regional migration from UNHCR perspective”**  Presents: UNHCR  Questions and answers |
| 2:05-2:35 | **Brief summary of the previously elaborated agreements within the RCM´s framework related to extra-regional migrants and the state of compliance with these agreements.**  Presents: TS |
| 2:35 – 3:05 | **WORKING GROUPS**  Identification of the obstacles that prevent the fulfillment of the previously accepted agreements and proposal of an action plan to overcome them. |
| 3:05 – 3:30 | **PLENARY**  Presentation of results of the work groups by rapporteurs and definition of the action plan for the worked subjects. |
| 3:30-3:50 | **Recess** |
| 2nd BLOCK.- Precision of the agreements that were previously accepted but were not accurate enough to be implemented | |
| 3:50- 4:10 | Presentation of the agreements that were previously accepted but were not accurate enough to be implemented  Presents: TS |
| 4:10 – 4:40 | **WORKING GROUPS**  Group 1. - How to cooperate as a region to implement the agreement to generate information campaigns?  Moderator: Jorge Gallo, OIM. Rapporteur: Jean Pierre Mora, OIM.  Group 2. - How to obtain cooperation within the framework of the RCM, from other International Organizations and the Civil Society?  Moderator: Costa Rica. Rapporteur: Costa Rica  Group 3. - How to improve the cooperation, within the RCM´s framework, with the origin countries of these migrants?  Moderator: Mexico. Rapporteur: Mexico |
| 4:40 – 5:05 | **PLENARY**  Presentation of results of the work groups by rapporteurs and definition of the action plan for the worked subjects. |
| 5:05 – 5:35 | **WORKING GROUPS**  Group 1. - How to cooperate as a region within the RCM´s framework for the identification of vulnerable migrants?  Moderator: Costa Rica. Rapporteur: Costa Rica  Group 2. - How to strengthen the cooperation with the transportation companies to prevent the irregular flows and offer assistance and protection to the migrants?  Moderator: Panama. Rapporteur: Panama  Group 3. - How to cooperate as a region to engage the diaspora to prevent the irregular flows and offer assistance and protection to the migrants?  Moderator: United States. Rapporteur: United States (To be confirmed) |
| 5:35 – 6:00 | **PLENARY**  Presentation of results of the work groups by rapporteurs and definition of the action plan for the worked subjects. |

**DAY 2**

**Friday, November 4th 2016**

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| 2nd BLOCK. -Precision of the agreements that were previously accepted but were not accurate enough to be implemented | | |
| Schedule | | **Activity** |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | | **Summary of the previous day.**  Facilitates: Costa Rica´s Government |
| 9:00 – 9:45 | | **WORKING GROUPS**  Group 1. - How to collaborate as a region to boost return agreements with origin countries, transit countries and last residence countries?  Moderator: Cy Winter. Rapporteur: Cy Winter  Group 2. - How to make progress in the regional guidelines for the management of stranded migrants?  Moderator: Costa Rica. Rapporteur: Costa Rica  Group 3. - How to make progress in regional guidelines for the managements of non-identifiable migrants?  Moderator: Mexico. Rapporteur: Mexico |
| 9:45 – 10:30 | | **PLENARY**  Presentation of results of the work groups by rapporteurs and definition of the action plan for the worked subjects. |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | | **Recess** |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | | **WORKING GROUPS**  Group 1. - How to collaborate as a region to avoid the abuse of the refugee status?  Moderator: UNHCR Rapporteur: UNHCR  Group 2. - How to make progress in regional guidelines for the visas and migratory permits homologation?  Moderator: Cy Winter, IOM. Rapporteur: Cy Winter, IOM.  Group 3. - How to collaborate with other countries of the continent to avoid the abuse of the humanitarian visa programs?  Moderator: Costa Rica. Rapporteur: Costa Rica |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | | **PLENARY**  Presentation of results of the work groups by rapporteurs and definition of the action plan for the worked subjects. |
| 12:15 – 1:30 | | **Lunch** |
| 3rd BLOCK. -Elaboration of new agreements to integrate to an RCM action plan in the matter of extra-regional migrants that would be put into the Vice-minister´s consideration | | |
| 1:30-2:00 | **Presentation on Migrants Health.**  Presents: Panama. | |
| 2:00-2:30 | **Presentation about the “Plan to strengthen the governance of extra-regional migrant flows in Mesoamerica”**  Presents: Marcelo Pisani IOM Regional Director | |
| 2:30– 3:00 | **PLENARY**  Which elements of the Plan to strengthen the governance of extra-regional migrant flows could be included in the RCM´s action plan?  Moderator: Marcelo Pisani IOM Regional Director | |
| 3:00– 3:30 | **PLENARY**  How to prevent human trafficking?  How to protect unaccompanied and accompanied boys and girls?  How to cooperate with South American countries?  How to cooperate as a region in other subregional, regional, interregional and global organizations and platforms (OCAM, SICA, RIAM, AG, among others)?  Which key elements should have a potential political declaration on the topic, to be presented to consideration of the Vice-Ministers?  Moderator: TS | |
| 3:30– 3:50 | **Recess** | |
| 3:50 – 4:20 | **PRESENTATION OF GENERAL REPORTS OF THE EVENT**  The general rapporteurs of the event present their reports.  Presents: Costa Rica & PPT Honduras. | |
| 4:20 – 4:50 | **PLENARY**  Comments, suggestions and proposals for the final report.  Moderator: Costa Rica | |
| 4:50 – 5:05 | **NEXT STEPS & EVENT CLOSURE**  Facilitates: TS | |