**XX RCM**

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# Integration, Return and Social and Productive Reintegration of Migrants

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), at the XX Vice-Ministerial Meeting held on November 11-12, 2015 in Mexico City with *Integration, Return and Social and Productive Reintegration of Migrants* as the central theme of their discussions:

**Reiterating** the principles of RCM, established in 1996 as a forum to promote regional dialogue, exchange of ideas and experiences for joint reflection and cooperation in migration matters of common interest of Member Countries;

**Highlighting** the spirit of cooperation and dialogue between Member Countries as well as the comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to migration, addressing its causes as well as its effects in an effective manner;

**Emphasizing** that RCM has proven its usefulness as a forum for reaching understandings and implementing cooperation initiatives that have enabled better addressing the causes, dimensions and consequences of migration without losing sight of human dignity;

**Considering** the active participation of Civil Society Organizations in the CRM dialogue and their contributions to supporting migrants in particular in the context of integration, return and social and productive reinsertion of migrants;

**Considering** the importance of the central theme of *Integration, Return and Social and Productive Reintegration of Migrants,* with the objective of advancing toward closing the gaps between the situations of undocumented migrants and those who are living in societies of destination in a regular manner, and promoting mechanisms to effectively meet the needs of the returned migrants and their families in order to support their social and productive reintegration in countries of origin;

**DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Their willingness to undertake, as appropriate, actions resulting from the dialogue and exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned concerning the central theme, as described below:
2. **Integration**

* To promote migration management frameworks and public policies that allow for the socioeconomic integration of migrants as partners in development;
* To provide and disseminate appropriate information about the rights of migrants as well as programmes and integration services for migrants;
* To secure support from the private sector for volunteer programmes;
* To promote capacity-building programmes in countries of origin in order to strengthen the links with the respective diasporas;
* To sensitize on the local level regarding the obstacles that irregular migrants face in the integration process in destination communities.
* To disseminate local programmes with the aim of enabling the integration of migrants;
* To consider migrants as agents of development and to recognize their strengths and contributions to the region;
* To work in the communities of origin of migrants to increase opportunities for education, health, employment and security from the perspective of shared responsibility.
* To promote, according to national laws, migration regularization programmes;
* To build alliances with civil society, academia and the private sector in order to contribute to the analysis of migration and promote actions and programmes aimed at fostering the social, economic and cultural integration of migrants.

1. **Return**

* To implement return policies with a humane focus that consider the health, protection and safety of migrants in order to reduce vulnerabilities and risks;
* To incorporate psychological care and other aspects related to culture and identity to the mechanisms of reception of returning migrants, as appropriate.
* To develop contingency plans for responding to emergency situations affecting standard return processes.
* To identify improvements to return procedures to make them more efficient.
* To cooperate, as appropriate, in addressing repatriation cases where it is difficult to identify people.
* To promote improved access to justice and protection of the rights of returning migrants;
* To facilitate the issuance of essential personal identity documents, particularly for returning migrants in vulnerable situations such as migrant boys, girls, adolescents and victims of trafficking;
* To improve processes to accompany returning migrants to their countries of origin;
* To strengthen regional coordination mechanisms with the aim of improving the programmes for the orderly and safe return of migrants;

1. **Social and Productive Reintegration**

* To improve coordination between different levels of government in regard to assistance to returning migrants and promote their comprehensive integration and reintegration;
* To develop and strengthen programs targeting young people, including educational, cultural and employment opportunities.
* To strengthen and expand infrastructure and training in the labour markets in the countries of return, with the objective of meeting the demand for employment generated by the returned migrants;
* To strengthen the networks of returned migrants with the aim of identifying social and financial incentives to promote their reintegration;
* To promote the establishment of credit plans for small and medium-sized enterprises and housing for returned migrants;
* To promote efforts to foster programmes for returned migrants, with support from the private sector and civil society;
* To consider involving international and civil society organizations in the development of institutional cooperation programmes aimed at supporting the reintegration of returned migrants;
* To strengthen investment programmes in order to promote development and harness the potential of returned migrants;
* To promote academic recognition and validation of education received abroad;
* To monitor the reintegration processes of returned migrants;
* To promote the recognition of skills and qualifications of returned migrants;
* To explore the possibility of establishing employment bureaus in repatriation centres, in coordination with private enterprises, with the aim of promoting appropriate job offers.

1. Their recognition of the progress achieved through the Ad Hoc Group on Migrant Children and Adolescents; particularly regarding assistance and consular protection matters for that vulnerable population, and its willingness to continue the work of the Group in order to support the actions considered, particularly the ones contained in the Managua Extraordinary Declaration of 2014.

2 bis. Their willingness to review the work carried out by networks for migrant boys, girls and adolescents as well as the Ad Hoc Group, and in this context, to request the technical opinion of UNICEF in regard to the relevance of establishing a network for migrant boys, girls and adolescents under the work structure of RCM.

3 ter. Their willingness to uphold and protect – in countries of origin, transit and destination – the exercise of the human rights of migrants, with a special focus on groups in vulnerable situations, such as women and accompanied, unaccompanied and separated boys, girls and adolescents, regardless of their migration status.

2 quater. To encourage States to make progress in the updating and implementation of internal migration regulations, in accordance with international obligations, and to seek cooperation with the aim of upholding the human rights of migrants and their families.

1. Their recognition of RNCOM as an important strategic partner of the RCM and to seek its support in strengthening dialogue and cooperation through constructive exchange.
2. Their approval to grant UNICEF the status of international observer organization in the RCM in recognition of its contributions and collaboration, especially in programs for the care and protection of children and young migrants.
3. Their thanks to the Technical Secretariat, the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrants Smuggling, the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection and the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) for their support in preparation of this XX Vice-Ministerial Meeting.
4. To approve the Recommendations of the RCGM and the Guidelines for Institutional Strengthening of the RCM attached to the current Declaration and integral part of it; requesting follow-up and presentation of a progress report during the XXI Vice-Ministerial Meeting.
5. Their thanks to all the international organizations for their continued support to the Conference and their willingness to continue collaborating and cooperating.
6. Their support to the Government of Honduras for assuming the Presidency Pro-Témpore of the Regional Conference on Migration for the 2016 cycle.
7. Their support to the Government of El Salvador for assuming the Presidency Pro-Témpore of the Regional Conference on Migration for the 2017 cycle.
8. Their thanks to the Government of Mexico for its hospitality in holding this Twentieth Vice-Ministerial Meeting of the Conference and recognition of its work to promote the strengthening and importance of the Conference during its Presidency Pro-Témpore on its twentieth anniversary.