**XVIII VICEMINISTERIAL MEETING**

**XVIII REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM)**

**“Migrations and Social Integration: Migration with a Human Face”**

**DECLARATION**

The XVIII Vice-Ministerial Meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration, with the participation of Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation from Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States of America, was held in San José, Costa Rica, June 27 and 28, 2013.

The Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation:

* Deliberated on the XVIII Meeting of the RCM Theme “Migrations and Social Integration: Migration with a Human Face” and underscored the importance of promoting a two-way approach to social integration of immigrants to the host country, whereby both hold the responsibility to foster a successful integration which allows participation without discrimination in the economic, social and cultural life of the country.
* Recognized the new challenges for the protection and assistance to migrants in the region presented by natural disasters, trafficking in persons and human smuggling.
* Underscored the importance of Regional Consultative Processes as forums for the exchange of best practices linking migration and development.
* Recognized the need to continue a regional dialogue regarding the situations faced by unaccompanied migrant children, and to share best practices for the protection and comprehensive assistance to this vulnerable group.
* Underscored the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in the protection and assistance to migrant populations, in coordination with institutions from RCM Member Countries, whenever possible. Furthermore, they recognized the progress in the relationship between the Regional Network of Civil Organizations on Migration (RNOCM) and the RCM.

Reaffirming the principles established in the Puebla Process, and based on the recommendations of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration and the deliberations of the XVIII RCM, the Vice-Ministers and Heads of Delegation reached the following:

**DECISIONS**

1. Approve the budget for 2014 presented by the Technical Secretariat.
2. Hold a meeting, organized by IOM,of consular officials from countries of origin, transit and destination in Washington, DC, to address extra-continental migration flows in the RCM region.
3. Encourage Member Countries that still have not done so, to submit the matrix on extra-continental migrant flows to contribute to the systematization of information in the RCM.
4. Approve the “Regional Guidelines for the Preliminary Identification of Profiles and Referral Mechanisms of Migrant Populations in Vulnerability Conditions”, for use by interested RCM Member Countries.
5. Approve the Protocol for the Operation of the RCM Fund to Assist Intra-Regional Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations and authorize the Presidency Pro Tempore to sign this document with IOM.
6. Grant RCM observer status to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), taking into account its longstanding work assisting and protecting migrant communities.
7. Take note of the document circulated by Mexico on the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development undergoing discussion at the UN.
8. Deliver to the UN General Assembly, through the PPT, a communication with the following paragraph:

“The Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) congratulates the General Assembly of the United Nations for holding a second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, which will allow discussion of a subject of great global importance and relevance for all UN member states. Based on its more than fifteen years of experience as a successful regional migration forum, the RCM welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the HLD, underlining the demonstrated utility of regional consultative processes which foster effective dialogue and cooperation with practical goals and tangible results on migration and related subjects.”

1. Hold a Regional Workshop on Policies, Practices and Recommendations for the Return, Reintegration and Integration of Migrants, to be held in San José, Costa Rica, on July 30 and 31, 2013.
2. Hold a Seminar on Unaccompanied Migrant Children, to be held in Antigua, Guatemala, 27-28 August, 2013. Invite all Member Countries to submit their lists of experts on unaccompanied migrant children in advance of the Seminar, to further regional cooperation.
3. Renew the contract of Mr. Oliver Francis Bush Espinosa, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat, for the final year in the position, until July 2014. The TS will undertake a selection process for the next Coordinator.
4. Thank Nicaragua for its presentation of Nicaragua’s Migration Profile 2012.
5. Thank the participation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Republic of Ecuador as observers, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Committee on Migration Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as special guests.
6. Thank Nicaragua for offering to host the 19th Regional Conference on Migration in 2014.
7. Thank the Government and the people Costa Rica for its hospitality and the excellent coordination, effective and successful organization of the XVIII Meeting of the RCM “Migrations and Social Integration: Migration with a Human Face”.