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

**Panama, 31 May – 1 June 2018**

**REPORT PREPARED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

**Objective of the meeting:** Exchange Information and best practices for the assistance and governance of extra-regional migration flows and identify next steps of the ad hoc group.

**DAY 1: 31 May 2018**

**Field visit to the Darien Province**

At the invitation by the Presidency Pro-Témpore of Panama, the first day of meetings a field visit was made to the Darien Province, at the border with Colombia. The logistics of the tour was coordinated by the National Border Service (SENAFRONT), the National Aeronaval Service (SENAN), the National Migration Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama.

The PPT and the TS coordinated the air transportation from Panama City to the Darien area, where a visit to the Peñitas shelters and the facilities of the National Border Service (SENAFRONT) was also made. Several institutions from the government of Panama had the opportunity to present their experiences and best practices on migration issues. There were presentations by the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family (SENNIAF), the Ministry of Health (which has a presence in the area) and the National Migration Service.

It is worth noting that this is the first time within the framework of the RCM that a field visit is made to a shelter of extra-regional migrants in a border area. The delegates had the opportunity to learn about the processes of reception, registration, lodging, vaccination and transfer in the Darien area, as the first point of arrival of extra-regional migrants to the region covered by the RCM.

**DAY 2: 1st June 2018**

On the second day of the meeting, in Panama City, delegations shared their views on the field visit, as well as best practices and lessons learned regarding extra-regional migration flows.

**Manual for Managing Temporary Lodging in Panama**

The Presidency Pro-Témpore and the IOM presented the "Manual for Managing Temporary Lodging in Panama", a document that will be shared with Member Countries once having the respective governmental approval.

The manual is the result of an inter-agency consultation process, which aims to provide technical guidance to officials of relevant government institutions and contracted or volunteer staff of civil society organizations, to provide coordinated humanitarian assistance and protection in temporary shelters for migrants stranded in the country, based on minimum international standards and national legislation.

As part of the agenda of the Ad Hoc Group, delegations made presentations about the current situation of extra-regional migration in their respective countries.

**Systematization of information matrices of extra-regional migratory flows**

It is highlighted that Mexico presented the systematization of the information received on the extra-regional migration flows in the region. The countries that had not yet done so were encouraged to share the updating of their information, sending it in a timely manner to the Technical Secretariat.

Statistical Information from the following countries was received:

* Canada
* Costa Rica
* Honduras
* Guatemala
* El Salvador
* Mexico

Missing matrices:

* Belize
* United States
* Nicaragua
* Dominican Republic
* Panama (Panama shared its pending statistical data during the afternoon session)

Regarding the requested statistics of specific nationalities, countries provided statistics of Cubans in general. For the case of nationals of Haiti and Venezuela, only Mexico presented information.

It was recommended and requested that each country send the missing information in each matrix. If countries miss this information, they should notify it to add notes explaining the absence of this information in the tables.

**Report of the Plenary Meeting between the RCM and the SACM**

The Technical Secretariat of the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) made a presentation on the extra-regional migration flows in South American countries, as well as on the results of the Plenary Meeting between the RCM and the SACM, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on May 8 and 9, 2018.

With regards to the joint approach of extra-regional and extra-continental flows by the RCM and the SACM, a meeting of the Presidencies Pro-Témpore will be held with the Technical Secretariats of both processes for drafting a concept note for the topic of extra-regional and extra-continental flows in the following topics:

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| --- | --- |
| 1 | Statistics* Data Exchange
* Analysis of Information
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| 2 | Prevention of irregular migration |
| 3 | Assistance* Documentation
* Shelters
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| 4 | Border Management (i.e. biometric controls) |
| 5 | Integration |
| 6 | Trafficking in Persons |
| 7 | Migrant Smuggling |

**Revision of the proposed Work Plan for the Ad-Hoc Group (Facilitated by the PPT and the RCM TS)**

The proposed work plan was discussed, including three main axes:

1) Information

2) Coordination

3) Cooperation

Based on the proposed Work Plan on Migrant Smuggling, prepared within the framework of the Liaison Officers Network to combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling, the Technical Secretariat will update the proposal in a version 2.0. The aspects of the Ad Hoc Group plan already contemplated in the smuggling plan will be reviewed and the activities already carried out will be omitted.

Member Countries recognized that progress has been made within the framework of the Ad Hoc Group and agreed that at least one face-to-face meeting should be held per year as well as two virtual meetings, one per semester.

It was recognized that, due to the characteristics of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling phenomena, finding limits of one topic or the other will not be questioned. Extra-regional migrants can be smuggled and trafficked as well.

It was proposed that the new version 2.0 of the work plan be discussed in the next virtual meeting, in order to submit it for Vice-Ministerial approval at the next RCM.

**Note:** The documents related to this meeting (including presentations) can be found at: <http://www.rcmvs.org/es/eventos/v-reunion-del-grupo-de-trabajo-ad-hoc-sobre-migrantes-extra-regionales>