

Concept Note

CONTEXT

Accessing to trustful information, at a precise time and in a proper language, is a fundamental human right. The right to access information is a human right and a key component of the right to freedom of thought and expression¹. This right includes the freedom to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of one's choice².

Since rights are indivisible and interdependent, it is impossible to guarantee other rights, such as access to health and justice without guaranteeing the right to information. Moreover, failing to guarantee this right goes against several principles such as do no harm and non-discrimination³.

In fact, communication is one of the fundamental processes of human experience and social organization; it refers to the exchange of information and the action of sharing a message⁴. Referring to communication processes implies identifying the most effective ways to ensure that information reaches those who need it in a timely manner (in the appropriate language, form and channel) and that the right of access to timely, adequate and quality information is fulfilled. It also implies that migrants are not only recipients of information, but that they are part of a two-way process which allows them to consult, clarify, expand and discuss. Thus, promoting the principle of guaranteeing participation and empowerment.

Guaranteeing the right to information through comprehensive communication processes is key for promoting an orderly, regular, safe and humane migration, preventing the risks of irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, guaranteeing human rights, the proper management of migratory flows, as well as integration, reducing xenophobia and empowering migrants through knowledge of their rights and the possibility of making their voices and perspectives heard.

Ensuring an effective communication on human mobility issues and guaranteeing the right of access to information is one of the challenges posed by the migration phenomenon around the world, and the Latin American region is no exception. In fact, the processes of access to information and communication between states, migrants and various actors from local to international levels are closely related to the compliance of the Global Compact on Migration⁵, specifically with Objective 3 (Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration), Objective 16 (Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion) and Objective 17 (Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration).

However, ensuring the access to accurate mobility-related information and the coordination among key actors are challenges that are affected by the enormous diversity of information and interlocutors involved; social, cultural and linguistic barriers, the technological and access gap, among other factors such as information saturation, lack of credibility, prejudice, fake news and rumors.

In such a complex context, it is more than necessary to have a strategic approach to communication that allows a critical reading of the context, knowledge of the audiences, the formation of alliances, as well as planning timely and relevant actions that guarantee the fulfillment of the right to access information, in this case information related to mobility that allows the fulfillment of the objectives of the Pact.

Therefore, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in coordination with the Presidency Pro-Tempore (PPT) of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) and the Irregular and Mass Migration Work Group, will hold the **First Regional Forum on Communication and Migration** and the publication of a regional guide of recommendations for addressing communication and information processes on human mobility.

¹ Articles 18 and 19 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

² Article 13.1 of the [American Convention on Human Rights \(1969\)](#).

³ [Principles for incorporating a protection perspective](#). IOM, 2016.

⁴ [Idalberto Chiavenato, 2004](#).

⁵ [The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 2018](#).



OBJETIVES

► General

Raise awareness, through a regional dialogue among key actors, of the strategic role of communication in human mobility, specifically in the management of migration and compliance with the Global Compact on Migration.

► Specific

- Promote the exchange of key lessons on the various needs, barriers and considerations involved in the communication processes on human mobility, so stakeholders can share their best practices and identify strategies to address challenges.
- Promote a regional dialogue among key stakeholders on communication processes related to the prevention of irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, the eradication of xenophobia and the integration of migrants in order to discuss key lessons and identify common challenges.
- Generate agreements and inputs for the publication of a regional guide of recommendations on communications and human mobility.

TARGET AUDIENCE

It is expected that delegations from RCM Member Countries (Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá and Dominican Republic) will participate. Each delegation will include:

- The representative in charge of the theme of prevention of irregular and mass migration.
- A representative who is a professional in communications, in charge of information processes on migration at the national level.

In addition, invitations will be extended to regional organizations, agencies of the United Nations System, civil society organizations (through the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migrations (RNCOM) and communities with experience in the issues raised

METHODOLOGY

The Forum will be held on August 24 from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, in person, in San Salvador. The sessions will be conducted through discussions, panels and small training sessions.

Moreover, the Member Countries and Observer Organizations will conduct an information gathering process prior to the event, and a subsequent systematization process.

Based on the previously collected inputs, participants will be able to choose to join a group discussion (or several group discussions) based on their experiences and interests. Each of the discussions will be led by one of the regional organizations or agencies of the United Nations system, depending on the topic. At the end there will be a space for sharing the topics that were discussed in the groups, the main consensus, and recommendations.



First Regional Forum on Communication and Migration

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 | InterContinental Hotel

Join the live broadcast 

AGENDA

Hour	Activity	Details
07:30-08:30	<p>Participant registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome. • Inauguration of the forum Remarks. 	<p>Michele Klein-Solomon. IOM Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Cindy Mariella Portal. Diaspora's Viceminister and Human Mobility, El Salvador. Pro-Tempore Presidency of the RCM.</p> <p>Nicola Graviano. Chief of Mission of the IOM in El Salvador.</p>
08:30-09:30	<p>Inaugural conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of communication in the fulfillment of global development and migration frameworks. Global Compact on Migration. 	<p>Florence Kim. Strategic Communications Officer. United Nations Secretariat Network on Migration.</p>
09:30-10:00	Regional overview of flows, migration profiles and information needs identified in the region.	<p>Tatiana Chacón Salazar. Communication Officer for Regional Development – IOM</p>
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break	
10:15-11:00	<p>Panel: Regional overview on communication and migration: challenges and perceptions from target populations.</p> <p>What do you consider to be the main challenges in accessing migration information?</p>	<p>Presents: Jorge Gallo. IOM Regional Communications Officer.</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - José Israel Ibarra González, integration specialist, Mexico. - Jocelyne Dayana Villegas De León, Think Twice Campaign Ambassador, Guatemala. - Mauren Herminia Paz Fugón, teacher, Honduras. - Carlos Esquivel, Think Twice Campaign Ambassador, El Salvador. - Gema María Rivera Blandón, community leader, Costa Rica. - Analisa Algodona, PADF field officer in Darien, Panama.
11:00-12:00	<p>Group Discussions: Considerations for communicating with specific populations and themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key considerations and lessons learned in communication with extra-regional and in-transit populations • Key considerations and lessons learned in communication related to migration policy and procedures. • Key considerations and lessons learned in communication with vulnerable populations (refugees and people in need of international protection, indigenous populations, migrant children, among others). 	<p>The countries will define, according to their experience or interest, which groups to attend.</p> <p>Each group will share considerations and lessons learned. They will work on the assigned topic with the guidance of an external specialist, the main objective will be to agree on the recommendations for each topic.</p> <p>Participants: Efraín Guerrero, Juliana Sanchez y Estela Aragón.</p>



12:00-12:30	Roundtable discussion: Exchange and conclusions of the working groups on key learnings	Presents: Dyann Román. IOM Communications.
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	Group Discussions: Key lessons learned and best practices on communication and human mobility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key lessons learned on raising awareness of migrant smuggling and human trafficking. • Experiences related to the elimination of xenophobia and the inclusion of migrants. • Key lessons learned, challenges and good practices in the prevention of irregular migration. 	The countries will define, according to their experience or interest, which groups to attend. Each group should share considerations and lessons learned to work on the assigned topic with the guidance of an external specialist, the idea will be to agree on recommendations for each topic. Participants: Cecilia Ramirez, Jorge Gallo, Ana María Mendez, Marielos Ramirez.
14:30-15:30	Roundtable discussion: Exchange and conclusions of the working groups on key learnings	Presents: Dyann Román. IOM Communications.
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break Information stands* with tools and methodologies for communication and migration work.	
16:00-17:00	Discussion of conclusions, priorities and recommendations on communication and migration in the region. Agreements of the recommendations by the Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration.	Rosa Girón. Director for Human Mobility and Attention to Migrants at the El Salvador Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Pro-Tempore Presidency of the RCM.
17:00-17:30	Reading of agreements. Closure.	
19:30-20:30	Dinner	

* INFORMATION STANDS:

RESOURCES FOR WORKING WITH JOURNALISTS:

The media, in all its forms, plays a significant role in framing public policy discourse, affecting how people act and think, how politicians prioritize agendas, and how migrants make decisions. Therefore, a series of resources are proposed to strengthen the relationship with the media and facilitate ethical and comprehensive coverage of the migration issue.

MIGRANTINFO:

The website on migration procedures and services for migrants in origin, transit, or destination, as well as useful documents and resources with an emphasis on labor migration for employers and public officials with a general interest in migration, particularly in Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration.

