



COSTA RICA
GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA

High-Level Forum on Irregular Migration Flows in the Americas

San José – Costa Rica
12-13 September 2017



20 Participating States:

Argentina
Brazil
Bolivia
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Jamaica
México
Nicaragua
Panamá
Paraguay
Peru
United States
Uruguay



Collaboration:

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS)

Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity

IOM – CAM Committee on Migration Affairs of the International Organization for Migration

ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross

ILO International Labour Organisation

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

RCM Regional Conference on Migration

SACM South American Conference on Migration

The forum was conducted in response to an invitation by Costa Rica, after the official presentation of the Regional Report on Irregular Migration Flows to/within the Americas by the Secretary-General of OAS, Luis Almagro, in March 2017. This was considered to be a response to the request made by Costa Rica in May 2016 in view of the migration crisis experienced in the region.



Conclusions of the Forum

- The forum was a regional space to discuss and reflect on the phenomenon of migration in the hemisphere.
- In addition, the forum provided a framework to exchange best practices, make recommendations, advance positions and coordinate regional actions toward the Global Compact on Migration.

The participating States:

- Recognized migrants and refugees as subjects of rights, as well as their vulnerable situations and special protection needs.
- This was the first step towards addressing migration in a comprehensive manner, with a human rights approach.
- Recognized the urgent need to create synergies, increase international cooperation and promote information exchange.
- Recalled that in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, Target 10.7 calls for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, considering factors such as poverty, education, inequality and climate change.



- Highlighted how legislations have been adapted to the new challenges through special laws to ensure protection, basic services and combating crimes such as trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling; and the existence of special committees required in the context of migration. However, gaps still exist between regulations and practice, which increase the vulnerability of the population and create opportunities for the actions of organized criminal groups.

Conclusions of the Forum

- The “3 D” model – Detection, Detention and Deportation – should be discussed and adjusted to the commitment taken on regarding migration management with a human rights approach.

The participating States:

- Discussed migration trends, volatility, mixed migration flows, the presence of migrant women and the high numbers of unaccompanied migrant boys, girls and adolescents;
- Agreed on the need for special protection for boys, girls and adolescents, senior citizens, women, disabled persons and LGBTI populations. To this end, efforts need to be implemented toward compliance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Affairs (Article 36) and aimed at strengthening actions to ensure access to justice;
- Promoted the principle of family reunification and the strengthening of actions to make the issue of missing migrants more visible;
- Highlighted the labour rights of migrants;
- Recognized the urgency of improving and expanding cooperation, the exchange and harmonization of tools, and the protocols implemented by countries in matters of reintegration, integration and sustainable development;
- Rejected every type of discrimination or xenophobia, contrary to the recognition of the great contributions of migrants in countries of origin and destination.





Conclusions of the Forum

- **The participating States:**
- *Expressed their solidarity in view of the recent natural disasters, considering that climate change is a matter which should be assessed in the Global Compact for Migration;*
- *Recognized the absolute need for international cooperation in migration management, with the coordination of consultation processes and accompanying the development of a similar consultation process in the Caribbean.*

“We are facing a global phenomenon which requires a global response. We call for the affirmation of the positive contributions of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Let us advance in the development of mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration between countries in order to address the matter in a safe and orderly manner. Let us reiterate the importance of combating the causes of forced and irregular migration due to factors such as conflict, violence, poverty, lack of opportunities and natural disasters.”

*Alejandro Solano
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic*

It was an honour for Costa Rica to provide an international space for friendly countries to discuss the

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

since this is a matter that unites us and brings us together and which we address to build a better world, together.



**Costa Rica has signed the
Blue Heart Pact
against Human Trafficking**



PURA VIDA !!!