



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



Meeting of the Liaison Officers Network to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE LIAISON OFFICER NETWORK TO COMBAT MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad, El Salvador

November 27th, 2017

The Liaison Officer Network to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons held its ordinary meeting on November 27th, 2017, in San Salvador, El Salvador prior to the meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), with participation of representatives from the following countries: Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States.

The Network submits its report to the RCGM for consideration, contained in the following items:

1. To thank the delegations of Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States for their reports on best practices and advances relating to the combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.
2. To thank Costa Rica for the report of the First International Congress on sexual exploitation and trafficking associated with travel and tourism, held in San José, Costa Rica, from September 11 to 13, 2017. During the presentation emphasis was placed on the promotion of our countries as safe tourist destinations.
3. To thank Costa Rica for its presentation on its strategy of attention and integration to victims of trafficking in persons.
4. To thank IOM for the update of the information related to the Workshop for the preparation of the Work Plan on the Smuggling of Migrants by the Liaison Officers Network to Combat Illicit Trafficking in Migrants and Trafficking in Persons, to be carried out in Costa Rica in the I Quarter of 2018. In this regard, Member Countries requested:
 - a. The IOM to take into consideration in its concept note, inviting as participants the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
5. Thank the Regional Coalition against Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons for the presentation of their video, recognizing the importance of the coordination between the Coalition and the RCM. Also, to thank the Regional Coalition for sharing the following documents for distribution to the Member Countries:



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- a. Regional Diagnosis on Protocols for the Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking in Persons.
 - b. Regional Protocol for the Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking in Persons
 - c. Guide note regarding the Regional Protocol for the Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking in Persons.
6. Take note of the recommendations of the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) on how to ensure the effective participation of civil society in national and regional spaces in the fight against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. In particular, consider the following recommendations made by the RNCOM:
- a. To update legislation, if not done already, to fight effectively trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.
 - b. To reinforce strategies to avoid impunity in prosecuted cases, among them factors such as using gender stereotypes.
 - c. To include civil society organizations in the processes of implementation of work plans against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.
 - d. To exhort the development of public policies for the elimination of the structural causes of trafficking in persons.
7. To take note of the information provided by the United States on the cancelation of passports issued to United States citizens linked with crimes of sexual exploitation of minors. In this regard, the United States will share the information with the Technical Secretariat for circulation to the Member Countries.
8. To thank IOM for the information provided on:
- a. The possibility to carry out a second workshop for protection guidelines for migrant women
 - b. Virtual training regarding the strengthening of consular capacities for the assistance to victims of trafficking, implemented through the Mesoamerica Program
 - c. The project by Save The Children, in coordination with other civil society organizations and the RCM, taking into consideration the possibility of a Workshop for each RCM Liaison Officer Network in 2018.
 - d. Efforts to obtain funds to support the Regional Coalition against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.
9. To take note of the invitation from Dominican Republic, to study the structural causes related to trafficking in persons and smuggling migrants.