



## Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) EXTRAORDINARY DECLARATION

Panama City, March 25, 2022

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The Vice-Ministers, Directors of Migration, and Government authorities from Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and the United States, who participated in a field visit to the province of Darién on March 24 and conducted a plenary meeting in Panama City, on March 25, 2022, approved the following Extraordinary Declaration:

### “DARIEN DECLARATION”

The RCM recognizes that irregular migration flows and forced displacement in the region are complex and have increased significantly as a result of various economic, sociopolitical and environmental factors, which have generated mixed migration flows. These flows include economic migrants, populations in situations of vulnerability, such as girls, boys, adolescents, women and elderly, and those seeking international protection.

The RCM expresses its concerns about the high risks faced by migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the current context, including the possibility of falling victims of organized crime, violence, and insecurity in their journeys.

We reiterate the importance of and our commitment to promoting and reinforcing effective border and migration policies and stronger assistance and protection systems in the region, respecting the human rights of all persons on the move, and facilitating access to international protection.

Reaffirming the principles and approaches established in the RCM Charter, especially the principles of *Shared Responsibility*, *Respect for the Rule of Law*, *Human Rights* and *International Cooperation*, the RCM recommends the implementation of the following actions:

- Coordinating the development of a regional roadmap with common goals in the short and medium term in conjunction with civil society organizations and international organizations, including those relating to humanitarian assistance, international protection, complementary protection pathways and other protection measures, regular migration mechanisms and border management.
- Promoting and maintaining dialogue with countries of origin, transit, and destination to address extra and intra-regional flows.
- Increasing international cooperation for development to create sustainable economic opportunities in the communities of origin, with short-term effects, in order to address the root causes of migration.
- Addressing extra-regional migration as a permanent topic in the dialogue with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) as part of a common agenda.





- Carrying out campaigns on the risks of irregular migration, especially the dangers in the Darien region due to its natural conditions, and organized crime, to discourage the transit through this route.
- Supporting and jointly working with host communities of these flows.
- Assessing Panama's proposal for the regional implementation of a training course based on the model of the Humanitarian Border Security Unit, with the support of the IOM and other international organizations, aimed at representatives of border security and migration institutions.
- Maximizing the visibility of and access to lawful immigration pathways throughout the region for protection, employment and family reunification.
- Strengthening information sharing and coordination on joint operations, investigations, and prosecutions to monitor and combat the crimes of trafficking in persons and human smuggling.
- Coordinating with the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), as appropriate, the articulation of synergies in addressing these flows.

Thanking RCM observer organizations and civil society organizations for their support and joint work, especially those with a presence in the Darien area that have been working to protect and assist the populations moving along this route.

Recognizing the efforts and work carried out by the Government of Panama in coordination with the United Nations System and other international and civil society organizations for the comprehensive and humanitarian assistance to populations in international mobility.

The RCM remains committed to promoting regional efforts to strengthen effective migration governance and protecting the human rights of the people who move through our territories, especially those in vulnerable situations. Also recognize that, as affirmed by the Global Compact on Migration, only through safe, orderly, and regular migration, will the region optimize the benefits that regular migration cycles entail for countries of origin, transit, destination and return and for migrants themselves.

