

Regional Conference on Migration

RCM or Puebla Process

15 years



Fostering and Strengthening Regional Dialogue and Cooperation



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Conferencia Regional sobre Migración

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Regional Conference on Migration – 15 Years

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PRESENTATION

15 years of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)

Various political, economic, environmental, social, and cultural factors have determined different types of migration between and towards Central and North American countries and the Dominican Republic. Historically, the region has been characterized by a constant flow of migrants since pre-Hispanic times. During the conquest and colonization, the region was considered a destination for migrants from overseas – Europeans, Asians, Africans, and Afro-Caribbeans – but in addition, significant intraregional movements occurred throughout the territory. Furthermore, since the mid-20th century Central America and Mexico have gradually become a region of transit and exit of migrants on their way to the northern part of the continent.

Considering the challenges posed by these migration processes as well as their complexity, countries have been able to establish that the best way to address this phenomenon is through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and dialogue, with active participation of countries of origin, transit, and destination.

Thus, the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) was established, with eleven countries from the Americas as

members. During its 15 years of work, the RCM has gained broad experience and achieved numerous results in matters relating to migration.

The RCM, also known as the Puebla Process, was established in February 1996 as a result of the Tuxtla II Presidential Summit. RCM is a multilateral mechanism for coordinating policies and actions relating to migration in the eleven Member States: Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States. Its primary objectives are to exchange information, experiences and best practices, and promote regional cooperation on migration.

The tenets of the RCM are:

- To create a forum for frank and honest discussion on regional migration issues, leading to greater regional coordination and cooperation.
- Undertake regional efforts to protect the human rights of migrants and strengthen the integrity of each Member Countries' immigration laws, borders, and national security, as well as to strengthen the links between migration and development.

In addition to providing a space for dialogue and information exchange between governments, a vast array of actions have been implemented within the framework of this regional process: cooperation projects; projects to assist the return of migrant women and children; training workshops and seminars on topics relating to migration; and technical and institutional assistance for immigration authorities from Member Countries of the RCM.



VII RCM, Antigua, Guatemala, 2002

Furthermore, comparative analyses of existing legislation have been carried out, with the purpose of providing input for national policymaking and the development of comprehensive legislation. Moreover, guidelines and manuals have been developed on topics such as the return of migrants, assistance to migrant children and women, and repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons.

Undoubtedly, the current reality of migration poses a series of challenges to migration management. For example, irregular migration continues to be significantly high in the region. In addition, there has been a perceived increase in women and boys, girls, and adolescents within migration flows, and violations of the rights of these particularly vulnerable groups need to be addressed appropriately. Furthermore, the integration of migrant populations into countries of destination, or reintegration into home communities, poses ongoing challenges. Appropriate infrastructure to assist migrants and ongoing training of human resources are other aspects that require special attention.

Effective migration management strategies, developed at a regional level, can address the increasing movement of persons and the associated, above-mentioned issues. The RCM is one of the key regional organizations that is implementing significant efforts aimed at improving migration management in the region and creates a place for cooperation and convergence on various initiatives relating to migration.

Objective of this Publication

This publication presents key actions and achievements of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in the past 15 years.

In order to contextualize the role, efforts, and achievements of the Puebla Process, Sections 2, 3, and 4 list the Member Countries and organizations participating in the RCM in each country; central themes addressed by the Presidency Pro-Tempore (PPT) each year; and the structure, characteristics and operative mechanisms of the RCM.

Section 5 includes detailed information about the topics that have been addressed by the RCM as part of its Plan of Action, as well as key advances and results, including actions relating to various topics under the three central areas of action:

1. MIGRATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (Migration Policy and Management; Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling);
2. HUMAN RIGHTS (Consular Protection; Migrant Children, Women, and Groups in Vulnerable Situations);
3. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (Remittances; Temporary Migrant Workers; and the Private Sector).

The following sections describe the RCM outreach and cooperation efforts, studies and publications, and events to which the RCM has been invited to share experiences, achievements, and best practices.

Finally, the conclusions and reflections summarize the achievements and recognize current and future challenges facing the Puebla Process.



XII RCM, New Orleans, United States, 2007

Some of the RCM meetings



XV RCM, Chiapas, Mexico, 2010

I Member Countries of the RCM

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF RCM

The RCM is composed of 11 countries from Central and North America and the Dominican Republic:



COUNTRIES WITH OBSERVER STATUS



In addition, the RCM includes 5 countries with observer status: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, and Peru. Observer States participate in open discussions of Vice-Ministers as part of various actions implemented by this Forum but do not intervene in the agenda, in decision-making processes, or in the development of documents containing recommendations or commitments without prior authorization from the Presidency Pro-Témpore.

ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS

Furthermore, the RCM includes 8 regional or international organizations with observer status that support projects identified by governments, share information about topics of interest, provide technical assistance, and formulate recommendations in specific cases. The Presidency Pro-Témpore and the Technical Secretariat will identify the slots in the agendas in which these organizations participate. They are:



International Organization for Migration – IOM (since 1996)



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (ECLAC/CELADE) (since 1996)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR (since 1997)



Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – IACHR (since 2000)



Central American Integration System - SICA (since 2003)



United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (since 2003)



United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA (since 2006)



Ibero-American General Secretariat – SEGIB (since 2007)



In addition, the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration – RNCOM, composed of various NGOs, participates actively in RCM since 1998 (<http://www.rrocm.com>), with the purpose of strengthening dialogue with civil society on topics relating to migration. RNCOM participates in the RCM seminars and workshops, with spaces for participation in groups such as the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) and the Vice-Ministerial Meeting.



MEMBERSHIP AND CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS¹

Member Countries of the RCM are committed to the following:

1. The principles of the Joint Communiqué issued in Puebla.
2. The orderly movement of persons and respect for human rights of migrants.
3. Addressing issues relating to international migration in a multilateral context within the RCM.
4. Exchanging information about policies or practices relating to international migration.

For a country to be considered by Vice-Ministers for observer status, it should:

- Be geographically located on the American continent.
- Express in written form its adhesion to the commitments of the Puebla Joint Communiqué.
- Have a significant movement of migrants with at least one Member Country of the RCM.
- Accept addressing the phenomenon of migration in a multilateral context within the RCM.
- Accept the commitment to ensure the orderly movement of persons and respect for human rights of migrants.
- Have policy, legislation, and practices in place that are oriented towards addressing international migration.

- Commit to designating officers from institutions addressing the phenomenon of international migration to attend Vice-Ministerial meetings of the RCM.
- Submit a written declaration to Vice-Ministers stating the interest in and commitment with the above-mentioned principles.
- Recognize that the decision of accepting or rejecting a new application for observer status is made by Vice-Ministers during a private meeting.

For an international organization to be considered by the Vice-Ministers as a new candidate for observer status, it should:

- Commit to promote the principles of the Puebla Joint Communiqué.
- Have a mandate related to at least one of the key themes of the Plan of Action.
- Submit a written application to Vice-Ministers to support the request for observer status.

Observers:

- Be invited to make declarations but may not participate in the discussion or development of documents relating to recommendations and decisions reached as a result of the RCM meetings.
- Accept that Member States of RCM reserve the right to hold meetings exclusively for Member Countries.

¹ Criteria approved at the IV Regional Conference on Migration, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, January 28-29, 1999, according to Item 5 of the Joint Communiqué.



RCM Focal Points in each Member Country

COUNTRY	FOREIGN AFFAIRS	INTERIOR/ SECURITY	IMMIGRATION
BELIZE	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Department of International Cooperation Formulates, coordinates, and implements foreign policy initiatives.</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence and Immigration Responsible for national defence and immigration.</p>	<p>Immigration and Nationality Service Executes immigration policy and regulations.</p>
CANADA	<p>Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ensures that the country's foreign policy reflects actual national values and interests.</p>	<p>Border Service Agencies of Canada Regulate the admissibility of persons and merchandise, plants, and animals within and outside the country.</p>	<p>Citizenship and Immigration Canada Provides a safe shelter for refugees and manages access of immigrants to the country.</p>
COSTA RICA	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cult, with participation of the Office of Consular Affairs and the Human Rights Office The country's governing body of foreign affairs.</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, Police, and Public Security, through the Vice-Minister of the Interior and Police Responsible for the protection of national sovereignty, surveillance, maintaining public order, and citizen security.</p>	<p>General Directorate of Migration and Alienage Institution which executes immigration policy.</p>
EL SALVADOR	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Directorate of Humanitarian Aid and Assistance to Migrants and the Directorate of Immigration Policy Executes and promotes diplomatic relations open to the world.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice and Public Security Develops approaches and strategies integrating State policy relating to public security.</p>	<p>General Directorate of Migration and Immigration Implements immigration policy and procedures for Salvadoran citizens and foreign nationals.</p>
UNITED STATES	<p>State Department – Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) Provides protection and works to resolve serious situations of persecuted individuals around the world by providing life-sustaining assistance and working through multilateral systems to build global partnerships.</p>	<p>Department of Homeland Security Seeks to guard against terrorism; effectively control U.S. air, land and sea borders; safeguard lawful trade and travel; disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations; and strengthen and effectively administer the immigration system.</p>	<p>Participating Bodies: Customs and Border Protection – CBP; US Immigration and Customs Enforcement – ICE.</p>
GUATEMALA	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the General Directorate of Consular and Immigration Affairs Implements and formulates policies and applies the legal framework for relations with other States or international law organizations.</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior through the Vice-Ministry of Security Governing body of the country's interior policy for its governance, and of the security and possessions of citizens.</p>	<p>General Directorate of Immigration In charge of controlling, verifying, and ensuring the entry, stay, and exit of Guatemalan citizens and foreign nationals in the country.</p>

<p>HONDURAS</p>	<p>Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, through the General Directorate of Consular Affairs Coordinates, implements, follows up on and evaluates the State's foreign policy and relations.</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Interior and Justice Focuses on coordination and inter-institutional links for a more coherent and effective interior policy.</p>	<p>General Directorate of Migration and Immigration In charge of controlling, verifying, and ensuring the entry, stay, and exit of Honduran citizens and foreign nationals in the country.</p>
<p>MEXICO</p>	<p>Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Sub-Secretary for Latin America and through the General Directorate of American Regional Organizations and Mechanisms This Directorate draws up and gives, in coordination with other sections of the Secretariat and other government institutions, general guidelines that rule Mexico's acting before the OAS, organizations of the Inter-American System, regional autonomous organizations and regional and multilateral coordination mechanisms.</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Interior, through the Sub-Secretariat of Population, Migration, and Religious Affairs Provides support in the relations of the Federal Executive with other powers of the Union and with the other government levels.</p>	<p>National Institute of Migration Responsible for an efficient and safe migration management, based on the relevant legal framework and full respect for human dignity.</p>
<p>NICARAGUA</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the General Consular Directorate Governing body for formulating, proposing, and implementing the State's foreign policy through the General Consular Directorate.</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior Formulates and implements State policy on public order; crime prevention, human rights, and migration matters, among others.</p>	<p>Directorate of Migration and Immigration Formulates and implements Nicaraguan State policy on migration matters and national security.</p>
<p>PANAMA</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Directorate of Legal Affairs and Treaties. Coordinates, with corresponding government authorities, legal aspects of Panama's migration policies, under the directives from the Vice-Minister. It also attends the technical meetings of RCM, with delegates from the Consular Department and the General Directorate for Foreign Policies. It attends to the meetings of the Consular Protection Network and the RCGM.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Security Leads comprehensive citizen security in coordination with its offices.</p>	<p>National Immigration Service Regulates migration movements – entry and exit of Panamanian citizens and foreign nationals.</p>
<p>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Office of Migration Affairs Promotes a foreign policy that benefits the interests of the country and its citizens.</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior and Police Implements the necessary security measures for maintaining public order and peace.</p>	<p>General Directorate of Immigration Ensures compliance with laws and rules regulating migration flows into and out of national territory.</p>



Most Recent Meetings of the RCM

The Annual Meeting of the Vice-Ministers of the Interior/Governance/Security and Foreign Relations of the Member Countries is the body that makes decisions in the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM). These are images of the most recent meetings.



XIV RCM, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 2009



XV RCM, Tapachula, Mexico, 2010



XVI Vice-Ministerial Meeting of the RCM, Dominican Republic, 2011.

II Presidencies Pro-Témpore and their Central Themes

Each year, a Member Country of the RCM volunteers to take on the Presidency Pro-Témpore (PPT) of the Regional Conference on Migration. Since 1999, the country acting as PPT selects a central theme – according to its interests and the political juncture relating to migration matters in the region – for discussions and actions of the RCM during that period. The table below lists PPTs for each year and the central theme chosen by each one of them:



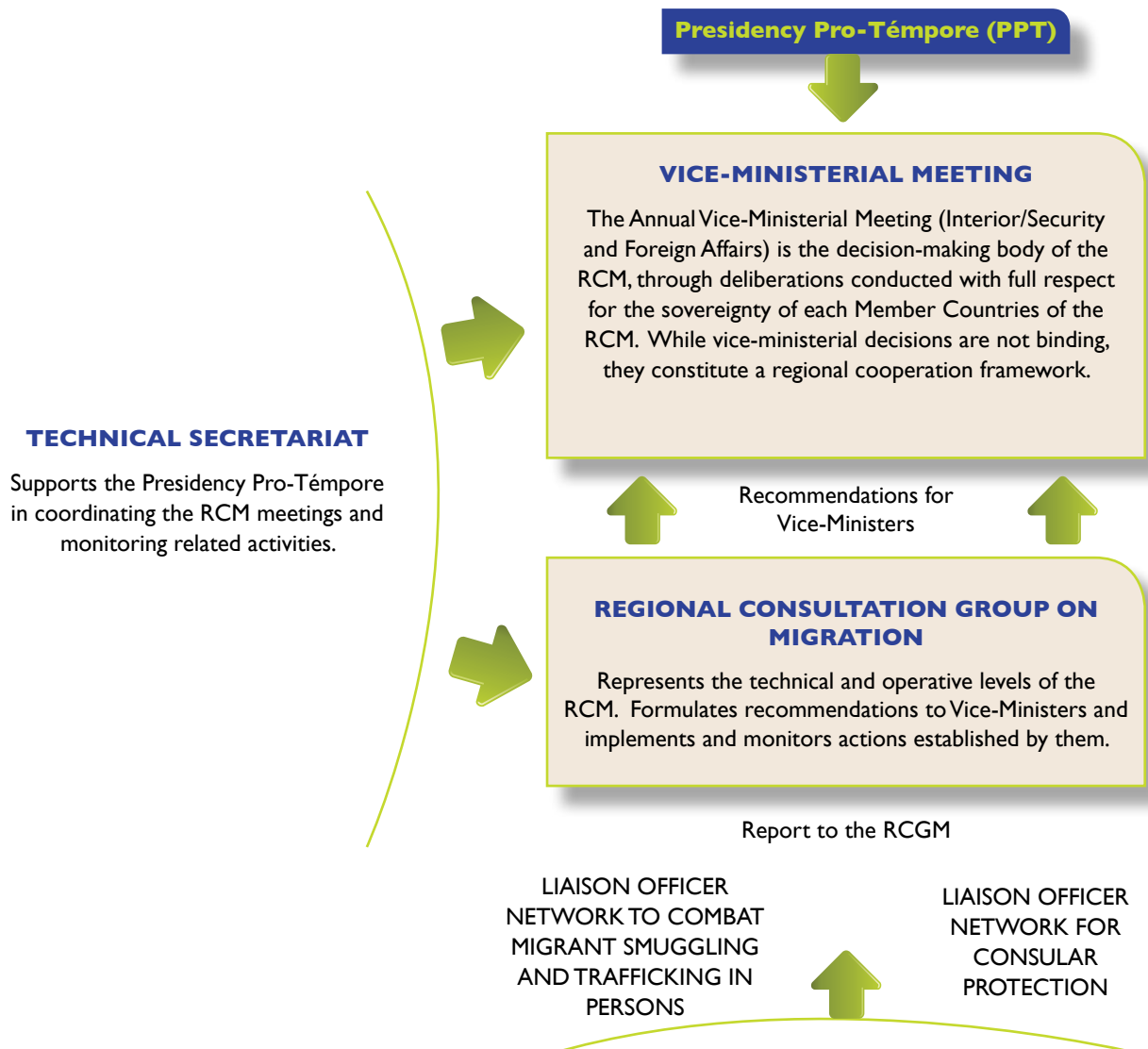
YEAR	PRESIDENCY	CENTRAL THEME
1996	Mexico	Establishing the RCM as a Consultative Process
1997	Panama	Adopting a Plan of Action for the RCM
1998	Canada	Implementing the RCM Plan of Action
1999	El Salvador	Modernizing Immigration Services
2000	Estados Unidos	Consolidating a Sustainable Vision regarding the Future of the RCM
2001	Costa Rica	Modernizing Migration Management and Cross-Border Cooperation
2002	Guatemala	Towards Regional Solidarity for Security and Migration
2003	Mexico	Consolidating Regional Security through Modern Migration Management
2004	Panama	Plan of Action of the RCM and Convergence with other Processes and International Organizations relating to Migration Matters
2005	Canada	Integration and Citizenship
2006	El Salvador	Linking Communities
2007	United States	Effective Cooperation in Combating Trafficking in Persons
2008	Honduras	Migration and Human Rights
2009	Guatemala	Migration and Development
2010	Mexico	Migration and Family
2011	Dominican Republic	Migration and Labor: Co-Responsibility among the States
2012	Panama	Security in the Framework of Human Rights and Mixed Migration Flows

III The RCM Operational Structure

Coordination Mechanisms of the RCM

The primary mechanisms of the Puebla Process include, in order of importance: Vice-Ministerial Meeting; Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM); Liaison Officer Network to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons and Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection – both networks operate in a parallel manner. Furthermore, Vice-Ministers established the Technical Secretariat (TS) in 2001 to support the management of the RCM and follow up

on agreements reached at each meeting. The RCM has developed a Plan of Action in order to establish its lines of work. The Plan of Action summarizes the commitments for regional action and a basic framework for directing and coordinating actions. The RCM has structured its agenda and Plan of Action according to three core themes: Migration Policy and Management; Human Rights; and Migration and Development.



How do the Mechanisms of the RCM operate?

A. VICE-MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Vice-Ministerial Meeting is the executive decision-making body of the RCM. The meeting is held in Spring or during the first semester each year in a Member State of the RCM offering to act as Presidency Pro-Témpore. Vice-Ministerial Meetings consist of two parts:

- **A Plenary Meeting**, with participation of Observer States and Organizations. The agenda should include the following topics, as a minimum: the report of the PPT, opening statements from the RCM Member Countries delegations, and dialogue with Civil Society Organizations, represented by the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM). Furthermore, additional topics of interest should be included which have previously been identified by the PPT and the RCM Member Countries.
- **A Closed-door Meeting**, with exclusive participation of Vice-Ministers or Sub-Secretaries, each one of whom is accompanied by two high-ranking officials as deemed appropriate. At the closed-door meeting, decisions are made on administrative and financial matters relating to the Technical Secretariat, as well as future actions and activities of the RCM. In addition, conditions for new members and criteria for participation of observers are established.

The agendas of Vice-Ministerial Meetings are developed considering the required follow-up actions to previous meetings as well as topics of interest proposed by the PPT and input from the RCM Member Countries. A preliminary version of the agenda is shared with all Member Countries and international Observer Organizations, with the aim of receiving relevant input.

Decisions – consensual and non-binding – are recorded in the Declaration and Decisions formulated at the end of each Annual Meeting.



Mechanisms for decision making

In case it is necessary to have a consultation of the RCM Member Countries, between the Vice-Ministerial meetings, the Presidency Pro-Témpore (PPT) will activate a consultation process, in order to propose a course of action promptly. This will be applied to meaningful topics that require an agreed position of the RCM.

1. The PPT will activate the procedure by submitting, in writing, the course of action to the Troika (composed by the former, current and upcoming PPT), in order to have a preliminary reaction.
2. Once having gotten the consensus of the Troika, the text will be reviewed with the RCM Member Countries, by activating the five-working day period.
3. Upon receiving the position of the Member Countries, if necessary, the proposed changes will be added to the text and it will be re-sent to all Member Countries, and another five-working day period will be activated.
4. Once that term is over, and having the consensus of the RCM, the PPT will be responsible for launching the agreed action and reporting on the result of the consultation.

For such aim, the Member Countries are responsible for keeping updated contact data of focal points.



B. PRESIDENCY PRO-TÉMPORE (PPT)

The PPT was established to facilitate the coordination of the RCM between meetings. The PPT is established under an annual rotation scheme as agreed by the RCM Member Countries. Countries that are interested in acting as PPT are required to announce this during the Plenary Vice-Ministerial Meeting.

The PPT is responsible for establishing mechanisms to convene and issue relevant invitations for the RCM events. Furthermore, the PPT is in charge of the coordination and overall direction of the RCM meetings and actions implemented during its period of office², as well as meetings and actions of the RCGM and both Liaison Officer Networks. **A Drafting Committee** led by the PPT is established at the beginning of each meeting, one for each Network, one for the RCGM and one for the Vice-Ministerial meeting. These groups prepare reports from the Networks, a Conclusions and Recommendations document for the RCGM, and a draft document of the Vice-Ministers' Declaration and Decisions in accordance with the agreements reached during the Plenary Meeting.

The PPT establishes – in consultation with the RCM Member Countries – the priority actions identified in the Plan of Action that are pending and that require financing in order to be implemented. The actions of the PPT entail expenses associated to activities carried out within the framework of the RCM.



Functions of the Presidency Pro-Témpore

1. To invite participants and convene events of the RCM.
2. To coordinate and chair meetings and activities, including those related to the RCM Meeting of Vice-Ministers, the Regional Consultation Group on Migration and of the Networks of Liaison Officers.
3. To lead the working groups and prepare reports of networks, documents of recommendations and conclusions, and draft Declarations and Decisions.
4. To monitor pending activities and tasks.
5. To consult the RCM Member Countries when deemed necessary.
6. To represent the RCM in different fora, present the agreements and decisions made within the framework of the RCM, and then submit a report about it and recommend follow-up actions, as needed.
7. To sign documents with third parties on administrative issues, requiring a formal commitment, upon approval by the Vice-Ministers.
8. To activate the five-working day consultation procedure, when required.
9. Other tasks as assigned by the RCM.

² The hosting country and/or co-sponsor is responsible for convening seminars, workshops, training sessions, and other commitments taken on by of the RCM Member Countries, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat (TS). The Presidency Pro-Témpore participates at the opening sessions of these events.

C. REGIONAL CONSULTATION GROUP ON MIGRATION (RCGM)

The RCGM was established as a result of the First RCM Meeting, with the purpose of implementing and following up on political agreements. It represents the technical and operational level of the RCM and meets the need of countries in the region to promote cooperation and information exchange on topics specifically relating to migration. The RCGM is composed of Directors of Immigration and Directors or Heads of Consular Affairs from Member Countries or relevant offices in accordance with the structure of participating organizations. Observer Organizations participate at the RCGM technical meetings, but Observer States do not.

Furthermore, the RCGM is in charge of preparing recommendations for Vice-Ministers and implementing and monitoring actions agreed by Vice-Ministers, which are reflected in the Conclusions document. The group meets twice a year, and the first meeting is held in conjunction with the Vice-Ministerial Meeting. The roles of the RCGM include the following:

- Reviewing the updating process of the RCM Plan of Action, including information exchange, workshops, seminars, training efforts, and projects under the three central themes.
- Reviewing and approving – together with the TS – the work plans of the Liaison Officer Networks. The plans are the tools to monitor actions of both Networks.
- Addressing administrative and budgetary affairs relating to the TS.

Sessions also provide a space for participation of civil society, represented by the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM).

D. LIAISON OFFICER NETWORK TO COMBAT MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND LIAISON OFFICER NETWORK FOR CONSULAR PROTECTION

Both Networks have been established to share information and organize coordinated actions relating to relevant topics. The Networks meet immediately before the RCGM meetings. They are responsible for developing and implementing their respective workplans - once the plans have been approved by the RCGM – and preparing reports to be submitted during the RCGM meeting. The Networks may hold a joint meeting with the aim of evaluating topics of common interest when required.

Observer States and Organizations do not participate at the meetings of the Networks, unless specifically invited. In addition, a space for participation of RNCOM is included on the agenda of each Network.

During the XVI RCM, the Vice-Ministers decided to approve the linkage of the National Coalitions against Trafficking in Persons, by means of the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons, to the RCM, with the participation of countries that express interest.





E. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT (TS)

The Technical Secretariat (TS) was initially conceived as the Technical Support Unit (TSU), which would perform the tasks that IOM had been requested to formally take on as the provider of secretarial services and technical support for the RCM. Based on this request, IOM established the TSU in March 2001 to meet the needs of the PPT specifically and RCM in general. The following year, the TSU was renamed Technical Secretariat (TS) of the RCM at the VII Regional Conference on Migration held in Antigua Guatemala. Since the inception of the TS, IOM provides technical cooperation and administrative support to the TS, although they are independent of each other in terms of policy and management – the TS is financed by the RCM Member Countries. One of its primary tasks is to support the PPT in organizing and following up on the RCM actions and initiatives.

Moreover, the PPT in office provides general guidelines and supervision of the TS, with the purpose of following up on mandates and actions agreed during each meeting. The TS is in charge of supporting the PPT in the management of the process, including coordination of meetings and information exchange. The TS is composed of a Coordinator, an IT Specialist, and an Assistant. It operates as an autonomous unit within the IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean, located in San José, Costa Rica. In addition to providing office space, IOM facilitates resource management and procurement and provides other types of technical support.

The TS needs to maintain close contact with the focal points³ from each country in order to cooperate with the PPT in the general coordination of the RCM, including logistics of events. Furthermore, the TS regularly updates the public website (www.rcmvs.org) which is a portal to disseminate the public documents of RCM, and a private website (intranet.rcmvs.org) that collects internal documents of the RCM to facilitate coordinating actions. In addition, it takes directly part in coordinating with institutions or governments that sponsor activities within the framework of the RCM, subcontracting services relating to logistics, and coordinating agendas and invitations as required.

Functions of the Technical Secretariat

1. Advise member countries on issues of migration.
2. Periodically inform the focal points on the progress of the Conference.
3. Update new authorities of the member countries on the topics of the RCM.
4. Coordinate with International Organizations and civil society on actions leading to attaining the objectives of the RCM.
5. Update other fora on the work of the RCM.
6. Procure resources from international cooperation that contribute to the execution of the topics of interest of the RCM.
7. To sign documents with third parties on administrative issues, requiring a formal commitment, upon approval by the Vice-Ministers. Upon the request of interested countries, sign the required documents to effect payments of the respective contributions.
8. Other tasks as assigned by the RCM.

³ The focal point is the person or persons in each participating institution from the government of each the RCM Member Country who has or have been appointed as a link and contact point for matters relating to the RCM. The focal point has a key role in receiving and transmitting the information obtained from the PPT and the TS or other colleagues interested or involved in the process, and ensuring the effective dissemination of information to all relevant offices and ministries from that government.

Financing of the RCM

The RCM Member Country make annual contributions, which are used to finance the annual administrative and operative budget of the Technical Secretariat. Contributions are based on a scale of percentages of the total amount, in accordance with the amounts for each Member Country of the RCM that were approved by Vice-Ministers at the VI RCM held in San José, Costa Rica in 2001. Table I shows the current scale of contributions, which has remained the same since 2005.



Table I
Annual Contributions by Member Countries of the RCM

Country	Percentage	Contribution (in US\$)
Belize	1.77%	\$5,000
Canada	24.05%	\$68,000
Costa Rica	1.77%	\$5,000
El Salvador	1.77%	\$5,000
United States	50.00%	\$141,360
Guatemala	1.77%	\$5,000
Honduras	1.77%	\$5,000
Mexico	11.80%	\$33,364
Nicaragua	1.77%	\$5,000
Panama	1.77%	\$5,000
Dominican Republic	1.77%	\$5,000
TOTAL	100.00%	\$282,724

The annual budget of the Technical Secretariat is disaggregated into the following items:

- Support staff
- Support for seminars and meetings
- Equipment and access to computer networks
- Studies and research
- Document development and translation
- Other operative and unforeseen expenses



IV RCM Plan of Action: Advances and Results



During its 15 years of work, the Regional Conference on Migration has focused its efforts on three central themes: Migration Policy and Management, Human Rights, and Migration and Development.

This section summarizes key subtopics, documents, and actions (meetings, seminars, workshops, programmes, and events) relating to the above-mentioned areas. The report describes a significant number of actions promoted by various bodies of RCM relating to topics that are highly relevant to migration management in Member Country. In addition, the documents – guidelines, manuals, protocols, agreements, reports, memos, etc. – produced are listed in the report.

Subtopics, actions, documents, and efforts are described in the following order:

MIGRATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

- **Migration Management:** Continuous efforts regarding aspects such as the expedited, orderly, dignified, and safe return of regional and extraregional migrants; travel documents; and migration legislation.
- **Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling:** Includes the subtopics of international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling; disseminating information about these crimes; legislation; coordinated training efforts; processes for the orderly return of irregular migrants; assistance to and reintegration of victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups affected by illegal actions; and related criminal proceedings, among other actions.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Consular Protection:** Involves ongoing communications efforts. A network has been developed for cooperation among Member Countries of the RCM, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Furthermore, efforts have been implemented to strengthen consular protection in border communities. Other topics that have been addressed are: consular protection.
- **Children, Women and other Vulnerable Groups in Migration:** The following subtopics have been addressed: legal family reunification; human rights of refugees; repatriation of vulnerable groups; trafficking of boys, girls, adolescents, and women for sexual exploitation purposes; protection of persons rendered disabled during migration; protection of highly vulnerable migrants; effective travel documents for under-age persons; and gender and migration.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- In the sphere of Migration and Development, the following subtopics have been addressed: return and reintegration of migrants; and remittances, private sector, and migration. In addition, the impact of free trade; cross-border cooperation; bilateral and multilateral cooperation; migration and tourism; and regional security, among others.





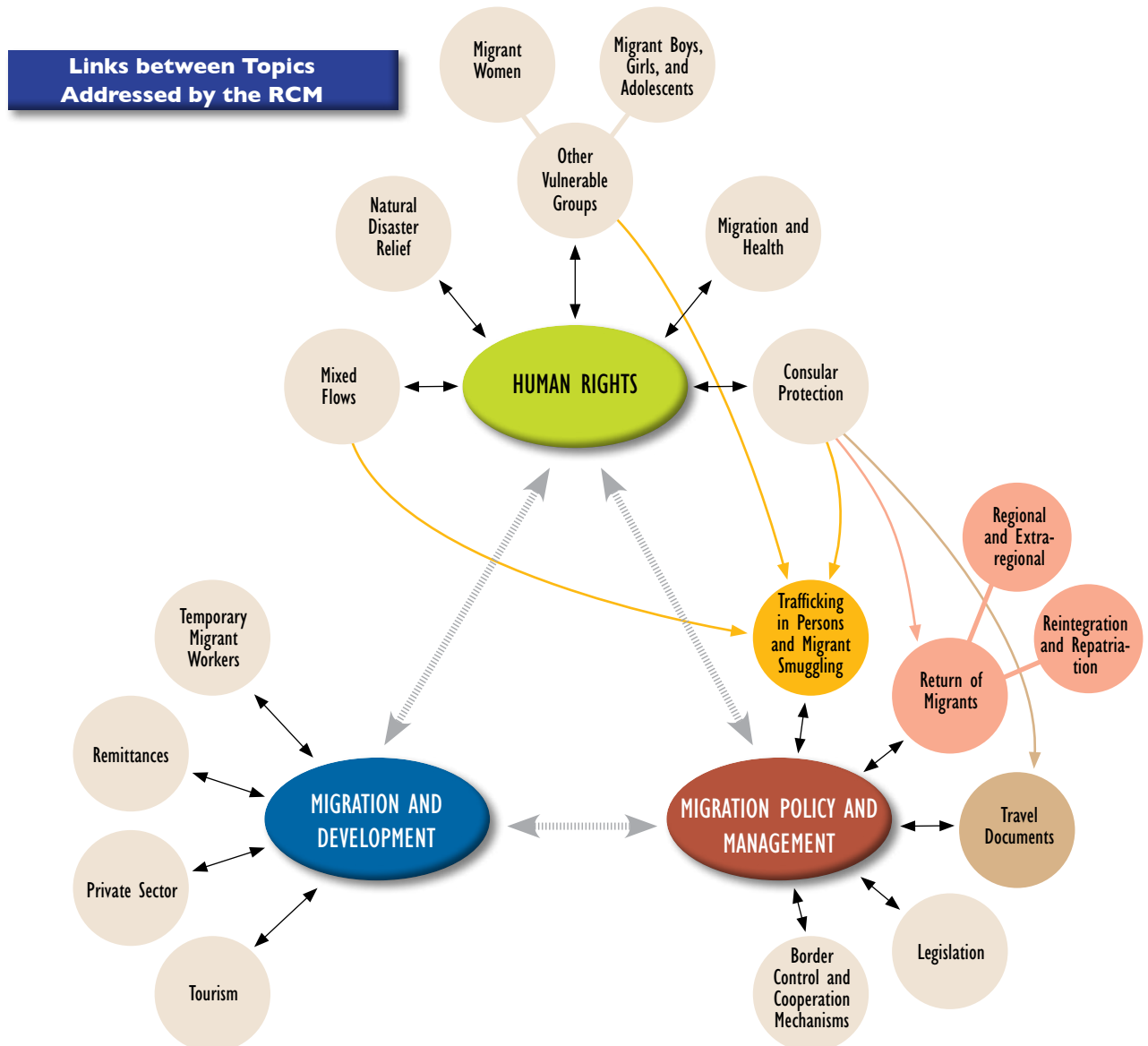
Links between Different Topics that have been Addressed

Dynamic and useful links exist between the three central themes included in RCM Plan of Action and their various sub-topics, enabling different efforts to potentiate and complement each other. The graph below shows the wide array of aspects addressed by the RCM and the links between the different areas, particularly between the spheres of Human Rights and Migration Policy and Management.

Follow-up and Assessment Mechanisms

In order to follow-up on the topics and results addressed at each of the meetings of the Conference, the following proposals are highlighted:

1. The countries responsible for the initiatives proposed must lead the execution and follow-up on the results, so that they become concrete.
2. Follow-up and assessment mechanisms will be supported by the Technical Secretariat and the Presidency Pro-Tempore.
3. The Presidency Pro-Tempore will submit a report on its management, during the meeting held immediately after passing over its Presidency, in order to define the follow-up to be given to the central topic selected.
4. Regarding the activities of the conference, the Technical Secretariat of the RCM will prepare, periodically, questionnaires to simplify self-assessment by each country in relation to the results attained.



Migration office in Guatemala.



Wharf at the El Martillo border post, Tabasco, Mexico.



Haitian migrant working in the Dominican Republic.



Advances and Results regarding Migration Policy and Management



ADVANCES AND RESULTS REGARDING MIGRATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Particularly strong coordination efforts have been implemented within the framework of the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling. Highly relevant sub-topics have been addressed and various documents have been developed. In addition, numerous actions have been carried out, described below.

Migration Policy and Management: Topics Addressed

Addressed by

Dignified, Orderly, Expedited, and Safe Repatriation of Central American Migrants by Land:

Efforts have been implemented to support return processes: international cooperation for the return of migrants; promoting bilateral operative agreements between the RCM Member Countries; and laying the groundwork for a regional approach.

Furthermore, advances have been made relating to return processes in accordance with the guidelines that have been approved by Vice-Ministers; consular protection in repatriation situations: consular records, difficulty to return, document issuance, bilateral cooperation, and reducing the cost of tickets to facilitate repatriation.

The need has been identified for the RCM Member Countries to actively commit to ensuring the dignified, orderly, expedited, and safe repatriation of their nationals; orderly repatriation of Central American migrants by land; reception, transport, and reintegration of returned nationals in the RCM Member Countries; and best practices in reintegrating migrants into their communities of origin.

One of the mechanisms to address this topic was the signing of the Memo of Understanding between the Governments of the United Mexican States, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, and the Republic of Nicaragua for the Orderly, Expedited, and Safe Repatriation of Central American Migrants by Land during the XI RCM in 2006, with subsequent revisions. For the implementation of this Memorandum, the Procedures Manual for the Dignified, Orderly, Expedited and Safe Repatriation of Central Americans from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua at disposal of the Mexican Migration Authorities, was developed.

Vice-Ministers at the RCM meetings held in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, and 2003.

RCGM at meetings held in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Assisted Return of Extra-regional Migrants

In regard to this topic, relevant general cooperation and situation assessment mechanisms have been developed. In addition, efforts have been made to establish how to minimize the impact of the return of extra-regional migrants in transit countries and to dialogue with extra-regional countries that present problems to issue the required travel documents. Other aspects that have been addressed include identifying those countries with difficulty to issue travel documents and promoting potential regional actions to facilitate obtaining these documents; sharing experiences relating to this topic; implementing existing bilateral agreements between Member States of RCM; multilateral cooperation with civil society and public information campaigns; continuously seeking mechanisms to facilitate repatriation, optimize resources, and evaluate the possibility of minimizing transport costs; reducing the cost of airline tickets to facilitate repatriation; financing alternatives, trends, costs, and best practices; and repatriation of foreign nationals in custody of immigration authorities.

Recently, advances have been made towards a better understanding of extra-regional migration flows through studies supported by the United States and carried out by UNHCR and IOM.



RCGM at meetings held in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011.

Visas and Travel Documents

The Virtual Secretariat has worked on publishing information about visas; visa requirements and types of visas; public information campaigns about risks and threats of undocumented migration; joint cooperation between Liaison Officer Networks regarding this issue; security specifications for travel documents; standards for passport issuance in Member States of RCM; and parameters, procedures, and requirements for the issuance of visas. Furthermore, a database has been developed with information about types of travel documents, frequent information exchange about fraudulent documentation; international standards for travel documents; the Central American Passport/Visa and effective practices relating to visa issuance policies.

Vice-Ministers at a meeting held in 1996.

RCGM at meetings held in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008.

Asylum Granting

The RCM Member Countries have reaffirmed their commitment to give migrants the chance to apply for and – if appropriate – be granted asylum, and to provide assistance to foreign nationals who are not able to prove their migration status in a the RCM Member Country.

RCGM at meetings held in 2002, 2005, and 2008.

Migration Legislation

The following topics have been addressed: reviewing basic principles and elements to advance towards a comprehensive migration legislation; advancing towards regional integration; migration control and legislation; migration regularization systems; immigration forms for visitors; immigration forms for border workers; developing new migration legislation in Member States of RCM; capacity-building through financial assistance for migration management efforts; and the need to professionalize immigration services.

Vice-Ministers at RCM held in 1997.

RCGM at meetings held in 1999, 2005, 2007, and 2008.

Global Security

Efforts have been implemented relating to the management of biometric identification.

RCGM at RCM held in 2007.



Migration Policy and Management: Documents Produced

1. **Framework for Execution of the RCM General Cooperation Programme for the Return of Extra-regional Migrants.** A reference document about the legal framework in each country. The Programme was introduced by IOM in 1999 and approved by the Vice-Ministers in 2001.
2. **Programme for the Dignified, Safe, and Orderly Return of Central American Migrants by Land.** Useful for measuring advances regarding the return of regional and extraregional migrants. IOM document submitted to the RCM Member Countries (VIII RCM, Mexico, 2003).
3. **Guidelines for the Signing Of Multi- and/or Bilateral Agreements between Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) Regarding the Repatriation of Regional Migrants by Land.** IOM report on reducing the costs of airline tickets. Prepared by Mexico and IOM. Approved by the RCGM in 2003 and ratified by Vice-Ministers in 2004.
4. **Memo of Understanding on Assisted Voluntary Return.** Signed by Mexico and IOM in 2004 to implement the Memo.
5. **General Framework for the Execution of the Multilateral Cooperation Programme for the Assisted Return of Extraregional Migrants Stranded Within Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM).** Prepared by Mexico and IOM, approved by the RCGM in 2003 and ratified by Vice-Ministers in 2004.
6. **Basics of Migration Management.** Provides a toolkit for decision makers and professionals facing the challenge of capacity-building for migration management in their countries. Prepared by IOM. Used by the RCM Member Countries. Translation of the document was provided by Mexico as a contribution.
7. **Memo of Understanding between the Governments of the United Mexican States, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, and the Republic of Nicaragua for the Dignified, Orderly, Expedited, and Safe Repatriation of Central American Nationals by Land and Procedures Manual for the Repatriation of Central American Foreign Nationals in Custody of Mexican Immigration Authorities.** The documents establish regional repatriation schemes in the above-mentioned countries. Developed within the framework of the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection. A procedures manual for repatriation. Initiated by the Government of Mexico at the meeting of the RCGM in 2005, Guatemala. The Memo was signed at the RCM in 2006 and further expanded at the RCM in 2009, 2010 y 2011.

Migration Policy and Management: Key Actions

- **Seminar on Migration, Return, and Reintegration of Extra-regional Migrants:** The document submitted by IOM – a project proposal on the return of extra-regional migrants – was discussed. The RCM Member Countries, 1999, Honduras.
- **Working Group on Cross-Border Cooperation: Proposed at the meeting of the RCGM in 2001.** Proposed at the meeting of the RCGM in 2001.
- **Seminar on Modernizing Migration Management and Cross-Border Cooperation:** January 2002, Dominican Republic.
- **Joint Training on Verifying and Detecting False Documents, Refugee Protection, and Interview Techniques (Regional Training Workshops on Immigration Control):** Training provided for accredited consular officers in North America as well as immigration officers since 2002. The RCM has committed to continue providing training in this area, as agreed at the RCM in 2003. Training efforts have been implemented in several the RCM Member Countries (Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama) and developed by Canada, Mexico, and the United Countries. Training on Refugee Protection is provided by UNHCR.
- **Workshop on Migration Management and Inter-State Cooperation:** To explore the complex phenomenon of international migration and how cooperation between States can benefit the development of a framework of non-binding guiding principles. Guatemala, 2002.
- **Joint Training on Security at Land Borders in Member States of RCM:** Implemented in several RCM Member Countries of since 2002.
- **Joint Interdiction and Inspection Exercise:** Sponsored by the United States and Mexico, May 2003, Costa Rica-Nicaragua border.
- **Workshop on a General Framework Proposal for the Dignified, Safe, and Orderly Return by Land of Regional and Extra-regional Migrants Stranded Within Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM):** At the RCGM meeting, December 2003, El Salvador.
- **Workshop on International Standards for Travel Documents and Issuance Systems:** Update for authorities in charge of issuing travel documents in RCM Member Countries about new technologies and actions to establish more efficient and safe procedures, as well as current international standards for travel documents. Nicaragua, 2005.
- **Central American Passport / Visa Initiative:** Proposed by the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection, RCGM meeting, 2005. Ongoing meetings and reports of OCAM/CA-4.
- **Establishing the Statistical Information System on Migration in Central America (SIEMCA) / Statistical Information System on Migration in Mesoamerica (SIEMMES):** To make information available for gaining knowledge and following up on the magnitude and characteristics of the international movement of populations between countries in the region and movement of populations from and to Mesoamerica. Implemented by IOM and transferred to the National University of Costa Rica, 2007.
- **Seminar/Workshop on Migration Legislation:** To explore the basic principles and elements required to develop comprehensive migration legislation. Guatemala, 2007.
- **Technical Meeting on the Memo of Understanding between Governments of the United Mexican States, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, and the Republic of Nicaragua for the Dignified, Orderly, Expedited, and Safe Repatriation of Central American Nationals by Land:** To evaluate operation procedures and agree on renewing the Memo. November 2008, Honduras.
- **Integrated System for Immigration Operations (SIOM) of Mexico:** Mexico shared technical knowledge with the other RCM Member Countries. Guatemala implemented a version based on SIOM. Period of 2005-2008. A new proposal with the participation of El Salvador and Honduras is being developed. June 2011, Dominican Republic.

OTHER PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- **Training on protecting the human rights of migrants intercepted at sea, experience sharing, best practices, and an analysis of the evolution of migrant trafficking and smuggling, and migration policies in the process of regional integration:** Proposed at the XII RCM, 2007, United States; in collaboration with IOM.



ADVANCES AND RESULTS REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING

This has been a central theme in the discussions of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), which is no surprise. Trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling pose the greatest challenge to Migration Policy and Management and has a significant negative impact on Human Rights and Development. The topic has been addressed since the first meeting of the RCM and has been included in work agendas on an ongoing basis. Given the magnitude and complexity of trafficking in persons and migrant

smuggling, the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling was established at the VI RCM in San José, Costa Rica in 2001, with the aim of improving regional coordination in this sphere. Since then, the group meets twice a year – during the meetings of the RCM and the RCGM. In addition, the group has worked in close collaboration with the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection. Key relevant subtopics, documents, and actions are listed below.

Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling: Subtopics Addressed	Discussed by
<p>Risks Associated to Migrant Smuggling Campaigns have been implemented to disseminate knowledge and warn potential migrants. The following topics were addressed: sexual and other forms of exploitation; recruitment, transport, and transfer; and threats, coercion, and use of force.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers since 1996. RCGM in 1996. Networks since 2001.</p>
<p>Criminal Proceedings and Punishments Efforts have been made to build capacity to prosecute smugglers of migrants.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the meeting held in 1996, 2009, 2011.</p>
<p>International Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling The following topics have been addressed: how transit or destination countries can cooperate to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling; bilateral agreements, followed by joint collaboration; a common format for information gathering and exchange in cases of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling; actions to prevent, control, and combat these crimes; and the importance of regional cooperation. Furthermore, the following topics have been addressed as well: effective prosecution of criminals and effective protection for victims of trafficking. In addition, comparative matrices have been developed about legislation against migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons in Member States of RCM.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at RCM held in 1998. RCGM in 1997. Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in 2001, 2005, 2007, and 2008.</p>
<p>Functional Liaison about Migrant Smuggling Information has been published and disseminated and information campaigns on the risks associated to migrant smuggling have been implemented. In addition, Coalitions/National Committees and Working Groups to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Region have been supported since 2006. At the meetings of the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling, countries inform about the scope of these coordination meetings in the region and how they are complemented by actions implemented by RCM.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers and RCGM since RCM held in 1999. RCGM since 2006.</p>
<p>Disseminating Information about Migrant Smuggling The following topics relating to migrant smuggling have been addressed: assistance to victims, prevention; extraregional migrants in the region; and public awareness-raising about the risks associated to this problem.</p>	<p>RCGM at meetings held in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. Meetings of the Networks in 2003, 2004, and 2008.</p>
<p>Legislation The following topics have been addressed: comparative legislation and migration policies to combat migrant smuggling; criminal sanctions and the urgent need to strengthen internal legislation; special attention to vulnerable groups; and developing, adjusting, and implementing legislation that helps prevent the crimes of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, prosecute perpetrators, and protect victims. In addition, inter-institutional and inter-governmental mechanisms have been promoted to combat, prevent, and eradicate these crimes and protect victims; prosecuting smugglers and traffickers, and best practices in investigation and prosecuting; and capacity-building at a regional level to combat trafficking in persons.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers since 1996. RCGM at meetings held in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2008. Meetings of the Networks in 2005, 2006, and 2007.</p>
<p>Process for the Orderly Return of Victims of Trafficking Efforts have been implemented relating to coordination mechanisms and the development of regional guidelines for the return of children victims of trafficking.</p>	<p>RCGM at a meeting held in 2005. Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling at RCM held in 2003.</p>
<p>Assistance and Reintegration of Victims of Smuggling and Vulnerable Groups Affected by Illegal Actions Efforts have been made to strengthen and increase cooperation in an effective manner to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at RCM held in 2004. RCGM in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2008.</p>

Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling: Documents Produced

1. **Report on Actions to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling.** Every RCGM and RCM meeting.
2. **Proposal for a project to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime relating to legislation against trafficking in persons in Central America and Mexico.** The RCM Member Countries were encouraged to sign, ratify, and implement this proposal at the VI RCM (2001, Costa Rica), and information about country ratification was provided at subsequent meetings. First discussion held at the meeting of the RCGM, 2004, Panama.
3. **Proposal for a Workplan for the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling, with the aim of establishing coordination and cooperation mechanisms.** Initial proposal submitted by the Liaison Officer Network to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling at the VIII RCM, Mexico, 2003
4. **Studies about Migrant Smuggling.** Studies from Belize (2001), Costa Rica (2000), El Salvador (1999), Guatemala (1998), Honduras (2000), Nicaragua (2001), Panama (1998), and the Dominican Republic (2001). Prepared by each country with support from IOM and funding from the Government of Canada.
5. **Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking.** The purpose of the Guidelines is to promote collaboration between the RCM Member Countries and provide guidelines to identify or detect children victims of trafficking and implement actions for repatriation and transfer of the victim, if deemed appropriate and in accordance with the Child's Best Interest.
6. **Comparative Matrix of Legislation against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in Member States of RCM.** Updated by IOM since 2002 and reviewed in 2009-2010.



Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling: Key Actions

- **Seminar on Migrant Smuggling:**
Information exchange to strengthen actions to combat migrant smuggling. January 1998, Nicaragua.
- **Coordinated Training Efforts:**
Law enforcement to combat smuggling of children. Interdiction of irregular extra-regional migrants. Sponsored by Canada, United States, Mexico, and UNHCR. An ongoing RCM effort that has been implemented in several RCM Member Countries.
- **Workshop on the Design of a Proposal for a Regional Plan of Action to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons:**
A workshop to develop a proposal for a workplan to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking, to be used by RCM as the basis for cooperation in this sphere. May 2003, Mexico.
- **Public Information Campaign about Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling:**
Proposed by IOM at the IX RCM, 2004, Panama. Joint cooperation between IOM, RCM Liaison Officer Networks, and UNHCR with support from the United States. Ongoing updates.
- **Training on Trafficking in Persons:**
Proposed by IOM at the IX RCM, 2004, Panama. Ongoing implementation.
- **Workshop on the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling:**
To provide participants with a general interpretation of the Protocols of the Palermo Convention. Held in Panama in 2004 during the meeting of the RCGM. Cooperation with IOM.
- **Training Project on Combating Trafficking in Persons, Phases I, II, III:**
To inform about the risks of irregular migration. IOM initiative, 2006.
- **Regional Training Programme for Capacity-building to Combat Trafficking in Persons:**
Replaced a proposal to establish a regional shelter for victims of trafficking. Proposed at the meeting of the RCGM, 2006, El Salvador. In collaboration with IOM and universities.
- **Regional Training Programme on Protection of Victims of Trafficking:**
Training and information exchange on best practices between justice operators (mainly judges and prosecutors). Proposed by RCM at the XII RCM, 2007, New Orleans. Established by IOM.
- **Workshop on Best Practices in Investigation and Prosecution of Smugglers and Traffickers Endangering the Lives of Migrants:**
With participation of institutions seeking to build the required capacity to address these crimes. Proposed by the United States at the meeting of the RCGM held in 2006 in El Salvador; and carried out in January 2008 in Mexico.
- **Regional Workshop on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for the Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking:**
To share experiences, best practices, and identified challenges from existing national and regional programmes for the reintegration of victims of trafficking and to stimulate coordination and cooperation between the RCM Member Countries to this end. Developed by IOM and held on June 26-27, 2008 in Nicaragua, with support from the United States.
- **Implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime through Legislation against Trafficking in Persons in Central America and Mexico:**
The RCM Member Countries were encouraged to sign, ratify, and implement this proposal at the VI RCM (2001, Costa Rica), and information about country ratification was provided at subsequent meetings. Discussed by RCGM at the XI RCM held in 2006 in El Salvador.
- **Workshop on Challenges Relating to Legislation against the Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling and Assistance and Protection to Victims in the RCM Member Countries:**
To examine existing legislation, its strengths, and the gaps preventing better and more effective prosecution of these crimes and to define minimum legal standards. Proposed by El Salvador at the XIV RCM, 2009, with support from Canada, United States, UNHCR, IOM, Save the Children, and UNOCD. Held in El Salvador; December 2-3, 2010.
- **Training on Trafficking in Persons, Forced Child Labour, and Child Sexual Tourism:**
Offered by the United States at the XV RCM, 2010. Held in Guatemala, December 6-8, 2010.



Advances and Results in Human Rights



ADVANCES AND RESULTS REGARDING CONSULAR PROTECTION

This topic has been addressed by the RCM primarily through meetings of the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection, which was consolidated at the VI RCM in San José, Costa Rica with the purpose of intensifying regional coordination on this matter. Since then, the Network meets twice a year – during RCM and the meeting of the RCGM.



Consular Protection: Subtopics Addressed	Discussed by
<p>Communication and Cooperation Networks between Consulates of Member Countries of RCM, International Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented to strengthen consular protection and assistance to regional migrants; regarding mechanisms for consular assistance, cooperation, and dialogue for effective coordination and communication; and to improve the assistance to regional migrants in detention centres. In addition, efforts have been made relating to joint consular protection for Central Americans and general cooperation between consulates and Member Countries of the RCM.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the RCM held in 2001. RCGM in 2008. Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection since 2002.</p>
<p>Strengthening Consular Protection in Border Communities</p> <p>The following topics have been addressed: identifying problems derived from the concentration of migrants in border regions; protection to facilitate the prompt return of migrants; health of migrant populations in border regions; and border security campaigns and efforts in the States.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the RCM held in 2001. Meeting of the RCGM held in 2008.</p>

Consular Protection: Subtopics Addressed	Discussed by
<p>Consular Protection in Cases of Death</p> <p>A topic based on the Vienna Convention, Article 37. Seeks to ensure the unrestricted enforcement of Article 37, Subsection a) of the Vienna Convention, as well as aspects relating to timely information in cases of death. Furthermore, the topic of identifying missing persons or persons who died during migration has been addressed.</p>	<p>RCGM at meetings held in 2006, 2007, 2010. Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection, 2002.</p>
<p>Public Awareness-raising</p> <p>Awareness-raising campaigns oriented towards migrants have been implemented to encourage them to register at their respective consulates.</p>	<p>Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection at the meeting of the RCGM held in 2005.</p>
<p>Migration and Health</p> <p>The topic of facilitating access to health care for migrant populations has been addressed. A Seminar on Migration and Health was carried out in 2004.</p>	<p>Meetings of RCGM held in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.</p>
<p>Natural Disasters</p> <p>The consequences of Hurricane Mitch have been analysed: generating employment considering the variable of migration; well-being of communities, impact on matters relating to migration, adopting actions that are favourable to migration. Furthermore, the following topics have been addressed: consequences of the earthquakes occurred in El Salvador in January and February 2001; the importance of consular action and cooperation during emergencies such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Stan, and Wilma; the impacts of natural disasters on migration; and best practices in providing assistance to migrants affected by natural disasters, at home and abroad.</p>	<p>Meetings of RCGM held in 1999, 2001, and 2006. Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection, 2005, 2007, and 2008.</p>
<p>Protection of Nationals in Foreign Countries</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented relating to the following: policies to assist migrants leaving their country of origin and establishing institutions in charge of these populations; an assistance call centre; and protection of nationals abroad affected by natural disasters.</p>	<p>RCGM at meetings held in 2008.</p>
<p>Migration and Human Rights</p> <p>The topic of how to ensure respect for the human rights of migrants in receiving countries and countries of origin has been addressed.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at meetings held in 1997, 1998, 2001, and 2008. RCGM at meetings held in 2002 and 2008.</p>

Consular Protection: Documents Produced

1. **Country reports on efforts relating to consular protection.** At each RCGM and RCM meeting.
2. **Regional Guidelines for the Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants in Situations of Immigration Status Verification, Detention, Deportation, and Reception.** Initially proposed by the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) in 2001. Stimulated by the commitment of the RCM with the Vienna Convention relating to consular relations. Submitted by RNCOM to the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection at the meeting of the RCGM in 2008, Honduras. Regularly updated by RNCOM.
3. **Considerations regarding Efforts of the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection.** Describes the field experience of Mexico in consular affairs with the aim of enriching experiences of the RCM Member Countries. Initially presented at the VIII RCM, 2003, Mexico, by the Government of Mexico.
4. **Memo of Understanding between the Republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic to Establish a Network for Consular Protection and Humanitarian Aid for Nationals from Central America and the Dominican Republic in the United Mexican States.** To develop a consular network with the aim of providing support or assistance to each other to protect the human rights of our migrants. Introduced by the RCGM in 2008, currently under discussion.

Consular Protection: Key Actions

- **Seminar on Human Rights and Migrants:**
With participation of immigration authorities, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, other government agencies concerned with human rights, international organizations, and NGOs. April 1998, Washington, United States.
- **Seminar on Consular Protection and Assistance:**
Topics such as current migration trends and vulnerability of migrants, human rights and international legislation, identifying the rights of migrants, recent actions, and new challenges were addressed. Recommendations were made at the Seminar which were subsequently reiterated by the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM). The Seminar led to the promotion of a workshop to stimulate information exchange about the safe and orderly repatriation of regional migrants (as explained above in the Migration Policy and Management section). Vice-Ministers first discussed the idea in 1998, and the Seminar was carried out the following year (July 1999) in Guatemala, with support from IOM.
- **Workshop on Human Rights of Migrants:**
For immigration officers from Mexico and Guatemala. Held in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, in February 2003.
- **Training Programme on Successful Procedures and Mechanisms in Consular Protection:**
Proposed by Mexico and Canada at the meeting of the RCGM held in Guatemala in 2002. Training offered by the United States. Addressed by the Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection at the VIII RCM, 2003, Mexico. Later on, the training was provided by Canada, the United States, and Mexico with training programmes for consular, immigration, and other officers, including a component on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, in 2004. Training on these topics was provided for the RCM Member Countries and consular staff was trained on detection of false documents. The Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection suggested including the topic of Consular Notification at the IX RCM held in 2004.
- **Seminar on Migration and Health and a Preliminary Proposal for a Working Group on Migration and Health of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM):**
The Seminar was carried out with the purpose of obtaining a wider range of perspectives as input for the ongoing dialogue of the RCM about topics relating to migration and other related fields, in order to support policymaking and promote potential cooperation regarding this topic. Co-sponsored by the Governments of Mexico and Canada; held in Guatemala in October 2004. The proposal for a Working Group was submitted at the meeting of the RCGM in 2004, with the aim of establishing a body in charge of coordinating efforts relating to migration and health. The guidelines for operation of a Virtual Forum on this matter were submitted at the meeting of the RCGM in 2005 and adjustments were made later on. The Forum has yet to come into operation according to the terms presented during the XVI RCM (2011).
- **Establishing a Network for Consular Protection and Humanitarian Aid for Nationals from Central America and the Dominican Republic in the United Mexican States:**
To improve the coverage of consular protection and assistance to nationals from the above-mentioned countries in Mexico. Proposed by Honduras at the XIII RCM in 2008, Honduras. In process of establishment.
- **Seminars for Capacity-building for National Authorities to Detect False Travel Documents and Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in Mesoamerica**
An emphasis on mechanisms to detect false documents and cases of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. Training on use of the F.A.L.S.O. D.O.C. methodology to screen documents. Held in Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama with support from Canada.
- **OTHER PROPOSED ACTIONS:**
 - **Dialogue on potential cooperation for information exchange between countries to facilitate identifying missing migrants or persons who died during migration.**
Proposed at the meeting of the RCGM held in November 2006, El Salvador.

ADVANCES AND RESULTS IN THEMES RELATED TO CHILDREN, WOMEN, AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN MIGRATION

This topic was consolidated under the sphere of Human Rights of the RCM Plan of Action at the VIII RCM held in May 2003 in Mexico. Some of the subtopics discussed within the framework of the RCM meetings are: smuggling of migrant children and women for sexual exploitation purposes; rights of refugees; family reunification; and repatriation of vulnerable groups. Relevant documents have been developed and numerous efforts have been implemented relating to these topics, as described below.



Children, Women, and other Vulnerable Groups in Migration: Subtopics Addressed

<p>Children Trafficking</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented regarding the voluntary return and social reintegration of unaccompanied children victims of trafficking, and assistance to unaccompanied boys, girls, and adolescents in custody. Mexico has developed a training programme to protect the rights of these populations. The programme is called Child Protection Officers (<i>Oficiales de Protección a la Infancia – OPIS</i>). Relevant training has been implemented in other countries in the region as well.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at meetings of RCM held in 2001 and 2008. Meetings of RCGM held in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.</p>
<p>Legal Reunification of Family</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented towards family reunification as a means to combat smuggling of migrant children, as well as information exchange about related policies in the RCM Member Countries.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the XV RCM. RCGM at meetings held in 2002 and 2003.</p>
<p>Human Rights of Refugees</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented regarding international and regional protection of refugees, and to associate data on protection of refugees to their connection with special groups, such as victims of trafficking or individuals who are persecuted by non-State agents.</p>	<p>RCGM at meetings held in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.</p>
<p>Repatriation of Vulnerable Groups</p> <p>The following topics have been addressed: identifying focal points to improve coordination among migration and consular authorities, as well as services to assist migrants.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at a meeting held in 2008. RCGM in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008.</p>
<p>Smuggling of Children, Women for Sexual Exploitation Purposes</p> <p>Efforts have been made to identify migrant smuggling routes.</p>	<p>Networks at the RCGM meeting held in 2005.</p>
<p>Protection for Migrants Rendered Disabled during Migration</p> <p>The topic of comprehensive assistance and potential financing of actions in this field.</p>	<p>RCGM at meetings held in 2006 and 2007.</p>



Children, Women, and other Vulnerable Groups in Migration: Subtopics Addressed		Discussed by
<p>Protection for Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented to support the dignified, safe, and orderly return of regional migrants by land.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the RCM held in 2004.</p>	
<p>Best Practices regarding Effective Travel Documents for the Exit of Under-Age Persons</p> <p>Efforts have been made to combat trafficking in persons more effectively.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the RCM held in 2006. RCGM at the meeting held in 2006.</p>	
<p>Gender and Migration</p> <p>Efforts are under way to address the need for policymaking considering different impacts of migration processes from a gender perspective.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at meetings held in 1998, 1999, 2007, and 2008.</p>	
<p>Migration and Family</p> <p>Member Countries have recognized the impact of migration on the family unit and the importance of considering family in migration policymaking, as well as the need for a cross-cutting perspective considering and promoting family integration, and the potential of migration as a catalyst for development in communities of origin and destination.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the XV RCM, 2010.</p>	

Children, Women, and other Vulnerable Groups in Migration: Documents Produced	
<p>1. Conceptual Document for a Joint Research Study on Migrant Children in the Region. Progress report, considers the future dissemination of relevant questionnaires to governments. Submitted by Mexico and Canada at the meeting of the RCGM (VI RCM) in 2001, Costa Rica. Progress reports submitted at meetings of the RCGM held in Costa Rica, 2001 and Guatemala, 2002 (VII RCM).</p> <p>2. Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking. In implementing the guidelines, the RCM Member Countries consider the Child's Best Interest and respect for human rights. In addition, they commit to protecting these boys and girls from all forms of exploitation, as stipulated in the United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. Draft prepared by IOM, UNICEF, ILO, UNHCR, RCM Technical Secretariat, the Presidency Pro-Tempore of RCM, and Member States of RCM</p>	<p>on March 9-10, 2006 in Guatemala. Approved at the XII RCM held in 2007 in the United States. Ongoing progress reports throughout implementation.</p> <p>3. Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Cases of Repatriation. The RCM Member Countries have developed the Guidelines as a reference tool for the orderly, expedited, dignified, and safe repatriation of unaccompanied migrant children. Developed during a seminar held in Mexico in 2008 and submitted at the meeting of the RCGM in 2008, Honduras. Approved at the XIV RCM, 2009, Guatemala.</p> <p>4. Situation of unaccompanied migrant children in Central America. Reports prepared by IOM since 2008 with support from Save The Children and civil society organizations. Regional and per country research. Progress reports presented to the RCGM.</p>

Children, Women, and other Vulnerable Groups in Migration: Key Actions

- **Seminar on Migrant Women, Girls, and Boys.** Share best practices, experiences and research with government officials and achieve a set of draft recommendations for concrete actions. El Salvador; 2000.
- **Project on Mobile Populations and HIV/AIDS in Central America, Mexico, and the United States:** Discussed by the RCGM, 2002, Guatemala.
- **RCM Reserve Fund for the Assistance to Intra-regional Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations:** To support the voluntary return under humane conditions of irregular migrants in highly vulnerable situations. The Fund was established in 2004, managed by IOM in coordination with the RCM Presidency Pro-Témpore and the Technical Secretariat, and was established as permanent at the XI RCM, 2006, El Salvador.
- **Pilot Project for the Reintegration of Unaccompanied Children in Honduras and El Salvador:** Comprehensive assistance for children who have suffered harm during migration. Led by IOM with financing by the United States, 2007.
- **Seminar on Women and Migration:** To identify the areas requiring special attention and actions by the RCM relating to information exchange and best practices in the region, and to establish links between migration management and social and gender programmes. Held in July 2007 in El Salvador. In collaboration with RNCOM. Sponsored by El Salvador; Canada, UNHCR, IOM, and RNCOM.
- **Improving the Capacity to Reintegrate Victims of Trafficking in Central America, a Pilot Project – Nicaragua:**
To combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. A pilot project proposed by IOM and executed in 2006-2008.
- **Workshop on Protection and Lasting Solutions for Mixed Migration Flows:** Training for officers from the RCM region. Co-sponsored by Canada, Costa Rica, and UNHCR. Held in August 2008 in San José, Costa Rica.
- **Seminar within the Framework of the Regional Conference on Migration to Develop the Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Migrant Boys, Girls, and Adolescents:** Proposed by Mexico at the XIII RCM in May 2008, Honduras, and held in Mexico City in September 2008. Its objective was to develop the Guidelines, designed to establish specific actions to assist these highly vulnerable populations in benefit of all unaccompanied children and the RCM Member Countries. Guidelines approved by the Vice-Ministers at the XIV RCM in Guatemala.
- **Meeting to finalize efforts to develop the Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Migrant Boys, Girls, and Adolescents:** To inform about actions carried out by the Working Group and present the challenges faced by Mexico to ensure full respect for the rights of unaccompanied boys, girls, and adolescents, and to finalize the development of the regional document. Held in Mexico City in June 2009.

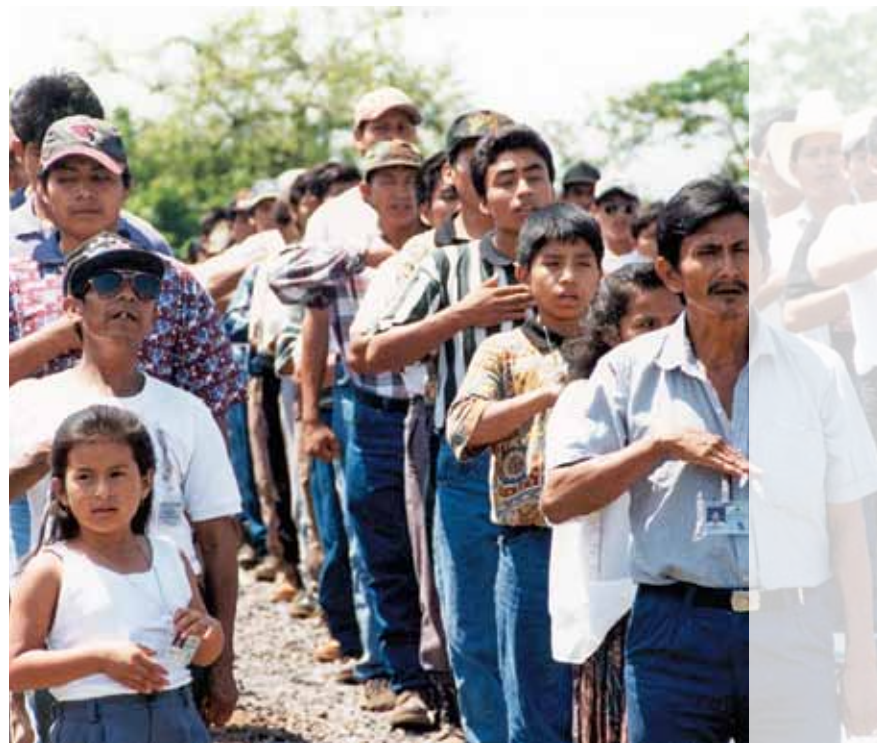




Boys, Girls, Adolescents, Women, and other Vulnerable Groups in Migration: Key Actions

- **Seminar on Migration and Family:** To analyse links between migration processes and family and highlight best practices in migration management, with the aim of proposing policy guidelines to minimize the costs and potentiate the benefits of migration for the family unit. Held in Tijuana, Mexico in April 2010.
- **Workshop on the Training Module for Child Protection Officers (OPIS):** Offered by Mexico at the XV RCM and held in Panama City, Panama, on August 24-26, 2010. Based on guidelines for migration authorities to build capacities for the assistance of migrant children.
- **Workshop on Human Rights and Migration:** Proposed by Honduras at the XIII RCM, in collaboration with IOM, UNHCR and RNCOM. Held in Honduras in February, 2011. The main challenges related to the human rights of migrant populations were analysed.

Advances and Results regarding Migration and Development



The link between migration and development was initially identified at the first technical meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in Mexico in 1996. Later on, it was discussed at the Panama Conference in 1997 as a central theme of the RCM and subsequently, it was officially established as one of the three central themes of the RCM Plan of Action. Within the general framework of the link between migration and development, many specialized areas of interest have been identified and addressed. In addition to the general theme of Migra-

tion and Development, the following subtopics have been addressed: remittances; private sector and migration; temporary migrant worker programmes; migration and tourism; return and reintegration of migrants; border cooperation; the impact of free trade; and bilateral and multilateral cooperation; among others. In addition, documents have been developed and actions have been implemented, including international seminars and forums on the above-mentioned topics.

Migration and Development: Subtopics Addressed	Discussed by
<p>Migration and Development</p> <p>The following topics have been addressed: benefits of regular migration; cooperation actions that need to be implemented in countries of origin and at an international level to eliminate the social and economic causes of irregular migration; and migrants as development partners. Studies about contributions of migrants in countries of origin and destination have been carried out.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at RCM held in 1998 and 2009. Meetings of the RCGM held in 2002, 2006, and 2008 and 2009.</p>
<p>Private Sector</p> <p>Efforts have been implemented based on the link between the private sector and the topic of Migration and Development.</p>	<p>Meetings of the RCGM held in 2002, 2005, and 2006.</p>



Migration and Development: Subtopics Addressed		Discussed by
<p>Temporary Migrant Worker Programmes Mechanisms and requirements to establish temporary worker programmes. The participation of the RCM Member Countries in these programmes contributes to an effective management of migration flows.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at the RCM held in 2005, 2008 and 2011. Meetings of the RCGM held in 2002, 2008 and 2011.</p>	
<p>Remittances The following aspects have been addressed: successful experiences in the use of remittances; policies facilitating the flow of remittances in each RCM Member Country; promoting the use of remittances for development purposes; the flow of productive investment of remittances; and the methodology used to quantify family remittances and their social and economic impact.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at meetings held in 1998 and 2004. RCGM at meetings held in 1999, 2003, 2004, and 2008.</p>	
<p>Return, Economic Integration, and Economic Reintegration of Migrants The following topics have been addressed: integration of migrants in receiving countries and return of migrants to their country of origin; reintegration of repatriated migrants in Central America; integration and citizenship; and challenges in integration: public opinion and the role of media, anti-discrimination, needs of and a programme for vulnerable refugees and migrants. Other aspects that have been addressed are the role of receiving communities; resettlement programmes for refugees; and programmes for the integration of immigrants.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at meetings held in 1998, 1999, 2001, and 2005. Liaison Officer Network for Consular Protection at the meeting of the RCGM in 2005.</p>	
<p>Migration and Tourism Actions have been implemented relating to exchange of statistical information on arrivals, data capture and length of stay.</p>	<p>RCGM at the meeting held in 1999.</p>	
<p>Border Cooperation Actions to develop trans-border communities with circular flows of border migrants.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at a meeting held in 2001. RCGM meetings in 2001 and 2002.</p>	
<p>Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Aspects such as offering training, equipment, and other actions as well as implementing co-development projects have been addressed.</p>	<p>RCGM meetings in 2005, 2007, and 2008.</p>	
<p>The Impacts of Free Trade The impacts of free trade agreements on migration flows have been discussed.</p>	<p>RCGM meeting held in 2005.</p>	
<p>Establishing Links between Migrants and their Communities of Origin Presentations have been made on efforts and experiences by governments to establish links with their respective diasporas.</p>	<p>Vice-Ministers at meetings held in 2006 and 2007.</p>	

Migration and Development: Documents Produced

<p>1. Conceptual document for a Workshop on Private Sector and Migration. Addresses the topic of how the private sector is linked to migration economy in areas such as re-</p>	<p>mittances, financial micro-enterprises, money transfer operators, banks, telecommunications, and transport. Submitted at the meeting of the RCGM, 2005, Guatemala.</p>
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Migration and Development: Key Actions

- **Workshop on Migration and Development:**

The importance of addressing the phenomenon of migration from a comprehensive, objective, and long-term perspective was highlighted, considering all its causes, manifestations, and effects. Held in Mexico in 1998, with immigration authorities, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, other government agencies, international organizations, and academic institutions.

- **Assessing the Consequences of Hurricane Mitch on Migration in Central America:**

To summarize the primary actions implemented by IOM relating to the consequences of Hurricane Mitch. At the IV RCM, Vice-Ministers agreed to request that IOM design a project to assess the effects of Hurricane Mitch on migration flows. Partially implemented, 1999.

- **International Workshop on Migration, Regional Development, and the Potential of Remittances in Terms of Productivity:**

Derived from the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on Modernization, Migration Management, and Cross-Border Cooperation. The migration process and the importance of using remittances for regional development projects were examined. International workshop held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2002.

- **Cooperation for Development in Border Regions and Harmonizing Interactions between Neighbouring Communities along the Border:**

This topic has been included for discussion at several the RCM meetings.

- **Seminar on Integration of Migrants in Receiving Countries:**

To obtain a wide array of perspectives as input for the ongoing dialogue of the RCM regarding migration and other related fields, which could eventually lead towards framework policies and help achieve cooperation on this matter. June 2005, Costa Rica. Sponsored by Canada, Costa Rica, and IOM.

- **Forum/Workshop on Private Sector and Migration:**

With a special focus on a wide group called the Private Sector - including the entrepreneurial and business sectors – and its performance in those countries where migration is an ongoing and consistent phenomenon. Proposed in June 2005 in El Salvador and held on February 16-17, 2006 in El Salvador. Co-sponsored by Mexico and El Salvador.

- **Workshop on Temporary Migrant Workers:**

Experience exchange between Member Countries with the aim of generating elements and initiatives which lead towards the design of successful temporary migrant worker programmes. Existing temporary migrant worker programmes were examined, their specific characteristics, associated risks and challenges, and best practices and lessons learned. Held in April 2009 in El Salvador. Sponsored by Canada, El Salvador, IOM, SEGIB/ECLAC-CELADE.

- **Seminar on Migration and Development:**

To promote dialogue to enable public policymaking relating to migration and development and to guide the region regarding key themes that are addressed worldwide in regard to the dynamics that exist between migration and development. September 2010, Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.

- **Inventory of Studies on Contributions of Migrants in Countries of Origin and Destination:** Proposed at the meeting of the RCGM held in Honduras in 2008. El Salvador was asked to collaborate with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). The results were presented during the XIV RCM in Guatemala.

- **Second RCM workshop on Temporary Foreign Worker Programs (TFWP):** An intra-regional or “South-South” focus. Organized with the purpose of addressing issues such as the formulation of migration policies, labour market intelligence, mechanisms for international cooperation, information management, among others. Held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, April, 2011.

Border dynamics at El Ceibo, Tabasco, Mexico.



Border pass between Mexico and Belize.



Sending remittances from the United States.

V Links of the RCM with Other Organizations and Regional Consultation Processes on Migration

The Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) has established alliances with international organizations with the purpose of creating synergies and has consistently worked towards promoting international cooperation on matters relating to migration. The RCM has implemented actions and initiatives together with more than 20 organizations or entities that have supported its work.

In 2007, the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) requested that all the RCM Member Countries inform about actions involving other international organizations, with the aim of facilitating information exchange on effective practices and useful

tools. This cooperation and communication not only prevents duplication of efforts but also promotes convergence in order to better address matters relating to migration.

The organizations that the RCM has worked with since its inception, as well as the primary projects managed within the framework of the RCM and contributions to efforts implemented by the RCM are listed below. In addition, cooperation initiatives with the RCM and documents adopted to support the Puebla Process are described

Organization	Projects or Contributions to RCM
<p>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) A United Nations agency that leads and coordinates international efforts to protect and resolve the problems of refugees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents analyzing the topic of refugees in the region. • Input for the Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking. • Input for the development of the Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Migrant Children. • Presentations on international refugee protection. • Capacity building on refugee protection within the framework of migration management. • Workshop on protection and lasting solutions relating to mixed migration flows. • Workshop on migration legislation. • Inventory of legislation and training on matters relating to refugees. • Inputs on human rights, trafficking in personas and migrant smuggling.



Organization **Projects or Contributions to RCM**

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

An international organization that helps address the increasing challenges posed by migration management, promotes a better understanding of matters relating to migration, stimulates social and economic development through migration, and ensures respect for the human dignity and well-being of migrants. Provides administrative support to the RCM Technical Secretariat and coordinates many training efforts with UNHCR, both Liaison Officer Networks of the RCM, and RCGM.

- General framework for execution of the Multilateral Cooperation Programme for the Assisted Return of Extra-regional Migrants Stranded in the RCM Member Countries.
- Guidelines for establishing multi- or bilateral mechanisms between the RCM Member Countries for the return of regional migrants by land.
- Developing and publishing the Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking.
- Advances on various regional actions to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, including information campaigns about associated risks and consequences and seeking financing to implement relevant actions.
- Training module on professional and ethical integrity of immigration officers and organizations involved in aspects relating to migration.
- Assistance in developing migration legislation.
- Proposal for a project for comprehensive assistance to individuals rendered physically disabled during migration.
- Support to strengthen protection of unaccompanied migrant children.
- Study about the impacts of Hurricane Mitch on migration in countries of origin and destination.
- Studies about trafficking in persons in the RCM Member Countries.
- Study about standards used in issuing passports in the RCM Member Countries and manuals for the detection of fraudulent documents.
- Workshop to design a proposal for a Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling.
- Workshop about the United Nations Convention Against Organized Transnational Crime and its complementary protocols about trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.
- Workshop on migration legislation.
- Workshop on international standards for travel documents.
- Workshop on temporary migrant worker programmes.
- Regional workshop on social reintegration of victims of trafficking.
- Seminar on integrating migrants in receiving countries.
- Training courses on trafficking in persons and protecting victims.
- Evaluation report of national protocols for the return of victims of trafficking and mechanisms for protecting victims.
- Report on the Impacts of the Free Trade Agreement between Central America, the United States, and the Dominican Republic on Migration Processes in Central America.
- Mechanisms to gain access to reduced fares for airline tickets to facilitate the voluntary return of extra-regional migrants.
- Implementing the Statistical Information System on Migration in Central America (SIEMCA)/Statistical Information System on Migration in Mesoamerica (SIEMMES) which monitors migration movements in the region. Creation of statistical reports from the system.
- Managing the Reserve Fund for the voluntary assisted return of regional migrants in highly vulnerable situations and guide for its use.
- Assistance for the Virtual Forum on Migration and Health.
- Guides to implement temporary migration programs for workers.

Organization	Projects or Contributions to the RCM
<p>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) / Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on successful experiences regarding the use of remittances and practices to link migration and development. • Workshop on temporary migrant worker programmes. • Supporting the Statistical Information System on Migration in Mesoamerica (SIEMMES) project. • Technical inputs during several workshops regarding migration flows in the region. <p>(A regional commission under the administrative direction of the United Nations. In charge of promoting economic and social development in the region; focuses on the field of economic research.)</p>
<p>Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants of the UN Commission on Human Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to train immigration and police officers on the rights of migrants. <p>(Examines the means required to overcome obstacles for the full and effective protection of the human rights of migrants, and obstacles for the return of undocumented or irregular migrants.)</p>
<p>Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) Promotes cooperation and development between Ibero-American countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations at the RCM meetings and co-sponsoring of actions implemented within the framework of the RCM. • Link the RCM to the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (Cuenca, 2008 and San Salvador 2010).
<p>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Initiative for Highly Vulnerable Migrant Populations in Border Regions in 10 countries in the region. • Assistance for the Virtual Forum on Migration and Health. • Contributions to the study on migration and development done by ECLAC/CELADE.
<p>Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RNCOM) / Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) Composed of civil organizations from the 11 Member Countries of the RCM; a representative group that submits recommendations and conclusions considered to be relevant, within the RCM and at meetings of the RCGM.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document about an overview of the general situation, trends, and key areas of concern to NGOs in the region. Dialogue on potential areas of mutual support and cooperation. • Regional Guidelines for the Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants in Situations of Interception, Detention, Deportation, and Reception (Prepared by RNCOM). • Programmes to gain access to consular protection, programmes for safe and orderly repatriation, identification of migrants, migrant children and adolescents, and protecting migrant workers and their families. • Disseminating information on regularization mechanisms. • Promoting awareness-raising campaigns oriented towards migrants to encourage them to register at their respective consulates. • Active participation at the RCM seminars and workshops, as well as submitting proposals to carry out events within the framework of the RCM, including areas relating to human rights and health. • Co-sponsor workshops (i.e. on Human Rights, Honduras, 2010).



Organization	Projects or Contributions to RCM
<p>Central American Commission of Immigration Directors (OCAM) A regional mechanism for coordination, commitment, and consultation to address the phenomenon of migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to analyse and promote harmonizing entry and exit regulations. • Enabling cooperation between OCAM and those Member States of RCM that are not members of OCAM. • Reports on efforts relating to the Central American passport and visa. • Capacity-building and infrastructure support through financial assistance for migration management actions in Member States of OCAM. • Regular reports on extra-regional migrants and cooperation mechanisms in the area.
<p>Private Sector Representatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar on the Private Sector and Migration, with the participation of credit unions, private companies and immigrant communities' representatives.
<p>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker in a Seminar on remittances. • Information exchange on studies relating to migration in the region and the RCM work.
<p>European Committee on Migration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker to exchange ideas on migratory issues and how the RCM interacts with regional organizations.
<p>Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Statistical Information System on Migration in Mesoamerica (SIEMMES) project. • Seminar to exchange information.
<p>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input for the Regional Guidelines for the Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking and support in developing and publishing the Guidelines. • Input for the development of the Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Children. • Training efforts within the framework of the expansion of the Child Protection Officer Programme (OPIS). • Information exchange on migrant children.
<p>Organization of American States (OAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group to develop an Inter-American Programme to Promote and Protect the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families (2004). • Special sessions about the Inter-American Programme to Promote and Protect the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families (2007 and 2009). • Meeting to identify ways to link efforts by OAS with regional consultative processes on migration matters (2009). • Information exchange on several initiatives and possible cooperation areas (i.e. Reporting System on Labour Migration for the Americas - SICREMI).
<p>International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in developing and publishing the Regional Guidelines for the Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child and Adolescent Victims of Trafficking.
<p>International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker and technical assistance for the workshop on "International Standards on travel Documents and Issuance Systems", 2005.

Organization	Projects or Contributions to RCM
<p>International Centre for the Human Rights of Migrants (CIDEHUM) – NGO specialized on the human rights of migrants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project for Training on Human Rights of Migrants in Central America.
<p>Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report that highlights the importance of the Regional Forum as a privileged space for promoting the effective development of specific actions in the sphere of migration.
<p>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building at a national and regional level to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in Central America. • Support for implementation of the Workshop on Legislation against the Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling and Assistance and Protection to Victims in the RCM Member Countries.
<p>Central American Parliament (PARLACEN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation as a special guest at the XIII RCM, 2008, Honduras.
<p>Save the Children and PANIAMOR Foundation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations and procedures for immigration and border police officers in Central America: Assistance to Children and Adolescents in Situations of Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation. • Save the Children Programme: Geographic and Social Mapping of Trafficking and Smuggling Routes for Children for Sexual Exploitation Purposes in Central America and Mexico. • Workshop on Legislation against the Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling and Assistance and Protection to Victims in the RCM Member Countries.
<p>Casa Alianza</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot project for the voluntary repatriation and social reintegration of child victims of migrant smuggling and trafficking. • Development and implementation of the Memo of Understanding between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala for the Protection of Women and Children Victims of Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking at the Mexico-Guatemala Border.

The RCM Observer Organizations have been marked **blue**.

VI Outreach of the RCM

Exchanging Experiences of the RCM

The RCM has regularly shared experiences with other forums, countries, regional processes, and international organizations with the intention of incorporating them in the Process' practices. The table below summarizes key events where the RCM has participated at a regional and global level.



Key Forums and Events where the RCM has Participated

- Meeting of the Consultative Group for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America (1999).
- Regional Meeting of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), Mexico City, May 2004.
- Regional Hearing for the Americas of the GCIM (Mexico, 2005).
- Workshop of the Regional Consultative Process, organized by the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) and IOM in Geneva, Switzerland, April 14-15, 2005.
- Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City, Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, 2005.
- United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, New York, 2006.
- Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (SEGIB), Uruguay, 2006.
- Ibero-American Conference on Migration and Development, Spain, 2006; Ecuador, 2008 and El Salvador, 2010.
- 30th International Conference of the Red Cross, Switzerland, 2007.
- Regional Meeting of Coalitions, Committees, and Commissions to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Costa Rica, 2008, and El Salvador, 2011.
- Meeting of the Regional Consultative Process, New York, 2006 and Thailand, 2009.
- Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Malawi, 2009.
- OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, February 2009, Washington D.C.
- OAS Special Committee on Migration, February 2009, Washington D.C.
- Global Forum on Migration and Development, Belgium, 2007, the Philippines, 2008, Thailand, 2009, and Mexico, 2010.
- OAS Symposium on Border Management – A Dialogue on Cross-Border Cooperation and Border Integrity, Canada, 2004.
- Save the Children Programme: Geographic and Social Mapping of Trafficking and Smuggling Routes for Boys, Girls, and Adolescents for Sexual Exploitation Purposes in Central America and Mexico.
- South American Conference on Migration (SACM). Presidency Pro-Tempore (several years) and Troikas' meeting on extra-continental migration (Ecuador, 2011).

Seminars and Workshops

In addition, the RCM has implemented a full agenda of more than 30 events, especially seminars, workshops, and other training efforts, to address different aspects of the phenomenon of migration. Some activities are listed below:

Key Forums and Events where the RCM has Participated

1998	Seminar/Workshop on Migrant Smuggling. Nicaragua
1998	Seminar on Human Rights of Migrants, United States.
1998	Seminar on International Migration and Development in North and Central America. Mexico.
1999	Meeting on Migration, Repatriation, and Reintegration of Migrants. Honduras.
1999	Consular Protection and Assistance. Guatemala .
Annually	Training on Security Control of Travel Documents
2000	Seminar on Migrant Women and Children. El Salvador .
2002	Modernizing Migration Management and Cross-Border Cooperation. Dominican Republic.
2002	Workshop on Regional Development and Productive Potential of Remittances. Mexico.
2003	Workshop to Develop a Workplan to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking. Mexico.
2003	Workshop on the Dignified, Safe, and Orderly Return of Regional and Extra-regional Migrants. El Salvador.
2004	Seminar on Migration and Health. Guatemala.
2004	Workshop on the Palermo Convention and its Protocols. Panama.
2005	Training of Trainers on Immigration Control. El Salvador
2005	Seminar on Integration of Migrants in Receiving Countries. Costa Rica.
2005	Workshop on International Standards for Travel Documents and Document Issuance Systems. Nicaragua .
2006	Technical Meeting on the Regional Guidelines for the Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Populations. Guatemala.

2006	Forum/Workshop on Private Sector and Migration. El Salvador.
2006	Training on Migration Control. Honduras.
2007	Seminar on Migration Legislation. Guatemala.
2007	Seminar "Women and Migration in the Region of RCM". El Salvador.
2008	Workshop on Best Practices in Prosecuting Migrant Traffickers and Smugglers. Mexico.
2008	Workshop on Mixed Migration Flows. Costa Rica.
2008	Seminar to Develop the Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Migrant Children. Mexico.
2009	Training on Immigration Control. Panama.
2009	Workshop on Temporary Migrant Workers. El Salvador.
2009	Workshop to Develop the Regional Guidelines for the Assistance to Unaccompanied Migrant Boys, Girls, and Adolescents. Mexico.
2009	Meeting of Consular Chiefs of the RCM Member Countries on the Crime of Human trafficking. Costa Rica.
2010	Regional Seminar on Migration and Family. Mexico.
2010	Workshop on Child Protection. Panama.
2010	Seminar on Migration and Development. Guatemala.
2010	Workshop on the Challenges on Legislation matters against the Crimes of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in the RCM Member Countries and Protection of the Human Rights of Victims. El Salvador.
Ongoing	Virtual courses on Trafficking in Persons.
2011	Seminar/Workshop on the Human Rights of Migrants. Honduras.
2011	Second workshop of the RCM on Temporary Foreign Worker Programs: An Intra-regional or South-South focus. Dominican Republic.



CONCLUSIONS

Achievements and Challenges of the RCM

Undoubtedly, the most significant achievement of the RCM is the successful and sustained commitment to dialogue between countries with different economic, sociocultural, and migration realities. This regional consultative process provides a space of equal representation and participation for government delegates, thus facilitating the identification of topics of common interest, as well as needs, objectives, and areas of action requiring cooperation.



In addition to helping increase bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the RCM Member Countries, international organizations, and civil society, the RCM has achieved many specific goals. One of the achievements is the comparative analysis of the legislation of the RCM Member Countries regarding trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, which is updated regularly. Furthermore, multiple training efforts and seminars about various topics relating to migration and several projects on migration, human rights, and development are being implemented on an ongoing basis. Various sets of guidelines have been developed within the framework of this regional process to address different migration situations, and border management systems are being modernized. Moreover, numerous studies and documents have been produced, as well as publications about the most relevant seminars yielding important elements to be followed up on within the Plan of Action. It is also important to mention the implementation of the fund to assist migrants in vulnerable situations.

Despite its achievements, the RCM is facing several challenges. First, as the realities of the migration phenomenon change, the RCM must continually ensure that its efforts to address the new migration situations continue to be relevant. In this regard, discussions in the RCM should explore the complex links

between migration and other factors, such as national policies socio-economic development, climate change, and labour markets.

Also, as the issue of migration continues to be considered at regional, hemispheric, and global levels, it is important to ensure that the efforts of the RCM compliment the goals and efforts of other regional, interregional, and global organizations involved in addressing migration to avoid contradictions and duplication of efforts.

Fluctuation in national, regional, and global economies poses a number of challenges for the governance of migration, as evidenced by the impact of the recent economic crisis. The RCM discussions and meetings should help governments and immigration authorities decide how to react to the challenges posed by economic crises, such as returning migrants and reduction of remittances, and what can be done within the framework of RCM to address these and many others aspects.

In any case, countries participating in the RCM recognize the need to seek balance between three dimensions:

1. Matters of national and regional security;
2. National prosperity and economic betterment;
3. The rights of migrants and respect for the international agreements that have been signed.

The three central themes of the RCM Plan of Action (Migration Policy and Management, Human Rights, and Migration and Development) are intertwined and seek to address different aspects of the three dimensions.

Overall, the achievements of the RCM constitute one more step toward improving migration management in the region, and it should be highlighted that RCM has become a model for other regional processes. Given the current and potential challenges, the sustainability of the RCM and its relevance as an actor in the governance of regional migration will depend to a great extent on the determination of governments to address migration management and its associated problems effectively and with a regional approach.



Acronyms

CA-4	Central America-4 (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua)
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre
CIDEHUM	International Centre for the Human Rights of Migrants
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
GCIM	Global Commission on International Migration
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OAS	Organization of American States
OCAM	Central American Commission of Directors of Immigration
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PARLACEN	Central American Parliament
PPT	Presidency Pro-Tempore
RCGM	Regional Consultation Group on Migration
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration
RNCOM	Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration
SEGIB	Ibero-American General Secretariat
SICA	Central American Integration System
SIEMCA	Statistical Information System on Migration in Central America
SIEMMES	Statistical Information System on Migration in Mesoamerica
SIOM	Integrated System for Immigration Operations
TS	RCM Technical Secretariat
TSU	Technical Support Unit
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Information campaigns to combat migrant smuggling and training of officials on the protection of migrants, as well as to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, has been a fundamental part of the work of the RCM during these 15 years.



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