



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



REGIONAL CONSULTATION GROUP ON MIGRATION (RCGM)

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION (RCM) 2023 - 2026

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|--|
| CBP | U.S Customs and Border Protection |
| ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| ES | Executive Secretariat |
| GCM | Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (known as Global Compact for Migration) |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| IMRF | International Migration Review Forum |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| LGBTIQ+ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, transsexual, transvestite, Intersex, Queer, and others |
| MIRPS | Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, Spanish acronym) |
| MMC | Mixed Migration Center |
| NNA | Boys, girls, and adolescents (Spanish acronym) |
| PPT | Presidency Pro-Témpore of the RCM |
| RCGM | Regional Consultation Group on Migration |
| RCM | Regional Conference on Migration |
| RNCOM | Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations for Migration |
| SACM | South American Conference on Migration |
| SDO | Sustainable Development Objectives |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| USA | United States of America |



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STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE RCM 2023- 2026

Introductory Framework

Background

The Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) was established in 1996, as a result of the Tuxtla II Presidential Summit. The RCM is a regional, voluntary, and non-binding consultative process that allows consensual decision-making. It also provides space for respectful, frank, and honest dialogue between Member Countries on regional and international migration matters, ensuring greater coordination, transparency and cooperation on migration policies and actions implemented in the eleven Member Countries: Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States.

This Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2026 provides guidance for the RCM and its actions on migration governance in Central America, North America, and the Dominican Republic, as well as its relationship with extra-regional movements originating in South America and the Caribbean.

Context

Migration and human mobility within the geographic context of RCM Member Countries take place in an environment marked by deep historical, political, economic, and social ties between countries, as well as significant internal and intra-regional socioeconomic disparities, poverty, slow economic growth, demographic changes, political instability, insecurity, and violence in some countries. Global issues, such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation spikes, currency depreciations, food insecurity, and the impact of conflicts and crises outside the region, as well as severe and frequent natural disasters, compounded by to the detrimental impacts of climate change, now add to the drivers of migration and mobility that affect the human rights.

While some migration and human mobility patterns are historical, others are new or have increased in magnitude and complexity in recent year.

This not only clearly highlights the urgent need for strategic coordinated action, but also requires the RCM to be flexible and adaptable to new circumstances that may arise in the future.



Achievements during the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 period:

- Increased dialogue with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) to reach consensus on specific issues that require a joint response with the RCM.
- Developed tools¹ to provide assistance to people in situations of vulnerability, who may require adaptation to the new causes of migration and types of migrants, including extra-regional migrants and the need for sensitivity and knowledge of cultural diversity to respond to different languages and customs.
- Identified options to regularize the migratory situation, including regular labor migration pathways, promoting integration and reintegration, and highlighting the importance of remittances for the economies of the region, expanding the focus of governments' work to improve links with diasporas and their various contributions.
- Developed guidelines and recommendations to ensure the best interest of children and adolescents, and to assist women who are vulnerable to violence, during their migratory journey. The RCM promoted these tools through training programs aimed at government officials that provide assistance to migrant populations in the region.
- Used virtual meetings and training to optimize and expand relations with partners. These engagements resulted in the involvement of new sectoral institutions of Member Countries for specific issues, expanding the network of people involved and strengthening their knowledge on migration topics. It also resulted in a notable increase in the activities of the RCM that have been integrated into the agendas of the Executive Secretariat (ES), the Presidency Pro-Tempore of the RCM (PPT) and the Focal Points of the RCM Member Countries.
- Strengthen the skills of central and local government officials directly involved in migration related issues, through diploma courses, workshops, and webinars organized by the Working Groups.

¹ <https://temas.crmsv.org/>



Reference Documents

The Strategic Plan is closely linked to other RCM overarching documents. The ES, Member Countries and various RCM coordination and decision-making mechanisms ensure the alignment to such documents. The following table summarizes the Strategic Plan's relationship with other programmatic documents:

Table 1: Relationship of the RCM Strategic Plan with other programmatic documents

| Programmatic document | Relationship with the Strategic Plan of the RCM |
|------------------------------|--|
| RCM Charter | The Strategic Plan responds to the general guidelines established in the RCM Charter ² . The RCM Strategic Plan's implementation, follow-up, and monitoring are the responsibility of the coordination and decision-making mechanisms established in the Charter. |
| Working Groups' plans | The RCM Strategic Plan serves as a guiding document to determine the priority activities of the Working Groups, which have a specific mandate and a limited term. The Plans of the Working Groups address specific themes of one or more of the three pillars established in the RCM's Strategic Plan. |
| PPT's Annual Work Plan | This is the document through which the Presidency Pro-Témpore proposes, in coordination with the ES-RCM and in consultation with the RCM Member Countries, the activities and priority themes during the Presidency's year. This document aligns with the RCM pillars and will advance the priority activities outlined in the Strategic Plan. |

In previous years there, have been global and regional processes in which RCM Member Countries have affirmed their commitment to advancing objectives related to promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration. These commitments have become part of the reference framework that guides regional efforts to strengthen effective migration governance.

To fulfil its mission of ensuring greater coordination, transparency and cooperation, the Strategic Plan of the RCM builds upon the work of other fora, including the following:

- i. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), December 19, 2018.
- ii. Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, June 10, 2022
- iii. Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, June 7, 2022
- iv. Extraordinary Declaration before the International Migration Review Forum, April 1, 2022
- v. Darien Extraordinary Declaration of the RCM, March 25, 2022

² https://crmsv.org/sites/default/files/carta_estatutaria_ingles_5.5x8.5pulg.pdf



Strategic Framework

Vision

To be the preeminent regional consultative process for dialogue and cooperation regarding issues tied to migration governance in the region.

Mission

The RCM is a regional consultative process, that is voluntary, non-binding and operates by consensus. It provides a space for respectful, frank, and honest discussions on regional and international migration, ensuring greater coordination, transparency, and cooperation, among Member Countries. The RCM and its Member Countries work strategically to foster regional efforts to strengthen effective migration governance; respond to emerging migration trends and situations; protect the human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations; promote appropriate linkages between migration and sustainable development, considering the context of human mobility in the region and the international protection frameworks; address the main circumstantial challenges that the region faces regarding migration; and strengthen, modernize, and manage borders.

Principles

In accordance with the RCM Charter, the principles applied to the RCM Strategic Plan 2023-2026 are the following:

- Shared responsibility
- Respect for the Rule of Law
- Human rights
- International cooperation
- Sustainable development
- Best interest of the child
- Gender mainstreaming
- Comprehensive approach

Approaches

The Strategic Plan will apply the approaches defined in the RCM Charter and to address the problems faced in 2022, the intersectionality and environmental and climate approaches are added. In this way, the approaches of the Strategic Plan are:

- **Gender perspective³**: Ensure that the human rights of all migrants are respected at all stages of the migration process, without distinction as to gender considerations and attending their specific needs.

³ See RCM Charter Approaches and Principles.



- **Comprehensive approach⁴:** To address the challenges and opportunities of migration, a broad acknowledgement of the underlying causes and consequences of migration is essential, in addition to the participation, cooperation and coordination of governments, international bodies and organizations, civil society organizations across sectors.
- **Intersectional approach:** To take into account that the systemic inequalities that generate discrimination and differentiated socioeconomic effects are based on the overlapping of different social factors, such as gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, social class, religion, nationality, to ensure the extension of the protection of human rights to undocumented migrants in order to leave no one behind.
- **Environmental and climate approach:** Sensitively address the impacts of disasters, the effects of environmental degradation and climate change that act as direct and indirect causes of migration and displacement, with varying consequences depending on the vulnerabilities of specific groups.

General Objective

Provide strategic guidance for the efforts, resources, and capacities of the Member Countries of the RCM in high impact activities and facilitate regional cooperation to address the challenges and opportunities of migration governance in the short, medium, and long term.

Specific Objectives

1. To promote improving the design and management of policies, procedures, and activities for safe, orderly, and regular migration and mobility.
2. Strengthen coordination among the Member Countries for assistance, care, and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as the prevention of irregular migration.
3. Enhance the economic, social, and cultural benefits of migration, the integration of migrants and the link between their development and that of the communities of origin, transit, and destination.

Expected Results

Expected Result from the General Objective:

The expected results of the RCM's work may materialize in specific activities at national, sub regional and regional level, in the themes identified in the three pillars defined in the RCM's Charter, which are capable of being measured by results or impact indicators. Such results and performance indicators will be included in the follow up and monitoring matrix.

⁴ See RCM Charter, Approaches and Principles.



Expected Results from the Specific Objectives

Table 2. Expected Results and Indicators⁵:

| Expected Results at the end of the Strategic Plan (2026) | Indicator |
|---|--|
| Promoted regional dialogue, cooperation, and solutions on migration issues to address the challenges and opportunities of migration in the short, medium, and long term. | <p>Result indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of roadmaps agreed upon to support in a process, activity, event, etc. • Number of best practices identified and exchanged on specific topics. • Number of meetings, workshops, seminars, or congresses per Working Group with space for dialogue to exchange information. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of processes or topics with progress to create roadmaps. • Number of processes in place to facilitate information exchange. <p>Impact indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of topics with recommendations agreed upon by the RCM. • Number of countries reporting follow-up to recommendations in their migration processes. • Number of countries that report benefiting from the exchange of best practices to support their processes on specific issues. |
| Advanced the development and implementation of comprehensive legal frameworks, policies, and cooperative actions to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration flows. | |
| Encouraged, as appropriate, the exchange of national and regional disaggregated statistical data as a tool to facilitate migration-related decision-making. | |
| Exchanged information, best practices, policies, procedures, and activities leading to the creation of cooperation mechanisms to ensure effective governance of migration in the region and access to and strengthening international protection. | |

Pillars and priority themes

The priorities of the RCM Strategic Plan 2023-2026 are maintained in accordance with the pillars established in the RCM Charter. These are:

- Migration Governance
- Integration, Migration, and its Links to Development
- Preparedness, Protection, Assistance, and Irregular Migration

⁵ This is not an exhaustive list of results and indicators.



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For the development of its mandate, the RCM Charter establishes three interconnected pillars, and which have as a cross-cutting axis the respect for the human rights of migrants. Table 3 indicates possible areas for the approach of each pillar.



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Table 3. Programmatic pillars and linked topics⁶

| Migration Governance | Integration, Migration, and its Links to Development | Protection, Preparedness, Assistance, and Irregular Migration |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Generation and use of migration data 2) Integrated border management 3) Addressing extra-regional migration 4) Promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration 5) Preventing and countering the smuggling of migrants 6) Preventing and combating trafficking in persons 7) Regularization, visas and legal identity 8) Return Management and Policies 9) Effective systems of response to emergencies or migratory crises. 10) Search of missing migrants 11) Addressing irregular migration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Labor migration 2) Migration and tourism 3) Economic development and availability of opportunities in countries of origin 4) Integration and sustainable reintegration of migrants 5) Private sector and migration 6) Remittances 7) Diasporas 8) Economic benefits of migration 9) Portability of rights 10) Prevention of xenophobia 11) Interculturality 12) Migration policies at the local and municipal level 13) Migration, climate change adaptation and risk management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assistance to migrant populations in crisis due to disasters and other situations of vulnerability 2) Consular assistance, care, and protection 3) Return and sustainable reintegration 4) Prevention of irregular migration 5) Mixed migration flows 6) Migration and family 7) Migration and health 8) Migrant women 9) Children and adolescents in human mobility contexts 10) LGBTIQ+ migrants 11) Attention of people in mass migration flows 12) Building capacity of and increasing access to international refugee / asylum protection systems 13) Statelessness 14) Assistance for persons subject of smuggling of migrants 15) Comprehensive care for victims of human trafficking |

⁶ This is not an exhaustive list.



Working Groups

The Working Groups will operate according to the terms outlined in the RCM Charter, highlighting that Ad-hoc Working Groups may be created to address circumstantial issues that are not contemplated in the Strategic Plan. The responsibilities of each Working Group during this Strategic Plan include:

- To create a technical space for dialogue, exchange of information, best practices, and initiatives that have an impact on the specific issues within their area of competence.
- To propose programs, projects, studies, or activities that contribute to the achievement of its work plan.
- To develop and update their work plans, in line with the objectives of the RCM and the Strategic Plan.
- To submit pertinent work reports to the RCGM.
- To hold at least two annual meetings, either remotely or face-to-face.
- To evaluate their actions according to their activities.

Mandates of the Working Groups

Working Group on Border Management and Irregular and Mass Migration

In order to make border management in the region more efficient and address irregular migration, the Working Group on Border Management and Irregular and Mass Migration seeks to develop strategies and actions that allow migratory movements to be carried out safely, humanely, orderly and within the legal frameworks of the countries of transited or destination, in order to promote better regional coordination, strengthen capacities to identify profiles of people at risk and/or in a situation of vulnerability, and verify the identity of people and their documents.

In addition, from a comprehensive approach of co-responsibility, this Working Group will strengthen the management of mixed migratory flows – to promote strategies and execute actions that prevent irregular migration, combat the smuggling of migrants, human trafficking, and other related crimes; strengthen the management of national borders assuring migratory movements through regular ports of entry. This will be accomplished through monitoring and information exchange, and the development of national and regional actions that provide immediate and effective responses within a framework of respect for human rights and national sovereignty. The priority activities of this Working Group contribute to the strengthening of the RCM Member Countries in the implementation of border management mechanisms and the management of migratory flows.

Working Group on Protection

The priority activities of this Working Group are to promote, from a perspective of shared responsibility, and within a framework of respect for human rights, actions that strengthen national capacity and regional cooperation to strengthen refugee status determination systems, and asylum



systems for persons in need of international protection, and facilitate the care and protection of migrants, especially for those migrants in a situation of vulnerability or who have been victims or object of crimes, as well as internally displaced persons.

The Working Group will work with the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) Support Platform, which is focused on forced displacement in order to facilitate cross-cutting discussions that pertain to mixed flows.

Working Group on Labor Migration

The Working Group on Labor Migration seeks to promote the benefits of safe, orderly, and regular labor migration, and its link to development in countries of origin, transit, and destination. In this area of work, the RCM fosters the full respect for the labor rights of migrant workers within a framework of respect for human rights. Likewise, it will promote ethical recruitment practices and decent work, to prevent the exploitation of migrant workers.

FOLLOW-UP AND MONITORING MECHANISM

The Presidency Pro-Tempore on duty, with the support of the Executive Secretariat, will implement a follow-up and monitoring mechanism of the Strategic Plan.

The mechanism consists of collecting information on indicators and recording other relevant aspects using Concept Notes in a revised format for each planned activity. In this manner, when annual reviews and assessments are conducted before the next strategic plan, the information will be available even if it is not regularly systematized.



Responsibilities

RCM Presidency Pro-Témpore and Executive Secretariat

According to the RCM Charter, the implementation of the Strategic Plan is the responsibility of the PPT on duty and the Working Groups with the support of the Executive Secretariat (ES). Each PPT will continue to prepare the annual work plan and coordinate the Working Groups and the RCGM to ensure the execution and achieving the results of the annual work plan.

It will be the responsibility of the Presidency Pro-Témpore, with the support of the Executive Secretariat, to ensure that the conceptual note with all the required information is completed for each activity approved in the Annual Work Plan, before carrying it out.

It will be the responsibility of the ES to take the information from the concept notes to fill out the follow-up matrix of the work plan / Strategic Plan, and to follow up on it by reporting to the RCGM semi-annually. If resources are strained, at the minimum the information required will be recorded in the concept notes for every activity approved in annual work plans, so that when assessments need to be made, the information will be available.

The ES will also be responsible for coordinating the impact measurement process as part of the GCM and IMRF regional reviews, both scheduled for 2024. In any case, this measurement must be carried out as part of the review of results of the following strategic plan.

Follow-up Matrix

See Annex 1 (Excel document)