Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)
EXTRAORDINARY DECLARATION BEFORE THE
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

Mexico City, April 1, 2022

The heads of delegation and government authorities of Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama, all Member Countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), gathered in Mexico City, with the purpose of generating a regional position on the follow-up to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (Global Compact for Migration), as a result of the dialogues of the II Preparation Workshop for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), held on March 31 and April 1, 2022, have approved the following Declaration:

The RCM recognizes that the Global Compact for Migration, approved at the Intergovernmental Conference held in Marrakech under the auspices of and approved by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), is the first global interstate instrument presenting a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility, that deals with all aspects of international migration in all its dimensions and based on ten mainstreamed principles and 23 objectives.

The RCM recognizes that the Global Compact for Migration represents a historic step to address current risks and challenges of regional irregular migration from a shared responsibility view, recognizing the respective obligations, protect and recognize the human rights of migrants, regardless the migration status and strengthened international cooperation, to optimize the general benefits of migration, as well as contributing to the improvement of the lives of migrants, their families, and communities in the countries of origin, transit, destination and return and strengthen the contributions of migration to sustainable development of the countries and the region.

Likewise, the RCM celebrates that the IMRF is a global quadrennial review of the Global Compact, and will first take place from May 17 to 20, 2022 at the UNGA in New York, which seeks to adopt for the first time the Progress Declaration that will be inter-governmentally negotiated.

Considering that most international migration occurs within regions, the RCM thanks the UNGA for inviting the relevant regional consultative processes to examine the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration within their respective regions, and to trigger concrete actions at the regional level that contribute to furthering the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.

The RCM has identified regional priorities as the main elements of the Regional Action Plan for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, grouped around key themes and two cross-cutting areas (See Annex.)

In this sense, the countries that implement the Global Compact on Migration and are part of this Conference reiterate their commitment to promote dialogue and cooperation and to work

together with all relevant stakeholders, to address the opportunities and challenges related to migration governance, exchange experiences and good practices, and promote dignified, safe, orderly, and regular migration, in line with the international framework of human rights, international commitments and national laws, as well as the principles and approaches established in the RCM Charter, especially the principles of *Shared Responsibility*, *Respect for the Rule of Law*, *Human Rights* and *International Cooperation*.

The Heads of Delegation of the Member Countries thank the Presidency Pro-Témpore of El Salvador for hosting the topic, the Government of Mexico for leading and hosting both the first and second Preparation Workshops for the IMRF, Chile as the current Presidency of the SACM for joining this second workshop, and to the IOM in its capacity as Coordinator of the United Nations Regional Network on Migration, and the other RCM observers for their support to hold them.

As a result of all these efforts, the RCM reaffirms the importance of continuing the evaluation of actions aimed at implementing and promoting the vision of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration among all Member Countries.

The RCM will share this declaration with the co-facilitators nominated by the UNGA President for their consideration in preparing the final IMRF statement; with the Organization of American States (OAS) as an input for the Summit of the Americas that will take place in June this year; and with the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) as input for the joint RCM-SACM meeting. In addition, the RCM will submit to the Practices Repository of the Center of the United Nations Network on Migration, the seven RCM regional practices systematized by the United Nations Regional Network on Migration, for validation and publication.

ANNEX

Regional priorities as the main elements of the Regional Action Plan for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, grouped around key themes and two cross-cutting areas:

Thematic pillar 1
- #8 **Save lives** and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
- #7 Address and **reduce vulnerabilities in migration**
- # 15 Provide **access to basic services for migrants**
- # 4 Ensure that all migrants have **proof of legal identity and adequate documentation**
- #14 Enhance **consular protection, assistance,** and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

Thematic pillar 2
- # 5 Enhance availability and flexibility of **pathways for regular migration**
- # 12 Strengthen certainty and predictability in **migration procedures**
- # 9 Strengthen the t**ransnational response to smuggling of migrants**

Thematic pillar 3
- #2 Minimize the **adverse drivers and structural factors** that compel people to leave their country of origin
- #19 Create conditions for migrants and **diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development**

Cross-cutting areas
- #1 Collect and utilize **accurate and disaggregated data** as a basis for evidence-based policies

- #23 Strengthen **international cooperation** and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration