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Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

Compilation of the RCM statements made between 1996 and 2016, which are related to the themes of the thematic consultations organized for the construction of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

April 2017

- Document prepared by the RCM Technical Secretariat (TS)

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the TS in response to a request from the Member Countries of the RCM, which was agreed in the framework of the Meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration to generate guidelines for a regional position towards the Global Compact for a safe, orderly and regular migration, held on March 29th in Washington, DC, United States.

The following document consists of a compilation of agreements and decisions (hereinafter referred to as "statements") resulting from the conclusions and political declarations resulting from the RCM Vice-Ministerial meetings, which have been approved in the framework of the Regional Conference on Migration between 1996 and 2016.

In order to facilitate the consultation and search of particular statements, this document categorizes, firstly, by theme the compiled statements. The themes defined in order to undertake this first categorization are the same as those defined by the United Nations for the thematic consultations established in the document "Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration".

As it will be recalled, the modalities document states that during the first phase of the negotiation process of the Global Compact for regular, orderly and secure migration, the following thematic consultations will be held:

- I. Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance (April/May 2017);¹
- II. Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution (May 2017);
- III. International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration (June 2017);

¹ Reference will be made to the thematic sessions in the document by using the following nomenclature;

TS1: Human rights of all migrants

TS2: Drivers of migration

TS3: International cooperation and governance

TS4: Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development

TS5: Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons

TS6: Irregular migration and regular pathways

- IV. Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits (July 2017);
- V. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims (September 2017)
- VI. Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures (October 2017);

In those cases in which a given statement, because of its scope or content, is relevant for several thematic sessions, a specific note in this regard has been made at the end of the statement. In these cases, the statement has been included in all the different sections of the document for which the statement is relevant.

Because the topics of the thematic consultations are relatively broad, the TS has defined sub-themes in order to facilitate the search of particular statements on specific topics. These sub-themes have been defined subjectively by the TS as a proposal to divide the major themes defined by the United Nations for the thematic sessions. These do not correspond to any official guidelines.

With the same objective of facilitating the search of statements on specific topics, this document is organized according to a third criterion of categorization. This consists in dividing statements into three categories: principles, understandings and commitments. These categories are the same as those set out in the New York Declaration when it identifies the type of products that the Global Compact should deliver. In order to carry out this categorization the following color codes have been used:

Color code	
Principles	
Understandings	
Commitments	

Again, this categorization has been made intuitively by the TS, since there is no official definition or parameter that establishes a definition for what is understood by principle, understanding or commitment. To perform this categorization, the TS has used, the following definitions to understand these concepts:

Principle - Norm or fundamental idea that governs thought or behavior.

Understanding - intelligence or sense that is given to what is said or written.

Commitment - agreed obligation.

For each one of the statements included in this document, a reference to the RCM meeting in which a the statement has been approved has been included.

Finally, a column has been included in order to obtain the opinion of the Member Countries regarding whether a statement is still valid or not. This has been done with the intention of facilitating the gathering of preliminary inputs from Member Countries for the elaboration of RCM inputs for the construction of the Global Compact.

Table of contents

I.	Human rights of all migrants.....	6
	Protecting the human rights of all migrants: access to justice; detention; the wellbeing of children.....	6
	Ensuring social inclusion and cohesion in the context of migration.....	7
	Confronting all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants.....	9
	Addressing the specific needs and guaranteeing the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations.....	10
II.	Drivers of migration	12
	Adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises	12
	Protection and assistance	12
	Sustainable development and poverty eradication.....	13
	Conflict prevention and resolution.....	14
III.	International cooperation and governance.....	16
	Borders, transit, entry.....	16
	Return and readmission.....	19
	Integration and reintegration	20
IV.	Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development	22
	Sustainable development	22
	Remittances and portability of earned benefits.....	23
V.	Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.....	24
	Contemporary forms of slavery	24
	Appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims	25
VI.	Irregular migration and regular pathways.....	28
	Decent work and labour mobility	28
	Recognition of skills and qualifications.....	28
	Other relevant measures	29

I. Human rights of all migrants

Protecting the human rights of all migrants: access to justice; detention; the wellbeing of children

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment in national legislation, in States that do not have it, of trafficking in migrants as a criminal offense, in order to contribute to the eradication of trafficking organizations operating in the region. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding, in order to create awareness in society, of the adverse effects of migrant trafficking, condemning the human degradation, indignities and abuses associated with this activity, through public information programs as a means, among others, to contribute to the identification and implementation of measures aimed at reducing and solving the problems stemming from this activity. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and encourage the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that develop assistance programs for migrants, which complement government efforts in this field. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage States of the region, especially those with common borders, to promote mechanisms for consultation on migration issues and protection of the human rights of migrants between authorities at the different levels of government, law enforcement personnel and diplomatic and consular representatives of the countries. *Statement also relevant for TS3 y TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote regional and other forms of cooperation to establish programs to cover the basic needs of populations of undocumented migrants who are in the custody of migratory authorities in each country while their migratory status is being determined. *Statement also relevant for TS3 y TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They expressed the commitment of their governments to continue organizing activities which promote full respect for the human rights of migrants. 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To recognize the importance of mechanisms for the consular protection of migrants in situations of detention, as contained in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations or those established by other international agreements, as a course of action within the framework of full respect for the human rights of migrants. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Ministers reaffirmed the importance that RCM member states place upon the international protection of refugees and their commitment to the fulfillment of international principles of human rights and asylum. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	X RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-Ministers reiterated the importance of protecting the human rights of migrants. 	XIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International protection—Recognize that some of the unaccompanied children may be granted refugee status or related protection. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the Best Interest of the Child—Reaffirming that the best interests of the child, and family unity, must guide our 	XIX RCM	

regional, bilateral and national responses to this urgent humanitarian situation, the Member Countries should extend all available resources to provide protection to unaccompanied migrant children at the earliest point possible through consular networks, identification mechanisms, partnerships with civil society, as well as the access and support of international protection where appropriate.		
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Ensuring social inclusion and cohesion in the context of migration

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the development and adoption of a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the regional migration phenomenon in order to address both its causes and its manifestations in an effective manner. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They agreed that a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the origins, manifestations and effects of regional migration should contribute to a better understanding of the phenomenon, counteract anti-immigrant attitudes and enhance relations among participating States. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that migration is a process with highly positive dimensions which should be addressed by taking a comprehensive, objective and long term approach to its origins, manifestations and effects in the region.*Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They also expressed the commitment of their governments to continue organizing activities within the framework of the Plan of Action that promote the return and reinsertion of migrants into their home communities in a humanitarian manner. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their support for the meaningful dialogue established from the beginning of the Puebla Process with representatives of civil society organizations, and the importance of continued participation by these organizations in information sharing activities, contributing in this manner to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge the benefits of engaging civil society, and to promote an increased participation of these groups in the formulation of migration policies. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urge member countries to develop assistance and social reinsertion programs for victims of trafficking in persons and other vulnerable persons affected by this illegal activity. 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized the importance of a victim-centered approach that works within the jurisdictions of the various government entities and with civil society organizations, with the purpose of facilitating victim identification, protection, and comprehensive assistance that should include services such as medical, legal, and psycho-social assistance, shelter, and 	XII RCM	

<p>whenever possible and appropriate, safe repatriation and reintegration. *Statement also relevant for TS3 y TS5*</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated their interest in promoting actions that facilitate the process of full integration of migrants and refugees residing in countries of the region, given that social and labor integration are part of the process of compliance under the general framework of human rights subscribed to by all member countries. 	<p>XVI RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underscored the importance of promoting a two-way approach to social integration of immigrants to the host country, whereby both hold the responsibility to foster a successful integration which allows participation without discrimination in the economic, social and cultural life of the country. 	<p>XVIII RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering the importance of the central theme of Integration, Return and Social and Productive Reintegration of Migrants, with the objective of advancing toward closing the gaps between the situations of undocumented migrants and those who are living in societies of destination in a regular manner, and promoting mechanisms to effectively meet the needs of the returned migrants and their families in order to support their social and productive reintegration in countries of origin; 	<p>XX RCM</p>	
<p>Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote migration management frameworks and public policies that allow for the socioeconomic integration of migrants as partners in development; - To provide and disseminate appropriate information about the rights of migrants as well as programmes and integration services for migrants; - To secure support from the private sector for volunteer programmes; - To promote capacity-building programmes in countries of origin in order to strengthen the links with the respective diasporas; - To sensitize on the local level regarding the obstacles that irregular migrants face in the integration process in destination communities. - To disseminate local programmes with the aim of enabling the integration of migrants; - To consider migrants as agents of development and to recognize their strengths and contributions to the region; - To work in the communities of origin of migrants to increase opportunities for education, health, employment and security from the perspective of shared responsibility. - To promote, according to national laws, migration regularization programmes; - To build alliances with civil society, academia and the private sector in order to contribute to the analysis of migration and promote actions and programmes aimed at fostering the social, economic and cultural integration of migrants. 	<p>XX RCM</p>	
<p>Return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement return policies with a humane focus that consider the health, protection and safety of migrants in order to reduce vulnerabilities and risks; To incorporate psychological care and other aspects related to culture and identity to the mechanisms of reception of returning migrants, as appropriate. 	<p>XX RCM</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop contingency plans for responding to emergency situations affecting standard return processes. • To identify improvements to return procedures to make them more efficient. • To cooperate, as appropriate, in addressing repatriation cases where it is difficult to identify people. • To promote improved access to justice and protection of the rights of returning migrants; • To facilitate the issuance of essential personal identity documents, particularly for returning migrants in vulnerable situations such as migrant boys, girls, adolescents and victims of trafficking; • To improve processes to accompany returning migrants to their countries of origin; • To strengthen regional coordination mechanisms with the aim of improving the programmes for the orderly and safe return of migrants; 		
<p>Social and Productive Reintegration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve coordination between different levels of government in regard to assistance to returning migrants and promote their comprehensive integration and reintegration; • To develop and strengthen programs targeting young people, including educational, cultural and employment opportunities. • To strengthen and expand infrastructure and training in the labour markets in the countries of return, with the objective of meeting the demand for employment generated by the returned migrants; • To strengthen the networks of returned migrants with the aim of identifying social and financial incentives to promote their reintegration; • To promote the establishment of credit plans for small and medium-sized enterprises and housing for returned migrants; • To promote efforts to foster programmes for returned migrants, with support from the private sector and civil society; • To consider involving international and civil society organizations in the development of institutional cooperation programmes aimed at supporting the reintegration of returned migrants; • To strengthen investment programmes in order to promote development and harness the potential of returned migrants; • To promote academic recognition and validation of education received abroad; • To monitor the reintegration processes of returned migrants; • To promote the recognition of skills and qualifications of returned migrants; • To explore the possibility of establishing employment bureaus in repatriation centres, in coordination with private enterprises, with the aim of promoting appropriate job offers. 	XX RCM	

Confronting all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments recognized the sovereign right and legitimate interest of each country to safeguard its borders and to enforce its own migration laws, always observing strict respect for human rights of migrants, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and other relevant international instruments, regardless 	I RCM	

of nationality, race, age, religion, gender or migratory status. *Statement also relevant for TS3*		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condemn violations of the human rights of migrants and others, regardless of their migratory status, and strive towards the elimination of such violations. Particular attention shall be given to the special needs of women and children, including their protection when appropriate. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage public awareness about the human rights of migrants as a means to promote respect for their dignity, to counteract anti-immigrant attitudes and to eradicate unlawful acts targeting migrants. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen respect for the human rights of all migrants regardless of their migrant status, with special attention to those vulnerable groups such as women and children. 	VIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working toward the establishment and consolidation of special measures that will allow unrestricted respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status and paying special attention to vulnerable groups such as women and children. 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Member Countries see with concern the xenophobic attitudes towards migrants that have emerged on a global basis, and agree to take measures to fight them, as well as to highlight the many benefits that orderly migration brings. Such efforts are stronger when RCM countries work together to develop and implement migration policies that reduce vulnerabilities to all migrants, regardless of status, while expanding options for additional legal paths for migration. 	XXI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We reiterate our commitment to work together, as a region, in order to continue advancing actions which enable us to address the challenges involved in providing protection and assistance to migrants; recognizing the shared responsibility of States in ensuring and protecting the human rights of migrants; especially in light of the challenges posed by the changes in migration flows in the region, and particularly those involving boys, girls and adolescents, extra-regional migrants with irregular migration status, returned migrants and women, among others. 	XXI RCM	

Addressing the specific needs and guaranteeing the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding of the regional and international phenomenon of migration through specialized studies to identify and aid the implementation of measures designed to solve the problems inducing and stemming from it. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment of communication and cooperative networks among the Consulates of the member-states of the RCM with the aim of strengthening consular protection and assistance to regional migrants. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	VI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge the important role played by migration policies in the area of regional security, as well as to adopt essential actions for the security of the region within a framework of full respect for the human rights of migrants, particularly in terms of distinguishing positive and beneficial migration flows from those individuals and groups who pursue terrorist and other criminal purposes. To this end, they have approved the attached Declaration Against Terrorism. *Statement also relevant for 	VII RCM	

TS3*		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development of cooperative mechanisms with international organizations and NGOs to assist regional migrants held in detention centers. *Statement also relevant for TS3 y TS5* 	VI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Ministers acknowledged and encouraged efforts made by countries of the RCM to promote the dignified, orderly and safe return of migrants to their places of origin 	X RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness in society and its institutions regarding the current reality of the phenomenon of migration. 	XV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the relevance of the Presidency Pro Tempore's selection of the XVII Regional Conference of Migration theme, "Security Within the Framework of Human Rights and Mixed Migration Flows" which focused on the access of all persons, particularly migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, to the legal system and guarantees related to the respect of human rights, and strengthening policies that prevent crimes against these vulnerable persons. 	XVII RCM	

II. Drivers of migration

Adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governments recognized that the origins, expressions and effects of migration, including refugees, are important issues on the international community agenda. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The governments recognized national differences with respect to perceptions of the causes, dimensions and consequences of migration. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage States of the region, especially those with common borders, to promote mechanisms for consultation on migration issues and protection of the human rights of migrants between authorities at the different levels of government, law enforcement personnel and diplomatic and consular representatives of the countries. *Statement also relevant for TS3 and TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that the problems caused by “maras” are another form of transnational organized crime and must be approached from a viewpoint of regional migratory cooperation in order to bring about effective action to combat them. *TS3* 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed concern about the natural disasters that affect the region and may provoke migratory movements, and thus emphasized the importance of promoting more timely cooperation in the protection of and assistance to persons affected by these phenomena. 	XI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted that migration flows have significantly increased in recent years as a result of economic and labor market disparities, as well as political and social factors, natural disasters, environmental degradation, demographic explosion, and barriers to trade and investment. 	XV RCM	

Protection and assistance

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and encourage the work of non governmental organizations (NGOs) that develop assistance programs for migrants, which complement government efforts in this field. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the exchange of experiences on the migration phenomenon in suitable multilateral fora and, when appropriate, promote consultations with relevant international agencies. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold periodic consultations among the countries of the region in order to enhance cooperation on specific migration-related 	I	

issues. In this regard, among others, encourage meetings of Directors of Migration, using the experience of the Central American Commission of Directors of Migration (OCAM), and other regional coordination mechanisms. *Statement also relevant for TS3*	RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge that, at present, the migration phenomenon tends to transcend the characterization of countries as countries of origin, transit and destination, suggesting instead that all RCM countries, to a certain extent, are countries of migration. 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the new challenges for the protection and assistance to migrants in the region presented by natural disasters, trafficking in persons and human smuggling. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	XVIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing Accurate Information and Engage in Communication Outreach—Noting that many families are being persuaded to support the irregular movement of unaccompanied migrant children due to intentional misinformation propagated by smugglers, RCM Member Countries intend to actively engage their citizens via public outreach campaigns to provide accurate information regarding “dangers of the journey” and the unavailability of “permisos” for those who arrive in the United States. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development – Recognizing that there are many factors that explain the increasing number of unaccompanied children migrating irregularly, the Member Countries commit to working together, and to seek international collaboration, to address the structural causes of this irregular movement of unaccompanied migrant children as well as working toward the eradication of such causes, such as creating social and economical development programs in the communities of origin. 	XIX RCM	

Sustainable development and poverty eradication

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In that respect the governments emphasized the need for reciprocal cooperation to promote economic growth and employment in order to reduce poverty. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the economic and social development of the region by fostering trade and productive investment, and implement economic and social policies as factors that, along with international cooperation, can help to address some of the causes of migration. *Statement also relevant for TS4* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that migration is a process with highly positive dimensions which should be addressed by taking a comprehensive, objective and long term approach to its origins, manifestations and effects in the region.*Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	IV RCM	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their support for the meaningful dialogue established from the beginning of the Puebla Process with representatives of civil society organizations, and the importance of continued participation by these organizations in information sharing activities, contributing in this manner to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underscored the need to cooperate in order to promote economic growth and employment and thus, reduce poverty levels to create appropriate conditions for migrants to remain in their country. 	XV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urge relevant institutions to address the causes of migration by promoting opportunities for development and a better quality of life for populations, and strengthening multilateral cooperation to ensure that migration is not the only option for families. 	XV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underscored the importance of Regional Consultative Processes as forums for the exchange of best practices linking migration and development. 	XVIII RCM	

Conflict prevention and resolution

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They agreed that a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the origins, manifestations and effects of regional migration should contribute to a better understanding of the phenomenon, counteract anti-immigrant attitudes and enhance relations among participating States. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They also recognized the need to promote regional cooperation aimed at attenuating the structural factors that motivate migration in the region, without detriment to bilateral cooperation programs. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the development and adoption of a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the regional migration phenomenon in order to address both its causes and its manifestations in an effective manner. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a better understanding of the regional and international phenomenon of migration through specialized studies to identify and aid the implementation of measures designed to solve the problems inducing and stemming from it. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider, and encourage when appropriate, consultations prior to adopting migration-related measures that affect countries of the region, especially bordering States, with full respect for each country national sovereignty. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They highlighted the consensus which exists among the governments regarding the importance of migration issues for the countries of the region. 	II RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged the need to continue and to strengthen the constructive dialogue on the important subject of migration. 	II RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognize the importance of mechanisms for the consular protection of migrants in situations of detention, as contained in 	VII	

<p>the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations or those established by other international agreements, as a course of action within the framework of full respect for the human rights of migrants. *Statement also relevant for TS1*</p>	<p>RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the need to promote cooperation between RCM member states, oriented toward mitigating structural factors which prompt migration in the region, without detriment to bilateral cooperation programs. 	<p>XV RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-ministers gathered at the XV RCM, which had “Migration and Family” as its central theme, recognized the impact of migration on the family unit and the importance of considering family in migration policy-making, the need to take on a cross-cutting perspective including and favoring family integration, and the potential of migration as a catalyst for development in communities of origin and destination. 	<p>XV RCM</p>	

III. International cooperation and governance

Borders, transit, entry

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By and large, migration is a beneficial phenomenon with potential advantages for both countries of origin and countries of destination; however, in order for these benefits to be realized, it is essential that migration be orderly. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments recognized the sovereign right and legitimate interest of each country to safeguard its borders and to enforce its own migration laws, always observing strict respect for human rights of migrants, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and other relevant international instruments, regardless of nationality, race, age, religion, gender or migratory status. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage States of the region, especially those with common borders, to promote mechanisms for consultation on migration issues and protection of the human rights of migrants between authorities at the different levels of government, law enforcement personnel and diplomatic and consular representatives of the countries. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider, and encourage when appropriate, consultations prior to adopting migration-related measures that affect countries of the region, especially bordering States, with full respect for each country national sovereignty. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affirm the importance of taking measures to facilitate documented migration. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With full respect for the national sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of each country, and in the framework of legal arrangements with other States, coordinate efforts to fight criminal organizations involved in migrant trafficking. To that end, governments pledge to exchange information in a timely manner so as to afford countries the opportunity to take appropriate actions to combat networks and connections of migrant traffickers and exchange additional data to prevent and detect such criminal organizations. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden regional cooperation in matters of technical assistance and training to improve national systems for the investigation, handling of evidence against and prosecution of migrant traffickers. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold periodic consultations among the countries of the region in order to enhance cooperation on specific migration-related issues. In this regard, among others, encourage meetings of Directors of Migration, using the experience of the Central American Commission of Directors of Migration (OCAM), and other regional coordination mechanisms. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the exchange of information and regional cooperation on technical assistance and training of human resources to 	I	

control extra-regional flows of undocumented migrants.	RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote more effective mechanisms to combat the forgery and alteration of migratory documents. 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that migration is a process with highly positive dimensions which should be addressed by taking a comprehensive, objective and long term approach to its origins, manifestations and effects in the region.*Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences gained from examples of orderly and regulated migration permit the exploration of new possibilities for positive links between migration and development through cooperation and coordination among countries of the Conference.*Statement also relevant for TS4* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment of communication and cooperative networks among the Consulates of the member-states of the RCM with the aim of strengthening consular protection and assistance to regional migrants. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS5* 	VI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge the important role played by migration policies in the area of regional security, as well as to adopt essential actions for the security of the region within a framework of full respect for the human rights of migrants, particularly in terms of distinguishing positive and beneficial migration flows from those individuals and groups who pursue terrorist and other criminal purposes. To this end, they have approved the attached Declaration Against Terrorism. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge the importance of strengthening coherence between internal and external national policies on migration matters, in order to formulate internally consistent legislation. 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge that cross-border cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, development, migration and customs cooperation, through integrated agreements, constitutes an ideal tool for the economic development of border countries, and to request that IOM design a project proposal on this subject. *Statement also relevant for TS4* 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensify our cooperation to combat smuggling and trafficking of persons, making our borders safe and orderly places. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	VIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that international cooperation and the exchange of information is indispensable to effectively combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that the problems caused by “maras” are another form of transnational organized crime and must be approached from a viewpoint of regional migratory cooperation in order to bring about effective action to combat them. *Statement also 	IX RCM	

relevant for TS2*		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Ministers reaffirmed the importance that RCM member states place upon the international protection of refugees and their commitment to the fulfillment of international principles of human rights and asylum. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	X RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed the commitment of RCM member states to promote regular, orderly and humane migration on the basis of shared responsibility, and the role regional cooperation plays to achieve this objective. 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirmed that multilateral cooperation in exchanging information and best practices is effective in combating trafficking in persons, in light of the complex and transnational nature of the phenomenon. 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-Ministers recognized the challenges for the region posed by increased extra-regional migration flows and that immediate action needs to be taken in order to gain a better understanding of the scope of the challenge and to identify appropriate coordination mechanisms to address it. 	XV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the need for joint actions to meet the protection and assistance needs of extra-continental migrants and refugees in Mexico and Central America 	XVI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressed the importance of regional cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination to effectively combat illegal migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, as well as fraud and crimes committed by unscrupulous migration consultants. In that sense, agreed to continue working towards the effective implementation of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and the Protocol Against The Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational Organized Crime. 	XVI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practices—In all of these areas, exchange of best practices should be encouraged via workshops, technical exchanges and training. Additionally, and where possible, financial support will be provided. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighting the spirit of cooperation and dialogue between Member Countries as well as the comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to migration, addressing its causes as well as its effects in an effective manner; 	XX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We discussed the central theme of the XXI Meeting of the RCM, “Migration, a Shared Responsibility” and recognize that the adequate management of migration is a commitment of all countries in the region, and that no country can overcome the challenges posed by migration management on its own, regardless of whether it is a country of origin, transit or destination. 	XXI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We agree to continue promoting safe, regular, and orderly migration within the region. We are certain that well managed migration offers significant economic, social, and cultural benefits for origin, transit, and destination countries. 	XXI RCM	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognize that shared responsibility can only become a reality through the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices as well as regional actions based on good faith, transparency, and trust among the parties. These are essential requirements for consolidating cooperation. 	XXI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognize the need for the efforts implemented within the framework of the RCM to be in line with the agreements and actions in frameworks of other processes. In particular, with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration, the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and the global compact on refugees. In this regard, we have highlighted the importance of reflecting the advances concerning shared responsibility achieved within the framework of these processes in the work of the RCM. 	XXI RCM	

Return and readmission

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They also expressed the commitment of their governments to continue organizing activities within the framework of the Plan of Action that promote the return and reinsertion of migrants into their home communities in a humanitarian manner. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development of cooperative mechanisms with international organizations and NGOs to assist regional migrants held in detention centers. *Statement also relevant for TS 1 and TS5* 	VI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge the benefits of engaging civil society, and to promote an increased participation of these groups in the formulation of migration policies. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce coordination among our authorities to guarantee that repatriation of migrants is undertaken in a safe, dignified and orderly manner. 	VIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring closer together and strengthen the mechanisms of coordination, training, and exchange of information among our authorities and establish procedures to guarantee that the repatriation of migrants will be accomplished in a safe, dignified, and orderly manner. 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Ministers emphasized the importance of combating trafficking in persons in the region and reiterated the commitment of member states to undertake efforts to eliminate this terrible scourge, highlighting the importance of prevention, prosecution of traffickers, and the protection of and assistance to victims. 	X RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirmed their commitment to facilitating orderly, prompt, and safe return of migrants... 	XIV RCM	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen inter-regional cooperation for the repatriation of undocumented migrants, with a focus on re-insertion or re-integration of returned migrants to their society of origin. 	XV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged the urgency to address the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied migrant children, which is a challenge that requires a comprehensive regional response in terms of prevention, protection, return and reintegration. In order to prioritize actions on this matter, the Vice Ministers and Heads of Delegation adopted the Managua Extraordinary Declaration. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repatriation and Reintegration—Consistent with the RCM’s commitment to supporting the rule of law, in those instances in which children are returned with their families to their country of origin in accordance with due process, and after exhausting all other immigration benefit options, and acknowledging the potentially vulnerable situation of children, the Member Countries agree to cooperate among themselves to dedicate sufficient resources to implement reinsertion and reintegration programs in their communities of origin. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering the active participation of Civil Society Organizations in the RCM dialogue and their contributions to supporting migrants in particular in the context of integration, return and social and productive reinsertion of migrants; 	XX RCM	

Integration and reintegration

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the development and adoption of a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the regional migration phenomenon in order to address both its causes and its manifestations in an effective manner. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding of the regional and international phenomenon of migration through specialized studies to identify and aid the implementation of measures designed to solve the problems inducing and stemming from it. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that migration can make a positive economic and cultural contribution both to countries of origin and countries of destination. *Statement also relevant for TS6* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote regional and other forms of cooperation to establish programs to cover the basic needs of populations of undocumented migrants who are in the custody of migratory authorities in each country while their migratory status is being determined. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS5* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote in the appropriate fora the exchange of information and experiences on labor migration issues. *Statement also relevant for TS6* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the exchange of experiences on the migration phenomenon in suitable multilateral fora and, when appropriate, promote consultations with relevant international agencies. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their support for the meaningful dialogue established from the beginning of the Puebla Process with representatives of civil society organizations, and the importance of continued participation by these organizations in information sharing activities, 	V RCM	

contributing in this manner to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs*		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized the importance of a victim-centered approach that works within the jurisdictions of the various government entities and with civil society organizations, with the purpose of facilitating victim identification, protection, and comprehensive assistance that should include services such as medical, legal, and psycho-social assistance, shelter, and whenever possible and appropriate, safe repatriation and reintegration. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS5* 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and acknowledged the importance of providing international protection to refugees in the context of mixed migratory flows. 	XIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underscored the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in the protection and assistance to migrant populations, in coordination with institutions from RCM Member Countries, whenever possible. Furthermore, they recognized the progress in the relationship between the Regional Network of Civil Organizations on Migration (RNOCM) and the RCM. 	XVIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consular Protection—Strengthen the institutional capacities of consular protection, in particular assistance to unaccompanied children, and reinforce coordination for consular access where these unaccompanied migrant children are located. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation—Accept offers of assistance and cooperation from international organizations, civil society, and non-governmental organizations involved in the protection of migrants, particularly in the humanitarian crisis that the children are facing in the RCM Member Countries. 	XIX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasizing that RCM has proven its usefulness as a forum for reaching understandings and implementing cooperation initiatives that have enabled better addressing the causes, dimensions and consequences of migration without losing sight of human dignity; 	XX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We acknowledge the advancements of the principle of shared responsibility in migration management that we have achieved in our respective countries and at a regional level. These advances reflect our continuous efforts to benefit migrants and refugees by establishing strategies to promote cooperation at a national level and among RCM Member Countries through the establishment and strengthening of intersectoral, bilateral and multilateral alliances. 	XXI RCM	

IV. Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development

Sustainable development

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the development and adoption of a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the regional migration phenomenon in order to address both its causes and its manifestations in an effective manner. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding of the regional and international phenomenon of migration through specialized studies to identify and aid the implementation of measures designed to solve the problems inducing and stemming from it. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that migration is a process with highly positive dimensions which should be addressed by taking a comprehensive, objective and long term approach to its origins, manifestations and effects in the region. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences gained from examples of orderly and regulated migration permit the exploration of new possibilities for positive links between migration and development through cooperation and coordination among countries of the Conference. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their support for the meaningful dialogue established from the beginning of the Puebla Process with representatives of civil society organizations, and the importance of continued participation by these organizations in information sharing activities, contributing in this manner to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice Ministers reviewed the various aspects of the migratory phenomenon, taking as a premise the importance and priority that the topic of migration has acquired worldwide and its interaction with other areas such as development, security, health, and trade. 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member states highlighted the importance of the Tenth RCM theme of "Integration and Citizenship" in ensuring that migration is a successful and positive phenomenon through which the economic, social and cultural aspirations of both migrants and host societies can be fulfilled. The Vice-Ministers also recognized the importance for governments to work with the private sector and civil society to achieve better integration of immigrants, taking into account the vulnerable situation in which some migrants find themselves. 	X RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concurred that migration goals and policies must transcend the ever-changing economic context and consider the role of 	XIV	

migration in the building of lasting foundations for the development of societies.	RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted the role civil society plays in strengthening the linkages between Migration and Development... 	XIV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized that for benefits to materialize, implementing national policies that advance migration management is crucial for the establishment of a legal, political, and social framework that ensures respect for human rights. 	XV RCM	

Remittances and portability of earned benefits

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the economic and social development of the region by fostering trade and productive investment, and implement economic and social policies as factors that, along with international cooperation, can help to address some of the causes of migration. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To acknowledge that cross-border cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, development, migration and customs cooperation, through integrated agreements, constitutes an ideal tool for the economic development of border countries, and to request that IOM design a project proposal on this subject. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	VII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration can have positive effects for migrants, as well as for countries of origin and destination countries, and also recognized the links between migration and other issues, such as the fight against poverty, human development, food security, and various types of disasters. 	XIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the contribution of each individual migrant to development, in terms of wealth of talent, ideas, and entrepreneurial drive to countries of origin, transit, and destination, and to the evolving social fabric. 	XIV RCM	

V. Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons

Contemporary forms of slavery

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote regional and other forms of cooperation to establish programs to cover the basic needs of populations of undocumented migrants who are in the custody of migratory authorities in each country while their migratory status is being determined. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS3* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding, in order to create awareness in society, of the adverse effects of migrant trafficking, condemning the human degradation, indignities and abuses associated with this activity, through public information programs as a means, among others, to contribute to the identification and implementation of measures aimed at reducing and solving the problems stemming from this activity. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensify our cooperation to combat smuggling and trafficking of persons, making our borders safe and orderly places. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	VIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized the commitment of RCM member states to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect victims of trafficking, as defined by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condemned all forms of exploitation and abuse of unaccompanied migrant children, including trafficking in persons, acknowledged the importance of mitigating the risks they face due to their vulnerability while en route to other countries, and concurred that RCM member countries should apply complementary measures for the protection of this vulnerable population, as agreed at the XIII RCM. 	XIV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing the vulnerability of migrants in irregular conditions, especially with respect to transnational organized crime, reiterated their commitment adopted at the Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime and Migrant Security held in Mexico, October 2010 to strengthen protection mechanisms for their nationals and develop preventive information campaigns about the risks and consequences associated with irregular migration. 	XVI RCM	

Appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the development and adoption of a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the regional migration phenomenon in order to address both its causes and its manifestations in an effective manner. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding of the regional and international phenomenon of migration through specialized studies to identify and aid the implementation of measures designed to solve the problems inducing and stemming from it. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With full respect for the national sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of each country, and in the framework of legal arrangements with other States, coordinate efforts to fight criminal organizations involved in migrant trafficking. To that end, governments pledge to exchange information in a timely manner so as to afford countries the opportunity to take appropriate actions to combat networks and connections of migrant traffickers and exchange additional data to prevent and detect such criminal organizations. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment in national legislation, in States that do not have it, of trafficking in migrants as a criminal offense, in order to contribute to the eradication of trafficking organizations operating in the region. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that migration is a process with highly positive dimensions which should be addressed by taking a comprehensive, objective and long term approach to its origins, manifestations and effects in the region. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They pointed out that multilateral cooperation constitutes the best means of achieving the shared objective of combating networks trafficking in extra-regional migrants. *Statement also relevant for ST3* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their support for the meaningful dialogue established from the beginning of the Puebla Process with representatives of civil society organizations, and the importance of continued participation by these organizations in information sharing activities, contributing in this manner to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the establishment of communication and cooperative networks among the Consulates of the member-states of the RCM with the aim of strengthening consular protection and assistance to regional migrants. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS3* 	VI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development of cooperative mechanisms with international organizations and NGOs to assist regional migrants held in detention centers. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS3* 	VI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue joint efforts to combat trafficking of children. In this respect we recognize the importance of having the appropriate mechanisms to facilitate legal reunification of families and exchange of information regarding RCM member countries' policies on this process. 	VIII RCM	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen and increase our cooperation in an effective manner to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to make the migratory flows more orderly and our borders secure. 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that international cooperation and the exchange of information is indispensable to effectively combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urge member countries to develop assistance and social reinsertion programs for victims of trafficking in persons and other vulnerable persons affected by this illegal activity. *Statement also relevant for TS1* 	IX RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated their commitment to combatting trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, and encouraged cooperation, particularly in providing protection to victims of trafficking. To this effect, they emphasized the importance of having information campaigns on the risks and consequences associated with irregular migration. *Statement also relevant for TS6* 	XI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaffirmed their commitment to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and recognized the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in developing and distributing guidelines related to the treatment of victims of trafficking who may need international protection. 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized the vital role that investigation and prosecution of traffickers must play in putting an end to this criminal enterprise that results in severe human rights violations. 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized that victims of trafficking in persons should not be prosecuted for participating in illegal activities, if they are the direct result of their being a victim of such trafficking. Taking into account the dignity of victims, underlined the commitment to work toward such decriminalization, consistent with domestic legislation. 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized the importance of a victim-centered approach that works within the jurisdictions of the various government entities and with civil society organizations, with the purpose of facilitating victim identification, protection, and comprehensive assistance that should include services such as medical, legal, and psycho-social assistance, shelter, and whenever possible and appropriate, safe repatriation and reintegration. *Statement also relevant for TS1 and TS3* 	XII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Ministers reiterated the importance of combating trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and agreed to consider, within their national contexts, mechanisms to facilitate legal and orderly migration, in order to avoid the risks faced by traveling in an irregular manner. *Statement also relevant for TS6* 	XIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing the challenges presented by extra-continental and regional migration movements, as well as transnational organized crime, reiterated the importance of adopting and continuing to develop mechanisms for the identification of protection and assistance needs, and means for finding practical solutions for the management of these movements in accordance with the norms and standards of international law, with the support of IOM and UNHCR. 	XVII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to continue working toward the effective implementation of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and 	XVII	

<p>Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In this regard, congratulated the holding of the International Conference on Migrant Smuggling in Mexico City from April 16-18, 2012.</p>	<p>RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the new challenges for the protection and assistance to migrants in the region presented by natural disasters, trafficking in persons and human smuggling. *Statement also relevant for TS2* 	<p>XVIII RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized the need to continue a regional dialogue regarding the situations faced by unaccompanied migrant children, and to share best practices for the protection and comprehensive assistance to this vulnerable group. 	<p>XVIII RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared the progress made on this topic in their countries, mainly the establishment of a legal framework for the protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers of persons. 	<p>XIX RCM</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combatting Organized Criminal Human Smuggling and Trafficking Groups and the Strengthening of Cooperation in the Implementation of the Nations' Respective Laws— Recognize and condemning the role of organized crime, which prey on and exploit vulnerable children and families, the Member Countries commit themselves to increase efforts to combat these criminal networks, to penalize any collusion with them and to strengthen the cooperation related to the implementation of the nations' respective laws. 	<p>XIX RCM</p>	

VI. Irregular migration and regular pathways

Decent work and labour mobility

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that migration can make a positive economic and cultural contribution both to countries of origin and countries of destination. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote in the appropriate fora the exchange of information and experiences on labor migration issues. *Statement also relevant for TS3* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, welcomed the letters of arrangement the U.S. has signed with some RCM countries that promote the protections afforded to migrant workers under U.S. labor laws and procedures. 	XVII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regulation of transborder migration benefited the migrants as well as the economies of both the country of origin and the country of destination. 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that information about mechanisms to facilitate migration reaches potential beneficiaries. 	XV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressed during their debates the importance of developing effective policies and programs to promote and to benefit from the regulation of temporary labor migration flows. Likewise, the importance of promoting strategic partnerships between Member States for the development of temporary worker programs that guarantee respect of their human and labor rights was stressed. 	XVI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We reiterate our commitment to work together, as a region, in order to continue advancing actions which enable us to address the challenges involved in providing protection and assistance to migrants; recognizing the shared responsibility of States in ensuring and protecting the human rights of migrants; especially in light of the challenges posed by the changes in migration flows in the region, and particularly those involving boys, girls and adolescents, extra-regional migrants with irregular migration status, returned migrants and women, among others. 	XXI RCM	

Recognition of skills and qualifications

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the development and adoption of a comprehensive, objective and long-term approach to the regional migration phenomenon in order to address both its causes and its manifestations in an effective manner. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated that migration is a process with highly positive dimensions which should be addressed by taking a comprehensive, objective and long term approach to its origins, manifestations and effects in the region. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	IV RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to continue efforts to minimize the risks faced by vulnerable populations, especially women and children, that migrate in an irregular manner and the importance of considering this issue within the RCM 	XII RCM	

Other relevant measures

Statements	RCM	Still valid?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a better understanding of the regional and international phenomenon of migration through specialized studies to identify and aid the implementation of measures designed to solve the problems inducing and stemming from it. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	I RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their support for the meaningful dialogue established from the beginning of the Puebla Process with representatives of civil society organizations, and the importance of continued participation by these organizations in information sharing activities, contributing in this manner to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. *Statement also relevant for all the other TSs* 	V RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request that RCM member countries implement and/or reinforce their public awareness campaigns to warn potential migrants of the dangers entailed in irregular migration. 	VIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reiterated their commitment to combatting trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, and encouraged cooperation, particularly in providing protection to victims of trafficking. To this effect, they emphasized the importance of having information campaigns on the risks and consequences associated with irregular migration. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	XI RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Ministers reiterated the importance of combating trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and agreed to consider, within their national contexts, mechanisms to facilitate legal and orderly migration, in order to avoid the risks faced by traveling in an irregular manner. *Statement also relevant for TS5* 	XIII RCM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review travel policies for children who are separated from their families, towards family reunification, taking into account the best interests of the child. 	XV RCM	

Credits

Coordination

Salvador Gutiérrez

Renán Rodas

Maribel Muñoz

Support

Mariana Chaves

Ana Paola Con

Andrea Jiménez