



**Mexico City Declaration on International Protection, Shared Responsibility and Regional
Solidarity Actions in MIRPS countries**

Mexico City, November 8th, 2019

Within the framework of the Second Annual Meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Framework of Protection and Solutions (MIRPS), under the Mexican Pro Tempore Presidency, the State Parties (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama) are following up on what was agreed in the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, San Jose Action Statement in 2016 and San Pedro Sula Declaration of 26 October 2017 and in accordance with the Global Compact on Refugees, we meet with the aim of coordinating and promoting, in solidarity, a regional response to the challenges posed by movements of people seeking international protection in MIRPS countries.

Concerned by the growing number of people who have left their places of origin in search of international protection;

Aware of the impact that these mixed migratory movements have on the capacity of the authorities to respond to the specific and differentiated needs of these populations; in particular, those who are in a vulnerable situation, such as unaccompanied and separated children, adolescents, families, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, LGBTI persons and victims of trafficking, women, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities, older persons and stateless persons, among others.

Recognizing that these movements of people from both Latin America and the Caribbean as well as from other regions of the world are of a mixed and multi-causal nature, with particularities and responses specific to each country,

Aware of the holding of the First World Refugee Forum in the city of Geneva on December 17th and 18th, 2019;

The representatives of the governments of the States Parties to the MIRPS declare our willingness to address the root cause of international protection needs, as well as to increase efforts to address those needs in a spirit of shared responsibility, with the assistance of the international community. Therefore, we agree to:

1. *Promote* a coordinated response - with a regional focus in the short, medium and long term - that includes measures for attention in each of our countries, in order to meet the protection needs of asylum seekers and refugees and that incorporates, according to national realities and their regulatory frameworks, one or more of the following alternatives:

- a. Promote complementary activities and actions, such as investments, according to the capacity of each country for the prevention, protection and immediate assistance, including actions in benefit of the most affected communities, through public policies that facilitate processes of return and reintegration of displaced populations and returnees to their communities of origin.
- b. Access to territory and fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures in all States Parties;
- c. The strengthening of national institutions responsible of refugee status determination procedures by improving their technical capacities and increasing the financial resources according to the capacity of each Member country;
- d. Short-term solutions for persons in need of protection, such as: internal relocation and family reunification; medium and long-term solutions, such as: consolidation of national institutions for protection, assistance and integration, and strengthening of the rule of law;
- e. According to the domestic laws of each country, and as appropriate create programs and projects to facilitate access to the labour market in our countries to achieve self-sufficiency in decent work conditions;
- f. The strengthening at the national and regional levels of mechanisms and measures to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;
- g. The reception of returnees or deportees to their countries of origin in safe and dignified conditions; as well as the socioeconomic reintegration of those with protection needs, which must be identified.

2. *Request* the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) , to support the implementation of these actions and thank them for the commitment expressed through their joint plans, which are reflected in the second annual report of the MIRPS.

3. *Request* the support of the development agencies of the United Nations system to design and develop complementary measures, policies, programs and general strategies, in the medium and long term, in accordance with the challenges of each country, that can comprehensively address the underlying causes of these mixed migratory movements of people in the region.

4. *Welcome* complementary measures, as appropriate, such as the Comprehensive Development Plan, National Development Plans, United Nations Frameworks for Sustainable Development, and the spaces for dialogue provided by fora such as the Regional Conference on Migration, the System of the Central American Integration, among others.

5. *Call upon* the international community -including the countries that are Friends of the MIRPS¹ (as a support platform) , international and regional financial institutions, as well as existing bilateral and multilateral support mechanisms- to contribute with the countries of origin and destination in order to deal in solidarity with the burden that the attention of these mixed migratory movements of people puts on them.

¹ Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Canada, United States of America, Spain, Italy, France, Holy See, Switzerland, Uruguay and the European Union.

6. *Participate* in the First World Refugee Forum to take place in the city of Geneva, next December, under the sponsorship of UNHCR, to disseminate MIRPS and the work undertaken in order to encourage relevant stakeholders, including cooperating partners to contribute to its objectives.

7. *To call upon* the OAS to adopt measures for the establishment and operation of the MIRPS Voluntary Contributions Fund in accordance with the provisions of OAS General Assembly Resolution AG 2941, with the objective to raise resources and support the implementation of the measures agreed herein, and which will be complemented by bilateral and multilateral funding opportunities, in order to carry out the commitments assumed in the MIRPS and in this declaration.

8. *To thank* the UNHCR and the OAS for their role as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, under the leadership of the Pro Tempore Presidency, by creating a regional space for joint work that strengthens regional cooperation; likewise, *to request* their continued support and monitoring in the implementation of national responses, as well as the exchange of good practices and lessons learned.

9. *Recognize* the important contribution of organized civil society for its participation and commitment to the protection, assistance and generation of durable solutions for displaced persons, in need of international protection, returnees, and asylum seekers in the region; therefore *we welcome* the constructive and permanent dialogue between the MIRPS and civil society. *Recognize* also the important role of the private sector, academia and other humanitarian and development actors within the framework of shared responsibility.

10. *To thank* the work of the first Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS by the Government of Mexico.