



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante las Naciones Unidas

211 E. 43rd Street, Room 1002, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212) 986-6373

Launch of the Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

H.E. Mrs. Epsy Campbell Barr, Vicepresident of the Republic of Costa Rica

Nueva York, 16 July 2019, 18:00, Danny Kay Visitor's Centre of UNICEF House

4 minutes

Ms. Martha Delgado, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico

Madam Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohamed

Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF
Director General of International Organization for Migration, Mr. António Vitorino

Ambassador Christoph Heugsen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN

- We are very pleased to be here with you in the launch of the Start-up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, an essential financing instrument called for by the Global Compact on Migration that Costa Rica adopted last year, to support international cooperation on migration, and to help countries to effectively implement the provisions of the GCM.
- Costa Rica has been historically a land of reception of refugees and persons that migrate due to economic, political or climatic conditions in their countries of origin. Because of its geographical situation in Central America our country



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represents an important space of transit for migrants that go up north. Moreover, it is also a country of origin for many Costa Ricans that have decided to seek other economic opportunities for them and their families.

- In that regard, Costa Rica recognizes the contributions and legacy of migrants and refugees to the economy, the peaceful coexistence and cultural diversity of its citizens.
- Immigrant population represent about 13% of our total population, around 650 thousand people, reflecting a diverse composition, which has been accentuated by the recent migratory phenomena.
- Currently, Costa Rica is the only country in Central America that receives refugee applications from countries where, due to particular economic, social, political or climatic vulnerability, are emitting the largest number of refugees. According to numbers reflected by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, from January to September of 2018, 52 thousand people entered Costa Rica and remained in our territory.
- According to the IACHR, the peaks of refuge request coincided with the times in which the political, social and economic conflict erupted in the brother country Nicaragua. As a matter of fact, Asylum applications by Nicaraguans in Costa Rica have increased by 1.376% with respect to the figures handled in the year 2017.



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- The Government of the President of the Republic, Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada has reaffirmed the commitment to protect and integrate migrants and refugees in accordance with the GCM provisions and our own national guarantees and normative.
- We consider that all countries have a responsibility to protect the people who have been forced, for some or other reasons, to leave their countries, and international cooperation has in this regard a fundamental role to allow the support of our efforts, the promotion of alliances and synergies between countries and relevant stakeholders.
- The Comprehensive Migration Policy, created for the period 2013-2023, set as its main objective the establishment of an inter-institutional coordination system that promotes an effective management of the migratory reality. This public policy adopts an approach based on the principles of interculturality, integration, human security, diversity, among others.
- Following this policy, we created last year and for the following four years a Plan for Integration, which constitutes a guide for action regarding the integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
- More recently, we have launched the Comprehensive Plan for the Management of Mixed Migratory Flows in Costa Rica, 2018-2022, aiming to set the framework for comprehensive assessment and attention of the new composition of migratory



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flows, which is more complex in terms of socio-economic and political nature and requires a greater accompaniment from the international community.

- Our country is committed to materialize the spirit of cooperation and people-centered approach of the GCM towards our migrant population, refugees and asylum seekers. Without forgetting that everybody has the right to remain in their own land, and that the best way to address migration is to collaborate for the development of all countries and their national capacities.
- We welcome the launch of this fund and we advocate for greater accompaniment to the noble effort of our States.