



Terms of Reference (ToR)

Special Coordination Mechanism to support implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan of the Northern Countries of Central America and Mexico

1. Objective

A special coordination mechanism is to be established to facilitate effective and integrated support from the United Nations system to the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, as they implement the Comprehensive Development Plan for the region as a follow-up to the Executive Committee decisions of 19 July 2019.

2. Context

Migration within and out of Central America is a long-term phenomenon, driven by complex factors, including poverty, under development and violence.

In 2017, at least 4.7 million people living in the United States were either born in El Salvador, Guatemala or Honduras or their families came from those countries. Around 200,000 people from the three northern countries of Central America were returned from Mexico or the United States in 2018, a 37.9% increase over 2017. The number of asylum seekers from the three countries has been growing rapidly with around 216,000 people coming from the three countries seeking asylum in the United States in 2017.

Responding to the evolving migration and political situation in the region, on 1 December 2018, the Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico signed a political declaration stating that “Historically, migration has been a source of progress for countries of origin, transit and destination, however, it must be addressed in a comprehensive manner, through investment in programs that strengthen our countries’ capacities and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The four Presidents instructed their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to work with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), to design a Comprehensive Development Plan (hereinafter, the Plan) during the first quarter of 2019. The decision was announced at the Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Marrakesh, Morocco, on 11 December 2018.

The four governments announced the Plan on 20 May 2019, following on the presentation of a series of proposals by UN ECLAC. The plan adopts a development perspective, a human rights logic and a migration cycle approach, addressing structural causes at countries of origin, protecting human rights throughout transit and destination and supporting sustainable return. It calls for a substantial increase in public and private investment, representing approximately 25% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of each of the four countries. It identifies specific initiatives within the



areas of Economic Development, Social Well-being, Environmental sustainability and risk management; and Integral management of the migration cycle with a focus on human security.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico met with the United Nations Secretary-General on June 20, 2019. Following the meeting, the Secretary-General issued a press statement welcoming the Plan and reiterating the commitment of the United Nations to coordinated action by its specialized agencies, funds and programmes to support implementation of the Plan in close collaboration with the four countries involved.

3. Scope and focus

The implementation of the Plan will be led by the four countries involved.

The United Nations has been requested to provide coordinated and coherent support to accompany the Governments implementation of the Plan. Drawing on the humanitarian and development expertise of the Organization, implementation will require collaboration and collective action by UN entities active in these areas.

In light of this request and given the unique nature of the coordination challenges associated with the Plan, an Executive Committee chaired by the Secretary-General was held on 19 July 2019 in which the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, was instructed to coordinate, with the support of UNDP, UNICEF and others, the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan of the Northern Countries of Central America and México.

A Special Coordination Mechanism to lead UN efforts in support of the Plan's implementation, will be chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, who led the development of the Plan at the request of the four countries with the support of UNDP, UNICEF and others. Its members will include the Regional UN Sustainable Development Group, the International Organization of Migration, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the UN Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinators of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and México.

This Special Coordination Mechanism will exercise the following functions:

- Ensure a UN system-wide strategic, coherent and timely response to the demands of the four governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and México.
- Convene regular inter-agency meetings (both in person and virtual) with regional directors of UN development entities involved and Resident Coordinators.
- Integrate individual or joint contributions, initiatives and tools from UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan.
- Coordinate presentations of the Comprehensive Development Plan with the four governments and other stakeholders upon request.



- Coordinate the mapping of projects and initiatives of development cooperation entities, donors, development banks and other stakeholders at sub-regional and national levels.
- Analyze financing gaps for the Comprehensive Development Programme.
- Establish a link between IOM and other humanitarian efforts and the Comprehensive Development Plan.
- Prepare a “mega donor conference”

5. Reporting

The Chair of the Special Coordinator Mechanism will report to the Deputy Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General on the activities and achievements of the Special Coordination Mechanism twice-yearly; and to the Secretary-General’s Executive Committee on an annual basis.