

Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean

Issue-based Coalition on

Human Mobility

Terms of Reference¹

1. Background

The Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCP LAC) was established in November 2020, following the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General to guide the restructuring of the United Nations development system at the regional level, following adoption of ECOSOC resolution 2020/23 and General Assembly resolution 74/297. It is composed of 24 United Nations entities², across the three United Nations pillars. The overall objective of the RCP LAC is to provide a light and agile United Nations development system at the regional level that is demand-driven and results-oriented to ensure coordination, collaboration and the best use of United Nations expertise and assets. The RCP LAC brings together leadership, accountability and clarity to United Nations development system goals, activities, and results in the region and amplifies the support of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and United Nations country teams (UNCTs) at the national level in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Within the RCP LAC, timebound issue-based coalitions (IBCs) bring together the existing expertise of the regional United Nations development system entities to advance work at the regional level on cross border, subregional, and regional issues and areas of common interest. The work of the RCP LAC is supported by the following IBCs: i) Climate Change and Resilience; ii) Crime and Violence; iii) Equitable Growth; iv) Financing for Development; v) Governance and Institutions; and vi) Human Mobility. The RCP LAC also has two thematic Working Groups to address the issues of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls, and Youth as cross-cutting priorities in the regional policy work.

IBCs are responsible for facilitating demand-driven integrated policy advice, normative and programmatic support and technical capacity assistance to RCs and UNCTs, including on Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and strengthen entities' Country Programme Documents or Strategic Notes as relevant. Under their guidance, the RCP LAC, including the **IBC on Human Mobility**, provides leadership upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states that no one will be left behind, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the multifaceted linkages between migration and development, as well as multiple social, economic and environmental factors that drive migration and displacement. They are a framework within which affected countries can mobilize their efforts to address the adverse drivers and

¹ Developed in alignment with the [Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System \(MAF\)](#), which provides a framework for management and accountability within United Nations Country Teams at the national level as well as at the regional and global levels.

² DCO, DPPA, ECLAC, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UN-Women and WFP.

harness the development potential of human mobility. The IBC-HM also builds upon the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) to facilitate their effective implementation at national and country levels.

Given the complexity of human mobility within, from and to Latin America and the Caribbean, the IBC-HM addresses movements of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, among others. Complementing existing regional mechanisms, it seeks to promote a coherent approach to the challenges and opportunities identified at the regional and sub-regional level and aims to provide coherent UN support to those populations as well as countries and communities of origin, transit, destination and return with a view towards enhancing opportunities for development, interculturality, autonomy, the realization of rights, economic reactivation, and resilience.

2. Main objective and areas of focus

The main objective of the IBC-HM is to complement existing and relevant mechanisms (e.g. other IBCs, UN Networks on Migration, the Global Refugee Forum, Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), the Regional Conference on Migration (CRM), the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and México (PDI), the South American Conference on Migration (CSM), the Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM) and other related coordination platforms, etc.). This IBC serves as a regional platform for UN agencies and potentially a wider group of stakeholders including civil society organizations to support Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in responding to the situations of refugees, migrants, host communities and communities of return in the Americas Region.

Without prejudice to the mandates and roles of the participating agencies, the IBC-HM has established a working group that constitutes the Regional UN Network on Migration, with the aim of capitalizing on the synergies with the global-level UN Network on Migration and providing guidance and support to country-level UN Migration Networks in facilitating follow up and implementation of the GCM.

The following are specific objectives and areas of focus of the IBC-HM:

- 1) Provide **specialized technical assistance and support**, including information sharing and joint advocacy to RCs and UNCTs in responding to the specific situations affecting migrants, refugees, host communities and communities of return.
- 2) Enhance cooperation and information/data/experience sharing on human mobility, refugees, migrants and resilience within and beyond the IBC by the respective lead agencies, relying particularly on cooperation with the Working Group on Data and Statistics.
- 3) Support Member States in **reviewing and implementing the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)** at the country and regional levels in alignment with the UN Development System.
- 4) Cooperate with human-mobility related mechanisms established at the regional and sub-regional levels. **Strengthen synergies** among members in working with existing human mobility-related processes and initiatives (i.e., MIRPS, RCM, SICA, PDI, CSM, RIAM, IMRF, etc.).

3. Governance, Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements

- The RCP LAC is chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are the Vice-Chairs.
- The RCP LAC is serviced by a joint secretariat that is provided by DCO, ECLAC and UNDP, under the overall direction of the RCP Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the platform.
- The work of the IBC is guided by the RCP LAC, which provides strategic guidance to the activities of the IBC to enhance UN system-wide coherence and facilitate joint action at the regional level. The RCP LAC Vice-Chairs, with technical day-to-day support from the RCP LAC Joint Secretariat, are responsible for overall monitoring of the work of the IBCs and other mechanisms established under the RCP LAC.
- The IBC Co-Chairs are accountable for the implementation of the IBC workplans, and report to the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs on progress toward achieving their identified objectives and deliverables.
- The IBC will prepare an annual workplan under the leadership of the IBC Co-Chairs that is submitted to the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs through the RCP LAC Joint Secretariat. The IBC workplan will be approved by the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs after consultation with RCP LAC members consistent with the overall guidance of the RCP LAC Chair.
- The RCP LAC will incorporate inputs from the IBC for the annual regional results reports on system-wide joint results prepared by the RCP LAC Joint Secretariat, which reflects collective contributions from regional-level initiatives, including transboundary programmes in the thematic areas of IBCs.
- The IBC will follow the protocol outlined in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for engagement of the United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams in Latin America and the Caribbean with the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean of November 2021 when providing support to RCs/UNCTs.
- The RCP LAC Joint Secretariat facilitates requests to and provision of support by the RCP LAC and the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs as necessary, supports the development, implementation and monitoring of the annual RCP LAC workplan, supports the organization of RCP LAC meetings and maintains records of RCP LAC proceedings, facilitates communication and reporting across RCP LAC/IBCs and consolidates the end of year results report from the RCP LAC.

4. Chairpersonship, Membership and Structure

- The IBC will be led by one or more Co-Chairs (up to three³) nominated by the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs after consultation with RCP LAC members and pursuant to the overall guidance of the RCP LAC Chair. The Co-Chairs are at the level of Regional Director and Executive Secretary of the Regional Commission, with designated technical Co-Chairs to facilitate day-to-day management.
- The IBC Co-Chairs facilitate agreement on IBC objectives, strategic guidance and workplans after consultation with IBC members. The IBC Co-Chairs ensure that adequate capacities and resources are allocated to the IBCs from its members for the successful implementation of the IBC workplans.

³ See page 28 of the Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System.

- The IBC Co-Chairs are accountable for the implementation of the IBC workplan and for delivering the planned outputs. The Co-Chairs will guide the IBC and ensure that it fulfills its mandate through adequate consultation with and participation by the members. The Co-Chairs will also be responsible for leading the process of preparing and implementing the annual workplan.
- The IBC membership consists of United Nations entities working at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean. All RCP LAC members are entitled to participate, based on their entity's mandate, capacity and comparative advantage.
- Membership of the IBC includes the senior staff of RCP LAC members and/or their designated alternates. Each member should have a designated alternate.
- United Nations entities that are non-members of the IBC may be invited to meetings on an *ad hoc* basis, depending on the issues being discussed. Additionally, there will be participation from the country level as relevant, such as chairs of WGs/RCs/UNCT representatives, depending on the specific topics/subjects of the agenda.
- As of January 2022, the IBC Co-Chairs are IOM (Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean & Regional Office for South America; UNHCR Regional Bureau for the Americas, UNICEF Regional Director, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and ECLAC (Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - CELADE).
- The IBC is currently composed of DPPA, ECLAC, OCHA, FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNPPA, UN Women, WFP and UNDP.

IBC-HM Secretariat

The Secretariat of the IBC-HM will rotate quarterly among IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF.

Responsibilities of the Secretariat:

- Organize and convene meetings of the co-chairs and meetings of the IBC-HM, including
 - Organizing the (virtual) space;
 - Sending out the invitation (minimum 7 days before regular meetings, may be less for extraordinary or ad-hoc meetings);
 - Drafting the agenda, in coordination with the co-chairs;
 - Ensuring the agenda contents are in place;
 - Timely collating and sharing of any background material; and
 - Additional administrative tasks as may be requested during a meeting.
- Draft the minutes of each meeting of the co-chairs and meetings of the IBC-HM. Minutes will be circulated within 1 week of each meeting and all members are invited to comment on and contribute to the minutes in writing within the next 5 days. The minutes are then amended if necessary and distributed before the next meeting.
- Facilitate co-chair and IBC-HM meetings (welcome, closing, facilitating transitions between agenda items).
- Coordinate the implementations of key actions decided in the framework of co-chairs and IBC-HM meetings.
- Convene temporary working groups and ad-hoc meetings to discuss and advance specific aspects, methodologies, approaches, and data of interest to the IBC-HM, including, for example, cities and migration, local governments' role and support, among others.

Working Groups

The IBC-HM may establish working groups to advance the achievement of its objectives. Each working group may have its own membership and co-leadership and establish terms of reference and a work plan. Working groups will report on their activities and results to the full membership of the IBC on a quarterly basis.

The working groups may be formed according to identified priorities which need strategic, coordinated response and support mechanisms.

To this end, the IBC-HM establishes the following working groups:

- WG-1: Regional United Nations Network on Migration for the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact for Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNNM-LAC)

The UNNM-LAC will support the implementation, follow-up and review of the objectives of the GCM and, to this end, will focus on analysis, activities, policies and/or programmes that lead to safe, orderly and regular migration.

The regional UNNM will oversee reporting on progress, initiatives and other aspects, as well as sharing information and making timely inquiries to IBC members on human mobility. It has autonomy to carry out its mandate in accordance with the work plan agreed upon (including periodic updates, as required) with the rest of the members of the network.

The UNNM-LAC will be made up of all UN entities that wish to participate in its activities and the coordination of its operation will be under IOM and ECLAC who will seek to ensure decision making by consensus amongst members.

Members of the UNNM-LAC will contribute to the design and implementation of the Regional Network's objectives, promote coherence on migration within the UN system and provide inputs and support the whole process of preparation of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, among others.

The UNNM-LAC commits to taking concrete actions, as follows:

- Ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN system-wide support to Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM at the regional level in coordination with the UN Migration Network Secretariat and Executive Committee;
- Support coherent action by the UN system at country and regional levels in support of GCM implementation, in line with the global UN Network on Migration initiatives and where such action would add value, while ensuring well-defined linkages with UN structures at all levels;
- Feed regional information, analysis and best practices into global knowledge management efforts;
- Ensure Regional Network actions to promote the application of relevant international and regional norms and standards relating to migration and protection of the human rights of migrants;
- Focus on strengthening links with other regional processes and initiatives when relevant for the implementation of the GCM in the region;
- Provide support at the regional level to the capacity building mechanism, as outlined in the GCM;

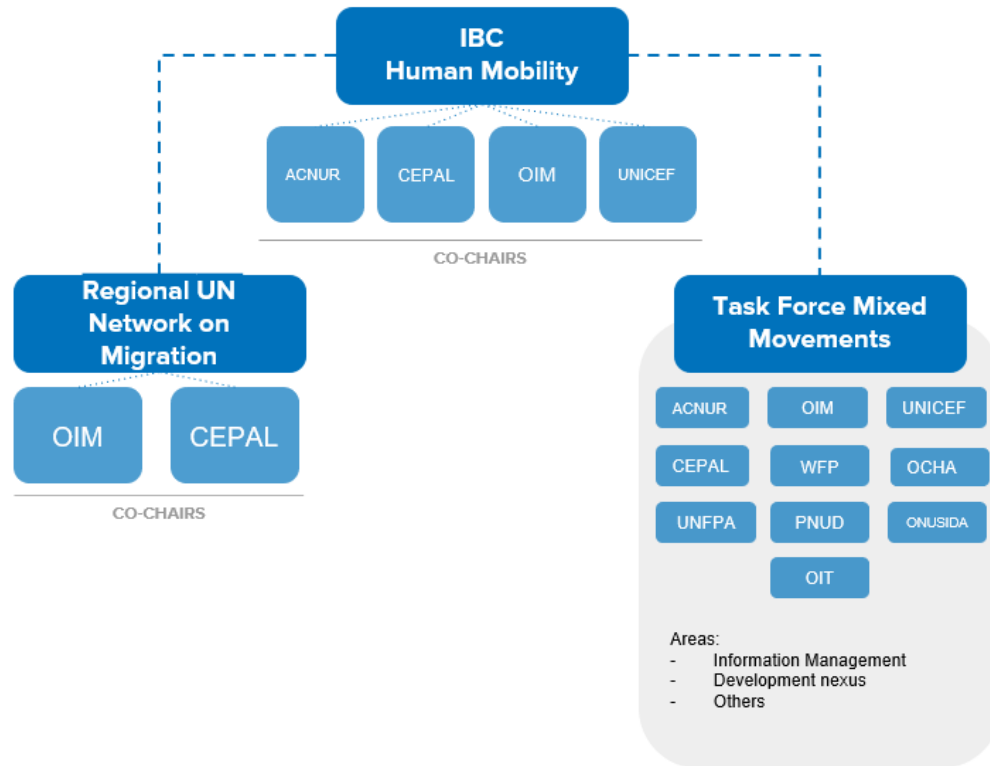
- Provide information, guidance and support to RCs and UNCTs on the establishment of country-level UN Migration Networks; and
- Promote joint work with and involvement of partners from outside of the UN, engaging in policy dialogues and exchanges with regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, research organizations, and financial institutions, amongst others.

The UNNM-LAC will coordinate actions with the UNMN at the global level, as well as with the networks established at the national level, aiming to contribute to the consolidation of a coherent and harmonious approach at all levels. The UNMN-LAC will liaise with the Network Executive Committee through the UN Network Secretariat as well as with RCs/Chairs of National Networks on the progress made at regional level in the implementation of the GCM, and its follow-up and review.

The UNNM-LAC will also coordinate and consult, as pertinent, with the other IBCs on cross-cutting issues related to their mandates and that can contribute to the follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Migration.

In its work, the UNNM-LAC will be guided by the following principles:

- **Accountability:** The regional network and its members have the responsibility to implement their decisions as agreed and will be accountable to the Secretary-General who, in turn, is accountable to the General Assembly, including through the biennial reporting mandated by the GCM, and other follow-up mechanisms of the GCM;
- **Human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach:** The regional network will uphold and advocate laws and principles to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all migrants and their communities, especially those in the most vulnerable situations;
- **Coherence:** The regional network will draw from the mandates, technical expertise and experience of relevant entities within the UN system in supporting GCM implementation and promoting the overall coherence of the system's work on migration;
- **Unity of purpose:** All members of the regional network will be jointly committed to its success, placing emphasis on the added value of their coordinated work and of collaborating to achieve common goals;
- **Efficiency:** The regional network will be fully aligned with existing UN system coordination mechanisms and will adopt a streamlined and efficient approach in all its activities;
- **Inclusivity:** The regional network, in its own working methods and in engaging others, will operate in an inclusive, systematic, predictable and transparent manner;
- **Results-oriented:** The regional network will focus on supporting the progress of Member States towards achieving implementation of the GCM; and
- **Agility:** The regional network will regularly review – both formally and informally – and where necessary recalibrate its methods and the focus of its work to ensure its impact is maximized.



5. Meetings

- The IBC meets every two months through face to face or virtual meetings. Special or ad hoc meetings may be convened if needed by the Co-Chairs. The IBC will meet at the principal level twice a year.
- A quorum is reached with the attendance of half of the members.
- A meeting should be organized with the IBC members to prepare the IBC annual report and to elaborate the next year's workplan.
- A report of the IBC's activities will be presented to the RCP LAC both at the end of the first semester and at the end of each year.

6. Documentation

The IBC Co-Chairs shall be the repository for the IBC's files, in which all documentation deemed necessary for audit purposes should be kept. The IBC Co-Chairs entities should submit relevant documentation to the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs and RCP LAC members, and include these in the Microsoft Teams Space of the Issue-Based Coalitions and Working Groups of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as include relevant events in the RCP LAC joint calendar. The IBC Co-Chairs are responsible for keeping detailed files on the IBC's activities and sharing copies of all relevant documents such as the IBC workplan and report with the RCP LAC Joint Secretariat. The Co-Chairs of the IBC will make available any relevant documentation to any appropriate requesting entity.

7. Confidentiality

Most discussions and reports of the RCP LAC can be shared openly with RCP LAC members. However, RCP LAC members are required to uphold the confidentiality of sensitive information when it is explicitly classified as such.

8. Sunset Clause

The RCP LAC reserves the right to review the terms of reference periodically, particularly if there is a change in RCP LAC strategic priorities or context/situation, and determine whether and how to continue the IBC. The Co-Chairs of the IBC should inform the RCP LAC Vice-Chairs once the results of the IBC have been achieved and the IBC shall be discontinued, and/or if there is a recommendation for the dissolution of the IBC for other reasons.

9. Approval, review and amendment of the TORS

The present Terms of Reference have been approved by the IBC-HM. TORs can be subject to amendments at the request and proposal of its co-chairs. Amendments to the TORs will be approved with the consent of the IBC-HM members.

ANNEX 1. Menu of Services

Type of Service	Service lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Subregional/cross-border technical support</i>	<p><i>Developing information management tools and/or analysis on evolution of trends in a particular subregion and/or across specific borders (e.g. human mobility, drug trafficking)</i></p> <p><i>Provision of technical assistance for the development of inter-agency programming across borders or at subregional level</i></p> <p><i>Provision of technical assistance for contingency planning across borders or at subregional level</i></p> <p><i>Providing regular updates on specific relevant human mobility situations.</i></p> <p><i>Supporting common information management initiatives and tools.</i></p> <p><i>Provision of technical support to RC and UNCTs on the response to the challenges emerging in the context of mixed movements.</i></p>



Comparative policy analysis

Undertaking a comparative study on thematic policies across the region/subregion/group of countries to support UNCT policy support role in LAC

Prototyping integrated policy advice

Developing guidance and recommendations on specific public policy areas for a specific set of countries

Capacity development for UNCTs and/or counterparts

Training sessions for UNCTs and/or external counterparts (as requested through the RCs) on specific themes

Supporting specific human mobility capacity building mechanisms as outlined in the Global Compacts.

Common positioning and communication

Producing and disseminating joint key messages and/or joint communications strategy on area of focus.

Developing common advocacy and messaging to reinforce the coherence of the UN position on human mobility issues. Regularly updating and disseminating information products on human mobility in the region.

Engagement in regional/global inter-governmental fora

Development of joint positioning in relevant subregional, regional or global inter-governmental fora to advance a particular issue/joint follow-up to key inter-governmental fora to advance specific issues in the region.

Supporting Member States and other stakeholders in the IMRF, as well as the further implementation of the New York Declaration and Global Compacts at country and regional levels in alignment with the UNDS.

Other