



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



Joint Communiqué

FIRST REGIONAL FORUM OF CHAMPION COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS: GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

**September 27 and 28, 2023
Panama, Republic of Panama**

The Government of Panama, in the framework of its Presidency Pro-Témpore of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) during the year 2023, and with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), convened the First Regional Forum of Champion Countries of the Americas: Good Practices for the Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), which was held from September 27 to 28, 2023, in Panama City, with more than 82 representatives from 17 countries.

The main objective of the Forum was to bring together the RCM Member Countries and other GCM champion¹ countries to promote greater collaboration, with a view to advancing the implementation of the GCM and contributing to the 2030 Agenda. To this end, participating countries discussed the current panorama and challenges, as well as the opportunities of migration and its linkage with sustainable development, sharing policies, practices, tools, and experiences in the area of migration governance.

The representatives of the participating countries recognized the need to continue strengthening actions to ensure the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, improve humanitarian assistance, reduce their vulnerabilities and, above all, save lives.

During the meeting, the countries exchanged experiences in combating migrant smuggling and human trafficking, as well as practices to promote regular channels for the admission and stay of migrants, and to improve access to legal identity and proper documentation.

Country representatives reflected on the contribution of migrants to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the need to achieve their full inclusion and social cohesion and to create the necessary conditions for diasporas to contribute to sustainable development.

¹ Azerbaijan, Colombia, Nigeria,



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In addition, the collection and use of accurate data for public policy formulation, as well as promoting safe and dignified return for sustainable reintegration were key topics of discussion.

Participating countries underscored the value of the GCM as a fundamental framework and common language to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of migration in a region characterized by migration. "The role of the champion countries in its implementation is key and I congratulate them for their leadership," added IOM Regional Director Michele Klein-Solomon.

Finally, the participants laid the groundwork to work in a coordinated manner in preparation for the review of the GCM in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in 2024, which will be an opportunity to strengthen regional and inter-regional cooperation on migration with the participation of all stakeholders.

The participating countries thank the People and Government of the Republic of Panama for their hospitality and efforts to carry out this first Forum in the Americas, as well as the Government of Canada, the Observer Organizations, and other members of the United Nations Regional Network² on Migration who supported the development of this meeting.

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² UNHCR, CEPAL, CICR, IFRC, OACNUDH, IOM, ILO, PNUD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC.



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