



MIRPS and the MIRPS Support Platform – Private Sector Engagement Webinar

July 11, 2023

Background:

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) effectively promotes a coordinated regional response to forced displacement in Central America and Mexico by seeking to engage all relevant stakeholders and galvanizing essential humanitarian, development, public, and private sector initiatives. There are seven countries that make up the MIRPS: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama. The 2023 Pro Tempore Presidency is held by the Government of Panama.

The MIRPS Support Platform bolsters the efforts of the MIRPS States to facilitate protection and solutions for the forcibly displaced by leveraging support from a wide range of States, international financial institutions, the private sector, regional bodies, and other key stakeholders.

The current Chair of the Support Platform is the United States of America (until December 31, 2023). Canada was the Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform from July 2021 – Sep 2022 and under the Troika Model of Leadership, is currently supporting U.S leadership of the Platform as the Past Chair.

Context:

In its 2022 Support Platform Chair Report, Canada recommended members of the Support Platform make an effort to reach out to private sector stakeholders with interests in the region through roundtables or webinars. Both the MIRPS and the MIRPS Support Platform have identified private sector engagement as a priority to develop solutions to forced displacement, building on the success of past outreach and events.

In July 2022, Canada, with the support of the MIRPS Secretariat, hosted a roundtable for Canadian businesses with interests in the MIRPS countries and Canadian Chambers of Commerce from the region.

As a result of the roundtable and the discussions it generated, the Director of the Canada- Panama Chamber of Commerce indicated that the members of her organization would be very interested to participate in a webinar to learn how businesses can support healthy communities by employing forcibly displaced persons.

Given the United States is the current Chair of the Support Platform and Panama holds the Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS, we believe it would be an opportunity to maximize the results of the event by inviting and including the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Panama and the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to attend and be involved in these discussions.

Objectives:

This event will provide an opportunity to bring visibility to the situation of forced displacement in Panama, and learn how MIRPS countries and the Support Platform are engaged, while exploring ways the private sector could be involved in solutions that support the economic and social inclusion of forcibly displaced persons.

The webinar will include presentations around possible tools and resources for the private sector, including on inclusive hiring practices, avenues for corporate social responsibility, and the opportunity to learn about how the private sector could consider support and engagement with the MIRPS.