

## **Panama City Declaration at the VI Annual Meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS)**

### **-Non Official translation-**

The representatives of the Governments of Belize, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, the United Mexican States, and the Republic of Panama, Member States of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), gathered at the VI MIRPS Annual Meeting in Panama City, with the purpose of reviewing progress, challenges, and achievements at the national and regional levels, and with the aim of continuing to advance in the implementation of the efforts and commitments made in the Declarations within the MIRPS framework<sup>1</sup>, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, agree to:

*Recognize* that there is a growing number of migrants and people in need of international protection, who make up the mixed migratory movements across the borders of Central America and Mexico, exposed to various risks and posing challenges to the protection and care capacities along the route.

*Emphasize* the multi-causal nature of mixed migratory movements in the region, with particularities and responses specific to each country, in accordance with its domestic legislation, including the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, socioeconomic factors, the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, the different manifestations of violence and insecurity, among other factors, which require specific protection measures and actions, including refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees in need of protection, stateless persons, victims of trafficking, separated or unaccompanied children.

*Express* particular concern about the large-scale, successive mixed migratory movements in Central America and Mexico, particularly in the Darien region, and the consequent risks faced by people crossing through this area in search of protection and opportunities and who are exposed to violations of their physical and psychological integrity, and therefore it is necessary to continue supporting national and regional efforts through the MIRPS to provide international protection and access to fair and efficient asylum procedures.

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<sup>1</sup> The San Pedro Sula Declaration as a regional contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees of 2017, the Global Compact on Refugees of 2018, the Mexico City Declaration on International Protection, Shared Responsibility and Regional Solidarity Actions in MIRPS countries of 2019, the San Salvador city Declaration: Answers to the needs of international protection for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in MIRPS member States of 2020, the Declaration of the City of La Antigua Guatemala: Responding to the root causes of displacement and strengthening partnerships and integral responses for the protection and solutions for displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees with protection needs in Central America and Mexico of 2021, the Tegucigalpa Declaration in Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in Central America and Mexico of 2022.

*Highlight* the need for a collaborative and coordinated regional approach to address the challenges involved in the care and identification of persons in need of international protection, who make up mixed migratory movements, involving the States of origin, transit and destination, international cooperation, civil society and host communities.

*Emphasize* the importance of collaboration aimed at identifying and addressing the root causes of displacement and efforts aimed at creating conditions that improve the quality of life, especially in origin and host communities.

*Reaffirm* our commitment to the objectives and guiding principles of the MIRPS at the highest national, regional, and global levels as an effective mechanism for protection and durable solutions, promoting political support and the mobilization of technical, financial and material resources from the MIRPS Support Platform, development finance institutions, the UN System, civil society, academia and the private sector to address the impact and root causes of mixed migratory movements and displacement

*Strengthen* regional dialogue and cooperation to advance commitments in MIRPS national action plans, with the objective of expanding opportunities for the protection and integration of refugees and displaced persons, contributing to the strengthening of their social and economic participation, as well as their capacity to generate positive contributions in their host communities.

*Promote* the work and recommendations of the States through the MIRPS Regional Technical Teams that have allowed the exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and good practices, through the implementation of their roadmaps, in accordance with their domestic legislation, and considering their different realities, policies, capacities and priorities.

*Continue strengthening* national institutions responsible for refugee status determination processes, by improving technical capacities and developing national asylum procedures, systems and practices that increase efficiency, equity and quality, in accordance with the capacity and needs of each country and with the support and assistance of the members of the MIRPS Support Platform, the UNHCR, the OAS and other actors.

*Promote* the self-sufficiency of refugees and other displaced or stateless communities, facilitating access to decent work and entrepreneurship, through the employability mechanisms of the government institutions involved; national legislation and relevant policies; and facilitate the recognition of competencies, knowledge and skills, with the accompaniment and assistance of the members of the MIRPS Support Platform, and in partnership with the private sector and civil society.

*Encourage* the leadership of local governments and strengthen coordination with relevant institutions to facilitate the integration of displaced persons at the local level, together with their host communities.

*Promote* the systematic inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, persons in need of international protection and internally displaced persons in data collection efforts, including through identification questions and solutions indicators in national population censuses and household surveys, as appropriate, to enable data disaggregation and reporting, with the support and assistance of MIRPS Support Platform members and other partnerships.

*Strengthen* regional cooperation measures aimed at guaranteeing the protection of the human rights of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents in mixed migratory movements and displacement, granting them special and differentiated treatment, in accordance with international protection frameworks, guaranteeing the protection of the principle of the best interests of the child.

Adopt the Statutory Charter of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, as the document that will guide the structure and operation of this regional mechanism.

Highlight the work of the entities implementing the projects financed by the MIRPS Fund created within the framework of the OAS in the period 2023-2024, based on the pioneering contribution made by the Kingdom of Spain, and to urge the OAS Member States to continue and/or make voluntary contributions to this Fund, in order to support the MIRPS Member States in fulfilling their commitments and to continue to contribute to the strengthening of this regional mechanism.

Emphasize the contributions of civil society in the region to the protection and search of solutions for internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees, returnees to their countries of origin with protection needs and stateless persons.

Recognize the technical support of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, under the leadership of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Republic of Panama, for their continuous efforts to generate a regional space for dialogue and joint work that strengthens regional cooperation.

Thank the MIRPS Support Platform for its continued efforts to mobilize resources, financial and technical assistance to MIRPS Member States, and in particular, the Government of the United States of America for their leadership as the Third Chair of the Support Platform.

Distinguish the management and leadership exercised by the Sixth Pro-Tempore Chair of the MIRPS held by the Government of Panama and welcome the Government of Belize as the new Pro-Tempore Chair of the MIRPS.

Officialize the transfer of the outgoing and incoming Pro-Tempore Chair through the formal handover of a banner symbolizing the structure of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework.



**Marco Integral Regional para la  
Protección y Soluciones**

Abordando el desplazamiento forzado en Centroamérica y México

“Let us walk on the feet of others, for a decent life. Let us walk together, we are all the border”.

Given in Panama City on January 24, 2024.