

Technical Meeting with the National Commissions for Refugees (CONARE) and Equivalentents in the Americas

15-16 October, 2024 | Panama City

Day 1, Tuesday 15 October 2024

Time	Topics and activities	Facilitators
08:30	Registration and accreditation of participants	Technical Secretariats
09:00	Opening remarks	Vice minister Carlos Ruiz-Hernández, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama Vice minister Alejandro Solano Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica Mr. Nikolai Zelaya Acting Director, Refugees Department of Belize
09:15	Official photo	
09:20	Presentation of objectives and joint review of the agenda	Technical Secretariats

09:30	<p>Introductory presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The regional context of human mobility: Challenges and opportunities for national asylum systems. 2. Capacity building for asylum and international protection in the region. Achievements in the asylum working groups of the intergovernmental processes. Presentation by Mexico and Brazil, leaders of the working groups on asylum in the MIRPS and Quito Process, respectively. 3. Update on the activities of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection Action Package Committee on Investing in Asylum. 	<p>José Sieber, UNHCR</p> <p>Miriam González López, Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) and Thiago Medeiros da Cunha Cavalcanti, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil</p> <p>Brigitte Witzel, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)</p>
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	<p>Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Fair and efficient asylum procedures in contexts of large-scale influxes of refugees and mixed and successive movements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tools for expeditious application management and adjudication; b) Differentiated case processing strategies; c) Group and prima facie recognition based on the regional refugee definition of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration as incorporated into national legislation. <p><i>Each panelist will have 12 minutes to speak. There will then be an additional 12 minutes for states wishing to take the floor with comments or questions to the panelists.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Luciana Litterio, National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) Argentina</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cristina Mansilla, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay -Cindy Molina, General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME) of Costa Rica - Giuliana Redin, National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) Brazil - Miriam González López, Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)

12:00	Lunch	
13:30	<p>Working Groups:</p> <p>a) Presumption of inclusion and prima facie eligibility method based on the regional refugee definition (Cartagena Declaration) incorporated into national legislations. Differentiated processing strategies based on profiles (simplified, accelerated and merged procedures). <i>Discussion facilitated by Brazil.</i></p> <p>b) Models for managing asylum applications at land and air borders (airports). Decentralization and digital services of CONAREs offices and equivalents. Efficient asylum adjudication models (collegiate bodies versus individual adjudicators, digital services for case processing). <i>Discussion facilitated by Mexico.</i></p> <p>c) Tools for backlog reduction and administrative case closure and other efficiency tools. Minimum due process standards for administrative case closure. Use of technologies for case file management, data analysis and statistics. <i>Discussion facilitated by Costa Rica.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Lorena Isla, UNHCR</p> <p>Each group will appoint a rapporteur. The designated country leads the discussion.</p>
15:00	Coffee break	
15:20	Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Groups in plenary.	Facilitators from each group present the recommendations in plenary.
15:40	<p>Presentation:</p> <p>5. Conclusions and recommendations of the First Thematic Consultation of the Cartagena+40 Process: “Protection of people in situation of human mobility and statelessness”, held on April 4 and 5, 2024 in Mexico; and update on the path towards the adoption of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Chile.</p>	Valentina Vivallo, Coordinator of the Cartagena+40 Process, General Directorate of Human Rights Humanos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

16:15	<p>Panel:</p> <p>6. Asylum systems and articulation with multilateral mechanisms for human mobility in the region.</p>	<p>Moderator: Johanna Roldan, UNHCR</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vice minister Alejandro Solano Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica - Nikolai Zelaya Acting Director, Refugees Department of Belize -Cristina Mansilla, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay
17:00	Summary of the day and closing remarks	Technical Secretariats

Day 2, Wednesday 16 October 2024

09:00	Brief outline of the agenda and objectives	Technical Secretariats
09:15	<p>7. Presentation of best practices regarding tools and systems to strengthen asylum capacity and effectively manage asylum claims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) UNHCR: Digitization of asylum systems for efficient management, adherence to data protection standards and fraud mitigation measures and procedural integrity. b) Colombia: Development of the new <i>Hit</i> asylum application management system. 	<p>Moderator: Gonzalo Bonifaz, Special Commission for Refugees of Peru</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gianluca Ogis, UNCHR -Ambassador Isaura Duarte, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia



	<p>c) Mexico: Recommendations as a result of its digital transformation program.</p> <p>d) Canada: Use of technology to reduce backlog. Asylum hearings via videoconferencing. Adjudication based on digital file review.</p>	<p>- Miriam González López, Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR)</p> <p>- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada</p>
10:30	Coffee break	
10:50	<p>Presentation and working groups:</p> <p>Elements for the construction of a joint plan for strengthening asylum systems.</p> <p>a) Presentation of the methodology</p> <p>b) Working Groups</p>	<p>Moderators: José Sieber and Lorena Isla, UNHCR</p>
12:00	Plenary presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the working groups.	Presentations by moderators from each group
12:30	Closing remarks: summary of discussions and conclusions.	<p>Mr. Nikolai Zelaya Director a.i. Refugees Department of Belize</p> <p>Vice minister Alejandro Solano Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica</p> <p>Vice minister Carlos Ruiz-Hernández, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama</p>