



Second Regional Technical Meeting of National Refugee Commissions (CONAREs) and Equivalent Bodies in the Americas

24–25 September 2025

Panama City

I. Context

The 2025 Pro Tempore Presidencies of the Quito Process and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), held by Ecuador and Costa Rica respectively, plan to convene a second joint technical meeting with the National Refugee Commissions (CONAREs) and equivalent bodies. The objective is to strengthen national asylum systems across the 17 Member States that make up each mechanism.

This initiative is aligned with the strategic priorities outlined in the General Concept Note of “Quito Chapter IV” and the “MIRPS Regional Action Plan,” as well as the commitments adopted in the San José and Belize Declarations (2024).

Colombia, a Quito Process Member State, holds in 2025 the Chair of the MIRPS Support Platform, which assists Central American and Mexican countries in protection and solutions for displaced persons. Under its leadership, the Platform promotes a strategy aimed at strengthening institutions and procedures for refugee status determination (RSD), through capacity development and the exchange of good practices. This meeting is part of the priority actions defined in the Platform’s 2025 Strategy.

In the context of increasing complexity, with multiple and overlapping causes, many institutions and RSD procedures in the region face common challenges. States have expressed the need to adapt and strengthen their legal frameworks, procedures, and operational capacities, while ensuring the integrity, efficiency, and sustainability of national asylum systems. This workshop responds to the fourth strategic axis of Quito Chapter IV on “Strengthening National Asylum Systems and International Protection,” as well as the work plan of the MIRPS Regional Technical Team on Reception, Admission, and Case Processing.

Both strategic pillars aim to strengthen and develop Member States’ institutions and RSD procedures, reaching the highest regional standards. Key actions include promoting access to refugee status determination procedures, increasing efficiency to prevent and reduce backlogs, adopting differentiated case-processing strategies, advancing digitalization and modernization of systems, and in general, developing management models that ensure quality and integrity in eligibility procedures.



This second technical meeting seeks to facilitate the exchange of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned, with technical support from UNHCR, and in alignment with the regional priorities set in the “Quality Asylum Programme” of the Chile Action Plan (PAC), particularly those to be selected during the First Meeting of the PAC Monitoring and Coordination Mechanism, to be held virtually in Santiago, Chile, on 17–18 July 2025.

The Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process, composed of IOM and UNHCR, and the Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, composed of the OAS (through its Department of Social Inclusion) and UNHCR, will provide support for the organization of this joint event between both intergovernmental mechanisms.

II. Objectives

General Objective

To highlight the challenges, progress, and opportunities faced by CONAREs and equivalent bodies in the Americas in managing refugee status determination, and to strengthen their technical and operational capacities to ensure fairer and more efficient procedures.

Specific Objectives

- To create a space for peer-to-peer analysis and exchange on institutional responses to current realities, challenges, and opportunities in refugee status determination procedures in the region.
- To address the importance and necessity of strengthening international cooperation, under the principle of shared responsibility, including support to host communities.
- To identify and promote practical, rights-based tools to optimize the efficient management of RSD procedures, respond comprehensively to international protection needs, and improve the use and production of country-of-origin information.
- To advance the development of a joint roadmap for 2026, enabling the progressive and sustainable strengthening of CONAREs and equivalent bodies, articulating efforts among the Quito Process, MIRPS, and PAC mechanisms, based on current mandates and Member States’ priorities.

III. Participants’ Profile

The meeting is intended for senior technical officials from Member States of the Quito Process and MIRPS—specifically directors, deputy directors, technical secretaries, or operational leads of the National Refugee Commissions (CONAREs) and equivalent bodies.



Participants are expected to have direct experience in refugee status determination procedures and decision-making capacity in operational, regulatory, or strategic matters.

Discussions will be technical in nature, aimed at identifying concrete solutions, practical recommendations, and areas of cooperation between the two regional mechanisms, forming the basis for the development of a joint roadmap toward 2026.

IV. Logistical Information

The meeting will take place in person in Panama City on **24–25 September 2025**. The working language will be Spanish.

For any queries or logistical support requests, please contact the Technical Secretariats of the Quito Process and MIRPS at the following emails: st@procesodequito.org and panpamirpshn@unhcr.org

Technical Secretariats of the Quito Process and MIRPS

Panama City, 25 July 2025