

## **Inputs from the Costa Rican Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners (DGME) with respect to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

The Global Compact seeks to promote and establish a series of voluntary principles, compromises, and understandings between the Member States of the United Nations, which in turn, contribute to the international cooperation in order to support the governance of safe, regular, and orderly migration.

We acknowledge that migration has become an issue of high priority on the current international agenda, Costa Rica, as a country of destination, has worked and has been in the vanguard to provide according to the national migration policy, an effective response to this complicated situation.

Costa Rica, represents in the Central American region, an important point of passage in the transit route towards the north, therefore we maintains our commitment to the International Law by focusing on the respect of human rights. This tenet must be our based for the operative action and protection of the migrant persons with an integral approach, of national security, public health, and humanitarian action, as well as the achievement of bilateral coordination with our neighboring country of Panama that promotes a controlled flow of migrants and a shared responsibility.

In this context, Costa Rica support the regional initiatives of coordinated, multilateral actions in order to tackle this common challenge with shared responsibility. The impact of migration in small countries, and the difficulties encountered, are a relevant issue that Costa Rica exposes with great preoccupation and highlight during the discussions that it holds with friendly countries.

The region of Central America is a complex migration scene, in which it is possible to see diverse contexts that arise from political, social, economic, and cultural situations that differ from country to country. Our migration policies focus their forces in agreement with the trends that are most impactful as countries of destination, transit and origin.

Even with these complex and diverse dynamics of the focuses of migration policies, we have achieved a consensus that at the regional level, all member countries share a common denominator which is the Respect for the Human Rights of all migrant persons and refugees.

In Costa Rica, we have addressed with responsibility and commitment the migration of persons from diverse nationalities, who have crossed our country and part of Central America. Certainly, this situation put our institutional capacities and operatives to the test. But to this day, we are a country that has grown with the management of migration control with a focus on the respect of human rights, where at all times the most important aspect has been to safeguard the life and procure the protection of the most vulnerable: children, adolescents, women, and older people.

We have learned to view migration as a right and to respect the decision that millions of people in the world have made in the search for a better hope for life, others fleeing violence, or as result of climate change or natural disasters.

As a country, we recognize that acting alone, we will not be able to confront the global challenges that the current trends of migration present to us, so with regards to the Global Compact, we align our actions with the following initiatives:

1. We will promote according to International law, mechanisms of migration control that protect citizens and safeguard the human rights of migrant people, especially women, children, and adolescents, in countries of transit and destination; with the intention of

protecting these people from violations and abuses of human rights, as well as minimizing their vulnerabilities in order to eliminate the possibility of being victims of exploitation.

2. We will work to strengthen our plans of action for Integration and Development, recognizing the positive economic, social, and cultural contributions that migrant people create in their countries of origin and destination.
3. For the purpose of executing the regulation process, we recognize that irregular migration is the result of diverse factors, including the search for better economic opportunities, social exclusion, family reunification, food insecurity, economic inequality, violence resulting from criminal activities, internal and regional conflicts, human rights violations, corruption, environmental factors, climate change, and natural disasters.
4. We orient our projects for information technology towards the necessity to obtain more and better statistical data, as well as early alerts about migrant people. We promote a register of standardized information and biometric registries, that are comparable, accessible and can be shared.
5. We will attend to, with specialized action, the necessities of all people that find themselves in vulnerable situations, such as women in situations of risk, children, and adolescents, especially those who are unaccompanied or are separated from their families, victims of violence, older adults, people with disabilities and people that are subjected to discrimination for whatever motive, victims of human trafficking, of human rights violations and of exploitation.
6. We are united with the commitment to improve the international cooperation, with the purpose of strengthen the capacities of the country for the management of migration, within the legal framework, in order to assure sustainability.
7. We support the initiative that countries of origin, transit, and destination promote information campaigns that warn about the risks associated with irregular migration and build capacities to identify, persecute, and sanction the persons that are perpetuating illegal trafficking of migrants and human trafficking.
8. We recognize the importance of the protection of labor rights of migrant persons and the necessity to promote, in the best way possible and in accordance with national legislation, actions that bring practical and useful information upon their arrival and during their stay.
9. We recognize the relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Action Agenda of Addis Abeba, and the Declaration of High-Level Dialogue about International Migration and Development for the construction of the Global Compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration and the Global Compact on refugees. In this sense, we will promote cooperation in order to obtain and effectively use financial, material, and human resources, because the actions in favor of the migrants should be accompanied by appropriate resources.
10. Adopt an comprehensive focus on the attention to migratory issues and guarantee that the migrant persons that arrive in the country will be given, independently of their migration condition, a dignified, respectful, compassionate, humane welcome, guaranteeing the respect of their human rights, human centered approach and that takes into account a gender perspective.