



## **Report on the Global Compact for a Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

### **Guatemala**

Guatemala deems giving an integral, coordinated and co-responsible answer to migration by origin, transit and destination States as indispensable, so as to ensure safe, orderly and regular migratory flows and thereby guarantee the full respect of Human Rights of migrants, notwithstanding their migratory status and paying special attention to the most vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied or accompanied migrant minors, adolescents, family units, and the elderly, amongst others. Stronger commitment from countries to review and improve legislation is also a must.

Irregular migration is an area of migration management that concerns the governments throughout the world; it should consider the regularization processes, for this allows migrants to be visualized. The Global Compact should make the view that migration is beneficial to origin, transit and destination countries self evident. It should also contribute to guarantee full respect of Human Rights of migrants; avoid inadequate arrest proceedings that violate their legal, social, substantive and procedural rights, and when necessary ensure proper return processes with the necessary safeguards without distinction, or discrimination of any sort, notwithstanding their migratory status.

Acknowledging the positive links between migration and development is essential. Destination countries should acknowledge the positive contribution that immigrants bring to their economies, whilst origin countries must work to ensure that migration is a choice rather than a necessity. The Global Compact will prove to be a good opportunity to acknowledge the importance of migration towards development of societies, both in countries of destination and of origin.



Restrictive immigration policies not only exacerbate xenophobia, discrimination and racism and augment migrants' vulnerability, but also keep destination countries from benefitting from knowledge, skills and experience brought by those who seek to integrate. All forms of intolerance against migrants must be fought against and also avoid linking migration to crime.

The lack of opportunity for safe, orderly and regular migration makes people become the victims of traffickers and smugglers. In this context, it is utterly important to strengthen cooperation and coordination to tackle human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and also to promote the timely detection of possible trafficking victims and their referral to the relevant authorities.

Strengthening prevention of irregular migration is also needed, as is reintegration and lobbying towards migratory regularization of our nationals abroad, specialized and differentiated consular protection for our migrant minors and adolescents and in broad terms, aid, assistance and protection of the migrant community as a whole.

The causes and motivations to migrate must also be addressed. In what pertains to Guatemala, 90% of migrants have done so due to economic reasons; this fact makes it imperative to broaden the availability of opportunities through economic growth, access to international markets and the use of sustainable development technologies that generate jobs and curtail unnecessary emigration.

In what has to do with the adverse effects of climate change and of natural disasters as drivers of migration, efforts must be undertaken so as to reduce the vulnerability of local population, enhance adaptation and mitigation strategies amongst which human mobility facilitation and timely attention to affected communities as a means to ensuring wellbeing are very important. Timely and predictable financing for early warning systems and for disaster risk-reduction are also required.



We stress the importance of the Nansen Initiative and its follow-up action plan and reaffirm our political commitment towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk-Reduction (2015-2030) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; we express though that cooperation is needed in order to adequately protect migratory flows generated due to natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

Additionally, integration of migrants is key to development at the local level, not only in destination societies but also regarding the reintegration of voluntary or involuntary returnees to their countries of origin. Facilitating the socio-economic reintegration, ensuring access to the labor market and education and health services with the same set of conditions as locals is a must-have to integrate migrants and returnees to the receiving society.

Guatemala is convinced of the need to join efforts to achieve safe and orderly migration programs, including those that have to do with temporary workers in developed countries, which have generated positive impacts. These programs have proven themselves as a valuable mechanism to improve the living conditions of the workers, of their families and of their communities of origin, and have also contributed to their origin country's economy through remittances and service and infrastructure investments.

In this context, the flow of remittances are important sources of foreign currency in the economies of the recipient countries and play a significant role in the improvement of living conditions in the communities. It is therefore necessary to promote and generate conditions that make the forwarding services cheaper, faster, safer and better towards the countries of origin and for the recipients, underscoring goal 10.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which states: "By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent."

Guatemala consider of importance strengthening cooperation between the different actors, be them government, social society, academic, private sector and international organizations,



including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and also the need for an ongoing inter-agency coordination within the United Nations, to deal with mixed migratory flows, the various situations of vulnerability of persons in movement and also to avoid duplicity.