



## SAN PEDRO SULA DECLARATION

### AS A REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

#### Preamble

1. We, the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, recognizing the support of other cooperating States, together with national human rights institutions, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, as well as the collaboration, as co-organizer, of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and with the sponsorship of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) and the United Nations System, under the auspices of the Government of Honduras, host of this Regional Conference in San Pedro Sula, which is being held pursuant to the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants;
2. *We note* that movements of people in the region are mixed and multi-causal in nature, with particularities and responses specific to each country, in accordance with domestic legislation, and include socioeconomic factors, the consequences of natural disasters and climate change, as well as violence and insecurity caused by organized crime;
3. *We underscore* the need to design a comprehensive response which deals with the causes of such movements as well as the strengthening of protection and the provision of assistance to meet the differentiated needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees with protection needs;
4. *We recognize* the solidarity and good will of States and communities in the region with refugees, asylum-seekers, and maintain our commitment to continue strengthening international protection and the search for durable solutions in the region;
5. *We reaffirm* the obligation of States to efficiently manage migratory movement of persons, ensuring respect for the human rights of asylum-seekers and refugees, in accordance with international refugee law, international human rights law and legal frameworks applicable in the region as well as the commitment to strengthen regional cooperation relating to such movements;

6. *We reiterate* our commitment to prevent and combat illegal trafficking of migrants and people smuggling as well our commitment to protect victims of people smuggling;
7. *We recognize* the importance of implementing fair, differentiated and efficient asylum procedures that take into account the particular needs of people at greater risk and with specific vulnerabilities, including unaccompanied and separated children, family groups, victims of sexual and gender based violence, LGBTI persons, and victims of trafficking, amongst others;
8. *We reaffirm* the applicability and validity of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, applicable regional refugee instruments, as appropriate, and in particular respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*;
9. *We recognise* the importance of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to ensure effective and predictable protection for refugees, thus contributing significantly to efforts for the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees;
10. *We highlight* the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the 2015 Paris Agreement on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasizing their importance for the development of comprehensive solutions, aimed at laying the foundations for sustainable development;
11. *We recognize* the efforts to implement national action plans to implement existing regional cooperation frameworks, including the 2014 "Brazil Plan of Action" and the 2016 "San José Action Statement", which highlight the importance of regional cooperation and responsibility sharing to find comprehensive solutions to the protection situation in the region;
12. *We recognize* the importance of addressing the multi-causal factors that give rise to these movements, as well as the urgency of promoting actions that foster conditions of well-being and security for our populations, in a framework of shared responsibility and international cooperation such as the Mesoamerica Project and the Alliance for Prosperity Plan.

### **The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework**

1. *We emphasize* that the New York Declaration promotes the adoption of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, based on solidarity and responsibility sharing, which includes development agencies and international and regional financial institutions. *We confirm* that the region can offer and promote joint policies in the protection, support and implementation of durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs;
2. *We reaffirm* the importance of furthering strategic and collaborative alliances and of promoting solidarity among all interested stakeholders in the implementation of comprehensive protection responses and durable solutions, which include States, the United Nations System, other

international and regional organizations, such as the OAS and SICA, development actors such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, civil society, academia, the private sector, faith based organizations, asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees with protection needs;

3. *We underscore* the importance of regional mechanisms of responsibility sharing to address the protection situation, through the search for durable solutions and the application of complementary forms of protection such as resettlement, humanitarian visas, the Protection Transfer Arrangement, family reunification, labour mobility and temporary migrant worker schemes and other formulas that promote safe, orderly and regular migration;
4. *We value* and acknowledge the contribution of the inclusive consultative processes that were carried out at the national level to develop the national chapters that are being presented at this Regional Conference and that form the basis of the Regional Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS – as per its Spanish acronym), including the important substantive content and commitments made by the different stakeholders involved, which propose concrete actions based on responsibility sharing, to strengthen protection in the region and promote durable and sustainable solutions;
5. *We agree* that this Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) - which is understood as a dynamic and collaborative process – as reflected in a practical, detailed and living document - represents our commitment to adopt and implement the respective national chapters, as well as our intention to work jointly to develop regional cooperation and responsibility sharing mechanisms, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders;
6. *We present* the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), understood as a regional application of the CRRF, as set out in Annex 1 of the New York Declaration, as an input to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges and as a regional contribution to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees and as a collective action plan to strengthen protection and promote durable solutions;
7. *We trust* that the application of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) will be a practical mechanism, aimed at contributing to existing regional cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, to promote responsibility sharing on prevention, protection and solutions for refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees with protection needs, in accordance with the population groups identified as priorities in each country;
8. *We call* upon international community to continue to support the region through cooperation mechanisms which enable the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS); and promotes the concerted action of States, civil society, academia, the private sector and international bodies;

Original: Spanish

9. *We request* UNHCR to continue to work with the participating States of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS), in cooperation with other stakeholders, in the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework as a follow-up to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants;
10. *We invite* the OAS to follow up on progress made at national and regional levels in the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) by way of an annual meeting, requesting UNHCR's support and technical assistance throughout the process;
11. *We thank* the Government of Honduras for its generous hospitality, and request that it share the results and conclusions of this Regional Conference in San Pedro Sula.

San Pedro Sula, 26 October 2017