

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM (IMRF)

SIDE EVENT “UPHOLDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN THE
GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION”

INTERVENTION OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO IN
GENEVA, AMBASSADOR FRANCISCA E. MÉNDEZ ESCOBAR

May 19th, 2022

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

It is an honor to be a speaker of this event, at the margins of the first International Migration Review Forum.

Four years after the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), there is no better time to assess our progress in implementing the Compact, but above all, to acknowledge the challenges ahead and commit to scaling-up our efforts around the GCM.

The inadequate management of migration has led many times to violations of human rights, to widening inequalities and vulnerabilities, and to deepening discrimination. No country can manage migration alone, nor can it take full advantage of migrant’s contributions without international cooperation and the support of multilateral mechanisms, which constitute the only way to address common challenges.

Well-managed migration requires public policies that promote the rights of all migrants, ensure their access to health and other services, reduce vulnerabilities, facilitate regular migration pathways, and foster the contributions of migrants to development. Constant and responsible dialogue among countries is also important to manage borders and human mobility as a whole.

And to achieve all of this, we have the Global Compact. This cooperative framework anchored in human rights law and the 2030 Agenda, with its 360 degree vision, 23 Objectives and 10 guiding principles, provides valuable elements to improve public policies, foster cooperation and ensure that migrants' rights are protected at all time.

As a GCM Champion country, Mexico reaffirms its commitment with the Compact and its guiding principles, in particular, a commitment to manage migration applying a people-centered, human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive approach.

While much progress has been made in implementing the Compact, as the UN Secretary General stressed in his recent report, there is still a long way to go to ensure a safe, orderly and regular migration. Migrants, especially those with irregular status, continue facing different and intersecting forms of discrimination and human rights violations as a result of their vulnerability. These are the migrants who have suffered the most the impacts of the pandemic.

In the case of Mexico, our migration frameworks, policies and programs have as guiding principle the protection, without discrimination, of migrants in vulnerable situations, who deserve specific and differentiated assistance, with a human rights perspective. This is particularly relevant now, when we are seeing a significant increase in mixed migration flows, among them a high number of women, children, LGBTI persons, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous people.

We recognize the challenges we still face in regards to these migration flows, which we are trying to address in cooperation with countries of origin and destination, and with the support of UN agencies and other actors, including civil society, to fully realize the vision of the Global Compact.

I would like to share some examples of policies and programs that Mexico implements, which are aligned with our commitments under the Global Compact and prioritize human rights protections, particularly for migrants in vulnerable situations:

1. In line with Objective 13 and the child-sensitive guiding principle of the Global Compact, Mexico adopted legislative reforms in 2020 to fully harmonize the Migration Law with the norms and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes non-detention of migrant children, their migratory regularization and their access to protection mechanisms that contribute to the restitution of rights. The implementation of these measures is being rolled-out, including by developing protocols and training for institutions, and the launch of a pilot program on alternatives to detention.
2. In line with Objective 5, related to the availability and flexibility of regular pathways, we have seen progress in recent years. We have expanded the list of counties that benefit with the Regional Visitor Card. From January to November 2021, we issued 60,000 Cards for a five year term. We have also expanded regularization, which is a tool to reduce vulnerabilities and ensure access to rights and services. From June 2020 to June 2021, more than 70,000 foreigners were regularized, of which 56,000 obtained status for humanitarian reasons and 10,000 to ensure the family unit.
3. The pandemic revealed the importance of including all migrants, regardless of status, in essential services, including health. In line with Objective 15, Mexico established Migrant Integration Centers, to facilitate the provision of services for migrants, particularly in the northern border. Some cities have focused their attention in training for the staff of migrant shelters, to ensure a full understanding of the pandemic risks for migrants and to promote adequate prevention practices. Other cities have offered skills training for migrants, some of who were impacted by the loss of jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic.

Dear colleagues, the issues, good practices and challenges we are discussing in this important side event remind us that each country plays an important role in the migration cycle. We have shared responsibilities, and a lot to share and learn from others. We hope that the International Migration Review Forum help us all to accelerate our commitment with the Global Compact and a its implementation, with a human-rights approach.

Thank you.