



CARIBBEAN MIGRATION CONSULTATIONS (CMC)

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR A REGIONAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

CONCEPT NOTE

5-6 DECEMBER 2019
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) is a process initiated by Caribbean countries in 2016 as a regional dialogue on migration and refugee protection-related matters. Similar to Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)¹, the CMC is meant to serve as a platform for regional information-sharing and to foster policy dialogue and regional approaches to issues related to migration and forced displacement. This government-led process focuses on the effective and rights-based management of human mobility across the Caribbean.

In January 2016, Belize organized a preparatory meeting for the English and Dutch-speaking countries of the Caribbean region, during which priority topics were identified for discussion within the framework of launching this new regional forum. On 5-8 December 2016, in Port of Spain, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago held the first meeting of the CMC on refugee protection and migration. Representatives from 22 English, Spanish, French and Dutch-speaking countries and territories participated.²

¹ Regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) are state-led, ongoing, regional information-sharing and policy dialogues dedicated to discussing specific migration issue(s) in a cooperative manner among States from an agreed (usually geographical) region and may either be officially associated with formal regional institutions, or be informal and non-binding.

² 22 countries and territories were represented: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Cuba, Curacao, Grenada, Haiti, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Netherlands, Dominican Republic, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.



Since then, several meetings and workshops have been held in the framework of the CMC, helping create networks between specialized actors on various themes related to migration and refugee protection, specifically on priorities identified by participants³:

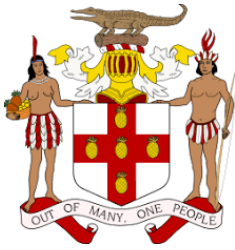
Hundreds of participants from Caribbean countries and territories have convened in CMC meetings and workshops over the past three years, jointly building their capacities to address key migration and international protection issues in the region and developing a series of technical recommendations that could result in a joint regional action plan to improve migration governance and international protection in a strategic, coordinated and time-bound manner.

To date, the CMC meetings have established areas of priority and interest, for which technical workshops have supported capacity development. However, interested countries in the Caribbean have not yet officially established the CMC as a formal process (as a Conference, Forum, Platform, Consultations, or other) with a statement of its respective goals and objectives, and the CMC structure has not yet been defined (by way of establishing operating modalities, financing methods, membership policies, etc.). To advance these important steps, it is proposed to hold a technical-level meeting in December 2019, hosted by the Government of Jamaica, which will serve as a preparatory meeting for the formalization of the CMC through a high-level mechanism for policy endorsement in 2020.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this two-day technical-level meeting is to discuss and recommend for adoption various documents with a view to formalizing the structure and objectives of the CMC, taking into consideration the outcomes and priorities of the various meetings, workshops, and consultations that have taken place to date. It is envisioned that the documents will be endorsed at a technical-level during the present meeting, to be recommended for formal adoption through a high-level mechanism for policy endorsement to take place in

³ These CMC meetings and workshops include: Second Meeting of the Caribbean Migration Consultations - Refugee Protection, 7-8 December 2017, Nassau, The Bahamas; High-level Workshop on Human Mobility and Disasters in the Caribbean, 9-10 April 2018, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; First Workshop of the CMC Counter-Trafficking Network, 26-27 April 2018, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; CMC Workshop on Migration Data Collection and Management, 24-25 September 2018, Montego Bay, Jamaica; Second Meeting of the CMC Counter-Trafficking Network, 12 March 2019, Georgetown, Guyana; Consultation on a Framework for Regional Cooperation on Human Mobility in the Context of Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Caribbean, 6-7 June 2019, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; Consultation for the Proactive Engagement of Caribbean Diasporas for Development, 5-6 September 2019, Saint George's, Grenada; Consultation for the Governance of Labour Migration in the Caribbean, 16-17 September 2019, Kingston, Jamaica



2020. To this end, the meeting will have three main objectives in order to further consolidate the CMC as a dialogue mechanism on migration governance and international protection in the Caribbean:

1. Develop **Statement of Ideals and Guiding Principles in order to prepare a Draft Declaration**, and consideration will be given to agreeing on a new name for the forum;
2. Define the **Standard Operating Modalities (SOMs)** of the CMC for the continuity and sustainability of the regional dialogue, including issues related to possible structures, leadership, and financing methods;
3. Define a **Regional Plan of Action** with respective thematic areas, activities and indicators.

HOST AND PARTICIPANTS

The high-level meeting will be organized by the Government of Jamaica with the technical and financial support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

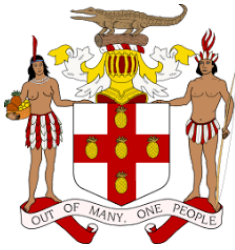
IOM and UNHCR will finance the meeting and the participation of up to two officials from each Caribbean State and the constituent parts of European States in the Caribbean. The desired profiles of the participants are:

- Technical officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or equivalent;
- Technical officer of the Immigration Department or equivalent, with preference for existing focal points for the CMC who have a portfolio including migration and international protection issues.

METHODOLOGY

Over the course of the two-day meeting, participants will exchange their views, experiences and national priorities regarding migration and international protection in the region and have the opportunity to develop a Statement of Ideals and Guiding Principles in order to develop a draft Declaration, Standard Operating Modalities (SOMs) and Regional Plan of Action. These documents will be endorsed at a technical level at the present meeting, with the intention of seeking formal high-level adoption by all CMC member States, countries and territories in 2020.

In preparation for the meeting, a preliminary draft of the above-mentioned documents will be developed by the Government of Jamaica, IOM and UNHCR and shared with CMC participants. In coordination with the



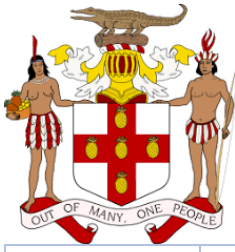
Government of Jamaica, IOM and UNHCR will respond to the comments and questions received and systematize the proposals for modifications and additions to the documents.

The Government of Jamaica will produce a report of the final outcomes of the meeting.

AGENDA

5-6 December 2019. Spanish Court Hotel.

5 December 2019	
08:30	Arrival and registration of participants
09:00	<p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ambassador Marcia Yvette Gilbert-Roberts, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Government of Jamaica - Michela Macchiavello, Senior Regional Specialist on Labour Migration and Human Development, IOM - Rana G. Ksaifi, Senior Regional Protection Officer, UNHCR - Approval of the agenda - Introduction of Participants
09:45	Coffee break and official group photo
10:15	<p>Regional context and CMC background</p> <p>Regional overview on migration governance and international protection. Michela Macchiavello, IOM; Rana Ksaifi, UNHCR</p> <p>Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation. Catalina Acevedo, IOM; Miriam Aertker, UNHCR</p> <p>The development of the Caribbean Migration Consultations and the Caribbean migration portal, caribbeanmigration.org. Brendan Tarnay, IOM; Julia Hanby, UNHCR</p> <p>Question and answer</p>
12:00	Presentation of national priorities and CMC expectations
13:00	Lunch



14:30	Continued: Presentation of national priorities and CMC expectations
15:45	Coffee Break
16:15	Introduction to guiding principles
16:20	Discussion of draft guiding principles
17:15	Discussion summary
17:30	Closing
6 December 2019	
08:30	Registration
09:00	Summary of Day 1
09:10	Introduction to a plan of action
09:15	Presentations from Working Groups
10:10	Coffee Break
10:30	Presentation and discussion of Draft Regional Plan of Action
12:15	Discussion summary
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Introduction to operating modalities
14:30	Presentation and discussion of the Draft Operating Modalities
16:00	Coffee Break
16:30	Discussion summary
16:45	Approval of recommendations for consideration of draft documents
17:00	Next steps
17:15	Closing