

# FINAL NOTE



## SOLIDARITY EVENT

FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS  
AND HOST COMMUNITIES  
IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO



With the support of:



### 1. BACKGROUND

A Solidarity Event for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Central America and Mexico, took place on June 10, in San José, Costa Rica, on the margins of the 30th Anniversary of the Central American Integration System (SICA). High-level representatives from twelve States, the European Union, International financial institutions, UN Agencies, regional organizations, the private sector and civil society participated. The event served to increase awareness of the displacement crisis in MIRPS countries, and generate new financial commitments, totaling more than US\$110 million, and included contributions from Ireland, the European Union, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States, as well as from the private sector and foundations.

### 2. CONCEPT AND ORGANIZATION

#### A. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this event were: (i) to mobilize international support, (ii) enhance the visibility of the crisis and (iii) present the MIRPS as a comprehensive response to forced displacement.

#### B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CRISIS

As a result of economic hardship, violence, insecurity and criminality, over 1 million people are forcibly displaced in the region. These drivers of displacement have been intensified and compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, climate change and natural disasters such as hurricanes Eta and Iota have had a devastating impact, exacerbating the already challenging humanitarian, health, and economic situations. The crisis is humanitarian in nature but has its root in issues of security and development.

#### C. AID CHANNELS

Expressions of solidarity, either through concrete commitments or expressions of support, could include the following:

- Direct financial support for MIRPS states, either bilaterally or in association with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks.
- Financial support for UN agencies.
- Financial support for international NGOs (if identified as contributing to MIRPS National Action Plans)
- Through technical development cooperation, which may include the identification of partnerships with the private sector.
- Voluntary contributions to the OAS MIRPS Fund.
- Other options related to asylum management and refugee integration: resettlement, education scholarships, private sponsorship programmes for refugees and asylum-seekers, technical training, and employment programmes.
- Demonstrate a strong political commitment to MIRPS countries by joining the MIRPS Support Platform.

#### D. ORGANIZERS

The event was organized by the Government of Spain in its capacity as Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform (Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework), in collaboration with Guatemala's Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS and Costa Rica's Pro-Tempore Presidency of SICA, with the support of UNHCR and OAS in their capacity as the MIRPS Technical Secretariat.

#### E. LIST OF INVITEES:

Thirty-three invitations were jointly signed by H.E Pedro Sánchez, President of Spain, H.E Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica, and Alejandro Giammattei, President of Guatemala. The moderators were the Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rodolfo Solano Quirós, and Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and International Cooperation, Arancha González Laya. The event brought together a total of thirty-nine

participants. The event was held virtually, with some participants joining in person in San José, Costa Rica, and others joining virtually through the Zoom platform. The event included the participation of six Heads of State and Government (Argentina, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Spain), one Vice President (El Salvador), seven Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Spain), cooperating States (Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States), the European Union, the Secretary Generals of two regional organizations (Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Organization of American States (OAS)), the Presidents of three International Financial Institutions - the World Bank Group (WBG), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Central American Bank for Economic Inclusion (BCIE)-, Principals of UN Agencies (ECLAC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and Regional Directors (ILO, UNDP) the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), private sector partners (Rotary International) and a representative from civil society. Many other participants were invited to follow the event on Zoom, YouTube channel and Facebook live.

*(Please, see attached annex 1 with the list of participants and annex 2 for the event's agenda).*

### 3. OUTCOMES

- **International awareness of the displacement crisis in Central America and Mexico has increased.** The MIRPS countries provided an analysis of their main achievements and remaining challenges and expressed their commitment to continue advancing in the implementation of their National Action Plans. Donor countries and strategic actors announced financial commitments, technical support, third country solutions, and in-kind contributions to strengthen and expand responses to displaced populations.
- **New funding up to USD 110.5 million.** During the Solidarity Event new financial commitments were announced totaling USD 110.5 million by the European Union (22.5M), Ireland (5M), Spain (7.6 M), Switzerland (2.5M), and the United States (57M), as well as from the private sector and foundations.  
*(See annex 3: summary of contributions & commitments)*
- **Support from key development actors.** The International Financial Institutions that participated in the event -the World Bank Group (WBG), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE in Spanish)- recognized forced displacement not only as a humanitarian concern but also as a development challenge. They also shared information of several socio-economic programmes that they are supporting in the region that could also benefit displaced people and communities affected by violence. The WBG expressed interest in supporting the MIRPS. In addition, the ECLAC reaffirmed the intention to align its Comprehensive Development Plan with the MIRPS to address the root causes of displacement.
- **Involvement of non-traditional actors.** The event achieved high-level participation from donor countries

and private sector representatives not usually engaged in the sub-region.

- At the end of the event, the organizers published a **joint press release** (A joint press release was published at the end of the event) *(See attached annex 3 for the press release)*

### 4. KEY MESSAGES

- All participants highlighted that forced displacement in Central America and Mexico is the result of multiple interconnected factors, including a lack of economic opportunities and high rates of crime and violence. In addition, they noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters have created additional hardships and increased the vulnerability of the displaced population and the risk of displacement.
- The representatives of the MIRPS countries spoke about the devastating effects of climate change in the region and how last year's hurricanes and tropical storms left thousands of people displaced. Some highlighted the State's obligation to provide protection and generate development, however, the effects of climate change have hindered their government's capacity to advance in this regard.
- Regional response to forced displacement needs to incorporate a humanitarian and development dimension. A comprehensive and coordinated response that envisions both, immediate action, and long /term planning, to promote social inclusion, prosperity and reduction of violence are needed in order to reduce the high levels of human mobility and mitigate the humanitarian consequences.
- The MIRPS is seen as an effective framework to promote a coordinated regional response to forced displacement, gathering all relevant stakeholders, and galvanizing the most relevant humanitarian, developmental, public and private sectors initiatives. At the global level, the MIRPS and its Support Platform are a good model for other regions and a concrete example of shared responsibility, envisioned in the Global Compact on Refugees.
- Canada reaffirmed its commitment to assume the next presidency of the Support Platform and give continuity to the process of cooperation between the MIRPS countries and the international community.
- During the closing segment of the event, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mrs. Arancha González, in her capacity as the chair of the MIRPS' Support Platform, delivered a closing statement, in which she shared the organizers' agreement to establish a joint mechanism for monitoring the event's results and to continue mobilizing support for the region.

### 5. ANNEXES

- *List of participants*
- *Event agenda*
- *Contributions chart*
- *Press release*