



## Joint Press Release

### **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and México reaffirm their commitment to the Comprehensive Development Plan**

Representatives from the four governments convened a high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to inform about the Plan and the challenges to its implementation.

(New York, 27 September 2019)

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high authorities from the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to the Comprehensive Development Plan, which aims to find holistic solutions to migration, sustainable development and deepen regional cooperation, during a high-level event celebrated today in New York, in the framework of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Alexandra Hill; the The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Sandra Jovel Polanco; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras, Irma Rosas and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Regional Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena participated in the event. As a guest, the Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Vinicio Cerezo, was also present.

At the event, the officials spoke about the potential of the Comprehensive Development Plan, which all four countries have adhered to, and reiterated their commitment to continue working in order to establish their priorities on matters of development and the preparation of a portfolio of initiatives and projects with the support of ECLAC and the United Nations System.

During the meeting, the officials highlighted the complementarity between the objectives of the Comprehensive Development Plan and the needs of the four governments in achieving the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

This initiative is the result of a mandate given to ECLAC on 1 December 2019 from the presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico: to create a diagnosis and provide recommendations, identifying areas of opportunity that would result in a plan to address the underlying causes of migration, thus



allow human mobility to be a safe option. To date, the initiative is the most comprehensive in the world to implement the Marrakech Compact and is also complementary to other initiatives lead by the Central American Integration System (SICA).

The Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) targets the underlying causes of migration; insufficient and exclusive economic growth; low levels of spending and social protection per capita; demographic demands and massive incorporation of youth into the labor market; exploitative urbanization and persistent rural shortfalls; high vulnerability to droughts and flooding linked to climate change; chronic violence that breaks down the social fabric; as well as legitimate anxieties over family reunification and the persistent salary and productivity gaps in relation to the United States, which has become the country of destination for a majority of migrants.

The objective of the Comprehensive Development Plan is to create a space of sustainable development and opportunities at the local level but in a coordinated manner between El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico to improve the quality of life of the population, under a holistic vision that addresses the migratory cycle and allows for migration to be a choice rather than a necessity. To do so, the Plan includes multiple proposals organized in four strategic pillars: a) economic development, b) social well-being, c) environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change and d) comprehensive management of the migratory cycle.

As part of the technical support of ECLAC to the countries in the context of the CDP, important recommendations have been generated that support its strategic pillars. Among these, the following stand out: adoption of a macroeconomy for development (progressive fiscal revenues, increase in social spending, promotion of investments, strengthening of revenue administrations); a productive and territorial development with a focus on eliminating gaps; commercial, energy, logistical and digital integration as well as the de-carbonization of the economy; mitigation and adaptation to climate change and management of the migratory cycle in all its stages with a focus on human security. The process of development of recommendations has been enriched by the experience of all agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations that work in Latin America.

