

Implementation of The Brazil Plan of Action
Consultation for the elaboration of a triennial report on progress
Chapter 5: Solidarity with Caribbean

CARIBBEAN MIGRATION CONSULTATIONS (CMC)

Hosted by the Government of The Bahamas

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4-6 December 2017

1. Introduction

On the 3rd of December 2014, 28 states and 3 overseas territories of Latin America and the Caribbean unanimously adopted the *Brazil Plan of Action* (BPA) as the conclusion of the process commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees. It was a response to new international protection challenges and addressed the identification of solutions for refugees, displaced and stateless persons in Latin America and the Caribbean in the next 10 years.¹

Chapter Five of the BPA established a “*Regional Solidarity with the Caribbean*” program, whose main objective is to promote a regional dialogue, which would lead to the establishment of a Regional Consultative Mechanism (RCM) for the efficient management of mixed migration, with the following key areas of action:

- Strengthen cooperation in the management of mixed movements through rights-based approaches
- Progressively establish asylum systems and refugee status determination procedures
- Promote comprehensive durable solutions, with a focus on local integration
- Initiate measures to foster coordination in the Caribbean to promote appropriate implementation of the refugees status determination procedures

The *Second Meeting of the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) - Refugee Protection* was hosted by the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas from 4-6 December 2017. Representatives of the governments of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Belize, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, the United States of America (US Coast Guard, observer status) participated, as well as representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), CARICOM and the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

The meeting had the objective to create a space to discuss developments in the region related to refugee protection, statelessness and large scale forced displacement. It was also aimed to contribute to the triennial evaluation of the “Solidarity with the Caribbean” Chapter of the BPA. In this respect, Caribbean countries had been asked to complete a questionnaire focusing on the goals of Chapter Five of the BPA, with a view to a) assessing progress and achievements; b) identifying and exchanging good practices and lessons learned and c) identifying persistent challenges and areas that required further efforts and international cooperation.

The agenda of the meeting was based on the conclusions and recommendations that resulted from the first meeting of the CMC, hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in December 2016. The consultation also included a workshop session where three focus groups discussed the CMC’s priorities and next steps, based on these areas: a) key priority issues for 2018; b) How the CMC could address these priority issues; and c) What kind of support does the CMC need from UNHCR, IOM and CARICOM.

1.2. Introductory remarks

Following the welcoming remarks of the Minister of State and Legal Affairs of the Government of The Bahamas to the delegations present for the CMC, The Bahamas Assistant Director of Immigration emphasized the importance for the Caribbean region of the implementation of the objectives outlined in Chapter Five of the BPA, in particular the need for a rights-based approach to management of mixed migration movements. The Bahamas’ representative noted the growing number of refugees in the region, along with “growing challenges” of global dynamics such as xenophobia and climate change, concluding that the CMC’s discussions are timely and relevant.

¹ Brazil Plan of Action, “*A Common Roadmap to Strengthen Protection and Promote Sustainable Solutions for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean within a Framework of Cooperation and Solidarity.*” December 2014. Available at: <http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2014/9865.pdf>

Subsequently, in her opening remarks as Chair of the 2016 CMC meeting in Port of Spain, the Chief Immigration Officer of Trinidad and Tobago stressed that forced displacement is a reality that can affect anyone, and referred to the experience of the recent hurricanes and the situation of increasing migration and displacement flows.

UNHCR's Regional Representative for the U.S. and the Caribbean referred to the objectives set out in the New York Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2016, and the development of the Global Compact on Refugees, underlining that these initiatives create a momentum for enhancing international cooperation and fostering dialogue between Caribbean countries. Referring to the increasingly complex phenomenon of mixed migration, he reiterated that the CMC represented an excellent opportunity to give more visibility to efforts in the Caribbean and to foster much-needed support from the international community for the implementation of its priorities and actions. In line with this, the IOM Regional Coordination Officer for the Caribbean noted that the CMC meeting occurred in a moment in which States were joining efforts to develop the Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

2. Triennial Evaluation of the Implementation of the BPA, Chapter 5: Solidarity with the Caribbean

The Consultation was aimed at receiving inputs and sharing best practices with a view to assessing developments related to the implementation of the BPA, identifying persistent challenges and setting out viable recommendations. With this aim, prior to the consultation, Caribbean countries were asked to complete a questionnaire focusing on evaluating progress and commitments made in the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action in 2014. The general outcome of the responses was presented during the consultation. A number of sessions of the CMC were built around developments in the specific thematic areas outlined in the "Solidarity with the Caribbean" Chapter of the BPA that follow hereafter.

2.1. Enhancing regional cooperation through the establishment of Regional Consultative Mechanisms

Chapter Five of the BPA sets out the need to launch a program on regional solidarity with the Caribbean that would lead to the establishment of a Regional Consultative Mechanism (RCM) for the efficient management of mixed migration and whose main objective is to promote a regional dialogue. The first step of the BPA's implementation of this recommendation consisted in the preparatory meeting for a RCM for the Caribbean held in Belize in January 2016. During this meeting, Caribbean countries determined that regional cooperation and inter-institutional articulation were essential to address their concerns in the field of refugee protection and mixed migration, and agreed on the creation of the CMC, approving its main objectives: data collection, sharing of intelligence and good practices on refugee protection as well as promoting consultations on systemic migration policies. Subsequently, a first CMC technical meeting, held in Trinidad and Tobago in December 2016, adopted key conclusions and priority themes based on the need to: a) Share information and networking in the process of border management and combat migrant smuggling; b) create regional networks of key national bodies; c) promote South-South cooperation; d) Establish, or re-establish, refugee structures, units, committee and departments; e) Share migration trends between countries.

Within the framework of these priority areas, there was consensus among Caribbean countries on positive developments of the participation in the periodic meetings of Chief Immigration Officers, as a means to trigger systematic migration consultations and innovative ways of sharing information. Delegates agreed on moving forward and strengthening these platforms to promote data collection and analysis, as well as sharing good practices.

2.2. Strengthen cooperation in the management of mixed movements through rights-based approaches

The BPA sets out the goal for the Caribbean to strengthen cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination for asylum-seekers and refugees in order to increase capacities to optimize the management of mixed movements and implement comprehensive responses within a rights-based framework.

It was reiterated that the Caribbean, with its vast and permeable extent of maritime borders, is a region particularly vulnerable to significant migration flows. Caribbean countries face a number of challenges in dealing with the ever-increasing levels of mixed migration movements, due to climate change, natural disasters, and civil unrest, and exacerbated by limited financial, human and material resources. Regional collaboration is essential to address risks of large-scale forced displacement. The CMC participants underlined that enhanced cooperation would also respond to the need for stronger regional responsibility-sharing mechanisms that would help effectively manage mixed migratory movements.

Participants noted the need to strengthen regional cooperation and bilateral partnerships in the management of mixed migration movements in the Caribbean, in order to ensure safe borders control along with the respect of international and regional protection standards. Concerns were also expressed regarding the management and verification of cases where the identity of the person is missing or results false. One of the main challenges discussed was to balance the efforts to combat irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in persons with full respect to human rights and humanitarian principles. In this context, the importance of identifying refugees and other persons with specific needs and establishing protection-sensitive entry mechanisms as well as differentiated procedures that ensure safeguards for refugees and asylum-seekers was emphasized.

Within this framework, the CMC consecrated a specific discussion on protection in situations of large-scale forced displacement. In their presentations, panelists stressed the need to enhance the protection of persons with special needs, strengthening mechanisms against human trafficking, and improving resilience to natural disasters. Despite sporadic progress, with a few countries adopting safeguards in the identification and treatment of persons with special protection needs and vulnerable migrants, the management of mixed movement continues to be an area that requires more dedication. Steps taken are characterized by fragmentation, where the varying levels in advancing policies show the need to enhance a more comprehensive strategy and human rights based approach. Another positive element that emerged in the discussions was the prevalent consensus on the need to move ahead in this field.

Antigua and Barbuda shared the good practice and lesson learned on the recent experience in evacuating and accommodating 1,500 internally displaced people due to multiple hurricanes. The multi-sectorial dimension of the response to ensure safe reception arrangements, registration databases, profiling and processing evacuees systems was underlined. The multifaceted response involved analysis and allocation of human and material resources, including food and accommodation, as well as the identification of persons with special needs, and the provision of psycho-social support. Lessons learned included the need to uphold a human rights perspective to prevent, plan and strategize in advance. Notably, it was noted the importance of the collaborative dimension to cope with natural disasters and climate-induced displacement.

2.3. Progressively establish asylum systems and refugee status determination procedures

The BPA encourages Caribbean countries to progressively establish asylum systems through the formulation of public policies and internal regulations and the implementation of procedures for the identification of and the differentiated assistance to the different groups in situations of vulnerability, guaranteeing access to refugee status determination procedures and alternatives to detention for asylum-seekers, and accompanied and unaccompanied children.

Many Caribbean countries have acceded to and/or ratified international refugee protection instruments. Exchanges during the CMC were built around the establishment of asylum systems, including RSD procedures especially in a context of increased numbers of new asylum-seekers. Progress was made on several fronts and levels, in particular relating to the use of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for refugee protection. Delegates have expressed commitment to enhancing legislation and adopting relevant policies. Countries with asylum systems already in place prioritized the strengthening particular aspects, like the appeal procedures. A positive development was further represented by the way some countries are leveraging SOPs to respond to asylum-seekers needs' and refugee matters. In this respect, representatives expressed consensus to develop harmonized SOPs for the identification of vulnerabilities and protection needs combined with effective mechanisms of RSD procedures and protection against refoulement.

Specific developments were also presented as good practices during the consultation. Trinidad and Tobago illustrated the steps that they are taking after joining the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI), to implement the national 2014 Refugee Policy, with the goal to build a solid national asylum system based on transparency, efficiency and due process principles, including the phased transfer of responsibility for RSD from UNHCR to the Government. Trinidad and Tobago described the process and steps to reach this goal, including the establishment of a refugee unit, in the temporary absence of specific refugee legislation. In this regard attention was raised on the need for systematic trainings for immigration officers and the need to design an action plan and a toolkit on steps and procedures to ensure access to asylum.

The Bahamas presented the progress made by the Migration Working Group, chaired by the Attorney General's Office, which had been established in the aftermath of the 2014 Regional Conference held in the Cayman Islands in the context of the commemorations of the 30th Anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration. Of particular interest was the fact that, in the absence of any specific refugee legislation, one of the main tasks of the Migration Working Group is the development of detailed SOPs for asylum processes. In the same vein, the Migration Working Group brings together various stakeholders focusing on the effective implementation of The Bahamas' migration-related

obligations under the UN human rights treaties. The Bahamas also announced that it became the first Caribbean country to develop ICAO machine-readable 1951 Convention Travel Documents for refugees.

Belize presented its advances with respect to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF). Central America was selected as one of two pilot regions to participate in this new initiative developed as a result of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016 by the UNGA. Belize pointed out that the migration movements from northern Central America are mainly the result of widespread gang violence in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, including socio-economic factors. In this respect Belize recalled the San Pedro Sula Conference, held on 26 October 2017, to address mass displacement with the overarching goal of strengthening regional solutions. Belize also expressed interest in participating in the Quality Assurance Initiative to reinforce the process with regional and international partners. Another relevant step for Belize had been to rename the Ministry of Immigration as “Ministry of Immigration and Refugees”, to place more emphasis on refugee protection issues, as well as its Refugee Eligibility Committee’s structure.

Participants addressed the need for exchange visits to share practices and experiences. In the same line, it was suggested that the Chief Immigration Officers participate in regional capacity building, visits and exchanges initiatives, including with Canada and the US. Participants focused on the 1951 Refugee Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) in the Caribbean region and the right to freedom of movement for refugees. It was clarified that the travel documents do not assign host country citizenship or nationality to refugees, but rather, facilitate traveling and returning to the country issuing the document.

Alternatives to detention

The increasing number of arrivals of migrants is straining the limited resources and capacities of Caribbean islands that are facing the challenge of managing migratory movements, by combating irregular migration while upholding human rights and humanitarian principles. One of the main challenges in this area is represented by reception mechanisms. The need to set up safeguards for detained persons with specific protection needs through a gender, aged and diversity approach was further discussed. Some progress has been made in this context, with a few countries establishing alternatives to detention for women and unaccompanied children. However, this remains one of the areas that need further attention.

The good practice of the Cayman Islands with regards to reception facilities for migrants, and its safeguards for individuals with particular protection needs was presented.² In the vast majority of cases, upon arrival in the Cayman Islands, the identity of the person is unknown and the process is handled with border control arrangements. Reception procedures are meant to identify minors, people with health issues, and those in need of international protection; in these cases the person is removed from detention and placed elsewhere. Three categories of persons are specifically protected: 1) unaccompanied minors; 2) pregnant women or accompanying a minor suffering from serious communicable disease, 3) when the detention would put a person’s physical safety or well-being at danger. If it is assessed that a person does not pose a specific risk or has special needs, this person is detained at the Immigration Detention Centre, which is a low security facility.³ It was emphasized that persons are not placed under police custody, unless they commit offenses or represent a potential danger. Those persons who are already on the territory who seek asylum could be allowed to remain in the community in alternatives to detention; they can remain in the care of a community member, church group or NGO aid agency. Migrants may be accommodated at hotels or guesthouses, community civic centers, and private homes.

2.4. Promote comprehensive durable solutions, with a focus on local integration

In Chapter Five, the BPA encourages Caribbean countries to formulate programs that promote comprehensive durable solutions, including measures to foster integration in local communities and the inclusion of refugees in national plans and policies, as well as the enhancement of international cooperation and regional solidarity to facilitate the resettlement of refugees, including to South American countries, and voluntary return of migrants, and thus relieve the disproportionate burden on some island countries.

The CMC provided a space to understand challenges and practices on how Caribbean countries can work to ensure comprehensive durable solutions, with a focus on local integration. It was recalled that local integration is the result of a close interaction of the three components: the legal, economic and cultural dimensions. Participants

² The Cayman Islands are not a destination of first choice, the majority of persons arriving are not seeking protection, and those few are integrated into the community. Currently the number of persons arriving is relatively small, but in the past there have been mass influxes, which had created enormous challenges.

³ The Immigration Detention Centre is not for the general criminal detainees; it is only used for interdicted undocumented migrants, some of whom seek asylum while detained. It has a capacity to accommodate 100 people maximum; it is a closed facility, endowed with recreation open spaces, and air-conditioned dorm rooms instead of cells.

stressed the importance to ensure a comprehensive approach to local integration that encompasses a close articulation between the three dimensions with the involvement of all stakeholders. The plenary discussed concerns related to linguistic differences and lack of income-generating activities for refugees. In this regards, there was common agreement on the need to provide access to free vocational training and language classes as a first step to promote local integration.

Overall in the area of local integration a few progresses can be registered at national level, particularly in relation to the economic dimension, with many countries providing asylum seekers and refugees with work permits. While this is unquestionably a key aspect to ensure economic independence and empowerment, further development in the field of local integration is still needed, in particular as regards the promotion of strategic policies from a holistic rights-based perspective and the close interaction of the three dimensions of integration.

Suriname presented its recent initiative to issue temporary residence permits to asylum-seekers that would grant them access to work. In Suriname the number of refugees and asylum-seekers has increased by 200% in the past year. About 90% entered legally with a visa or tourist card. UNHCR processes applications for asylum through the Suriname Red Cross, and informs the Government of Suriname, which works to provide a temporary residence permit. A number of ministries are involved in the procedure: the Ministry of Labor for the work permit, the Ministry of Defense for immigration matters, the Ministry of Justice and Police to supervise the permits procedures, the Ministry of Social Affairs for social support, and the Ministry of Health for medical support. The Government is adopting a general ministerial declaration, granting two-years residence permits to refugees, introducing exemptions in work permit requirements, as well as safeguards of *non-refoulement*. Suriname admitted that the current procedural fees are too high for asylum seekers. There is also an innovative effort to have an online application process for asylum-seekers to obtain these permits. The Department of Foreign Services would receive the online application and grant them the permit of stay. Suriname is also considering an inter-departmental working group to address other refugee-related problems within their protection system.

Resettlement-related initiatives

On the resettlement area, a few countries have shown commitment through new initiatives, such as the Regional Refugee Transfer Mechanism (RRTM), presented at the 2016 CMC of Trinidad and Tobago, to facilitate resettlement from smaller to larger Caribbean islands, as well as the use of solidarity resettlement in Latin American countries for refugees of the Caribbean.

The RRTM is a regional mechanism that tries to offer a systematic, coordinated, and informed response to address the situation of refugees who are dispersed in low-populated Caribbean islands and need attention in terms of protection and durable solutions. In particular, the RRTM provides for the transfer of refugees from isolated islands to larger Caribbean states to ensure more central and accessible locations for facilitating interviewing and resettlement processes, avoiding dispersion through a more effective and compacted management of cases, as well as generating a better protection space by preventing detention and promoting local integration. The RRTM started as a pilot project with a maximum of 20 cases processed for the first year, followed by an evaluation and adjustment. So far 16 refugees have been successfully resettled from countries like Barbados, Saint Lucia and Antigua & Barbuda through the RRTM in Trinidad and Tobago.

3. Statelessness in the Caribbean

Chapter Six of the BPA features a program for the eradication of statelessness, that proposes the goal of ending statelessness before the year 2024 in Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting national laws and practices that aimed at prevent statelessness, protect stateless persons as well as resolve existing cases of statelessness.

The CMC held a special session on the achievements and challenges in relation to the eradication of statelessness, highlighting positive signs in the region, especially in the increased awareness and political will to address statelessness in the Caribbean. Some positive steps have been taken to prevent and reduce statelessness, in particular in terms of accession to the Statelessness Conventions, enhancing birth registration, attempting to change discrimination in nationality laws and adopting safeguards against statelessness.

The following specific progresses were noted: Jamaica acceded to the 1961 Convention in 2014, Belize in 2015. Suriname eliminated gender discrimination from its nationality laws in 2014. In March 2017, the Parliament of Haiti voted in favor of the country's accession to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Haiti also mentioned future prospects to address and resolve statelessness in Haiti, with the support of the international community. The Bahamas demonstrated its efforts and political will to address gender discriminatory treatment in nationality provisions of the Bahamian Constitution, with the intention to make legislative changes to existing statutory provisions to effectively ensure that all "natural born" Bahamian men and women have same ability to confer citizenship to their children, irrespective of the place

of birth or marital status. Montserrat amended the Immigration Act to allow persons who are born in Montserrat to either follow the process for obtaining permanent residence or naturalization.⁴

Notwithstanding these achievements situations of statelessness including stateless persons, persons at risk of statelessness and those with undefined nationality status - persist in the region. The CMC created a space to address a number of challenges related to the prevention, protection and resolution of cases of statelessness. Common problems relate to poor civil registration⁵ and documentation systems, strict time limits and high costs for birth registration and personal documentation, poor infrastructure and lack of capacity to reach remote places, as well as lack of awareness for parents on the importance of birth registration of their children. The delegates also mentioned a number of other key elements to fight statelessness, including the importance of *jus soli*, non-discriminatory provisions in nationality laws, late birth registration processes, and the retroactivity principle in legal reforms. It was also recalled that statelessness is a 'man-made' problem that can be effectively resolved with the necessary determination and political will.

The Government of Haiti illustrated the risks of statelessness for its citizens, arising from challenges of ensuring effective birth registration. It was highlighted that one in every five children has no birth certificate, rendering Haiti a "high risk country" generating potential cases of statelessness for its population that travels abroad, mostly undocumented. Haiti described the levels and quality of obstacles that they encounter, including: strict time limits for the registration process, difficulties in issuing documentation and reaching out to isolated areas. Drawing from the Haiti experience, Guyana shared similar challenges, noting that the risk of statelessness in Guyana is due to lack of documentation, particularly in the rural Amerindian communities at the border with Brazil. On a positive note, Guyana also stated that they are addressing this issue by creating a system based on witnesses that attest to births. Suriname noted similar difficulties in registering populations especially inland, clarifying that while there are no estimates of the number of children affected, there are serious concerns for those children with parents without regular status.

4. Concluding observations, recommendations, and next steps

Caribbean delegates were eager to participate in this third meeting of the CMC, having the opportunity to exchange best practices, challenges and progress made. A specific session on recommendations and next steps was held. During the discussion, a number of key issues were raised as areas of concern that needed further coordination and development, and in particular: regional cooperation in setting up asylum systems; coordination in information sharing in border management and large scale influxes; need for capacity-building on protection-sensitive entry mechanisms and human rights; enhanced spaces for regional dialogue and analysis. Participants took note of the achievements and good practices shared, acknowledged challenges and shortcomings in their legislation, and recommended measures that would ensure a phased, coherent and sustainable progress, taking into account the specificities of each country. Finally, it was recommended to enhance awareness and coordination for national governments to develop coordinated policies and address new challenges, such as forced displacement as a result of natural disasters.

The following concluding observations were adopted:

On the next steps for the CMC:

- Formalize the CMC, through a memorandum of understandings among states, featuring membership and identify clear mandate and priorities.
- Establish a clear structure and functioning system of the CMC, including the election of a rotating chair. It was suggested that the country hosting the annual meeting could be the chair, supported by the countries that preceded and would succeed in hosting CMC.
- Create a website with a forum to share information and exchange practices.
- Formalize the coordination role of CARICOM Secretariat and structure, although not all countries are CARICOM members. CARICOM suggested including migration and refugee protection issues in its 2018 agenda.
- Through the support of CARICOM, enhance the CMC's role in tying up with other existing regional and specialized platforms, like those addressing human trafficking.
- Delegates agreed that the next CMC meeting would be held in Aruba or Guyana.

On coordination in the management of mixed migration movements:

⁴ For a number of Sri Lankans who claimed asylum on Montserrat the process for obtaining permanent residence and naturalization was on fast track.

⁵ Birth registration legally establishes the place of birth, proof of age, and parental affiliation. It represents an important means of proof to ascertain nationality and to acquire the parents' nationality or the nationality of the State in which the child is born.

- Promote dialogue and cooperation to take concrete and coordinated steps in enhancing protection-sensitive entry mechanisms, with differentiated case processing and procedures to manage mixed migration movements through a human rights-based approach.
- Strengthen existing platforms to foster information-sharing, sharing of intelligence and of best practices, as well as collaboration and networking at the regional level to address challenges related to refugee protection and migration in the Caribbean.
- Collaborate with the international community in providing technical support, capacity building and human rights training for government officers at borders.
- Design and establish national multi-stakeholders task-forces in the management of mixed migration movements, especially in large-scale displacement - including contingency planning for natural disasters - in order to plan, prevent, and strategize multifaceted responses.
- Develop a regional task-force to coordinate responsibility-sharing actions in managing mixed migration movements, with the technical expertise of relevant international partners.
- Create a regional early response protocol for the identification of persons with particular protection needs.

On enhancing asylum systems, including SOPs, RSD, alternatives to detention and local integration:

- Promote awareness raising and sensitization across governments to process and treat refugees according to human rights and humanitarian standards.
- Create a regional platform, within the CMC, to harmonize and develop common human-rights-based SOPs for border management, asylum, refugee status determination and others of refugee protection, with specific attention to the age, gender, and diversity dimension.
- Accede to relevant conventions as a priority, for those countries that have not yet done it, including the statelessness conventions.
- Develop and pass relevant legislation on refugee protection, as well as on statelessness, based on UNHCR Guidelines and Model Law.⁶
- Ensure non-discriminatory documentation for refugees that allow them to access a series of economic, social and cultural rights, including access to work, education, housing, healthcare and social services. Facilitate residency permits that lead to permanent residency and, ideally, to the naturalization of refugees.
- Mapping, analyzing and addressing cases of statelessness, and coordinate response aimed at preventing, protecting and reducing cases of statelessness, with particular focus on ensuring universal birth registration, including late registration, community outreach information sessions, in order to bring competent authorities closer to people's needs and design creative initiatives to expand services in most remote areas.
- Promote study visits and exchanges among countries, to understand and learn from other jurisdictions under twinning projects.

On the support needed by the international community (including UNHCR, IOM, CARICOM and other specialized agencies):

- Provide necessary funding for implementing measures, recommendations, and developing common policies and procedures as highlighted in the BPA programs and in the CMC priority areas.
- Provide Caribbean countries with human and technical support to develop migration and asylum systems. Promote the use of the UNHCR Technical Guidelines as a template for standardized legislation and harmonized SOPs.
- Engage UNHCR with capacity building on RSD, interview standards and techniques, and alternatives to detention, especially at governmental and ministerial level. Sponsor UNHCR training sessions, within the CMC framework, with a training-of-trainers model.
- Provide technical support and expertise, including training, in developing a regional task-force to coordinate responsibility-sharing actions in managing mixed migration movements.
- Organize thematic regional workshops, to reinforce knowledge and understanding of the regional dimension of key topics.
- Provide expertise of specialized agencies in preparing comparative analysis on different legislation models on refugee protection.
- Provide assistance in the organization of the CMC, its institutionalization and structuring as well as in setting up effective information-sharing mechanisms.

⁶ *The UNHCR Technical Guide for the Development of Refugee Legislation in the Caribbean*