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**Informal translation (Pablo Ros)**

**INPUTS FROM THE DGME FOR COSTA RICA'S PARTICIPATION AT THE ROUND  
TABLE 1.1 OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**“Beyond-the-Border Skills and Jobs for Human Development”**

**The Costa Rican experience:**

The Costa Rica – Nicaragua Co-development Project (a corridor between the two countries) was implemented between the years 2006 and 2010 with the following objective:

*To establish an orderly procedure through a series of mechanisms and regulations agreed upon by both countries (of origin and destination) with the goal of facilitating orderly labor migration where the conditions of labor and return mechanisms are defined in advance—offering opportunities, influencing the development of countries (of origin and destination) in a comprehensive way, guaranteeing respect, human dignity, and the wellbeing of migrant workers.*

The specific objectives consisted of:

Regulating labor migration of Nicaraguan workers to Cost Rica  
Supporting insertion conditions in migrants' labor markets  
Improving the economic and psychosocial situation of migrant persons and their families  
Promoting the social integration of migrants

The Co-development project was financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and was managed in Costa Rica by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The principal executing institutions were the Departments of Immigration and the Ministries of Labor of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Other participating institutions were the following:

- Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries
- MIDEPLAN
- Ombudsman of Costa Rica
- Representatives of the Social Sector

The project addressed the following challenges:

To promote the co-responsible consultation and participation of workers, employers, and unions in decision making related to labor migration.

To maintain and update a nimble and flexible migrant entry process that makes it possible to offer effective responses to the development needs of the country.

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To guarantee the economic and human resources needed in effectively fulfilling the duties of public institutions connected to the entry and stay of migrant workers in the country.

To prevent, sanction, and eradicate the hiring of migrant workers who have an irregular immigration status.

To promote social responsibility and labor practices sensitive to the characteristics of the migrant and refugee populations. To inform, educate, and sensitize others on the benefits and contributions of migration to national development through the shared work of the national, migrant, and refugee populations.

To recognize cultural diversity by encouraging and strengthening meeting places and the social participation of the national, migrant, and refugee populations with the goal of promoting joint action.

To implement a set of lasting sustainable solutions that guarantees the local integration of refugees, stateless persons, and those requesting refugee status at the social, labor, educational, and health-care levels.

**Principal result of the project (South-South Migration approach):**

The signing and implementation of a procedural agreement between Costa Rica and Nicaragua for the regulation of labor migration from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, mainly in agro-industry, agriculture, and construction.

Procedure:

- Recruitment and hiring in Nicaragua
- Transfer of migrant workers to Costa Rica
- Inter-institutional border coordination between the Ministries of Labor and Departments of Immigration of both countries
- Entry of workers and presentation of documents
- Work Permit Authorization

Double sphere of action:

- Hiring of personnel outside the territory of Costa Rica needed by businesses in the areas of construction, agriculture, and agro-industry.
- Hiring of foreign workers already in Costa Rican territory in a standardized way.

Costa Rica's Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería exempts persons hired in Nicaragua from the following entry requirements:

- Entry visa
- Return ticket or proof of continuation of travel
- Economic solvency

Entry with safe-conduct, in lieu of passport, is allowed.

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Costa Rica:

- The Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería will authorize the entry of Nicaraguans over the age of 18 in the special category of temporary worker, contingent upon a report from the Ministry of Labor.
- Activities: Construction, agriculture, and agro-industry.
- Begins with an employer's request made before the National Office of Employment.

Employer's responsibility:

- To guarantee roundtrip transportation, between the beginning and end of the labor contract
- Lodging in optimal conditions of hygiene and physical safety, at no cost to worker
- Guarantee deposit for the amount of \$20 or its equivalent in *colones*

Inter-institutional coordination:

Today, Co-development dictates important parameters on the binational agenda, especially concerning Migration and Labor.

It is a reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning.

The project is a starting point for the joint committees on international cooperation.

The Co-development project, along with the IOM, collaborated with the National Migration Council, bringing together various public institutions, international organizations, and civil society organizations to identify the guidelines for a **comprehensive migration policy**.

All project resources of the Costa Rica subsidy were executed according to the objectives and annual operating plans. The IOM always was in charge of the administration of resources.

The procedural agreement of the Co-development Project is still in force. Two bilateral meetings have been held with Nicaragua at the technical level for evaluating the procedure and expanding it in other occupations.

#### **Current situation (May 2012):**

Currently, the National Migration Council designated a Technical Team in charge of formulating a comprehensive migration policy in Costa Rica, with representatives of all Council institutions involved in migration affairs.

#### **Principal Objective of the national strategy:**

- To promote orderly labor migration based on demand and supply in the Costa Rican labor market.

#### **Specific objectives:**

- To strengthen the institutional capabilities of the entities involved in implementing labor migration policy

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- To facilitate the processes of training, intermediation, and labor insertion, linking public and private bodies
  - To promote social responsibility practices in the mass media and among public opinion makers so these may address the migration phenomenon from a perspective that facilitates the integration of migrant and refugee populations into the national population, and helps prevent social marginalization, discrimination, and xenophobia.

**Activities to be developed:**

- To improve inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination and the channeling of information
- Training in finance for the administration of remittances
- To encourage the creation of indicators, requirements, and profiles for the participation of foreign workers (including immigration and emigration)
- To promote social dialogue for the different phases of migration policy (formulation, implementation, and monitoring)
- To follow-up on the conditions for decent work in the market
- To document actions and improve evidence gathering (return to good practices)
- To plan the binational agenda

Conferences for policy building and consultation processes with:

- Institutions
- Unions
- Forums
- Business people
- Civil society

With the advice of the International Labour Organization, guidelines are being elaborated to make comprehensive migration policy **gender sensitive**. As a first step, two workshops on gender-sensitive labor migration policy have been held, with the participation of public institutions, international organizations, and civil society.

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