ADVANCING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION GOVERNANCE ACROSS REGIONS

Assessment Report

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS
AND SHORT NAMES

2030 Agenda	Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Almaty Process	Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration
Abu Dhabi Dialogue	Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia
ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States–European Union Dialogue on Migration
ARCP	Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs
AU-HoAI	African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling
Bali Process	Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIS Conference	Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement, and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring Countries
CMC	Caribbean Migration Consultations
Colombo Process	Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
EaP Panel	Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EUROMED	Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue on Migration
FIBEMYD	Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GRCP	Meeting of Global and (Inter)Regional Consultative Processes on Migration
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development

IDM	International Dialogue on Migration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGC	Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOE	International Organisation of Employers
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRF	interregional forum on migration
ISCM	inter-State consultation mechanism on migration
Khartoum Process	European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative
MICIC Initiative	Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative
MIDCAS	Migration Dialogue for Central African States
MIDCOM	Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States
MiD-IGAD	Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Region (also known as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional Consultative Process on Migration)
MIDSA	Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
MiGOF	Migration Governance Framework
OCAM	Central American Commisison of Migration Directors
PAFOM	Pan-African Forum on Migration
PfP	Platform for Partnerships
PIDC	Pacific Immigration Development Community
Rabat Process	Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration for North and Central America
RCP	regional consultative process on migration
RIAM	Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities
SACM	South American Conference on Migration
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

Following a decade of significant developments in global migration governance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) undertook an assessment of the contribution that inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) make to migration governance at the national, regional and international levels. Previous assessments on ISCMs were carried out in 2010[1] and 2013.[2]

The 2010 assessment reviewed 14 ISCMs and set out a broad definition of migration governance, identified three distinct phases of the governance process and analysed the contributions of regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) to each of these (agenda-setting and issue definition, consensus-building through communication, and changes in concrete laws, policies and practices governing how migration is managed). The 2013 assessment reviewed 25 RCPs and interregional forums on migration (IRFs) and suggested ISCM taxonomy and traced the linkages of some ISCMs with regional political and economic unions.

With the pace of change in the world's migration governance architecture over the last few years, it is timely that they are further built upon. This assessment considers migration governance and recent noteworthy developments at the global level. It then looks at the role ISCMs play at the three different levels of migration governance. It reviews the achievements of ISCMs, as well as the structures and partnership models that characterize them, and assesses their continued relevance and sustainability. Thus, the main objective of this assessment is to consider the following:

(a) Contributions of ISCMs to migration governance;

(b) Structures that characterize and the sustainability of ISCMs;

(c) Synergies and partnerships that ISCMs participate in.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment relies on data from desk research (literature review), as well as a survey of and interviews with ISCM chairs and secretariats, and representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations engaged with ISCMs. Discussions at the Eighth Global Meeting of ISCMs (GRCP 8) also contributed to the findings. The assessment concludes with some key points for consideration by ISCMs and their member States.

The survey was conducted using a dedicated questionnaire for each of three categories of respondents: (a) chairs and secretariats of ISCMs, (b) States participating in ISCMs and (c) selected intergovernmental organizations engaged with ISCMs.[3] The survey questionnaires covered the five aspects of ISCMs enumerated in Figure 1.

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[1]   IOM, Migration Research Series, No. 38: *An Assessment of Principal Regional Consultative Processes on Migration* (Geneva, 2010). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/mrs-ndeg38-assessment-principal-regional-consultative-processes-migration.

[2]   IOM, Migration Research Series, No. 45: *Regional Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration: Approaches, Recent Activities and Implications for Global Governance of Migration* (Geneva, 2013). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/mrs-ndeg45-regional-inter-state-consultation-mechanisms-migration.

[3]   Each ISCM was requested to complete one questionnaire, with the replies coordinated between its chair and head of secretariat. One consolidated questionnaire was completed for each State, consolidating feedback from all State entities engaged with various ISCMs on behalf of the State.

Figure 1. Aspects of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration
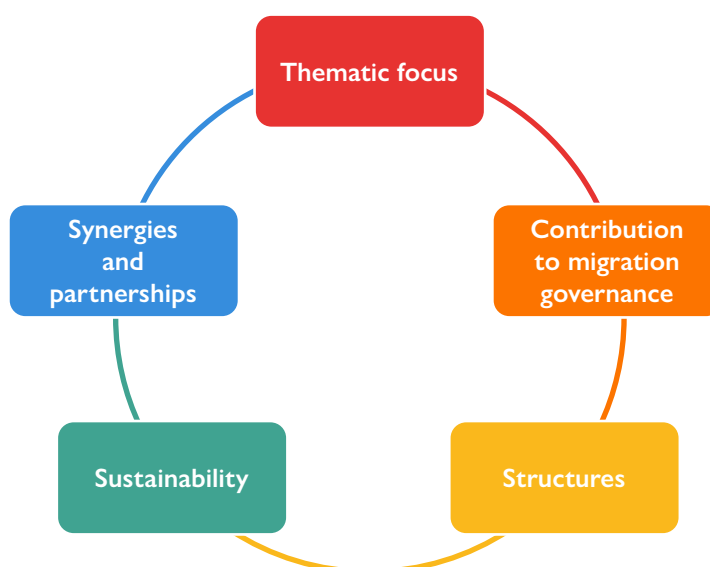
In 2018, IOM undertook a review of the role of ISCMs in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.[4] The review illustrated the potential contributions of ISCMs, including their complementary and added value, in terms of pursuing commitments to the Global Compact. For this reason, this assessment does not include an analysis of ISCMs' role in the Global Compact.

This 2019 assessment has a broader scope and is the first to go beyond ISCMs, to include an analysis of States as end users of ISCMs. It is also the first large-scale attempt to measure, using a survey, States' engagement with ISCMs.

The preliminary results of the desk research and the survey were presented at the GRCP 8 on 5 April 2019, in the presence of 27 ISCMs. The GRCP agenda was structured around the themes of this assessment. ISCMs' extensive contributions to these themes complemented ISCMs' written feedback on the assessment exercise.

A total of 22 questionnaires from various ISCMs (representing more than 70% of active ISCMs), 46 from the governments of various States (about 30% of States approached) and 3 from intergovernmental organizations (60% of those approached) were collected.

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4   IOM, "The Role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", review (Geneva, 2018c). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/role-inter-state-consultation-mechanisms-migration-global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular.

Figure 2. Respondent composition
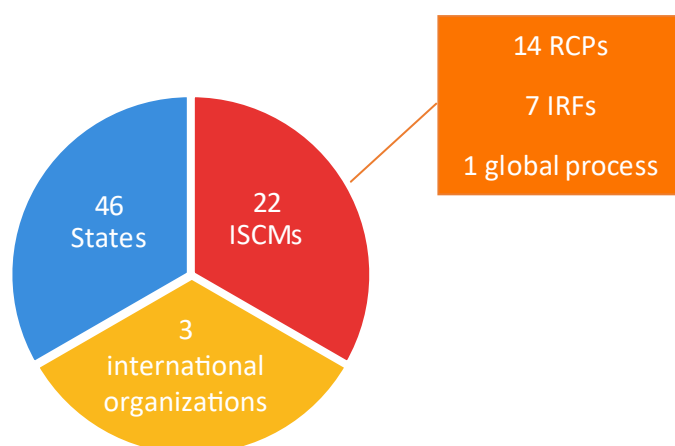
To ensure that responses were consolidated at the State and ISCM levels, feedback from the ISCMs was coordinated between the chair and the secretariat, and feedback from States was coordinated among all national entities engaging with various ISCMs on behalf of their respective governments.

States' representation in ISCMs varies. Most States that participated in the survey identified several ISCMs of which they are members. States varied from membership in only one ISCM (e.g. Morocco), to nine (e.g. Spain and Sweden). There are no clear differences between regions in terms of the average number of ISCMs that the States participate in.

In addition to being member States of ISCMs, some countries surveyed are also observer States of various ISCMs. For example, Egypt is an observer State of the Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Region (MiD-IGAD); Spain and Canada are observer States of the Bali Process; and Switzerland is an observer State of the Colombo Process. Most officials who completed the survey on behalf of member States reported being themselves focal points for at least one of the ISCMs in which the respective member States participate: some officials (e.g. those of Poland, Colombia, Latvia and Switzerland) serve as focal points for as many as six or more ISCMs, while others (e.g. representatives of Canada and Sudan) are not focal points for any ISCM but have completed the survey in coordination with the ISCM focal points in their respective governments.

The assessment has found that member States' involvement in ISCMs include mostly government entities and ministries, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of the Interior. In some cases, other State agencies are involved, for example, the Canada Borders Service Agency in Canada.

This report includes the findings and analysis from the desk research and the survey, and the main outcomes of the GRCP 8 discussions. The results of the survey and the outcomes of the GRCP 8 discussions are presented in separate sections corresponding to the assessment themes. However, the findings from all three are consolidated in one chapter.

The graphs in this report reflect the information and data from the questionnaires received. They have been created to serve as visual images of the results and should be taken to be indicative, rather than fully representative, as they sometimes do not portray the totality of survey responses. The rich information compiled in the course of this study will advise future analyses and studies on ISCMs.

This assessment report was concluded in June 2019.

BACKGROUND

Although migration has been a phenomenon throughout history, it is only in the last 30 years that it has become a major, defining issue on the international agenda. Its impacts are wide-ranging; migration has significant socioeconomic, environmental and political implications, both positive and negative. Traditionally, the issue of migration has been closely tied to State sovereignty, and States have been reluctant to undertake coordinated efforts that may be misinterpreted as acts of ceding authority to regulate their own borders. This began to change in the early 1990s, when there was growing recognition that the cross-border nature of migration necessitated a coordinated approach to migration governance. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development heralded the dawn of a new era in migration governance that set the issue on the international agenda and recognized the positive effects that migration can bring.[5] Various mechanisms and processes have since been established to provide States with forums for discussion and planning on migration issues. The Berne Initiative in 2001 and its International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM)[6] represent another significant milestone, as the possibility of developing a harmonized international policy framework on migration was explored for the first time.

As the number of migrants across the globe continues to increase,[7] "unprecedented human mobility"[8] has now become a key feature of today's world, impacting every country and on all aspects of society. This means that the importance of effective coordination among and between countries and regions has truly become imperative.

ISCMs were and will continue to be established to enable such coordination, information-sharing and discussion of specific migration policy issues. Defined as "State-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues on the regional, interregional or global level for States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration,"[9] ISCMs exist at the regional, interregional and global levels, as follows:

(a) **Regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs)** are defined by IOM as "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 geographic) region, and may either be officially associated with formal regional institutions, or be informal and non-binding." There are currently 17 active RCPs around the world.

(b) **Interregional forums on migration (IRFs)** connect two or more regions; some 12 IRFs are currently in operation. The term emerged relatively recently and has not gained much currency; instead, "RCP" is often used in reference to what is strictly an interregional forum on migration.

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5   The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development includes a chapter on international migration (which, among other things, looks at the link between migration and development) and another on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration. (United Nations, Report of the International Conference on Population and Development of 5–13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13/ Rev.1), paras. 9 and 10. Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/27/SupportingDocuments/A_CONF.171_13_ Rev.1.pdf.)

6   IOM and Federal Office for Migration (FOM), *International Agenda for Migration Management: Common Understandings and Effective Practices for a Planned, Balanced, and Comprehensive Approach to the Management of Migration* (Geneva, IOM and FOM, 2005). Available at https://publications.iom. int/system/files/pdf/iamm.pdf.

7   Estimated at over 258 million people, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (UN DESA). (UN DESA, *International Migration Report 2017* (New York, UN DESA, 2017). Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/ publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf.)

8   William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM, "Migration and Disaster Risk Reduction in Urban Areas", address to the Ministerial Roundtable, Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Japan, 16 March 2015. Available at www.iom.int/speeches-and-talks/migration-and-drr-urban-areas-ministerial-roundtable-address-3rd-un-world.

9   IOM, *International Migration Law, No. 34: Glossary on Migration* (Geneva, 2019b). Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_ glossary.pdf.

(c) **Global processes on migration** are international policy dialogue forums on migration usually facilitated by an intergovernmental organization (IGO) and focusing either on overall migration governance at the global level or on specific themes, including interlinkages between migration and other phenomena, such as development.

Annex 1 shows key information on various ISCMs. There is a significant number of mechanisms that provide or serve as forums for States. Therefore, it is crucial to regularly scrutinize mechanisms to ensure that each remains effective and does not create inefficiencies or unnecessarily competes for time and resources. The issue of sustainability is explored in Section 6.2.

1

CHARACTERISTICS AND THEMES OF INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS ON MIGRATION

1. CHARACTERISTICS AND THEMES OF INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS ON MIGRATION

The 2010 assessment of regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), mentioned in the Background section, gave the defining characteristics of regional consultative processes on migration, many of which apply to all inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs). In summary, these characteristics are as follows:

(a) ISCMs are recurring meetings dedicated to discussing (a) specific migration issue(s). As such, they are processes instead of one-off events;

(b) ISCMs are informal in that participants are not put in a negotiating role to defend national interests or positions;

(c) ISCMs are non-binding, that is, States do not negotiate binding rules and are not obligated to implement any changes following meetings;

(d) ISCMs are purposefully created to deal only with migration issues;

(e) Most ISCMs are not officially associated with formal regional institutions. However, as they are embedded in their regional contexts, they interact with regional bodies, associations and integration processes in complex ways.

From the member States' perspective, the "informality" of ISCMs is perhaps their most important feature and has, in fact, been described as a "best practice" in itself.[10] Informality, in this sense, means being "non-political," rather than having an absence of procedures. It allows frank discussion of topical and often sensitive issues, and provides a forum that can serve as a "policy incubator."

Discussions at ISCMs generally cover the entire spectrum of migration issues. Most ISCMs, as such, consider a range of migration-related policy issues, not to mention technical issues such as the collection of migration data. However, some ISCMs were created around specific migration themes. The Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia ("Colombo Process"), for example, concentrates on labour migration and directly related issues, such as ethical recruitment and workers' rights.

To a certain extent, the themes being considered by ISCMs develop over time, as different policy concepts emerge and take hold multilaterally. The past several years have seen ISCMs considering issues such as the migration–development nexus. This has increasingly become a thematic focus for ISCMs, many of which traditionally had an emphasis on irregular migration flows, security and border management. Similarly, issues such as the impact of climate change on migration, the human rights of migrants and the socioeconomic impacts of migration, are more commonly appearing

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10   Lars Petter Henie, Chair of the Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) and session moderator, opening statement for Session 1 ("Inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration: Achievements and lessons learnt") of the Eighth Global Meeting of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (GRCP 8), 5 April 2019.

on the agenda of ISCMs. Some ISCMs have also addressed the concept of "mixed migration" as a policy issue.[11]

Themes commonly addressed at ISCMs include the following:

(a) Border management;

(b) Labour migration;

(c) Irregular migration;

(d) Counter-trafficking;

(e) Asylum and refugees;

(f) Migration and gender;

(g) Migration law and migrants' rights;

(h) Migration and development.

Less universally, but still frequently considered topics include the following:

(a) Voluntary return;

(b) Remittances;

(c) Migration and technology;

(d) Disaster risk management;

(e) Settlement, integration and citizenship;

(f) Specific vulnerable groups (e.g. unaccompanied minors);

(g) Discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

Annex 10 features a table showing the thematic foci of various ISCMs.

1.1. FINDINGS FROM THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

ISCMs aim to contribute to increased dialogue on migration issues between migration stakeholders at the regional, interregional and global levels, supporting leaders at each of these levels in tackling migration issues. Each ISCM has a different thematic focus and corresponding set of objectives. It must be noted, however, that most ISCMs share the following set of overarching goals:

(a) Strategic partnerships and international engagement;

(b) Policy and regulatory frameworks;

(c) Information and knowledge management;

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[11] Some ISCMs, such as the Almaty Process, ARCP, MIDWA and, especially, the now-dormant CIS Conference, focused on mixed flows. The Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement, and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Relevant Neighbouring States (also known simply as the "CIS Conference") was the first attempt by the international community to grapple comprehensively with the huge, unprecedentedly complex and destabilizing movements in CIS member States. It addressed the "movements of refugees, internally displaced people, repatriates, formerly deported people, "involuntarily relocating persons." (i.e. repatriates from conflict zones), illegal immigrants, stranded migrants and ecological migrants." The terminology "increasingly mixed protection" was used in the inaugural conference.

(d) Institutional strengthening and capacity and capability development;

(e) Governance and accountability.

As regards thematic focus, most ISCMs work in the following thematic focus areas:

(a) Improving the management of international movements of people;

(b) Migration law;

(c) Strengthening border management and control;

(d) Identifying migration services and their delivery;

(e) Migration governance;

(f) Labour migration;

(g) Irregular migration;

(h) Combating human trafficking;

(i) Asylum and refugees;

(j) Migration and gender;

(k) Human rights.

Figure 3. Thematic focus areas of ISCMs
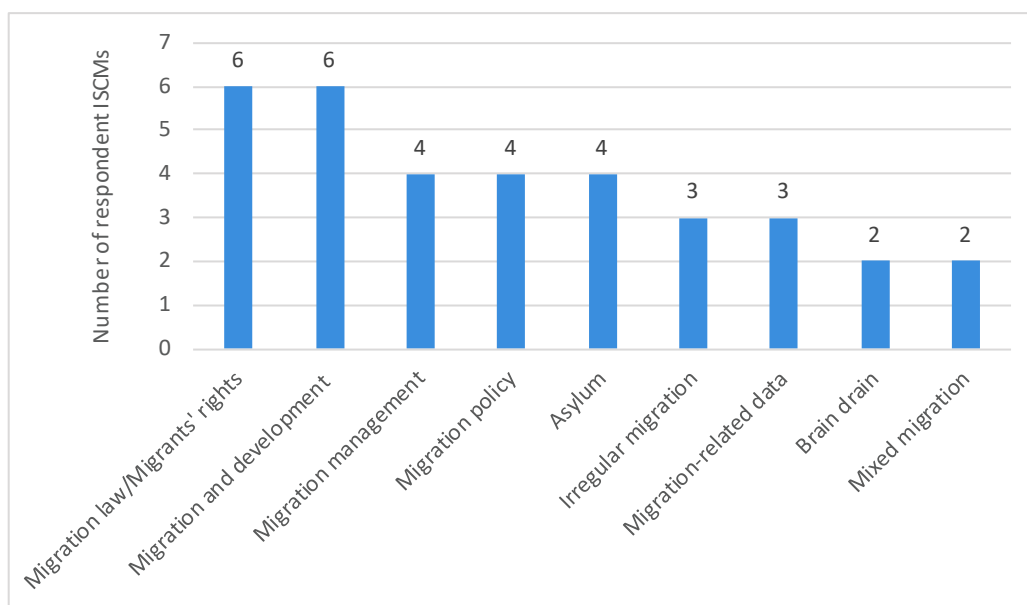
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Less common areas of focus for ISCMs include:

(a) Sharing of information on countries of origin and destination, migration trends, among others;

(b) Visa policies and free movement of people at the regional level;

(c) Reducing brain drain and unethical recruitment;

(d) Migration and health;

(e) Voluntary return of migrants;

(f) Migrants' remittances;

(g) Migration and development nexus;

(h) Use of technology;

(i) Disaster risk management;

(j) Vulnerable migrants (unaccompanied minors, youth, etc.);

(k) Settlement, integration and citizenship;

(l) Fighting discrimination, racism and xenophobia;

(m) International engagement on migration.

Responding to evolving migration trends and member States' needs, several ISCMs have shifted to other areas of interest since their establishment. Some ISCMs, for example, the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs and the Prague Process, are giving more attention to relevant topics, such as refugees, and have made asylum and international protection a focus area. In addition, the Caribbean Migration Consultations, recognizing the importance of the diaspora, has included it as one of its main areas of work.

Table 1. Recurring ISCM themes based on the literature review and survey

Literature review	Survey
Asylum and refugees	Asylum
Border management	Brain drain
Counter-trafficking	**Irregular migration**
Irregular migration	**Migrants' rights**
Labour migration	**Migration and development**
Migration and development	Migration data
Migration and gender	**Migration law**
Migration law and migrants' rights	Migration management
	Migration policies
	Mixed migration

Note: Themes in bold were recurrent in both the literature review and the survey.

Figure 4. Changes in thematic focus over time

Pie chart showing: Yes (blue) 8, 57.1%; No (orange) 4, 28.6%; No answer (red) 2, 14.3%.
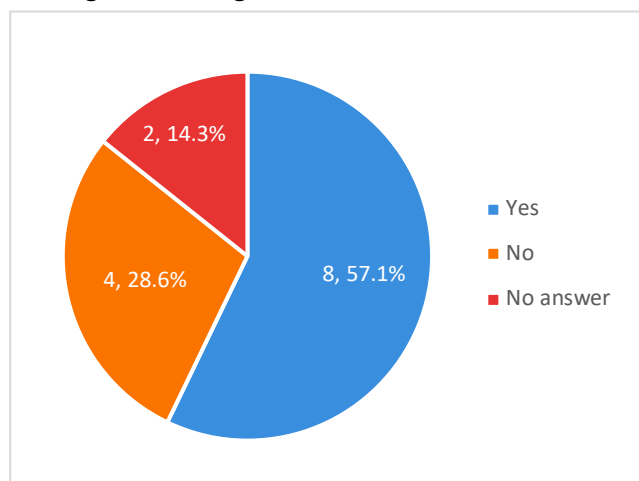
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

1.2. FINDINGS FROM THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON ISCM STRATEGIES AND WORKPLANS

Aside from thematic foci, the ISCMs' strategies and workplans have also changed through time. The ISCMs surveyed usually began as meeting places for different countries for the exchange of information and the promotion of discussion on common topics of interest or concern. Over time, these ISCMs developed clearer strategies to move ahead on targeted issues and achieve more specific goals. One example of this is the Pacific Immigration Development Community, which began as an annual forum for immigration directors to meet, but has now developed a clear strategy for improving the management of international movements of people, strengthening border management and border security, and building capacity to deliver immigration services through cooperation.

The strategies have varying lifespans from one year, to never-expiring, and they are often accompanied by annual, biennial or four-year action plans. Establishing more comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches has become a step forward for most of the ISCMs, although the impact of this new approach on outcomes and results is not clear. Similarly, some of the ISCMs have included specific ad hoc adjustments to respond to members' priorities. In some cases, the new strategy is targeted at a specific set of goals – an example of this is the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management ("EaP Panel") on migration, which currently focuses on visa liberalization and mobility partnerships.

Significantly, some of the ISCMs have reviewed their strategies just once or twice in ten years, which could result in gaps between their original and current goals and actions. In some cases, the evolution of an ISCM's thematic focus and other changes throughout its history are not documented. As such, in these cases, it may not be easy to understand the rationale for the ISCM's strategic changes throughout its existence.

2

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND ITS EMERGENCE AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

2. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND ITS EMERGENCE AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

"Migration governance" is defined by IOM, in its *Glossary of Migration*, as:

> The combined frameworks of legal norms, laws and regulations, policies and traditions as well as organizational structures (subnational, national, regional and international) and the relevant processes that shape and regulate States' approaches with regard to migration in all its forms, addressing rights and responsibilities and promoting international cooperation.[12]

Migration governance seeks to pursue a strategic approach to addressing the causes and consequences of migration, with the aim "to change a traditionally spontaneous and unregulated phenomenon into a more orderly and predictable process" – an objective that benefits both States and migrants.[13]

In IOM's Migration Research Series No. 38 (*An Assessment of Principal Regional Consultative Processes on Migration*), migration governance is conceived as a process that starts with the identification of an issue and which may culminate in the enactment of laws, policies or practices. The three distinct phases in the migration governance process are:

(a) Agenda-setting (developing common ground among States) and issue definition (understanding of the different types of migration and the related issues at stake, and the emergence of a common set of terms and concepts used to understand migration);

(b) Consensus-building through communication (often to the point where communication and coordination with other States becomes a more natural part of the governance process) and, eventually, position convergence (on a particular aspect of migration or on an issue of particular concern);

(c) Changes in concrete laws, policies or practices governing how migration is managed at the national and regional levels.[14]

Each of these three phases of the governance process occurs at the State, international (bilateral, regional and interregional) and global levels. The State (or national) level is the most established level for migration governance, as States have traditionally set their own migration agendas, with a view of migration primarily as an issue of national sovereignty. As previously mentioned, this strict view softened from the early 1990s, when States started to show more willingness to come together in regional forums, and governance at the regional level began to take shape. Given that most international migration takes place within a region, that is, among neighbouring States, the utility of governing migration at the regional level became readily apparent and States began to embrace this level of coordination, as evidenced by the proliferation of RCPs and IRFs over the past three decades.

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12   IOM, *International Migration Law, No. 34: Glossary on Migration*.
13   François Crépeau and Idil Atak, "Global migration governance, avoiding commitments on human rights, yet tracing a course for cooperation", *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, 34(2):113–146.
14   IOM, Migration Research Series, No. 38, p. 15.

The global level of migration governance is the newest. It was only at the beginning of the twenty-first century that global-level migration governance emerged, steadily, and only in the past four years or so that a coherent global migration governance framework was identified.

The establishment of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) in 2001 can be viewed as the first foundational block in the global migration governance architecture. The IDM had a pioneering role in bringing States together at the global level for discussion on migration policy issues.[15] Another important global process on migration,[16] the Berne Initiative, was launched in the same year. A multitude of further initiatives followed, showing that migration had firmly entered the world stage as a key issue. To name a few of these initiatives: the Global Commission on International Migration, created in 2002; the 2004 International Labour Conference, with migration as its theme; the ten-year review of the Beijing World Conference on Women and Development in 2005, also with migration as its theme; and the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006, the same year as the establishment of the Global Migration Group and the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development. Emerging from the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) was launched the following year. The GFMD serves as a global process on migration that brings together policymakers on the interrelated issues of migration and development. In an effort to ensure that the needs of migrants in a country experiencing conflict and/or natural disaster were addressed, IOM launched its Migration Crisis Operational Framework in 2012. The Nansen Initiative on Disaster-Induced Cross-Border Displacement was launched in the same year.

The last few years have been particularly transformational for the global migration governance architecture, arguably cementing together fragmented initiatives into a more cohesive framework. Having a clearer picture of what global migration governance comprises is relevant when assessing how ISCMs contribute to it.

There are four noteworthy occurrences that have firmly contributed to the advancement and increasing coherence of migration governance at the global level:

(a) Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (or, simply, the "2030 Agenda")[17] and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015

There are sections of the Agenda that are relevant to migration, including those focused on health, education, gender equality, decent work, sustainable cities and climate action. The most specific and explicit reference to migration in the SDGs, and the one which enshrines the notion of migration governance, is contained in Target 10.7, which calls for member States to facilitate "the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies" by 2030.

(b) Adoption of the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)[18] by the IOM Council in 2015

MiGOF is a set of principles and objectives to assist States in determining what "good migration governance" means in practice. The Migration Governance Indicators[19] were developed as a tool for States to assess national migration governance against Target 10.7, as well as to track their progress towards achieving "well-managed migration policies."

(c) IOM's formal entry into the United Nations, with "related agency" status, in 2016[20]

Having one identified agency as the United Nations' lead on migration matters promotes inter-institutional coherence on good governance and facilitates coordination of efforts. On the international stage, IOM can and does act as an expert resource, coordinating forum and platform for discussion. It is envisaged that bringing IOM into the United Nations system will result in greater recognition of the links between human mobility and other policy sectors and issues, for example, the humanitarian, development, human rights, climate change, and peace and security agendas,[21] leading to a mainstreaming of mobility-related issues within other policy processes. It is an important development for the global governance migration architecture, as IOM is now in a position to ensure that United Nations initiatives on migration remain coherent and consistent, rather than overlapping or becoming fragmented.

(d) Adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration[22] in 2018

The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first-ever comprehensive framework for global migration governance that sets out a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. It comprises 10 guiding principles, 23 objectives related to better management of migration at the local, national, regional and global levels, and a list of possible actions to achieve each objective – all of which, ultimately, point towards the overall goal of safe, orderly and regular migration. The Global Compact provides the international community with common benchmarks, goals and actionable commitments that address all aspects of migration in a coherent and holistic way.

The four developments, together, have significantly strengthened the architecture of migration governance at the global level by creating a coherent framework. The global "governance gap"[23] is now arguably closed.

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18   International Organization for Migration Resolution No. 1310 on the Migration Governance Framework, adopted on 24 November 2015 (C/106/RES/1310). Available at www.icnl.org/resources/library/transforming-our-world-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development.

19   IOM, Migration Governance Indicators section (2019). Available at https://gmdac.iom.int/migration-governance-indicators.

20   United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/296, "Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration", adopted on 8 July 2016 (A/RES/70/296). Available at www.refworld.org/docid/578633704.html.

21   IOM, "Summit on refugees and migrants opens as IOM joins United Nations", press release, 20 September 2016. Available at www.iom.int/news/summit-refugees-and-migrants-opens-iom-joins-united-nations.

22   United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195 "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", adopted on 19 December 2018 (A/RES/73/195). Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf.

23   Kathleen Newland, "The governance of international migration: Mechanisms, processes and institutions", paper prepared for the Policy Analysis and Research Programme of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) (Geneva, GCIM, 2005), p.14. Available at www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/ebooks/files/GCIM_TS208b.pdf.

3

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS TO MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

3. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS TO MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The previous chapter discussed how ISCMs potentially contribute to each of the three phases of migration governance: (a) agenda-setting and issue definition, (b) consensus-building through communication, and (c) changes in concrete laws, policies and practices that govern how migration is managed. Specific (and sometimes interrelated) outcomes of the work of ISCMs include the following:

(a) Providing a forum for dialogue and discussion in an informal, non-binding setting;

(b) Providing the opportunity to create a network of State governments and establish relations between officials of different countries;

(c) Providing technical support, training and capacity-building for officials of various States;

(d) Providing the opportunity to discuss and compare migration laws, practices and policies, often leading to policy coherence and/or the development of laws or agreements;

(e) Designing and implementing pilot projects or regional initiatives;

(f) In some cases, preparing a common regional perspective for input into global governance processes;

(g) In some cases, providing a repository for data on migration.

The above are all undisputedly positive outcomes and ISCMs' contributions towards enabling States to individually and collectively address migration issues and challenges are readily apparent. Further information on how ISCMs can specifically contribute to migration governance at different levels is outlined in the succeeding sections.

3.1. CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Despite the strengthening of regional and global migration initiatives, individual States remain the primary actors in migration governance. The international system, a collective of individual sovereign States, is reliant on its parts. States define the agenda at the regional and international levels, and, with few exceptional cases, only States can pass or adopt laws and policies in accordance with standards agreed upon at the international level. Therefore, States' capacity and knowledge of migration is a significant factor in shaping migration governance.

One focus of the work of ISCMs is capacity-building of States in migration matters. Training, seminars and knowledge exchange are conducted, to some extent, by almost all RCPs and IRFs in all regions. These endeavours seek to enhance understanding of thematic or operational issues and build the capacity of national officials to address migration challenges, including through policy and practice. This is a particularly useful role of ISCMs, with clear impacts. Strengthening the capacity of national governments can improve governance at the national level, but as States lead

the development of governance at other levels, it will begin to impact those as well. As noted at a roundtable discussion at the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD):

National governments are the building blocks for RCPs and IRFs. Weak capacity in this area of governance at national level translates into the same weak capacity at the RCP and IRF levels.[24]

Examples of capacity-building activities of ISCMs are plentiful. In 2017, the Regional Conference on Migration for North and Central America (RCM) held a capacity-building workshop that focused on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.[25] The workshop sought to encourage discussion on the development and implementation of a guide on the protection of persons moving across borders during disasters.[26] The workshop gave participants the opportunity to consider a range of disaster–displacement scenarios and corresponding practical measures that could be implemented at the national level.

Similarly, one of the world's newest RCPs, the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC), has organized several workshops for officials of its member countries involved in migration data collection and management, anti-trafficking, anti-smuggling, and climate change-related migration.[27] The Prague Process even has its own training academy that offers workshops, study tours and e-learning, and provides a wide array of training materials.[28]

In addition to their role in technical capacity-building through training, ISCMs contribute to the development of guiding principles, guidelines and handbooks, as well as promote best practices. The following describe a couple of excellent examples of such documents:

(a) The Bali Process has produced the Guide on Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking (2014), as well as the Guidelines for Information-sharing to Address People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (2018). Its 2003 model law on smuggling has been adopted by 18 member States.[29]

(b) The RCM has elaborated various guidelines to facilitate national policymaking, including the Guidelines for the Signing of Multi- and/or Bilateral Agreements on the Repatriation of Regional Migrants,[30] the Guiding Principles for the Drafting of Integration, Return and Reintegration Policies,[31] and the Guidelines on Assistance and Protection of Women in the Context of Migration (2018). It has also produced the Manual for the Drafting of National Reintegration Policies,[32] which is used by its member States to develop national protocols, coordination mechanisms and other tools that aim at strengthening the reintegration process for their nationals.

[24]   GFMD, "Policy and institutional coherence to address the relationship between migration and development", background paper for Roundtable 3, GFMD 2010, Mexico, 15 September 2010.

[25]   The report of the workshop is available at www.rcmvs.org/en/events/training-workshop-displacement-context-disasters-migration-and-climate-change and www.rcmvs.org/sites/default/files/Informes/informe_taller_16.8.2017_rr_-_eng.docx.

[26]   Nansen Initiative, *Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries: Protection for Persons Moving Across Borders in the Context of Disasters* (San José, RCM, 2016).

[27]   CMC, Past Events section (2018a). Available at https://caribbeanmigration.org/events.

[28]   Prague Process, What is Training Academy? section (2018). Available at www.pragueprocess.eu/en/training-academy.

[29]   Bali Process, *Policy Guide on Identifying Victims of Trafficking* (Bangkok, Bali Process, 2014), available at www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/policy-guides-on-identification-and-protection-of-victims-of-trafficking; Bali Process, *Guidelines for Information Sharing to Address People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime* (Bangkok, Bali Process, 2018), available at www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/resources; and the Bali Process Model Law to Criminalize People-Smuggling (unpublished).

[30]   RCM, Output document from the workshop on Dignified, Safe and Orderly Return of Migrants at the Regional Conference on Migration, Panama, 18–19 May 2004. Available at www.unhcr.org/protection/migration/4bfbe2ad9/regional-conference-refugee-protection-international-migration-americas.html.

[31]   RCM and IOM, "Guiding principles for the development of migration policies on integration, return and reintegration of the Regional Conference on Migration", brief (San José, RCM, 2014). Available at https://rosanjose.iom.int/site/sites/default/files/principios_ingles.pdf.

[32]   IOM, *Manual for the Drafting of National Reintegration Policies* (San José, 2015a). (Available upon request from the IOM Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean.)

ISCMs also support countries in drafting and amending their national migration laws and policies, for example:

(a) Discussions at the Almaty Process have led to recent amendments in migration policies in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.[33]

(b) The Government of Samoa has worked in collaboration with the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) to review its Immigration Act, which needed strengthening to enable the country to respond to evolving migration trends in the Pacific region.[34]

(c) Zambia is an example of a country that has developed a national action plan on mixed and irregular migration through the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA).[35]

(d) The Government of Peru was inspired by its participation in ISCMs, including the South America Conference on Migration (SACM) and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in drafting its National Migration Policy 2017–2025 and its Law on Migration.[36]

(e) The Budapest Process has supported various member States in developing national policies and actions on migration, such as the Comprehensive Migration Policy of Afghanistan, the National Policy for Overseas Pakistanis and a draft National Policy for Engagement with Iraqis Abroad.[37]

ISCMs have also had a role to play in encouraging its member States to ratify international instruments. The Budapest Process, for example, has promoted the ratification of the Trafficking and Smuggling Protocols[38] among its member States, as has the Bali Process.[39]

It is also important to acknowledge the contributions of ISCMs at the subnational level, that is, on cities and local authorities. These actors have key roles to play in supporting migrants in various ways, including in terms of migrant integration or reintegration, migrant settlement and housing services, and the provision of health and education services to migrants. The Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (MC2CM) is one such contribution of an ISCM at a local level. Embedded in the Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue, MC2CM brings together experts and cities to contribute to improved migration governance at the city level through dialogue, knowledge management, planning strategies, establishment of expert networks and development of pilot projects. Similarly, the 2019 GFMD included two roundtable discussions on the role of local governing bodies on "supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships" and "harnessing migration for rural transformation and development."[40]

[33] As noted in the responses of the Almaty Process in the survey questionnaire issued by IOM for GRCP 7.

[34] Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC), "Samoa Immigration works towards modernising Immigration Act", PIDC News, 27 February 2018. Available at www.pidcsec.org/news/samoa-immigration-works-towards-modernising-immigration-act.

[35] As noted in the responses to the survey for this assessment report.

[36] As noted in the responses to the survey for this assessment report.

[37] Based on feedback from the Budapest Process to the survey for this assessment report.

[38] United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/25, "Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto", adopted on 15 November 2000, Annex I (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime) and Annex II (Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime). Available at www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/organised-crime/UNITED_NATIONS_CONVENTION_AGAINST_TRANSNATIONAL_ORGANIZED_CRIME_AND_THE_PROTOCOLS_THERETO.pdf.

[39] Karoline Popp, "Regional processes, law and institutional developments on migration", in: Foundations of International Migration Law (B. Opeskin, R. Perruchoud and J. Redpath (eds.)) (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012), p. 379.

[40] GFMD, "Sustainable approaches to human mobility: Upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships and collective action", concept paper presented at GFMD 2019, Quito, 29 March 2019.

3.2. CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE BILATERAL LEVEL

The work of ISCMs can also lead to negotiations and agreements at the bilateral level, return and readmission agreements being one example. The Budapest Process recently adopted a five-year plan that sets out priority goals and key commitments, including the strengthening of law enforcement cooperation at the regional and bilateral levels, and seeks to enhance bilateral cooperation and capacities on return and readmission.[41] The Prague Process has developed a handbook and guidelines on concluding readmission agreements.[42]

Bilateral pilot projects have also emerged from regional dialogues. For example, within the framework of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, the Governments of the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines have launched a pilot project promoting fair and ethical labour recruitment.[43] Bilateral labour agreements have also developed as a result of ISCM processes, including those between Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia, and between Saudi Arabia and Uganda – these agreements are products of discussions at the Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Region (MiD-IGAD).[44] Similarly, within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (EaP Panel), the Government of Ukraine has signed bilateral readmission agreements with Poland and Moldova. Another example is the bilateral partnership established between Armenia and Sweden in 2007 and which developed from the now-dormant European Union–South Caucasus Cluster Process.[45]

3.3. CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

At the regional level, ISCMs have provided a forum for States with shared interests to discuss migration issues, compare their experiences and seek solutions to common challenges. As mentioned in previous sections, States quickly recognized the utility and value of coordination on migration issues at a regional level, particularly given that most international migration is intraregional. Almost every geographic region is now covered by an RCP and several examples of effective practices that have been of benefit across an entire region are cited in the paragraphs that follow.

The RCM has developed guidance notes for its member States in a number of areas of concern,[46] as well as common approaches, such as indicators for the registration of unaccompanied migrant children.[47] The Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) has a number of thematic working groups, each chaired by a member State and addressing a specific area of focus. It has also developed several "common approach" documents for the ECOWAS region, such as the Common Approach

41 Budapest Process, "Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration" and its Call for Action: A Five-year Plan", main paper for the Budapest Process Sixth Ministerial Conference, Istanbul, 19–20 February 2019. Available at www.budapestprocess.org/component/attachments/download/379.

42 ICMPD, *Prague Process Handbook and Guidelines on Concluding Readmission Agreements and Organising Returns* (Vienna, ICMPD, 2014). Available at www.pragueprocess.eu/en/migration-observatory/publications/document?id=38.

43 Abu Dhabi Dialogue, "An Alternative Model of Labour Recruitment", webpage (2018). Available at http://abudhabidialogue.org.ae/projects/alternative-model-labour-recruitment.

44 MiD-IGAD, Questionnaire for the pre-GRCP 7 survey on ISCMs; and IOM, "Summary of the Results of the Survey conducted by IOM in preparation for the Seventh Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional, Interregional and Global Consultative Processes on Migration (GRCP 7)", report summary (Geneva, 2017), available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/RCP/2017/GRCP7-Survey-Results-Summary.pdf.

45 IOM, "15 years in Armenia: Managing migration for the benefit of all", brochure (Yerevan, IOM, 2008), pp. 14–15. Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/galstyan_iom15years_in_armenia.pdf.

46 RCM guidelines address a wide range of migration issues. These are available, for example, in: Nansen Initiative, Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries; RCM, Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking (San José, RCM, 2007), available at www.unhcr.org/protection/migration/4bfbd9179/regional-guidelines-special-protection-cases-repatriation-child-victims.html; and RCM, Regional Guidelines for the Preliminary Identification and Referral Mechanisms for Migrant Populations in Vulnerable Situations (San José, RCM, 2013), available at www.refworld.org/docid/595c98394.html.
More RCM documents are available at http://temas.crmsv.org.

47 RCM, "Common indicators for the registration of unaccompanied or separated migrant boys, girls and adolescents in consular actions by member countries of the Regional Conference on Migration", guidance document (San José, RCM, 2016). Available at www.iom.int/iscm/common-indicators-registration-unaccompanied-or-separated-migrant-boys-girls-and-adolescents.

on Migration,[48] the Regional Common Position (2018) and the draft Regional Migration Policy (2018).

Recognizing the need for cooperation on the exchange of information to prevent and respond to human trafficking, the CMC established a Caribbean-wide counter-trafficking network in 2018.[49] Experts and government officials share information on current actions, best practices, and gaps and challenges encountered in their work, and seek to identify priorities at the regional level.

In the Asia–Pacific, the Bali Process Regional Strategic Roadmap[50] is an interactive online portal that supports States in evaluating their policies, identifying gaps in the system and improving responses to human trafficking. The work of MIDSA has contributed to the development of regional action plans on labour migration and a regional action plan to address mixed and irregular migration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.[51] Similarly, the Almaty Process has created a network of regional experts on migration[52] and the Prague Process has established its Migration Observatory for the region.[53]

3.4. CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE INTERREGIONAL LEVEL

IRFs may be designed to bring together States found along a so-called "migration corridor." One such IRF is the 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean comprising ten countries, five on each side of the Mediterranean. Alternatively, IRFs may bring together groupings of countries, for example, the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC), which is made up of "traditional" destination countries, or be established around a particular theme, such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, which focuses on labour mobility across Asia and the Middle East. As well as serving as a forum for dialogue, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue undertakes practical and innovative pilot projects designed to improve the governance of labour migration, for example, by putting a system in place for the mutual recognition of skills among member countries. An example of an interregional project on labour migration – that between the United Arab Emirates and Philippines – was cited in Section 3.2.[54] The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development ("Rabat Process") and the European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative ("Khartoum Process") are jointly responsible for the monitoring of the Joint Valetta Action Plan,[55] which came out of the 2015 Valetta Summit on Migration. These two IRFs jointly monitor the implementation of the action plan, reporting on projects and policies being implemented within each domain and, in this way, ensuring practical and concrete follow-up to commitments made by States at Valetta.[56]

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48   ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration, adopted on 18 January 2008 at the thirty-third ordinary session of the Head of State and Government, Burkina Faso. Available at www.unhcr.org/49e47c8f11.pdf.

49   To learn more about the anti-trafficking work of the CMC, visit https://caribbeanmigration.org/thematic-networks/human-trafficking.

50   The roadmap is available at www.baliprocess-rso-roadmap.net.

51   SADC Labour Migration Action Plan for 2013–2015, available at www.iom.int/iscm/2013-2015-sadc-labour-maigration-action-plan; SADC Draft Labour Migration Action Plan for 2016–2019, available at www.iom.int/fr/iscm/2016-2019-sadc-labour-migration-action-plan; and SADC Irregular Migration and Mixed Migration Action Plan for 2015–2018, available at www.iom.int/iscm/2015-2018-sadc-irregular-migration-and-mixed-migration-action-plan.

52   IOM, "Tajikistan takes lead in Almaty Process", press release, 15 February 2019. Available at www.iom.int/news/tajikistan-takes-lead-almaty-process.

53   Prague Process, What is Migration Observatory? section (2018). Available at www.pragueprocess.eu/en/migration-observatory.

54   Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Projects section (2018). Available at http://abudhabidialogue.org.ae/projects.

55   Valletta Summit on Migration Action Plan, adopted on 11 November (Valletta, European Council, 2015). Available at www.consilium.europa.eu/media/21839/action_plan_en.pdf.

56   The Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process hold, through the Africa–Europe Migration and Mobility Dialogue (MMD) Programme, regular joint senior officials' meetings on Joint Valletta Action Plan monitoring. For updates on follow-up actions on the Joint Valletta Action Plan, visit www.khartoumprocess.net/valletta/valletta-follow-up and www.rabat-process.org/en/valletta/valletta-summit-follow-up.

3.5. CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

For global governance to be effective, it must be created through a "bottom–up" approach – that is, the practices and views of States and regions, among other stakeholders at the national and regional levels, should be the primary driver of outcomes. ISCMs have an opportunity to contribute to the development of the global governance architecture by serving as a voice for their respective regions and thematic areas of concern. This way, the needs and priorities of different regions are appropriately considered and ensure that outcomes properly reflect the broad array of interests. In other words, bringing regional interests and priorities to the international table is an important role that RCPs and IRFs play in relation to the development of global governance.

The bottom–up approach was a principle inherent to the consultation phase of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which was composed of thematic sessions, and regional and stakeholder consultations, thereby ensuring effective participation of all relevant actors in the development of the Global Compact. Both the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants[57] and the Global Compact Modalities Resolution[58] referred to RCPs and other ISCMs as existing partnership mechanisms and stipulated that regional consultations in support of the development of the Global Compact be done through them.[59,60] Several ISCMs assisted their member States in developing policy positions on the Global Compact, and some even participated directly during the consultation phase.[61] For example, the Bali Process and the PIDC participated in the regional preparatory meeting organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2017, the latter to seek acknowledgement of the capacity constraints of small island States in developing commitments under the Global Compact. The Arab Regional Consultative Process on migration and refugee affairs (ARCP) made a statement "expressing their hope" that the Global Compact on Refugees be "adopted in a way that respects the specificity of different regions, and reflects the challenges facing the Arab countries hosting large numbers of refugees."[62] Lastly, the African ISCMs fed into the African Union's Common African Position on the Global Compact for Migration.[63]

The GRCPs have been used as a mechanism through which ISCMs collectively formulated approaches to various areas of migration governance, including at the global level. For example, the document emerging from GCRP 4 in 2013 made specific recommendations for consideration by the United Nations Secretary General and General Assembly in anticipation of the Second United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and paved the way for migration to be considered as an important theme in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[64] Similarly, at GRCP 6 in 2016, recommendations were made on how ISCMs can work towards the SDGs. At GRCP 7 in 2017, attended by 22 ISCMs, 5 United Nations regional (economic) commissions and 5 regional economic organizations, recommendations[65] on ISCMs'

57 United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/1, "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants", adopted on 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1), para. 54. Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_1.pdf.

58 United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/280, "Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration" adopted on 17 April 2017 (A/RES/71/280), para. 22. Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_280.pdf.

59 United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/1, Annex II, para. 14.

60 IOM, "References to RCPs in the New York Declaration and the GCM Modalities Resolution", note (Geneva, 2017c). Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/RCP/2017/References-to-RCPs-in-New-York-Declaration-and-GCM-modalities-resolution.pdf.

61 The following ISCMs have drafted positions on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Abu Dhabi Dialogue, ARCP, Bali Process, Colombo Process, RCM, SACM and GFDM.

62 Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs Statement on the occasion of World Refugee Day on 6 December 2018. Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/icp/statement_on_world_refugee_day_2018l.pdf.

63 African Union, Draft Common African Position on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (October 2017). Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/33023-wd-english_common_african_position_on_gcom.pdf.

64 IOM, "Global regional consultative process meetings (GRCP)", brochure (Geneva, 2017a). Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/RCP/2017/GRCP-Brochure-2018.pdf.

65 Highlights document of the Seventh Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional, Interregional and Global Consultative Processes on Migration (GRCP 7), Geneva, 11 October 2017. Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/RCP/2017/keydocs/GRCP%207%20Highlights%20Document%2010%20October%202017%20FINAL.pdf.

engagement in the implementation of, follow-up on and review of progress under the Global Compact, noting that they "constitute critical contributors to and mechanisms for migration governance at the regional and interregional levels."[66] Many of these recommendations fed directly into the adopted text of the Global Compact, which shows the significant role that the GRCPs can play in supporting ISCMs' contributions to global migration governance.

Some global processes provide a distinct opportunity for ISCMs to actively contribute to global migration governance. RCPs and IRFs contribute to GFMD processes through side events and roundtables with particular themes that pertain to regional migration governance.[67] Similarly, the International Dialogue on Migration hosts a regional migration governance session, specifically so that RCPs and IRFs can bring their inputs to the table.

RCPs and IRFs are therefore able to "feed into" global processes and ensure that there is synergy to their work and that regional interests and priorities are being properly considered at the global level.

3.6. INTERPLAY OF THE VARIOUS LEVELS

Migration governance is not carried out in isolation at each of the levels of migration governance outlined in previous sections. Hence, it is important to recognize the interconnectedness and confluences of these levels. States are the common factor of these levels and will steer the agenda, as issues of interest and importance are discussed and addressed at each of these levels.

A migration theme at a global forum, for example, may prompt related discussions, workshops or projects at a national- or regional-level dialogue. Conversely, the migration-related concerns and interests of States or regions may attract focus at the global level. The Migrants in Countries of Crisis Initiative (MICIC Initiative), for example, was established as a global effort in recognition of the effects of the Libya crisis on migrants in Libya. In turn, its development at the global level has led to some ISCMs putting the topic of migrants in countries of crisis on their agendas and taking it into account in policy discussions. GRCP 5 specifically addressed the role of ISCMs in supporting the MICIC Initiative and formulated a recommendation to this effect, which prompted the Colombo Process, MIDSA, MIDWA, RCM and SACM to address the issue of migrants in countries of crisis at their respective meetings.

Another example of such reciprocal development involves the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The groundwork laid by the ISCMs in building the confidence of States in the benefits of inter-State dialogue, "helped to create a climate conducive to the formation of other non-binding and information platforms" on migration governance at the global level.[68] – that is, ISCMs have demonstrated to States the value of inter-State coordination. This has led, over time, to the willingness and drive of States to discuss coordination at the global level – thus, the global Global Compact. Conversely, developments at the global level, namely, the SDGs and the global

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[66]   In 2017, prior to GRCP 7, IOM conducted a survey of ISCMs', United Nations regional (economic) commissions' and regional economic organizations' good practices and other inputs to the stocktaking phase of the Global Compact process. Responses were received from 20 ISCMs, four United Nations regional commissions and three regional economic organizations (27 entities in total), and the responses analysed in the "Summary of the Results of the Survey conducted by IOM in preparation for GRCP 7".

[67]   Examples include RCP and IRF events organized during the GFMD Summit; RCP and IRF contributions to GFMD roundtable sessions (such as the 2018 roundtable session on regional mobility and policy coherence to support development); and ARCP positions on the annual GFMD themes. In 2018, two ISCM-related side events were organized at the GFMD: (a) side event on "mobilizing RCPs to support the implementation of global compact commitments," jointly organized by IOM, the Government of the United Arab Emirates, the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and Migrant Forum Asia on 3 September 2018; and (b) side event on "regional dimensions in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Migration", jointly organized by IOM, IOE, the Ministry of Labour and Emiratization of the United Arab Emirates and the International Catholic Migration Commission on 9 December 2018.

[68]   Michele Klein-Solomon, "International migration management through inter-State consultation mechanisms", paper prepared for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development, United Nations, 6–8 July 2005. Available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/expert/8/P13_MKSolomon.pdf.

Global Compact itself, as well as global processes such as the GFMD, have influenced the approach taken by regional processes. The whole-of-government and whole-of-society principles, and the commitment to the principle of safe, orderly and regular migration, have trickled down to the RCPs and IRFs, many of which opened up to consider new partnerships and initiatives. ISCMs can also assist their member States in implementing or monitoring global initiatives that address migration.

3.7. MEASURING THE IMPACT OF ISCMS

A common understanding of what "good migration governance" means, and a method to assess policies associated with migration governance, need to be grounded in agreed international standards and the growing baseline of evidence-based good practices, while being flexible and adaptable enough to suit a diversity of national contexts and migration realities.[69]

Measuring the impact of ISCMs and their contributions to migration governance is a difficult task, particularly as these contributions are often informal and indirect. The majority of ISCMs do not have indicators to track the results and measure the impact of their work. Exceptions, that is, where indicators have been attached to certain activities or areas of work, include the following: (a) the Prague Process, which developed a set of indicators based on the evaluation of its Action Plan 2012–2016[70] and (b) the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM) is working towards free movement of people throughout the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region and therefore considers visa liberalization in national policies as a measure of success. There are also a few examples of ISCMs conducting review exercises, including the Rabat Process, which periodically distributes questionnaires to national focal points to assess the relevance and utility of dialogue to their national administrations,[71] and the GFMD, which has conducted regular assessment exercises and produced a ten-year periodic review of its work.[72]

This study's survey of ISCM member States confirms that all these States value the forum provided by ISCMs to discuss migration issues informally and share experiences. They also value and recognize the capacity-building role of ISCMs. However, there also seems to be an increased focus on measuring the results that emerge from ISCM processes – that is, the practical outcomes of discussions and workshops at the ISCM level. Practical outcomes include the development or amendment of policy, or the development of projects or programmes, or other concrete actions.

Outcomes of actions pursued at the ISCM level include, for example, the commitment mechanism introduced by Rabat Process member States to encourage concrete implementation of the actions agreed upon under the Marrakesh Action Plan.[73] The GFMD has introduced its Platform for Partnerships (PfP) to compile and showcase the projects and policies that have emerged from its discussions and debates. The platform is integrated into the GFMD web portal and contains migration-and-development practices and policy tools.[74] The GFMD has recognized that "the challenge is how to support governments that seek assistance in transforming... recommendations

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[69]   IOM, *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners* (Geneva, 2018b). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-2030-agenda-guide-practitioners.

[70]   Prague Process, *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan 2012–2016* (Vienna, ICMPD, 2015). Available at www.pragueprocess.eu/phocadownload/Evaluation%20Report%20PP%20AP%20EN%20web.pdf.

[71]   Based on feedback from the Rabat Process to the survey for this assessment report.

[72]   GFMD, "Ten years of GFMD: Lessons learnt and future perspectives", report (Geneva, GFMD, 2018).

[73]   Rabat Process, Marrakesh Political Declaration and Action Plan 2018–2020, adopted on 2 May 2018. Available at https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/20180503_declaration-and-action-plan-marrakesh_en.pdf.

[74]   The GFMD's Platform for Partnerships webpage is available at https://gfmd.org/pfp.

and examples of good practices into concrete actions and programmes." It is hoped that through the PfP, the GFMD can "address this challenge by providing more space for governments and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss GFMD-inspired initiatives."

3.8. FINDINGS OF THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON ISCMS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

ISCMs still play a unique role in allowing informal, non-binding policy dialogue among and across regions. They contribute to the national, regional and global levels of migration governance and are valued by States due to their informality and ability to provide a "policy incubator" for migration issues.

The apparent lack of indicators or ability to measure the impact of activities or interventions means that evidence of their value is not consistently kept or shared. It also means that it is difficult to accurately assess the outcomes and results of the work of ISCMs. This may change, as ISCMs are increasingly showing interest in demonstrating how their dialogues translate into concrete actions and to keep track of these results.

Most ISCMs have contributed to improving national migration policies in their member States. Generally, the impact can be categorized as follows:

(a) Review of legislation on migration;

(b) Strengthening of migration management and border control;

(c) Fostering cooperation;

(d) Sharing of best practices.

Looking at specific ISCMs, other impacts should be also noted:

(a) Endorsement of a specific ISCM model for immigration legislation frameworks (PDIC);

(b) Criminal classification of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in national legislation (Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM));

(c) Development of a regional action plan on irregular migration, which has already been "translated" into national action plans in some SADC member States (MIDSA).

Interestingly, some of the ISCMs in this study emphasize that their role is to promote policy and operational information exchange, and that pushing for any policy harmonization could be perceived as going beyond their aims. Most member States express their support for and satisfaction with the technical support provided by these ISCMs and recognize the ISCMs' impact on their national policies.

Only a few States report having mechanisms for measuring the impact of ISCMs on migration governance. These include reports of meetings and discussions, memorandums of understanding and agreements on migration, as well as national migrant counts (for example, through entries, or visas and residence permits issued). In the specific case of Albania, impact is measured by using indicators to assess migrants' rights and the extent to which migrants have the same status as locals in terms of access to basic social services. Regarding the evaluation of impact and measurement mechanisms, the Budapest Process questions whether there is a need for mechanisms to measure the impact of ISCMs in the first place, since their continued existence signifies their utility to member States and is therefore inherently suggest success. Currently, the majority of ISCMs do not have indicators to measure the impact of their work on member States' national migration

policies; and while the diverse nature of ISCMs makes it difficult to identify common and actionable indicators to measure their work, it is still important to evaluate the work of ISCMs and their outcomes.

One can differentiate between two ways that ISCMs impact on migration policies. The first is through information-sharing and knowledge transfer, that is, ISCMs aim to provide a forum for discussion and exchange on specific migration issues. The second is through capacity-building and technical advice, whereby ISCMs see their role as key supporters of policy development at the national level and as providers of assistance to member States in the drafting of their national migration and asylum policies and instruments. IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, has provided technical support to ISCMs, thus contributing to the national migration policy development of several States.

ISCM member States in this survey recognize the impact of ISCM membership on their national migration policies in several ways. Most of them highlight information-sharing and technical guidance as areas of major contribution to national migration policies, and, in particular, more human rights-oriented national migration polices. Moreover, ISCMs have contributed to raising their members' awareness of emerging migration issues. Most ISCMs in Africa have formulated regional policy documents to guide the development of their member States' national migration policies. Similarly, the Budapest Process has supported its member States in developing national policies and actions on migration, including the Comprehensive Migration Policy of Afghanistan (2017–2019), the National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Oversees Pakistanis in Pakistan (2017–2019) and the draft for a National Policy for Engagement with Iraqis Abroad in Iraq (2017–2019).

ISCMs usually have a thematic focus and are action- and goal-oriented. For example, combating human trafficking is a central thematic area for the Bali Process and the Khartoum Process; promoting partnerships for migration, for the Budapest Process; and refugee and migrant protection in Central Asia, for the Almaty Process. Thus, it seems more usual for ISCMs to plan forward to undertake concrete actions to tackle their challenges.

Most States believe the following to be the added value of their membership in ISCMs:

   (a) Networking opportunities;

   (b) Partnership opportunities;

   (c) Policy coordination;

   (d) Access to more stakeholders;

   (e) Technical advice and policy guidance;

   (f) Knowledge-sharing;

   (g) Possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration;

   (h) Capacity-building;

   (i) Dialogue on emerging issues;

   (j) Actual projects and programmes.

As illustrated in Figure 5, ISCM member States participating in the survey most commonly perceive trust-building, dialogue, networking and building new partnerships as areas of value in ISCM membership.

Figure 5. Member States' perceived added value in engaging with ISCMs

Category	Number of respondent ISCM member States
Networking	24
Access to more stakeholders	24
Trust-building	23
Common understanding of and approaches to migration issues	22
Partnerships	21
Possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration	20
Knowledge	20
Dialogue on new emerging issues	20
Policy coordination	16
Technical advice and policy guidance	15
Capacity-building	14
Actual programmes and projects	13

Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Additional benefits in ISCM membership reported by survey participants include the possibility to arrange more ad hoc meetings and seminars within the framework of the ISCMs, as is the case of Spain in the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development ("Rabat Process"), and information-sharing on immigrant enforcement matters, as highlighted by the example of Canada.

Different ISCMs have developed regional policies. The regional model legislation framework provides a regional overview of best practices, core provisions on mobility, visa regulations, policy guidelines and declarations, among others. Establishing regional models of migration management and promoting a certain level of harmonization in national policies are major foci of ISCMs. Such is the case of the Prague Process, the Almaty Process and the Bali Process. In the case of the Bali Process, there have been several policy guidelines and handbooks produced.[75] Similarly, the RCM has elaborated various guidelines to facilitate national policies.[76] Similarly, MIDWA has developed several common approach documents.[77] The Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process have contributed to the Joint Valetta Action Plan by monitoring its implementation.

According to member States, ISCMs' contributions to their region are based mostly on improving relationships between States in the region, enhancing dialogue on migration issues, as well as facilitating the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

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[75]   For example: Bali Process, *Policy Guide on Identifying Victims of Trafficking; and Bali Process, Guidelines for Information Sharing to Address People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.*

[76]   For example: RCM, "Guidelines for the signing of multi- and/or bilateral agreements between member countries of the Regional Conference on Migration regarding the repatriation of regional migrants by land"; RCM, *Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of the Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking*; RCM, "Guiding principles for the development of migration policies on integration, return and reintegration"; and RCM, "Guidelines on assistance and protection of women in the context of migration", guidance document (San José, RCM, 2018).

[77]   For example: ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration (2008), the MIDWA Regional Common Position (2018) and the MIDWA Regional Migration Policy (2017, pending approval).

Figure 6. Member States' perceptions of ISCM contributions to migration governance and policy dialogue

- Improve relations between States
- Enhance dialogue between States
- Share knowledge between States

21, 52.5%
11, 27.5%
8, 20.0%
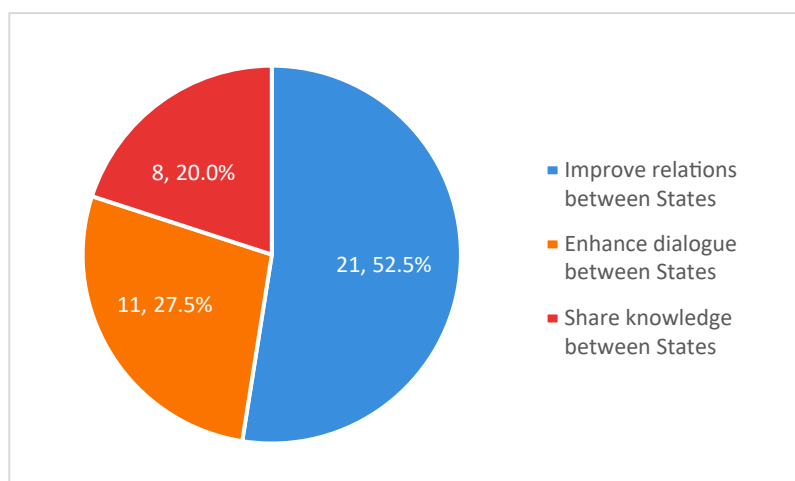
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

In comparison to policies coordinated at the regional level, interregional policies promoted via ISCMs are fewer. These include a 2015 interregional policy on "collaboration and coordination with other RCPs with overlapping membership" that MIDCOM contributed to; the Regional Policy on Equity, Equality and Gender (PRIEG) by the Central American Integration System (SICA) in 2013 (with contribution from OCAM); SICA's Regional Health Policy, adopted in 2015; and the MIDWA's Common Position on Migration (currently under formulation). Similarly, the Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration developed the Regional Guidelines on How to Identify and Refer Refugees and Asylum-seekers at the Borders of Central Asia[78] in 2016, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The IGC has commemorated its thirty years of work and cooperation with a publication[79] in 2018.

Several ISCMs have also contributed to global-level policies. For example, 19 ISCMs reported participating at the GFMD, a global process which has had substantial input into the development of both the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the migration-related SDGs in the 2030 Agenda (and its follow-up). Additionally, five ISCMs reported having participated directly in the process leading to the Global Compact and the New York Declaration for Migrants and Refugees. Other examples include the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (which the IGC, among others, contributed to), the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016 (the ARCP, among others), and the International Dialogue on Migration.

Most States indicate that ISCMs have been highly useful in facilitating the implementation or monitoring of global initiatives addressing migration, namely, the 2030 Agenda, the New York Declaration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. They have stated that ISCMs have been useful in helping them review national standards and comply with international standards of migration governance.

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[78] Almaty Process, "Regional guidelines on how to identify and refer refugees and asylum seekers at the borders of Central Asia", guidance document (Almaty, UNHCR, 2016). Available at www.refworld.org/docid/58bebd734.html.

[79] Patrick Wall, *In a Constructive, Informal and Pragmatic Spirit: Thirty Years of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (the World's First Regional Consultative Process on Migration)* (Geneva, IGC and IOM, 2018). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/constructive-informal-and-pragmatic-spirit.

Figure 7. Member States on whether ISCMs have helped their governments facilitate implementation or monitoring of global initiatives on migration
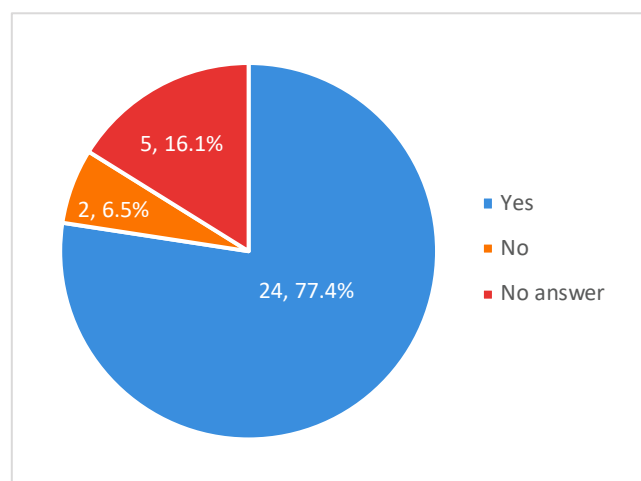
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

In summary, most ISCM contributions to migration governance are at the national, regional and global levels. They contribute less frequently in the interregional arena (Figure 8).

Figure 8. ISCMs on their contributions to policy at different levels
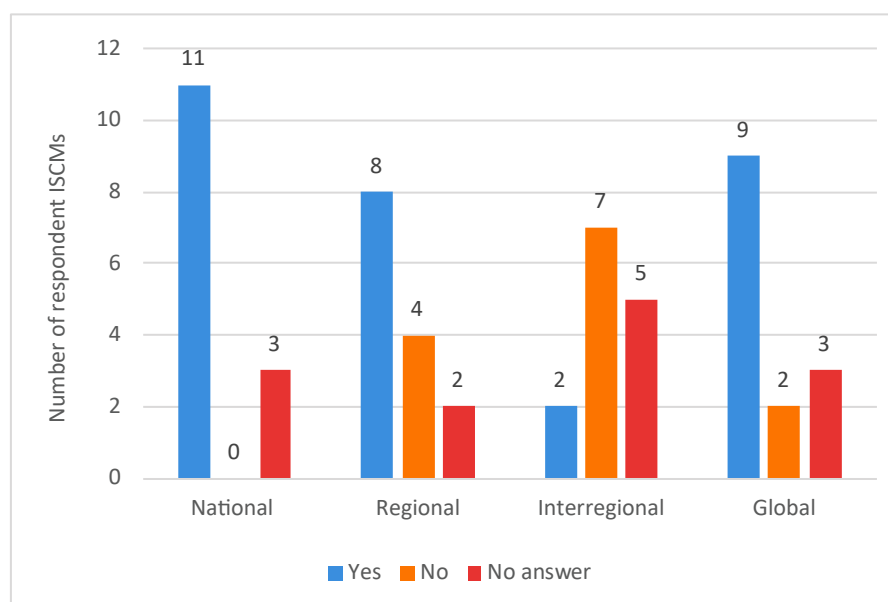
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Knowledge management is a crucial issue for most of the ISCMs: databases and tools have been developed to share information on specific topics. While most of these instruments are restricted to member States, some initiatives to share best practices are open to a wider audience. The GFMD launched its PfP[80] in 2010 to foster the exchange of migration-and-development practices, as well as to encourage governments to work in partnership – with each other and with other key non-governmental stakeholders – towards developing and implementing migration-and-development policies and programmes. Comparative research could be promoted through ISCMs, as done

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[80]   The GFMD's Platform for Partnerships webpage is available at www.gfmd.org/pfp.

by the Khartoum Process, which is currently running the "Stocktaking Assessment on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants in the Khartoum Process Countries in Africa", which will provide an overview of (a) current trends in the patterns of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, (b) relevant legal, policy and institutional frameworks, and (c) responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, including the relevant European Union-funded projects in the region. In the case of the Rabat Process, national focal points are the main actors in the management and sharing of knowledge. It is through these focal points that the process disseminates documents such as maps, data sets, research reports, infographics, concept notes, background documents (including literature reviews), user guides, and meeting conclusions and/or technical recommendations. Another example is the RCM, which has collaborated with the immigration bodies and consular affairs offices of member States in the establishment of instruments for the continuous training of officials, capacity-building, and sharing of know-how.

Some ISCMs have identified the need for more resources and greater financial stability as crucial towards their improved contribution to better migration governance at the regional and global levels. Lack of resources and financial stability are also challenges for the GFMD.

Responses from ISCM member States are highly varied regarding how ISCMs can better serve them. Some States are satisfied with ISCMs' efforts, while others have requests ranging from more focused forums and targets, to greater cooperation and more opportunities for sharing channels, and better monitoring and evaluating mechanisms. Some States underline the fact that there is a need for ISCMs to be guided by more cohesive strategies, to align the work of all working groups and other units for consultative processes to remain effective. Moreover, States request more targeted and focused action in order to see greater and more precise impact. Finally, there is a petition for ISCMs to improve by securing funding through the participation of States and their agencies, among other entities.

Responses are similarly varied regarding how States propose to enhance their contribution to ISCMs. One recurring response is that States can improve their attendance at ISCM meetings and increase sharing of best practices and expertise. Some States, however, do not wish to or cannot further enhance their participation – usually due to their limited resources.

Box 1. Main findings on ISCMs as regards migration governance
Strategies
• There is a need to define and update ISCM strategies and identify their common elements. It will be useful to provide transparency and accountability in ISCM governing documents (specifically, strategies and workplans only).
Added value
• ISCMs' informal and non-binding nature is of added value to States. ISCMs are perceived as useful venues for intergovernmental information exchange and policy debates, acting as "policy incubators" on migration and asylum issues.
Regional approach
• ISCMs are more focused on establishing regional models of migration management and promoting a certain level of harmonization in national policies.
Monitoring
• Most ISCMs do not have indicators to measure the impact of their work on their member States' national migration policies. A lack of clear indicators makes it difficult to evaluate the outcomes and results of the work of ISCMs.

Contributions of ISCMs to migration governance of member States
• Review of legislation on migration
• Strengthening of migration management and border control
• Fostering cooperation
• Sharing of best practices
Contributions at the various levels
• Contributions to policy and governance at the regional level are quite frequent, while they are rare at the interregional level.
• Contributions to global migration governance focus on the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

3.9. GRCP 8 DISCUSSIONS ON ISCMS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The GRCP 8 session on migration governance confirmed once again that inter-State consultation mechanisms remain the leading and most knowledgeable State-led actors on migration matters at the regional level and represent important actors at the global level.

While the ISCMs participating in the survey recognize having made achievements and contributions to migration governance at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, they also identify challenges in quantifying and measuring such contributions. ISCM representatives presented examples of their contributions:

(a) While ISCMs recognize achievements at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, **their greatest contribution comes at the national level**. In order to have a greater impact at the intraregional and global levels, ISCMs express the need for increased and more predictable funding.

(b) **ISCMs have contributed to almost every area of migration governance and emerging migration policy issues and challenges**, including security, skills recognition and portability, and voluntary return and reintegration. Some ISCMs have focused exclusively on specific issues (e.g. the Bali Process focuses on counter-trafficking; the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue focus on labour migration.); others address a broader range of issues of interest to their constituent States. More and more, however, ISCM focus is spanning several areas of migration management.

(c) **ISCMs continuously develop and align thematic areas with member States' priorities** as the nature of migration continues to evolve.

(d) **ISCMs continue to shape approaches to migration governance among member States without compromising State sovereignty**. Even as non-binding, informal bodies, ISCMs encourage convergent policy at the regional, interregional and global levels by sharing best practices in areas such as legal frameworks, training modules and security classification systems.

(e) The ongoing nature of ISCMs allows countries to **respond quickly to unexpected migration crises**.

(f) **ISCMs' contribution to migration governance is considerable but remains unacknowledged**. As informal entities, such contribution is not systematically tracked, measured or credited. For example, few are aware of the significant impact that ISCMs had in the negotiation and consultation process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Some ISCMs have asked their member States to develop migration policy frameworks to measure how they manage migration. Similarly, other ISCMs have begun to regularly review strategic priorities and determine how their commitments and conclusions are implemented.

(g) ISCMs provide added value to migration governance by **serving as forums for informal and trusted discussion**.

4

STRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILTY

4. STRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILTY

4.1. ISCM STRUCTURES

ISCMs are structured in a number of different ways. All ISCMs, by definition, are composed of member States. Some also have observer States and/or observer organizations (most commonly, IOM and UNHCR, but also other organizations with an interest or expertise in the areas of migration covered either on a permanent or ad hoc basis). Most ISCMs have expanded their member and/or observer base since their inception. An ISCM usually appoints a State to act as Chair, either on a rotational or permanent basis; may have a steering committee, working groups and expert groups; hold meetings at the "expert", "senior officials'" and "ministerial" levels; and is usually supported by its own (technical) secretariat. Secretariat functions generally include the following:

(a) **Administration**. This includes providing comprehensive administrative support to the ISCM and its board and committees, including managing the conduct of all ISCM meetings in terms of logistics, preparation, secretarial support and reporting.

(b) **Planning**. This involves developing detailed workplans and financial reports for the consideration of the board and member States of the ISCM and providing services in support of activities towards the workplan goals.

(c) **Representation**. This pertains to maintaining key relationships with all stakeholders (at the national, regional and global levels).

(d) **Technical advice**. This refers to knowledge or information provided to member States, coordination of working groups or expert groups to address specific issues, and coordination of projects.

(e) **Information and communication**. This relates to the receipt and transmission of official communications, maintenance of the ISCM's website(s), and managing contact with member States. ISCMs generally use a variety of tools to communicate with their members, including through a database or online portal, newsletters, and annual or monthly reports, among others.

(f) **Data and research**. This includes efforts that facilitating the compilation and dissemination of data.

Secretariat functions are commonly provided by an international or regional organization, for example, IOM, UNHCR and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Some examples of regional organizations providing secretariat functions for ISCMs in their region include:

(a) The African Union Regional Economic Communities

    (i) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), for the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM);

    (ii) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), for the Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS);

(iii) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and the Rabat Process (co-secretariat with the European Commission);

(iv) Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), for the Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (MiD-IGAD);

(v) Southern African Development Community (SADC), for the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA).

Other regional and political unions providing secretariat functions to ISCMs include the following:

(a) African Union Commission, for the African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI), Pan-African Forum (PAFOM) and the Khartoum Process;

(b) League of Arab States, for the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP);

(c) Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), for the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD);

(d) European Commission for the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management, the Khartoum Process and the Rabat Process;

(e) African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat, for the ACP–EU Dialogue on Migration.

Certain ISCMs, namely, the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC), GFMD, IGC and RCM have dedicated administrations. In the case of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, its secretariat functions are carried out by a State, namely, the United Arab Emirates.

There is some evidence to suggest that a strong secretariat can ensure that actions or priorities recommended or supported in discussions translate into tangible results. One case in point comes from an evaluation conducted in 2017 of regional migration programme models. The evaluation found that IOM has developed good secretariat practices in relation to the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) in Central America, for example, in following up on recommendations and "developing guidelines, training materials and other products that help governments and civil society to turn RCM discussions into concrete action."[81]

The role of the ISCM chair is important. States that have chaired ISCMs generally believe that their role as chair helped foster partnerships, contribute to the exchange of ideas and improve their commitment to migration issues.

Some ISCMs have unique aspects to their structure. For example, the Bali Process has a Regional Support Office, which engages experts from member States, as well as IOM and UNHCR, to provide expertise to its members by providing seminars, workshops, training and guidance notes (among other materials). It also seeks to centralize or pool resources, making the use of resources as effective as possible, and ensure that work in the region is consistent, without duplication of efforts. The Colombo Process has a Technical Support Unit, which has been established to provide support to member States in furthering agreed goals and actions falling within its thematic areas.

[81]   Steven Zyck and Loretta Peschi, "Evaluating the effectiveness of regional migration program models on providing assistance to vulnerable migrants", final report (Washington, D.C., United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), 2017). Available at www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Evaluating-the-Effectiveness-of-Regional-Migration-Program-Models-on-Providing-Assistance-to-Vulnerable-Migrants-.pdf.

ISCMs may have steering committees that set their main agenda. The Bali Process, the Khartoum Process and the Rabat Process have such structures. In some cases, ISCM chairmanship rotates only among the countries on the steering committee.

Some ISCMs have instituted national focal points. The Rabat Process has developed a focal point system whereby each member State and member organization is represented by a focal point. With formal terms of reference and clearly defined roles, the focal points are said to have:

> [a] pivotal role in increasing ownership of the Rabat Process at the national level and ensuring the smooth flow of information between the dialogue and the national authorities. By liaising with and recognized colleagues with specific expertise to attend dialogue meetings, focal points also help to ensure high-quality technical inputs for thematic meetings.[82]

Similarly, MIDWA has a series of "national committees in charge of migration" that aim to act as liaison between it and the relevant national actors responsible for migration issues in their respective countries. Within IGAD, there are "national coordination mechanisms" that bring together different government agencies involved in migration management.

In principle, a national focal point can ensure internal coordination of different agencies within a State, be responsible for follow-up tasks, provide a point of communication and mobilize a network of national officials to help further the ISCM's goals and objectives. Kenya's National Coordination Mechanism under MiD-IGAD has, for example, provided a platform for national agencies and stakeholders to review the draft national migration policy in a consultative and coordinated way. The RCM has networks of officials addressing different areas, such as consular protection or counter-human trafficking and counter-migrant smuggling. The EaP Panel, the Rabat Process and the Prague Process are likewise supported by networks of national focal points.

There are other notable features of various ISCMs. For example, several have working groups, often organized by theme, which allow dedicated and continuing focus on a particular area of interest. RCM, for example, has established ad hoc groups with the stated aim of responding "more effectively and in a more targeted manner to various migration or contextual realities".[83] AU-HoAI has established the Technical Working Group of Law Enforcement Agencies, which considers regional migration issues that are particularly relevant to law enforcement agencies, such as human trafficking and smuggling. The Budapest Process has three regional working groups for each of the South-East European Region, the Black Sea Region and the Silks Route Region. The IGC, MIDWA and the Colombo Process have working groups addressing concrete thematic areas.

Apart from the most common structures (chairs, secretariats, working and expert groups, and focal points), some ISCMs have ad hoc groups. One example is OCAM's ad hoc information technology and legislation advisory committee.

In light of the trend that ISCMs are increasingly interested in ensuring that their processes are translated into action, it is worth noting that some structural features may help them do this. For example, having thematic working groups of officials and experts helps to ensure that the discussion does not remain at the diplomatic level, but go deeper to tackle the technical details of the issue. National focal points ensure that work at the ISCM level is taken back to the national

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[82] Rabat Process, "National focal points network: The backbone of the Rabat Process", news article, 20 December 2017. Available at www.rabat-process.org/en/in-action/news/283-national-focal-points-network-the-backbone-of-the-rabat-process.

[83] RCM, "Fostering and strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation: 20 Years Report of the RCM", report (San José, RCM, 2016). Available at www.rcmvs.org/sites/default/files/publicaciones/20_years_crm_-_diseno_-_eng.pdf.

level, followed up on and, where possible, translated into action. Having action plans with set objectives is another way of ensuring that high-level statements and commitments are made more realizable. Under the Bali Process, the Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks, which works in the area of people smuggling and trafficking, has scheduled "joint periods of action," within which targeted and focused efforts are made to disrupt smuggling and trafficking networks through investigations, arrests and rescues, among others. The working group thus translates policy discussions into coordinated efforts across the region.

The RCM is unique in having the Reserve Fund for the Assisted Voluntary Return of Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations. The fund was established in 2004 as a regional mechanism to provide financial and operational support for the voluntary return of migrants in vulnerable situations and for persons requiring assistance beyond the support provided through existing programmes in each RCM member country.

The operations of an ISCM are set out in its operating modalities or terms of reference. Numerous ISCMs have operating modalities, for example, the GFMD, Almaty Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Colombo Process, RCM and SACM. These documents specify the ICSMs' purpose, focus, structural framework, chairing arrangements, membership, meetings, decision-making process, and relations with other entities.

While ISCMs usually rely on membership fees or in-kind contributions from their member States, there is often donor assistance to their thematic programmes and projects. This assistance can be provided by the chairing country, the organization serving as secretariat, or a country with an interest in the given ISCM's thematic focus or region. IOM, UNHCR, the European Commission, Switzerland and the United States are traditional donors funding various ISCMs.

4.2. FINDINGS OF THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON ISCM SECRETARIATS

An ISCM's secretariat is usually in charge of its long-term strategies and annual workplans, all the while providing information on ISCMs' achievements and progress to member States. Other functions carried out by the secretariat include coordination, updating and maintenance of websites, information management and organizing meetings, among other administrative tasks.

Figure 9. Functions carried out by ISCM secretariats
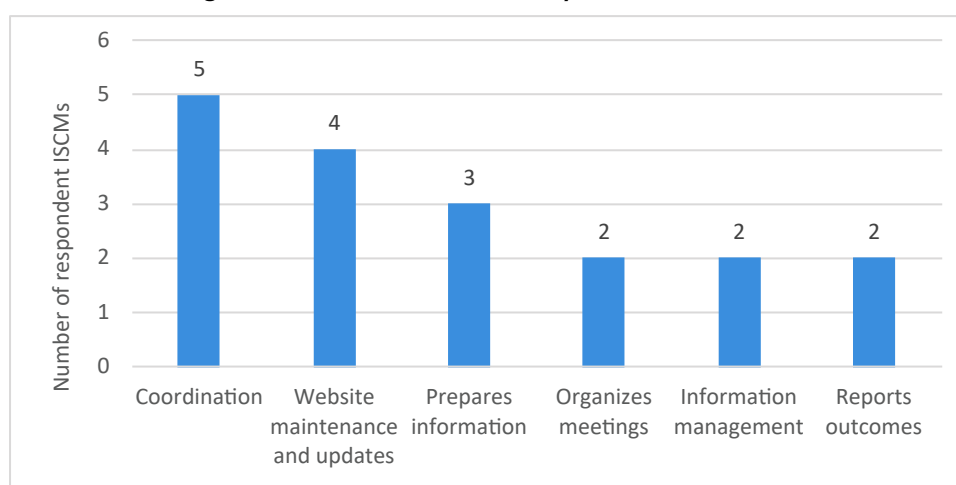
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

4.3. FINDINGS OF THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY REGARDING ISCM STRUCTURES

There are certain common elements among the various ISCMs in terms of structure that work well in different contexts, including having a State as chair, having a secretariat and categorizing levels of work (for example, ministerial and technical). Thematic working groups help to maintain focus on a particular issue and bring expertise to discussions. There is some evidence that a strong secretariat can help keep the ISCM on track and ensure that there are results and follow-up to discussions. Other features, such as national focal points, are valuable in providing a point of contact with national administrations and a bridge between the ISCM and the national government. This mechanism seems to be underutilized and may prove worthwhile for other ISCMs to consider.

Most of the ISCMs in this study do not have a legal personality, such as in the case of MIDSA, which recognized that the lack of legal personality represents a major limitation. Typically, the international organization which hosts or serves as the secretariat legally represents the given ISCM. In the cases of the EaP Panel, GFMD, IGC, MIDWA and RCM, legal representation and personality are carried out by the IOM either in part or in full.

Some ISCMs were established by memorandums of understanding, declarations, operating modalities or terms of reference endorsed by member States. Most ISCMs have reported recent changes in structure and constituency. These include mainly expansions, including new member States and observers.

Several ISCMs in this study have significantly expanded their framework of intervention and set of actions. As an example, the Budapest Process, which began from operating in Central Eastern Europe in its establishment, finally incorporated the neighbouring countries of the enlarged European Union, as well as the Silk Route countries. The enlarged geographic scope was accompanied by a thematic expansion that shifted the initial emphasis from control of irregular migration to put equal emphasis on legal migration, integration, migration and development, and international protection.

Similarly, nine other ISCMs have increased their membership since their inception. This includes not only a growth in the number of member States, but also a growth in organizations, as in the case of the RCM, which has recently given admission to international organizations such as UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as observers.

Most of the ISCMs expressed their hope to expand cooperation, to varying degrees, with geographically based regional or international organizations and bodies.

Some of the ISCMs include different international or regional organizations as observers, and some of them are also (ad hoc) observers in other ISCMs, such as the GFMD, which is open to all RCPs that wish to participate as observers. This promotes the political dialogue on specific topics and facilitates the ISCMs' advisory or advocacy role at the regional level.

Most of the ISCMs in this study maintain their respective websites and use a variety of other tools to connect and share information with member States, including email alerts, newsletters, and monthly and annual reports. The frequency with which each of these tools is used is shown in Figure 10. Information-sharing meetings and regional peer-to-peer reviews are also scheduled, although with varying frequencies, depending on the ISCM. Focal points for participants and observers, both States and organizations, also play an important role, especially in official information-sharing. One ISCM focusing on knowledge-sharing, the IGC, has a database to share information queries.

Figure 10. How ISCMs communicate with their constituents
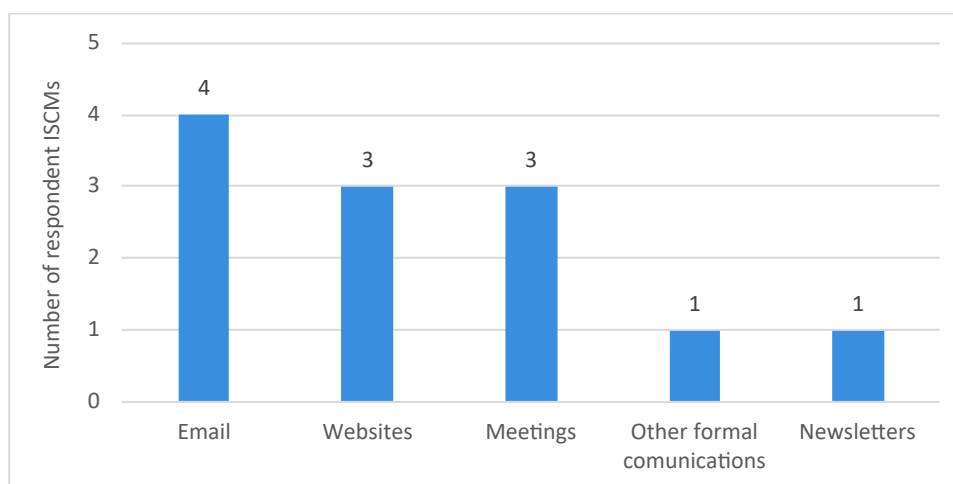
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Structures are similar in most of the ISCMs, namely: (a) Chair (in some cases, there is co-chairing of an ISCM), (b) steering committee, (c) technical secretariat and (d) working or expert groups. The secretariat is one of the most important ISCM structures, with functions including the following: (a) administration, (b) planning, (c) representation, (d) advocacy, (e) technical advice, (f) Information and communication, and (g) data and research (a detailed discussion of these functions was made in Section 4.1).

Box 2. Main findings on ISCM structures
Structures
• Classic ISCM structures seem to work well in a number of contexts.
○ Main figures: Chair, steering committee, technical secretariat, and working or expert groups
Secretariats
• Guaranteeing resources for the secretariat of each ISCM (in terms of human and economic resources) is essential for ISCM operations, as it carries out the following functions:
○ Administration
○ Planning
○ Representation
○ Advocacy
○ Technical advice
○ Information and communication
○ Data and research
National focal points
• The role of national focus points is often underestimated, while it is crucial for the involvement of a State in an ISCM.
• More attention should be paid to this institution and to the resources and limitations that ISCMs face.
Funding
• ISCMs are financially supported by:
○ Annual fees from member States (usually a fixed fee; also, this is not the most usual means of supporting ISCMs)

4.4. ISCM SUSTAINABILITY

ISCMs are established to serve the interests and needs of their membership. Their value therefore rests in ensuring that they continue to focus on issues of importance to their members. In some cases, ISCMs came to an end once their initial objectives were met. The now-defunct Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighboring Countries (CIS Conference), for example, was set up to assist States in the complex border movements following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The CIS Conference was one of the first forums where the issues of mixed flows and the need for "increasingly mixed" protection were discussed. Over ten years it made significant progress and it completed its mandate in 2005, having ensured that the new States had developed sufficient capacity to address migration issues.

The Berne Initiative completed its mission with the formulation of the International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM), a reference system and non-binding policy framework aimed at facilitating cooperation between States in planning and managing the movement of people in a humane and orderly manner. IAMM is the first document that sets an international framework of guiding principles for migration management elaborated through an inclusive and informal dialogue process. It is one of the foundations of contemporary international migration governance.

The Söderköping Process completed its initial mission in 2008 by "transforming" into a new ISCM, that is the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, which became the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management in 2018. In 2019, the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was renamed the International Migration Review Forum.

The thematic foci of some ISCMs have changed and developed over time to continue to serve the interests of their member States. Many ISCMs regularly review their strategic plans and adapt them to changing realities. This ensures that their work stays relevant and topical. Others, however, have either not reviewed their strategies or direction, or have not documented changes in their direction, which may result in a widening gulf between their original goals, as described in their respective constituent documents, and their current work, or which may mean that their current work is not keeping up with the needs and trends in the region. Having up-to-date strategies and workplans can ensure that an ISCM remains relevant.

The sustainability of ISCMs is predicated on continued member State support, that is, ISCMs will continue to operate if they continue to be of value to member States. In more practical terms, their sustainability relies on continued funding. Financial sustainability is a key challenge for many ISCMs. ISCMs can be financially supported through various means, including the following:

(a) Annual fees paid by member States (around half of ISCMs have membership fee arrangements; these include the RCM, Rabat Process, Khartoum Process, Prague Process and Budapest Process);

(b) Contributions paid by donors (States or organizations) for specific projects;

(c) Contributions (including in-kind contributions) from the ISCM Chair, member States or secretariat;

(d) Contributions (including in-kind contributions) from the government hosting the secretariat.

4.5. FINDINGS OF THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON ISCM SUSTAINABILITY

Ensuring that the aims of the ISCM are regularly reviewed and updated (which, in turn, means regularly revising strategic plans or workplans) will help ensure the continued relevance of the ISCM to its member States. Secure funding is an aspiration for most ISCMs, some of which are looking to non-traditional funding sources. ISCMs need to ensure continued funding in a time of competing resources: this requires stable and productive ISCM structures, continued demonstration of the value of ISCMs, as well as synergizing, coordinating and establishing partnerships. ISCMs provide added value to their member States through the following:

(a) Trust-building;

(b) Opportunities for networking and partnerships, and access to more stakeholders;

(c) Policy coordination, technical advice and policy guidance;

(d) Capacity-building;

(e) Strategic discussion of emerging issues and key topics;

(f) Facilitation of knowledge-sharing, common understanding and approaches to migration issues, and dialogue on emerging issues;

(g) Developing actual projects and programmes.

The importance of ISCMs varies from one region to other. In some cases, an ISCM is the key regional stakeholder on migration issues (e.g. PIDC, for instance, is the main RCP in the Pacific area and ARCP remains the main specialized platform on migration and refugee issues covering the Arab region).

According to completed questionnaires (both by ISCMs and States), ISCMs' informal and non-binding nature is of great value. ISCMs are perceived to be useful as venues for intergovernmental information exchange and policy debates – that is, as "policy incubators" on migration and asylum issues.

As regards ISCMs' sustainability, most challenges are related to financial sustainability, member States' responsiveness (in time and resources), and limitations of some member States. Lack of adequate human resources and facilities is also mentioned by some ISCMs. Other less frequent challenges include overlapping with other organizations and ISCMs, and continuity in their work.

Figure 11. ISCMs' perception of the stability of funding sources

3, 15.8%
7, 36.8%
4, 21.1%
5, 26.3%

- Stable
- Unstable
- No answer
- Others
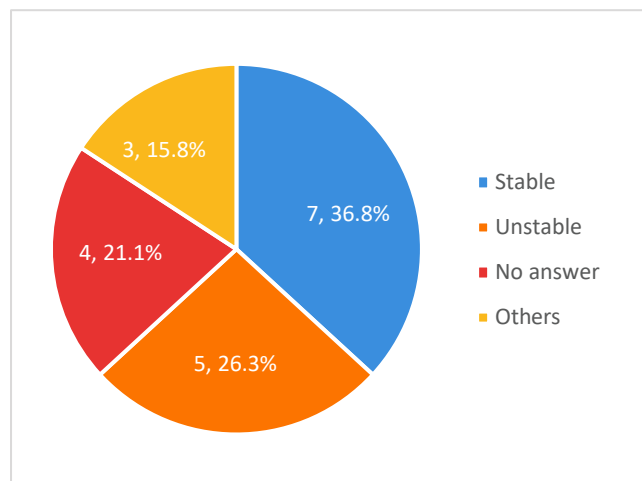
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

As shown in the graph, sustainability and predictability in funding is a recurring issue for ISCMs. In addressing this issue, the RCM suggests predictability and sustainability of funding through a yearly budget for the secretariat that should be completely funded by member States. Other ISCMs request the need for more transparency, as well as a need for clarification in order to avoid financial overlap, stressing that sometimes it is not clear where ISCMs and member States should allocate their money: regional organizations such as the African Union or ECOWAS or other entities such as IOM.

Several chairs of ISCMs also stress that they need more concrete and precise actions and action plans in order to be more effective and sustainable. They highlight that dialogue should be accompanied by action. Nevertheless, they underline that this depends on sustainable funding. Most ISCMs aim to expand their participants/membership to become more vocal on migration and asylum issues at regional level. They aim to promote further relations with other stakeholders, mainly from the institutional scenario (international or regional organizations), private sector, academia or civil society, while ensuring the intergovernmental nature of their work.

ISCMs are supported financially through:

(a) Annual fees by member States (although it is not the most common procedure; in some cases, there is no annual fee imposed, and funds are requested for specific projects);

(b) In-kind contributions by the ISCM chair-in-office, secretariat and members;

(c) In-kind contributions by the Government of the country hosting the ISCM secretariat;

(d) Allocation/grants for targeted projects from donors (State or organization, etc.).

Contributions from member States are used to cover the costs of:

(a) Maintaining secretariat staff (who are paid out of ISCM operations funds);

(b) Travel, attendance at meetings, among others.

The majority of governments pay membership fees to the ISCMs that they participate in and that require payments. These include the RCM, IGC, Rabat Process, Khartoum Process, Prague Process and Budapest Process. Data on membership fees collected by its secretariat and voluntary contributions to the GFMD are also shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12. Governments' payment of ISCMs' membership fees
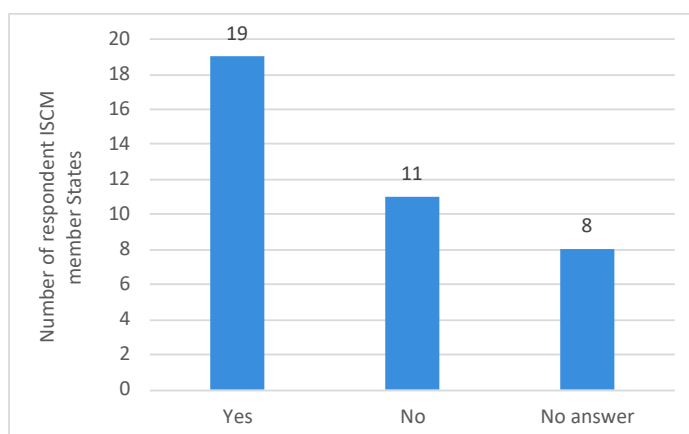
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

The cost of States' attendance at ISCMs meetings is covered mostly by State budgets, donor funding, organizers of the events or ISCM secretariats.

Figure 13. Who covers the cost of State governments' attendance at ISCM meetings?
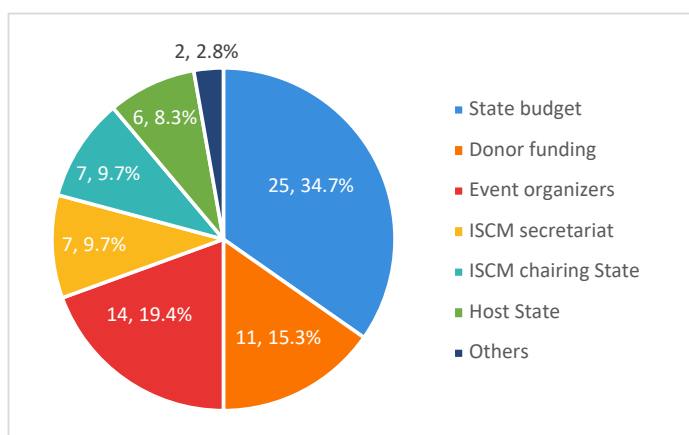
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Most of the member States polled have chaired an ISCM at least once. States which have chaired ISCMs believe that the position is a good platform for promoting regional needs into the agenda. In the case of some countries (such as Morocco), chairmanship has also served to enhance and strengthen the country´s partnership with other United Nations organizations and States.

Figure 14. ISCM member States that have chaired an ISCM event
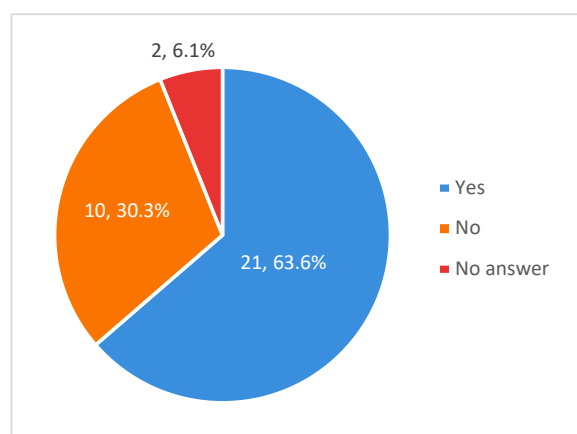
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Challenges related to chairmanship have been known to arise. These include difficulties with logistics, coordination, inclusion of all stakeholders and financing of major events. In other cases, the challenges have been related to participants themselves. It has been particularly challenging to reconcile conflicting views and positions, harmonize varying levels of engagement of ISCM member States, gain consensus in the agenda-setting process, and successfully coordinate communication between participants.

Figure 15. States that have ever funded an ISCM (as a donor)

Figure 16. ISCMs ever funded by surveyed States
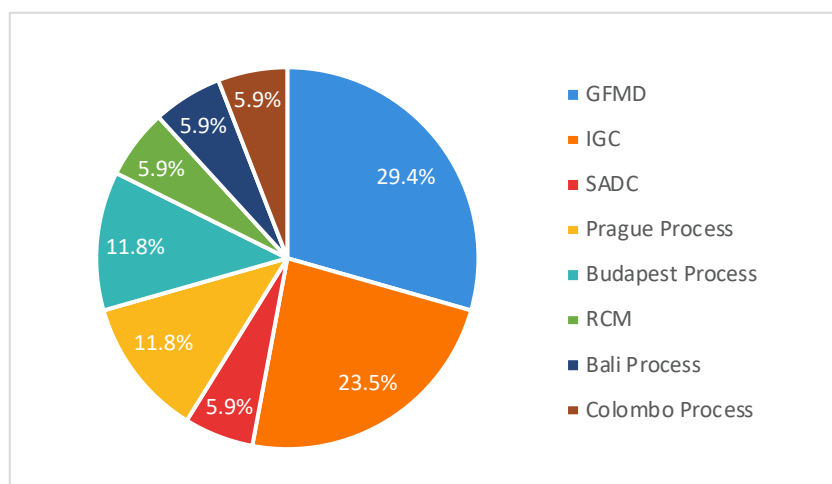
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

ISCMs that have donors that are not member States need to remain relevant to those external donors to ensure continuity of funding. (ISCMs vary from receiving none to full funding from external donors. The Almaty Process, Prague Process and EaP Panel, for example, all depend on external donor funding, albeit to different degrees.) ISCMs are exploring ways to increase security of their funding. The RCM, for example, is considering whether its observer organizations should pay a fee, not only to generate funding, but also as a commitment to show their continued interest in participating. The PIDC considers that having a secretariat with legal status potentially opens avenues to pursue non-traditional funding, for example, from the private sector.

ISCMs typically avoid external donor funding that may affect or dictate ISCM agenda, and only one respondent State agrees that donor funding should be able to do so. Nevertheless, most States in the study agree that donor funding somewhat influences the setting of priorities and limitations on the ISCM agenda. Similarly, only two respondent States report that their funding of an ISCM prioritizes their own strategy in the region. On the other hand, around half of the respondent States claim that their funding of the ISCM benefits the ISCM's strategy.

Figure 17. Respondent States agreeing that donor funding influences the setting of ISCM thematic priorities or limitations
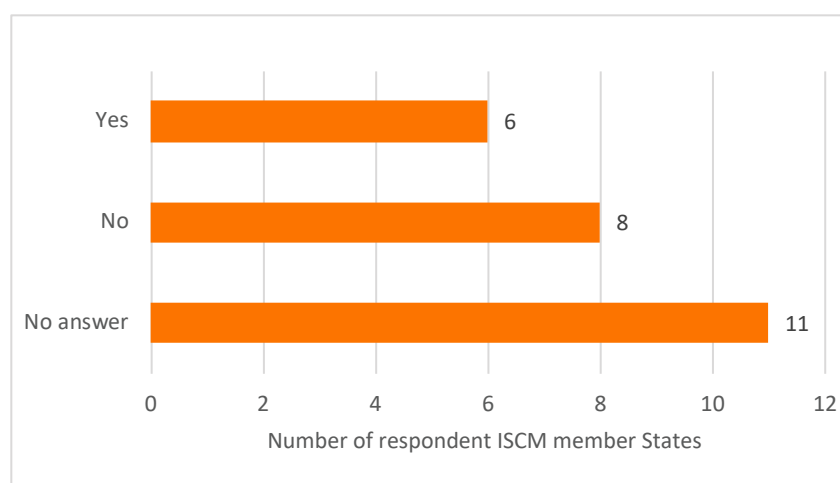
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

While most respondent States find it appropriate to include non-State actors in discussions within ISCMs, there are divergent views on how this should be done. On the one hand, some consider the engagement of non-State actors as an important feature of ISCMs. On the other hand, others believe that while their contribution is useful, they should not have the same status as States.

Monitoring and evaluation are a challenge for most of the ISCMs surveyed for this study. This is reflected by the fact that ten ISCMs could not provide any information in this area.

Box 3. Main findings on ISCMs' sustainability
Visibility
• It seems necessary to increase the visibility of ISCMs as instruments for facilitating multilevel governance on migration and asylum issues in a multilateral environment.
Recognition
• To facilitate and improve the work of ISCMs, more formal recognition by international migration related fora would be useful. In that sense, this recognition and presence could ensure that ISCMs' goals and objectives (as well as member States') would be adequately supported in international migration discussions.
Financial support
• Financial sustainability is crucial to keeping ISCMs operational.

4.5. GRCP 8 DISCUSSIONS ON ISCM STRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The GRCP 8 discussion session on ISCM structure and sustainability demonstrated how ISCMs have successfully continued over time as informal, yet increasingly meaningful, players in migration governance. During the session, ISCMs shared effective practices and structures to ensure their sustainability, while also recognizing challenges to the same.

(a) ISCMs have implemented unique structural elements which respond to the needs of their member States. For example, the Bali Process has a regional support office that engages experts from member States, IOM and UNHCR to provide expertise, seminars, workshops, guidance notes and materials to practitioners. Additionally, the Rabat Process utilizes a system in which each member State and member organization is represented by a focal point. The RCM has created thematic working groups, including a civil society working group, to network and strengthen cooperation with migration-focused community organizations.

(b) ICSMs have also developed practices to respond to the migration situation in their member States. For instance, the RCM developed a unique, long-standing fund that gives additional assistance for the voluntary return of especially vulnerable migrants. This fund specifically provides financial assistance to migrants who require assistance outside the basic services already provided to them.

(c) While being recognized as important players in migration governance at every level, ISCMs remain rather informal in nature. Some ISCMs view this as a strength, as it allows for flexibility given the changing nature of migration and does not burden member States with the binding nature of conventions and regulations. However, other ISCMs are concerned that such an informal structure prevents policy from being implemented by States and hope to create mechanisms to promote States' ownership of recommendations that emerge from ISCM discussion.

(d) Sustainable funding is a common challenge among ISCMs. ISCMs that are dependent on external donors may be at risk of losing funding and dissolving if a donor's priorities shift. Therefore, it is important that ISCMs implement self-funding mechanisms to ensure sustainability and continued linkages and synergies.

5

SYNERGIES
AND PARTNERSHIPS

5. SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. SYNERGIES

Coherence and consistency in migration governance initiatives necessitates some form of coordination among the various actors involved. An ISCM would benefit from knowing what initiatives are being developed within its region or in other parts of the world. The opportunity to share and compare experiences, including discussing mutual challenges and lessons learned, is an important part of ensuring that the many ISCMs are not working in isolation or "reinventing the wheel."

More generally, given the multiplicity of RCPs and IRFs, some of which operate in the same or overlapping regions, and the number of ISCMs that a State may belong to, it has been recognized that a certain level of coordination is needed to maximize efficiency and use of time and resources. In 2015, MIDCOM developed a policy aimed at ensuring collaboration and coordination with other RCPs that have overlapping memberships.

There are several additional examples of coordination between and among ISCMs. The RCM and SACM hold regular bi-regional meetings; they have met, for example, to develop a coordination position for the consultation phase of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In Africa, there is a Pan-African Forum on Migration, which seeks to provide a platform for African RCPs and the African Union regional economic communities to brief participants on their migration initiatives and share experiences and best practices. ISCMs contribute on an ad hoc basis to each other's meetings for example, in recognition of their spheres of mutual interest. Thus, the Bali Process and Colombo Process attend each other's meetings on an ad hoc basis; the Abu Dhabi Dialogue shared its experience at the Almaty Process Senior Officials' Meeting in 2018; and SACM and MIDWA exchanged experiences on effective remittance systems.

5.2. PARTNERSHIPS

> Partnerships are required at all levels of governance; partnerships must include all stakeholders: government, international organizations and civil society; and partnerships are not just about working together, but about working together to find new and creative ways of conducting our migration business.[84]

The theme of partnerships has been included in many migration dialogues and processes. The International Agenda for Migration Management, emanating in 2001 from the Berne Initiative, recognized that:

> Cooperation and dialogue among all interested stakeholders, in particular, Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, including migrant associations, employer and worker organizations, and the media, are important elements for effective migration management partnerships and the development of comprehensive and balanced migration management policies.[85]

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[84] IOM, *International Dialogue on Migration*, No. 28: *Inclusive and Innovative Partnerships for Effective Global Governance of Migration* (Geneva, 2018a). Available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/idm_28_eng.pdf.

[85] IOM and FOM, *International Agenda for Migration Management*, p. 24.

The topic for the 2018 IDM was "Inclusive and Innovative Partnerships for Effective Global Governance". The key messages that emerged from the Dialogue were as follows:

(a) Partnerships are crucial to global governance of migration.

(b) Existing migration partnerships need to be developed further.

(c) New models of inclusive partnerships need to be developed to engage new actors in international cooperation with regard to migration.

(d) While some partnerships have functioned well for many years, others need encouragement and support to ensure they operate such that the needs of States and migrants are met.

(e) Capacity development will become increasingly important to the success of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

(f) "Partnership-building and capacity development must work closely together."[86]

The notion of coordination being necessary for effective migration governance is also included as one of the general principles of the Global Compact, which refers to a "whole-of society approach" stating that:

> The Global Compact promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, national human rights institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance.[87]

ISCMs' partnerships with other entities can exist on various levels. Institutionally, ISCMs may be linked to formal regional institutions and this relationship remains a fundamental partnership. About half of the currently active ISCMs are formally associated with a regional or multi-stakeholder organization. For example, the Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS) was formed by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), itself a part of the African Economic Community. Similarly, the Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM) has a formal association with the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Further, as described above, a number of ISCMs have international organizations serving as secretariats or attending as observers. These partnerships are also structural or institutional in nature. Thematically focused international organizations, including UNHCR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), IOM, ILO, and the World Health Organization (WHO), also frequently provide expertise to ISCMs.

ISCMs also generally create partnerships with other stakeholders who are involved in the migration process in some way and many ISCMs are open to including a range of stakeholders in their processes, to enhance coordination and ensure that different perspectives are considered in policymaking.

Some ISCMs have long-standing partnership with regional political and economic unions. ISCMs often act as "migration experts" for these entities, which sometimes lack working groups or committees dedicated to the issue of migration. MIDSA has contributed to the development of several SADC regional policies: the 2013–2015 and 2016–2019 regional action plans on labour

[86]   IOM, *International Dialogue on Migration*, No. 28, p. 79.
[87]   United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195, "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", para. 15(j).

migration, the Regional Action Plan to Address Mixed and Irregular Migration, and the Regional Recommendations on Border Management.[88] The successful cooperation between SACM and the Common Southern Market (Mercosur) has led to the adoption of human-rights-based migration policies in Mercosur member States.[89]

ISCMs have developed successful partnership models with the United Nations regional (economic) commissions. The ARCP, for example, is in standing cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) on SDG monitoring at the regional level. In 2017, ISCMs cooperated with the United Nations regional commissions in the regional consultations for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, where they shared their expert knowledge on migration in their respective regions. The ARCP and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, for example, cooperated with UNESCWA in the Middle East and the Bali Process cooperated with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the Asia–Pacific. Depending on its thematic focus, an ISCM may also partner with an IGO (e.g. IOM, ILO, ICRC, ICMPD, UNHCR or UNODC). This IGO may hold an observer status at the ISCM.

In considering partnerships in the context of ISCMs, it is important to recall their function as State-led processes. As noted multiple times previously, one of ISCMs' strengths is the ability to hold discussions and provide a forum for States to discuss migration challenges and issues of the day in an informal setting, acting in some instances as a "policy incubator." For this to happen, participation must generally be limited to States and intergovernmental organizations. However, selected partnerships may be created in a targeted way that does not change the nature of the ISCM as being State-led, but allows for mutually beneficial exchange and cooperation. For example, civil society or thematic experts may be invited to forums or workshops to exchange or contribute information or best practices. The GFMD, for example, is a State-led process with separate events for civil society, a "common space" that involves civil society and governments together, as well as government-only events. The GFMD is designed so that the views and inputs of civil society can be shared with and considered by governments.

Many ISCMs engage with civil society, although the nature of the engagement varies. Some invite civil society organizations (CSOs) to meetings or workshops on an ad hoc basis. The RCM has a formal partnership with the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration (RROCM),[90] a coalition of CSOs from all 11 member States. Similarly, the Rabat Process Secretariat has recognized a series of consultations with international organizations, CSOs and academia to include their perspectives and recommendations in the elaboration of the Political Declaration and Action Plan 2018–2020. Most ISCMs also cooperate with universities, academic institutions and researchers to maintain an evidence base for their discussions and activities.

The private sector is increasingly being included into migration dialogues and processes, not only to help achieve migration objectives, but as an important voice in shaping migration policy. The World Economic Forum has indicated that:

> Issues of workforce mobility, skills and labour market needs matching, fair recruitment and decent work conditions, social welfare and public perception are matters of public and business policy for which governments and the private sector have a shared responsibility.[91]

88   SADC Labour Migration Action Plan for 2013-2015; SADC Labour Migration Action Plan for 2016-2019; and SADC Irregular Migration and Mixed Migration Action Plan for 2015-2018.
89   Based on feedback from Mercosur, as found in: IOM, "Summary of the results of the survey conducted by IOM in preparation for GRCP 7"; and IOM, Mercosur and SACM interventions during GRCP 6 (see: IOM, "Sixth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional, Interregional and Global Consultative Processes on Migration (GRCP 6): Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals: The role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration and of regional economic organizations", summary report (Geneva, 2016), available at https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/grcp_6_en.pdf).
90   The RROCM website is available at www.rrocm.org.
91   Isabel de Sola (ed.), The Business Case for Migration (Geneva, World Economic Forum, 2012). Available at www3.weforum.org/docs/GAC/2013/WEF_GAC_Migration_BusinessCase_Report_2013.pdf.

When considering whether the private sector can or should form partnerships with ISCMs, it is important to keep in mind that "the private sector" is not one homogenous entity. Indeed, it is extremely diverse in terms of structures, size, ownership, interests and positioning (i.e. at the global, regional, national or local level). This makes it necessary to ensure that "engagement with the private sector" is properly representative of divergent interests and viewpoints. It has been suggested that engaging national business councils, such as the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), rather than individual businesses, can help ensure effective and broad representation where this is needed.[92]

There are several examples of an ISCM engaging with the private sector to more effectively achieve its objectives. The Bali Process has established the Government and Business Forum, focusing on efforts to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, in order to work towards SDG Target 8.7. This government–private sector joint forum is the first of its kind in the Asia–Pacific, formed in recognition of the fact that collaboration with the private sector was needed to address and combat such crimes. In August 2018, at the forum's second meeting, a set of recommendations was adopted – the Acknowledge, Act and Advance Recommendations, which note that:

> To contribute effectively to the eradication of these transnational crimes, business and government need to acknowledge the scale of the problem, act to strengthen and implement policy and legal frameworks and advance efforts over the long term. This should include clear and consistent standards for ethical recruitment and treatment of workers, supply chain transparency and redress mechanisms.[93]

The forum is an example of an ISCM acknowledging that the private sector needs to be included in deliberations to be able to effectively achieve its objectives to counter trafficking. The forum, however, sits outside the usual ministerial and technical meetings, which continue in their usual form, but now with the benefit of information and advice from a key stakeholder.

The Istanbul Commitments and Five-year Plan of the Budapest Process recognize the importance of innovative partnerships and have explicitly called for improved cooperation with the private sector. The GFMD has established its Business Advisory Group (which has its own secretariat), recognizing the importance of the private sector to the issues of labour migration, jobs and economic growth.

The importance of local-level authorities in the implementation of migration policies is also increasingly being recognized. As mentioned, local authorities are "first responders" in terms of the reception and integration of migrants and are responsible for providing a variety of important services. Their role in global migration processes is being strengthened, for example, by the establishment of a Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development as part of the GFMD. Following the Marrakesh Political Declaration,[94] the Rabat Process is seeking to involve local authorities as part of its commitment to ensure an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach.

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[92]   André Alves Dos Reis, Khalid Koser and Mariah Levin, "Private sector engagement in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration", in: IOM, *Ideas to Inform International Cooperation on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (M. McAuliffe and M. Klein-Solomon, conveners) (Geneva, 2017). Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-research-leaders-syndicate.

[93]   Bali Process, "Acknowledge, Act and Advance Recommendations: Government and business to take action to eradicate human trafficking, forced labour, modern slavery and child labour across the Indo-Pacific region", presented at the Government and Business Forum ("Nusa Dua Forum"), Indonesia, 6–7 August 2018. Available at www.baliprocess.net/UserFiles/baliprocess/File/AAA%20Recommendations(1).pdf.

[94]   Rabat Process, Marrakesh Political Declaration and Action Plan 2018–2020.

There is some suggestion that local authorities can provide a new and needed perspective to forums on migration, with one commentator noting:

> If cities have a place at the table when discussing things like migration, you'll get a different kind of discussion. The nature of citizenship and belonging in a city is subtly but importantly different [than] the nature of citizenship and belonging in a country.[95]

There are many forums which bring together municipal actors and policy experts to discuss migration issues and share experiences and challenges, including the International Metropolis Conference and the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Initiative. Regional platforms have also begun focusing on the role of cities in migration governance. An example of an effort in this regard is the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme.

ISCMs' engagement with migrants is usually implemented through diaspora associations, either through member States or included in civil society forums, or occasionally through the implementation of pilot projects. MIDCOM for example, is linked to an umbrella African diaspora organization in Europe.

5.3. FINDINGS OF THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

To support a "whole-of-society" approach to migration governance, ISCMs are increasingly ensuring that they seek the input of various sectors of society, including CSOs and, in some cases, the private sector. Enhancing partnerships and synergies among ISCMs themselves, particularly among ISCMs covering the same region, is recommended. This will reveal overlaps and, ultimately, increase efficiencies and knowledge-sharing. The GRCP forum is recognized as useful for keeping ISCMs and States informed of the work done in other regions and to promote coordination.

Partnerships with various regional and global organizations are crucial to enhancing the ISCMs' role in migration governance. Partnerships at the regional level facilitate addressing specific topics (e.g. irregular migration and climate change) and provide better opportunities for dialogue and finding common solutions. Most ISCMs have institutional relations with regional organizations or IGOs, mostly those related to their geographical area. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) for countries in these regions; the European Union agencies (e.g. the European Asylum Support Office, European Border and Coast Guard Agency and FRONTEX), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe, for European countries; the Organization of American States, for the Americas; ASEAN in Asia; the League of Arab States in the Middle East; the African Union regional economic communities, such as COMESA in Africa; and others, such as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), have been identified as key partners participating in ISCM activities on either a regular or occasional basis.

Similarly, most of the ISCMs in the study cooperate with the United Nations regional (economic) commissions, as well as with thematically focused organizations, such as UNHCR, ILO, WHO and UNODC, to name a few. Feedback on the contributions of these bodies – specifically in terms of information exchange, and knowledge- and expertise-sharing – are made by most ISCMs in this study.

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[95] John Slocum, "The indispensable role of cities in migration governance", *Opinión*, June 2018). Available at www.cidob.org/en/publications/publication_series/opinion/ciudades_globales/the_indispensable_role_of_cities_in_migration_governance.

The ISCMs in the study also work alongside social entities and international NGOs, with special attention to those that work on specific topics, such as migrant children and human trafficking, among others. The RCM, for instance, is closely involved with RROCM,[96] which comprises various NGOs and have the objective of strengthening the dialogue on migration with civil society. RROCM participates in RCM seminars and workshops with spaces for participation in groups, such as the Vice-ministerial Meeting and the Regional Consultation Group on Migration. OCAM also has close cooperation with the abovementioned RRCOM. Moreover, the GFMD has created Civil Society Days, held annually within the framework of the GFMD Summit Meetings of Governments and in which CSOs are invited to prepare a statement of messages and recommendations and interacts with government representatives in "Common Space" sessions.

Most ISCMs cooperate with universities and other academic institutions on programmes and research endeavours that fit their workplans or suit the needs of their member States. As an interesting practice to further explore, IGC cooperates with Boston University through an internship programme. IGC also cooperates closely with the migration research centres of several universities, including Georgetown, Oxford, Chicago, Florence, Oslo and Montréal.

Private-sector actors are unusual formal partners for ISCMs; nevertheless, they are often invited to participate in national consultations and, at times, to workshops or panel meetings, based on their ability to address certain needs. The role of the private sector has been clearly recognized by the Bali Process, which inaugurated its Government and Business Forum in 2017 to strengthen anti-slavery efforts. Additionally, the GFMD has its own Business Mechanism, created as a platform for the business sector to engage with Governments and other stakeholders in migration issues and discussions.

Most ISCMs cooperate with migrants and diasporas indirectly via their member States. MIDCOM is linked to an umbrella African diaspora organization in Europe acting as a "voice" for the diaspora. Other examples of collaboration with the diaspora include the Budapest Process's work with diaspora communities in the implementation of the Silk Routes Partnership projects.

Figure 18. ISCMs cooperation with other entities
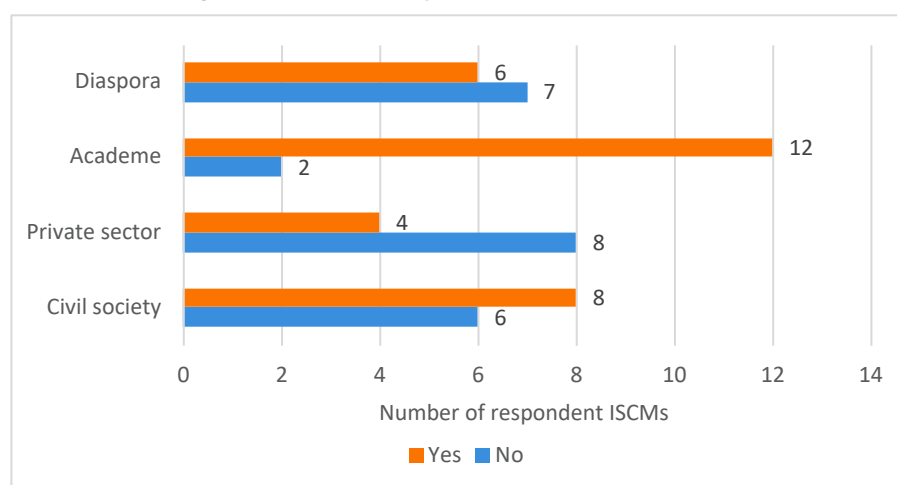
Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

More formal recognition of international migration-related fora and ISCMs would be useful in facilitating and improving the work of ISCMs and could ensure that ISCMs' goals and objectives (as well as those of their member States) would be adequately supported in international migration discussions.

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[96]   The RROCM website is available at www.rrocm.org.

A few respondent States are able to identify overlaps between the work carried out by ISCMs, especially the RCPs. For example, the Prague Process and EaP Panel, partially overlap geographically (Eastern Europe), as do the African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative and MiD-IGAD (Eastern Africa).

Engagement with ISCMs (as members or observers) offers IGOs better access to stakeholders, knowledge and data; opportunities to participate in policy dialogue on migration at the national level; shape common understanding on various migration issues; build trust, networks and partnerships; ameliorate policy coordination; provide technical advice and policy guidance; participate in common understanding and approaches to migration issues, especially on new and emerging issues, as well as actual projects and programmes; and promote and advocate specific aspects related to the IGO's mission. Most of the respondent States foresee stronger commitment, engagement and cooperation in the future within the framework of the ISCMs.

ISCMs (especially in Africa and the Americas)

> **The role of IOM in ISCMs**
>
> The roles of international organizations engaged with ISCMs are as diverse as the ISCMs' objectives. In this sense, IOM has a unique role, as it is mandated to "to provide a forum to States, as well as international and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues, including studies on such issues in order to develop practical solutions" (Article 1e of the IOM Constitution). IOM is a member organization of four ISCMs, serves as secretariat of several ISCMs, and is an observer in most of them. Its engagement ranges from providing technical advice and policy guidance, funding, secretariat services, programme implementation support, advocacy, to promoting research and data collection, strengthening capacity-building, and ameliorating ISCMs' visibility and public awareness.

stress the need for more regional and cross-regional exchange of information and sharing of best practices. The Khartoum Process underlines that efforts should be made to improve exchange of data and information on ongoing actions and priorities, in order to enhance synergies and tap joint resources. It also stresses the importance of collaboration with other ISCMs, such as the Rabat Process and AU-HoAI.

Several ISCMs recognize that there is room for improvement in terms of cooperation, especially with the diaspora. Moreover, several ISCM chairs recognize the need to enhance partnerships and involvement with CSOs, as well as the private sector. In line with this, most member States also recognize the important need to engage non-State actors in ISCMs, as Figure 19 shows.

Figure 19. Appropriateness for ISCMs to engage with non-State actors

1, 2.8%
3, 8.3%
32, 88.9%

■ Yes
■ No
■ No answer

Source: Data from the survey conducted for this assessment report.

Box 4. Main findings on ISCM synergies and partnerships

Non-State actors in ISCMs

- Beyond member States, some ISCMs include different intergovernmental or regional organizations or regional political and economic unions as observers.

- ISCMs are also observers in different IGOs. This promotes the political dialogue on a specific migration policy topic and facilitates the ISCM's advisory/advocacy role at the regional level.

- ISCMs also work with NGOs and academia on concrete activities.

- Private-sector actors are unusual formal partners for ISCMs. Nevertheless, they are often invited to participate in national consultations and, at times, to workshops or panel meetings, based on their ability to meet certain needs.

IGOs in ISCMs

- For IGOs, participation in ISCMs offers opportunities to:
  - Access policy dialogue on migration at the national level;
  - Shape common understanding on various migration issues;
  - Build trust, networks and partnerships;
  - Ameliorate policy coordination and provide technical advice and policy guidance;
  - Have better access to stakeholders, knowledge and data;
  - Participate in common understanding and approaches to migration issues, especially on new and emerging issues;
  - Participate in projects and programmes;
  - Promote and advocate specific aspects related to the IGO's mission.

The role of IOM

- Among IGOs, IOM is cited quite frequently as the main partner of ISCMs. ISCMs cooperate with migrants and diasporas via their member States, and not directly.

Future perspectives

- Most of the countries surveyed foresee stronger commitment, engagement and cooperation in the future in the framework of the ISCMs.
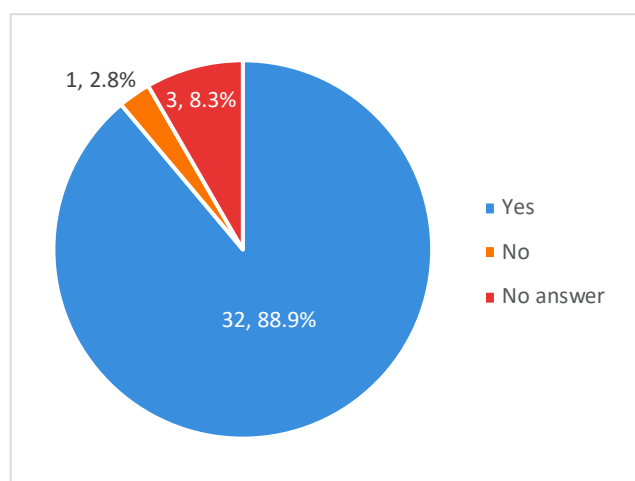
Figure 20. Mapping the overlaps in the geographic scopes of selected ISCMs
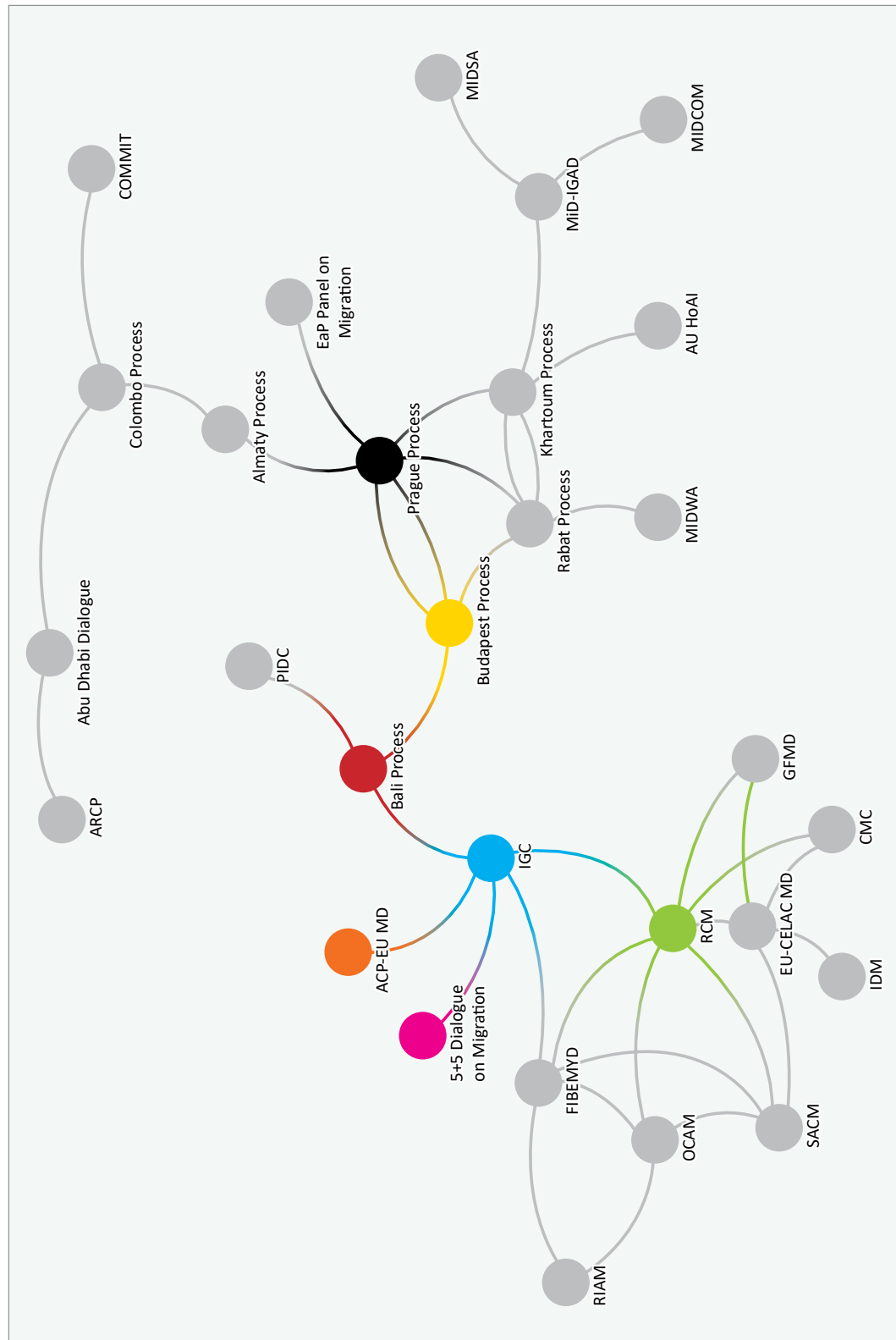
Note: Prepared by the authors based on survey response.

5.4. GRCP 8 DISCUSSIONS ON SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The working lunch session on synergies and partnerships at the GRCP 8 highlighted existing and ever-growing alliances among ISCMs themselves and with an increasing array of partner entities in the spirit of whole-of-society approach to migration governance.

The ISCMs in this study acknowledge the importance of synergies among themselves and partnerships with international organizations and other stakeholders at every level of governance, that is, the RCPs, IRFs and global processes. ISCMs enumerate the impact of such synergies and identified areas for desired collaboration in the future:

(a) In addition to the synergies that exist between ISCMs, synergies also occur at the national level, both between two or more member States and among relevant ministries within an individual State.

(b) ISCMs have built relationships with universities, the private sector and civil society to garner interest in and influence migration policy through channels outside of traditional governance structures.

(c) ISCMs have worked together on joint initiatives or to create joint recommendations on major issues of migration governance. Additionally, RCPs and IRFs have provided recommendations which feed into the global processes on migration.

(d) Interregional working groups partnering on common thematic areas, such as labour migration, have facilitated exchange of best practices across geographic regions.

(e) Continent-wide forums have created enhanced channels for improved information-sharing, cross-learning and cooperation. The Pan-African Forum on Migration (PaFOM) is an excellent example of a continent-wide forum. Supported by the African Union and IOM, PaFOM brings together African Union member States and African RCP member States to share best practices on migration governance.

(f) ISCMs connect to provide guidance to one another on migration flows across countries and regions, and share data of migrant arrivals in destination countries.

(g) Despite knowledge sharing from synergies and partnerships being the greatest value add for ISCMs, it can be difficult to coordinate outcomes within and amongst ISCMs differing Member State resources and priorities. At times, ISCMs find it difficult to bring together officials with adequate political influence or with the appropriate thematic and/or technical expertise. Additionally, discussion can stall when member States do not agree on topics or methods.

6

FINDINGS

6. FINDINGS

Certain key findings can be drawn from this assessment (combined findings arising from the research of materials, assessment survey and GRCP 8 discussions) in each of its key areas of focus: (a) migration governance, (b) structures, (c) sustainability and (d) synergies and partnerships.

6.1. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

ISCMs continue to play a unique role in allowing informal, non-binding policy dialogue among and across regions. They contribute to the national, regional and global levels of migration governance and are valued by States due to their informality and ability to provide a "policy incubator" on migration issues.

However, the lack of indicators or ability to measure impact means that evidence of their worth is not always consistently kept or shared. It means also that it is difficult to accurately assess the outcomes and results of the work of ISCMs. This may change as, increasingly, ISCMs are showing interest in being able to show how their dialogues translate into concrete action, and, thus, would like to keep track of results.

Informal nature. The ISCMs' informal and non-binding nature has added value to States by creating an environment that allows for open and trusted discussion. ISCMs are perceived as useful forums for intergovernmental information exchange and policy debates, seeming like "policy incubators" on migration and asylum issues.

Regional approach. While ISCMs have realized achievements at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, their greatest contribution is seen through the establishment of regional models of migration management and the promotion of harmonization in national policies.

Strategies. There is a need to define ISCM strategies and identify common elements of such strategies in ISCM governing documents. ISCM strategies need to be updated on a needs basis to reflect the current policy priorities for the given ISCM.

Contribution to member States' migration governance. ISCMs continue to shape approaches to migration governance among member States without jeopardizing State sovereignty. ISCMs encourage convergent policy though review of legislation on migration, strengthening of migration management and border control, fostering cooperation among their members and sharing of best practices.

Contribution to a wide array of migration policy issues. ISCMs have contributed to almost every area of migration governance and emerging migration policy issues and challenges, including security, skills recognition and portability, and voluntary return and reintegration. Some ISCMs have focused exclusively on specific issues (e.g. the Bali Process focuses on counter-trafficking; and the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue focus on labour migration). Others address a broader range of issues of interest to their constituent States. More and more, however, ISCM focus is spanning several areas of migration management.

Multilevel contributions. While contributions to policy and governance are most common at the regional level, they also exist, albeit less frequently, at the interregional level. Contributions to global migration governance focused on the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Monitoring challenges. As informal entities, most ISCMs do not have indicators to measure the impact of their work on their member States' national migration policies. Lack of clear indicators makes it difficult to evaluate the outcomes and results of the ISCMs' work and, therefore, to credit ISCMs for their accomplishments. For example, few are aware of the significant impact that ISCMs had in the negotiation and consultation process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

6.2. ISCM STRUCTURES

There are certain common elements among ISCMs in terms of structures (e.g. secretariats and State chairmanship) and levels of work (e.g. ministerial and technical), which work well in most ISCM contexts. Other structures are unique to and effective for certain regions or ISCMs, and could be useful if employed more widely.

Common structures

There are some classic ISCM structures, which seem to work well in different contexts regardless of region. The main figures of these structures include the chair, steering committee, (technical) secretariat and working or expert groups.

Secretariats. There is some evidence that a strong secretariat can help keep the ISCM on track and to ensure that there are results and follow-up to discussions. Guaranteeing human and financial resources for the secretariat of each ISCMs is essential for ISCM operations as they deal with the following areas of work:

(a) Administration (providing comprehensive administrative support to the ISCM, its governing structures and any committees; managing the conduct of all ISCM meetings, including logistics, preparation, secretarial support and reporting);

(b) Representation (maintaining key relationships with all stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels);

(c) Advocacy;

(d) Information and communication (knowledge management; receipt and transmission of official communications; maintenance of ISCM website(s); and managing contact with ISCM member States);

(e) Planning (developing detailed workplans and financial reports for the consideration of the ISCM governing structures and the ISCM member States and providing services to help fulfil the workplan goals);

(f) Technical advice (support to member States; coordination of ISCM committees, working or experts' groups to tackle specific needs and issues; coordination of ISCM projects, if any);

(g) Data and research (facilitating the compilation and dissemination of data).

Thematic working groups. Such groups help to maintain focus on a particular issue and bring expertise to discussions.

Less common structures

Some structures appear less commonly among ISCMs but prove useful based on State or regional needs.

National focal points. These government representatives are valuable in providing a point of contact with national administrations and a bridge between the ISCM and the national government. The role of national focus points is crucial for the involvement of a State in an ISCM. This mechanism seems to be underutilized and may prove interesting for other ISCMs to consider. The resources needed for starting and maintaining a national focal points network and the challenges related to such network need to be analysed further.

Partner networks. Some ISCMs have created CSO working groups to engage, network and strengthen cooperation with migration-focused community organizations. Others have units to help their member States engage with the private sector.

Support offices, training or resource centers. Such units engage experts from the given ISCM's member States and member organizations to provide targeted expertise and capacity-building to practitioners in the field, prepare publications, collect and analyze data, conduct research and act as knowledge hubs.

Funding

Financially, ISCMs are supported by:

(a) Annual fees by member States (usually, a fixed fee), although is not the most usual procedure;

(b) In-kind contributions by the ISCM chair-in-office, member States and secretariat;

(c) In-kind contributions by the government of the country hosting the ISCM secretariat;

(d) Allocation or grants for targeted projects from donors (State or organization).

Consensus-building

ISCM member States may have differing resources and priorities. At times, ISCMs find it difficult to bring together officials with adequate level of political influence or with appropriate thematic or technical expertise for the topic at hand. Additionally, discussion can stall when member States do not agree on topics or methods.

6.3. SUSTAINABILITY

Elements which promote ISCM sustainability include:

(a) **Adaptability**. ISCMs must continuously develop and align thematic areas as the nature of migration continues to change and evolve. Ensuring that the aims of the ISCM are regularly reviewed and updated will help ensure the continued relevance of the ISCM to its member States. This may be in the form of regularly revised strategic plan or work plan.

(b) **Financial sustainability**. ISCMs need to ensure continued funding in a time of competing resources, which means being able to continue to demonstrate their value, find synergies for coordinating where possible, find the most stable and productive structure and seek valuable partnerships. Some ISCMs are looking to non-traditional funding sources. ISCMs that are dependent on outside donors can be at risk of losing funding and dissolving if

a donor's priorities shift. Therefore, it is important that ISCMs implement self-funding mechanisms to ensure sustainability and continued linkages and synergies.

(c) **Visibility**. It seems necessary to increase the visibility of the ISCMs as instruments to facilitate multilevel governance on migration and asylum issues in a multilateral environment.

(d) **Recognition**. While being recognized as important players in migration governance at every level, ISCMs remain rather informal in nature. Some ISCMs view this as a strength, as it allows for flexibility given the changing nature of migration and does not overburden member States with conventions and regulations. However, other ISCMs are concerned that such an informal structure prevents policy from being implemented by States and hope to create mechanisms to promote States owning recommendations that emerge from ISCM discussion.

To facilitate and improve the work of ISCMs, more formal recognition by international migration related fora would be useful. In this sense, recognition and presence could ensure that ISCMs' goals and objectives (as well as those of member States) would be adequately supported in international migration discussions.

ISCMs are most valued by States for the following:

(a) Expertise on migration;

(b) Fostering partnerships, networking and trust-building;

(c) Sources of inspiration and effective practices for national migration policy development;

(d) Forums for dialogue on emerging issues;

(e) Policy coordination among States and within and across regions;

(f) Tailored capacity-building.

Lastly, most of the States in the study foresee stronger commitment, engagement and cooperation in the future within the framework of the ISCMs.

6.4. SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

To support a "whole-of-society" approach to migration governance, ISCMs are increasingly ensuring that they seek the input of various sectors of society, including civil society and in some cases with the private sector. Enhancing synergies also among ISCMs, particularly within a particular region, is recommended. This will recognize overlap and can increase efficiencies and knowledge-sharing. The GRCP forum is recognized as useful for ISCMs and States to keep informed of the work being done in other regions and to promote coordination.

Synergies

Continent-wide forums. PaFOM is an excellent example of a continent-wide forum that has created enhanced channels for improved information-sharing, cross-learning and cooperation. Supported by the African Union and IOM, PaFOM brings together the member States of the African Union, its regional economic communities and the African RCPs to share best practices on migration governance. The RCM and SACM also hold bi-regional meetings in the Americas.

Dialogue between origin and destination countries. ISCMs connect to provide guidance to one another on migration flows across countries and regions and share data on migrant arrivals in destination countries.

Interregional working groups. ISCMs from different parts of the world focusing on common thematic areas, such as labour migration, have facilitated exchange of best practices across geographic regions.

Inter- and intra-State collaboration. In addition to the synergies that exist between ISCMs, synergies also occur at the national level both between two or more member States and among relevant ministries within an individual State.

Joint initiatives. ISCMs have worked together on joint initiatives or joint recommendations on major issues of migration governance. Additionally, RCPs and IRFs have provided recommendations which feed into the global processes on migration.

Partnerships

Non-State actors. Beyond member States, some ISCMs include different intergovernmental or regional organizations or regional political and economic unions as observers. ISCMs also work with NGOs and academia on concrete activities in order to promote interest in and manage migration policy through channels outside of traditional governance.

Private sector. Private sector and private actors are unusual formal partners for ISCMs; nevertheless, they are often invited to participate in national consultations and at times to workshops or panel meetings, based on a particular need.

IGOs. Many ISCMs have IGOs as member organizations or providers of secretariat support. This cooperation offers an opportunity to:

(a) Access to policy dialogue on migration at the national level;

(b) Shape common understanding on various migration issues;

(c) Generate trust-building, networking and partnerships;

(d) Ameliorate policy coordination and provide technical advice and policy guidance;

(e) Have better access to stakeholders, knowledge and data;

(f) Participate in common understanding and approaches to migration issues, especially on new and emerging issues;

(g) Participate in projects and programmes and promote and advocate specific aspects related to the IGO's mission;

(h) Facilitate the ISCM's advisory and/or advocacy role at the regional level.

The role of IOM. Among IGOs, IOM is cited quite frequently as the main partner of ISCMs. ISCMs cooperate with migrants and diasporas via their member States, and not directly.

ANNEX 1.
BRIEF ON THE 2019 ASSESSMENT OF INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS ON MIGRATION

Objective

To assess the continued relevance and contribution of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) to migration governance at all levels (national, regional and international) and the synergies among ISCMs and with other regional actors.

Background

Migration governance includes legislation, policies, practices, common principles and approaches for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. While States are the primary actors in national governance, international partnerships and cooperation on migration are vital to migration governance beyond national borders.

ISCMs are State-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues at the regional, interregional or global level for States, with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration. Among ISCMs, those at the regional level are referred to as "regional consultative processes on migration" (RCPs), those connecting two or more regions are "interregional forums on migration" (IRFs) and ISCMs at the global level are "global processes on migration."

ISCMs emerged in many regions from the mid-1990s onwards to address specific migration issues within identified regions and contexts. Over time, they have expanded in number and diversified geographically and in focus. While some remain informal and non-binding, some are officially associated with established institutions. ISCMs were referred to in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (paragraph 54) and the Global Compact for Migration Modalities Resolution (paragraph 22) as existing valid mechanisms contributing to the preparatory process and negotiations towards the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. ISCMs are referenced in the Global Compact for Migration zero draft as "platforms [for] exchang[ing] experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact, share good practices on policies and cooperation, promote innovative approaches, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships around specific policy issues."

The increasing recognition of the importance of concerted approaches to migration calls for a review of ISCMs' practices and partnership models and a reassessment of their role in the current migration governance setting.

Expected outcomes

The assessment will seek to address the following aspects:

(a) Thematic focus and contribution to migration governance

    (i) Provide an updated overview of the work of ISCMs, and, where possible, compare developments of individual ISCMs with earlier assessments (e.g. 2010 and 2013).[97]

    (ii) Assess ISCMs' contributions to migration governance at the national level (for those States which are members of ISCMs), as well as the regional, interregional and global levels.

    (iii) Conduct case studies highlighting ISCM's contributions to regional and interregional policies on free movement (including labour mobility schemes, skills recognition and equal treatment), assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, among others.

    (iv) Identify regional governance elements and possible indicators to measure ISCMs' contributions to migration governance.

    (v) ISCMs' possible role in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration for migration implementation and follow-up; ISCMs' comparative advantages vis-à-vis other regional actors, including the United Nations regional (economic) commissions.

(b) Structures

    (i) Analyse ISCM structures, such as effective membership, observership, administration (including knowledge management) and operating modalities.

    (ii) Analyse ISCM funding modalities, including their cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

(c) Synergies and partnerships

    (i) Identify ISCMs' effective practices and partnership models (by theme, type and region).

    (ii) Assess synergies among ISCMs.

    (iii) Assess synergies with other regional actors (e.g. regional or multi-stakeholder organizations, United Nations regional commissions, and African Union regional economic communities).

Methodology

The assessment will include (a) a review of existing literature, (b) data collection and analysis, (c) interviews, and (d) a survey of ISCM chairs and secretariats. An analytical report cataloguing each ISCM and highlighting effective practices and partnership models will reflect the findings of the assessment. The report should offer a comprehensive summary of the diverse approaches among ISCMs on how they operate administratively and thematically, the challenges identified and recommendations arising from interviews and surveys.

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[97] RCPs and IRFs were assessed by IOM in 2010 (Migration Research Series, No. 38) and 2013 (Migration Research Series, No. 45). The 2010 assessment set out a broad definition of migration governance, identified three distinct phases of the governance processes and analysed RCPs' contributions to each of these. The 2013 assessment suggested ISCM taxonomy and traced linkages of some ISCMs with regional economic or trade bodies.

ANNEX 2.
FACT SHEET ON INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS ON MIGRATION

	Name (and acronym) of ISCM	Type	No. of member States	Year established	Region(s) covered	Associated regional or multi-stakeholder organization(s)	Chair-in-office	Secretariat(s)	Role of IOM in the ISCM
1.	5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean (5+5 Dialogue on Migration)	IRF	10	2002	• Europe • Africa	• Union for the Mediterranean • Western Mediterranean Forum	Morocco	• Union for the Mediterranean • Western Mediterranean Forum	• Observer • Technical guidance
2.	African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI)	RCP	8	2014	Africa	African Union	Sudan	• African Union • IOM • UNHCR	• Observer • Technical co-secretariat • Project support to secretariat • Technical guidance
3.	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States–European Union (ACP-EU) Dialogue on Migration	IRF	108	2000	• Africa • Asia • Americas • Europe	• African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) • European Commission	Romania and Namibia	ACP Secretariat	• Project support to the secretariat • Technical guidance
4.	Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration	RCP	7	2013	Eurasia	Not applicable	Tajikistan	• IOM • UNHCR	• Technical co-secretariat • Project support to secretariat • Technical guidance
5.	Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)	RCP	21	2015	Middle East	League of Arab States	Not applicable	League of Arab States	• Liaison • Technical guidance

	Name (and acronym) of ISCM	Type	No. of member States	Year established	Region(s) covered	Associated regional or multi-stakeholder organization(s)	Chair-in-office	Secretariat(s)	Role of IOM in the ISCM
6.	Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime	IRF	45	2002	• Europe • Asia • Americas • Africa	Not applicable	Australia and Indonesia	IOM	• Member • Technical secretariat • Technical guidance
7.	Budapest Process	IRF	53	1993	• Asia • Europe/Eurasia	Not applicable	Turkey and Hungary (co-chair)	ICMPD	• Member • Technical guidance
8.	Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC)	RCP	23	2016	Americas	Not applicable	None currently (incoming: Jamaica)	• IOM • UNHCR	• Potential technical co-secretariat • Technical guidance
9.	Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM)	RCP	8	1999	Americas	Central American Integration System (SICA)	Guatemala	IOM	• Technical secretariat • Technical guidance
10.	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT)	RCP	6	2004	Asia	None	Myanmar	UNDP	• Liaison • Technical guidance
11.	Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (EaP Panel)	RCP	34	2001 (as the Söderköping Process)	Eurasia	European Commission	None	• European Commission • IOM	• Observer • Technical co-secretariat • Project support to secretariat • Technical guidance
12.	Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process)	IRF	57	2006	• Europe • Africa	• European Commission • Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Burkina Faso	• European Commission • ECOWAS • ICMPD	• Observer • Technical guidance

	Name (and acronym) of ISCM	Type	No. of member States	Year established	Region(s) covered	Associated regional or multi-stakeholder organization(s)	Chair-in-office	Secretariat(s)	Role of IOM in the ISCM
13.	European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)	IRF	41	2014	• Europe • Africa	• African Union Commission (AUC) • European Commission	Eritrea	• AUC • European Commission • ICMPD	• Observer • Technical guidance
14	European Union–Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration (EU-CELAC MD)	IRF	61	2009	• Americas • Europe	• European Union • Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)	Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and the European Commission	None currently (past secretariats: IOM and International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIAPP))	• Observer • Technical guidance
15.	Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)	Global process	195	2007	Global	Not applicable	Ecuador	GFMD Support Unit	• Observer • Administrative secretariat • Technical guidance
16.	Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD)	IRF	22	2008	• Americas • Europe	Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)	Andorra	SEGIB	• Observer • Liaison • Technical guidance
17.	Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM)	IRF	18	2012	• Americas • Europe	Not applicable	Peru	IOM	• Observer • Technical Secretariat • Technical guidance
18.	Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Region (MiD-IGAD)	RCP	7	2008	Africa	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Ethiopia	IGAD Secretariat (in collaboration with the African Union Commission and IOM)	• Observer • Project support to secretariat • Technical guidance

No.	Name (and acronym) of ISCM	Type	No. of member States	Year established	Region(s) covered	Associated regional or multi-stakeholder organization(s)	Chair-in-office	Secretariat(s)	Role of IOM in the ISCM
19.	Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)	IRF	17	1985	• Americas • Asia • Europe	Not applicable	Canada (past Chair until May 2019 and during GHRCP 8 and ISCM Assessment Survey: Spain)	IGC Administration	• Member • Administrative secretariat • Technical guidance
20.	Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS)	RCP	10	2012	Africa	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	Gabon	ECCAS Secretariat with IOM support	• Project support to secretariat • Technical guidance
21.	Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)	RCP	16	2000	Africa	Southern African Development Community (SADC)	Namibia	IOM	• Observer • Technical secretariat • Technical guidance
22.	Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)	RCP	15	2001	Africa	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Nigeria	ECOWAS	• Observer • Project support to secretariat • Provider of technical guidance
23.	Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)	RCP	19	2013	Africa	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Zambia	COMESA	• Project support to secretariat • Provider of technical guidance
24.	Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)	IRF	18	2008	Asia and the Middle East	None	Sri Lanka	United Arab Emirates	• Observer • Provider of technical guidance

#	Name (and acronym) of ISCM	Type	No. of member States	Year established	Region(s) covered	Associated regional or multi-stakeholder organization(s)	Chair-in-office	Secretariat(s)	Role of IOM in the ISCM
25.	Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)	RCP	19	1996	Asia and the Pacific	Not applicable	Fiji	PIDC Secretariat	• Observer • Liaison • provider of technical guidance
26.	Pan-African Forum on migration	IRF	55	2015	Africa (continent-wide)	African Union	None	African Union with IOM Support	• Technical secretariat together with AUC • Observer • provider of technical guidance
27.	Prague Process	RCP	50	2009	Eurasia	European Commission	Lithuania	ICMPD	• Liaison • provider of technical guidance
28.	Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)	RCP	11	1996	Americas	Not applicable	Guatemala	RCM Secretariat	• Observer • Administrative secretariat • provider of technical guidance
29.	Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)	RCP	12	2003	Asia	Not applicable	Nepal	IOM	• Observer (ad hoc) • Technical secretariat • Technical guidance
30.	South American Conference on Migration (SACM)	RCP	12	2000	Americas	Not applicable	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	IOM	• Observer • Technical secretariat • Technical guidance

Note: Updated as of June 2019.
Acronyms: ECCAS – Economic Community of Central African States; ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States; IRF – interregional forum for migration; IOM – International Organization for Migration; ICMPD – International Centre for Migration Policy Development; RCP – regional consultative process on migration; UNDP – United Nations Development Programme; UNHCR – United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees

ANNEX 3.
SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ISCM CHAIRS AND HEADS OF SECRETARIAT

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Partnerships Division (IPD)

Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration
Survey Questionnaire for ISCM Chairs and Secretariat Heads

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) pursues this survey as part of its Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCMs). The aim is to assess their continued relevance and contribution to migration governance at all levels (national, regional and international) and the synergies among ISCMs and with other actors.

The questionnaire addresses the following aspects:

(a) Thematic focus and contribution to migration governance;

(b) Structures and sustainability;

(c) Synergies and partnerships.

Please note that, in the questionnaire, the acronym "ISCM" is used to indicate the following: regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs), interregional forums on migration (IRFs) and global processes on migration.

The findings of this survey and the Assessment will be presented at the Eighth Global ISCM Meeting (GRCP 8), tentatively planned for April 2019 in Geneva and will guide identification of actionable recommendations on enhanced ISCMs' impact on migration governance at all levels; partnerships to enhance ISCMs' role in migration governance; and structures and resources to increase ISCMs' sustainability.

Please provide your feedback to the questions below and submit the completed questionnaire to IOM by ***10 February 2019***.

We kindly request to receive one completed questionnaire per ISCM, which should be coordinated with the ISCM (co-)Chair(s).

The IOM International Partnerships Division is ready to provide further details about the review and answer your queries.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

	I. General information	
1.	Please indicate the name of the inter-State consultation mechanism (ISCM).	
2.	Please indicate the chairing country and the current chair's name and title (including ministry/institution).	
3.	Please indicate the name and title (including institution) of the head of the ISCM secretariat.	

	II. Thematic focus	
4.	Please specify the area(s) of the ISCM's thematic focus.	
5.	Have these areas changed since the ISCM's establishment?	☐ Yes ☐ No
6.	If yes, please describe how (e.g. new areas in response to member States' interests or the global initiatives on migration such as the 2030 Agenda or the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration).	
7.	Does the ISCM have a strategy?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Planned/under discussion
8.	If YES (to Q7), please specify the title, year of adoption, the period the strategy covers and a URL to the document, if such is available.	
9.	Does the ISCM have an action plan or workplan?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Planned/under discussion
10.	If YES (to Q9), please specify the title, year of adoption, the period it covers and a URL to the document, if such is available.	
11.	Please describe how the ISCM's strategy and action plan are implemented and monitored.	

	III. Contribution to migration governance	
12.	Has the ISCM shaped and/or contributed to the **national** migration policies of your ISCM's member States? *For the purposes of this questionnaire, by "policy" we also mean regulations, legal norms, legislation and practices.*	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known
13.	If YES (to Q12), please specify how and when, indicating the member State(s), the policy and thematic area, what the ISCM's impact was and how it was measured. *Where needed, please add new rows for each case of ISCM contribution to national policies.*	

14.	Do the governments of the ISCM's member States acknowledge its impact on their migration governance systems, practices, policies and/or legislation?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not known
15.	If YES (to Q14), please give examples of such acknowledgements.			
16.	Does the ISCM have indicators to measure its impact on the ISCM member States' national migration governance or polices?	☐ Yes	☐ No	
17.	If YES (to Q16), please list and/or describe them.			
18.	Has the ISCM developed **regional** policies?	☐ Yes	☐ No	
19.	If YES (to Q18), please specify the title, year, thematic area(s) and how the regional policy was adopted.			
20.	Which body (or bodies) is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of regional policy (or policies) developed by the ISCM. How is the ISCM is engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the policy?			
21.	Has your ISCM developed **interregional** policies?	☐ Yes	☐ No	
22.	If YES (to Q21), please specify the title, year, thematic area(s) and how the interregional policy was adopted.			
23.	Which body (or bodies) is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of interregional policy (or policies) developed by the ISCM. How is the ISCM engaged in its implementation and monitoring?			
24.	Has your ISCM contributed to **global**-level policies?	☐ Yes	☐ No	
25.	If YES (to Q24), please specify the policy, year and the channel of contribution (e.g. United Nations, International Dialogue for Migration and Global Forum for Migration and Development).			
26.	Do the organizations leading the global processes or initiatives (e.g. the United Nations) and/or governments of the ISCM's member States acknowledge its ISCM's contribution to global migration governance?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not known
27.	If YES (to Q26), please give examples of such acknowledgements.			

28.	Looking back at the work of your ISCM since its establishment, how would you rate its contribution to migration governance at each level (national, regional and global)?	
29.	Does the ISCM plan to enhance its engagement in migration governance?	☐ Yes ☐ No
30.	If YES (to Q29), please describe how and in which area(s)?	
31.	What factors would facilitate the ISCM's greater impact and contribution to migration governance at any level (national, regional and global)?	
IV. Structures		
32.	Which of the following structures constitute your ISCM? *Please select as many as apply.*	☐ Chair ☐ Chairmanship troika ☐ Steering committee ☐ Political secretariat ☐ Technical secretariat ☐ Resource centre ☐ Working or expert group(s) ☐ Civil society group/dialogue ☐ Private sector group/dialogue ☐ Academia group ☐ Local government group ☐ Others (please specify): _____
33.	How has the ISCM's constituency changed since its establishment (e.g. admission of new member States or organizations; withdrawal of member States or organizations; admission of observer States or organizations; and establishment of new structures such as working groups, steering groups, committees and resource centres)?	
34.	Are there any operating modalities or any other formal governing document?	☐ Yes ☐ No
35.	If YES (to Q34), how have these been revised since their adoption?	
36.	How does the ISCM address knowledge management?	
37.	How does the ISCM manage communication among its constituency?	
38.	Please describe how your ISCM handles issues requiring a legal personality (e.g. through Secretariat, through a formal association with a regional organization, etc.).	
39.	Please list the functions carried out by the ISCM Secretariat.	

V. Sustainability		
40.	What has been the ISCM's main added value to its member States (e.g. trust-building, networking, partnerships, policy coordination; access to more stakeholders, technical advice and policy guidance, knowledge, common understanding and approaches to migration issues, dialogue on new and emerging issues, possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration, capacity-building, actual projects and programmes, etc.)? *Please provide examples with your answers.*	
41.	What are the opportunities for the ISCM to continue being a relevant player in migration?	
42.	What are the challenges that the ISCM faces?	
43.	What are the funding sources for the ISCM? *Please select as many as applicable and add more sources in the opposite cell.*	☐ Annual fees by member States ☐ Annual fees by member organizations ☐ Internal reserve fund ☐ In-kind contributions by the ISCM chair-in-office ☐ In-kind contributions by the ISCM member States ☐ In-kind contributions by the ISCM member organizations ☐ In-kind contributions by the ISCM secretariat ☐ In-kind contributions by the government of the country hosting the ISCM secretariat ☐ Allocation/grant for a targeted project from a donor that is a member State of the ISCM ☐ Allocation for a targeted project from a donor that is an observer State of the ISCM ☐ Allocation for a targeted project from a donor that is a member organization of the ISCM ☐ Allocation for a targeted project from a donor that is an observer organization of the ISCM ☐ Allocation for a targeted project from a donor that serves as the secretariat for the ISCM ☐ Allocation for a targeted project from a donor government or organization that is neither a member nor observer of the ISCM ☐ Others (please specify): _____
44.	In case the ISCM collects membership fees, is the amount fixed or proportionate? Please describe.	

45.	What is the percentage of external donor funding (e.g. project funds) in the ISCM's total funds?	
46.	Does a donor choose to fund an ISCM with a thematic area that it prioritizes? If so, how does this affect the ISCM's strategy and work?	
47.	Have any of the ISCM's member States ever had the impression that the donor dictates its agenda?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known
48.	How stable are the sources of funding enabling the ISCM's operation?	
49.	Who provides for the premises of the ISCM secretariat and its maintenance costs?	
50.	Who pays for the ISCM secretariat staff?	
51.	Who covers the travel costs of ISCM delegates attending ISCM meetings and events?	
52.	How does the ISCM plan its work for the coming five years?	
53.	What is needed to increase your ISCMs' sustainability?	
54.	Is your ISCM considering a sustainability plan, including member fees or a self-funding mechanism?	☐ Yes ☐ No
55.	If YES (to Q54), please provide details.	
VI. Synergies and partnerships		
56.	What type of partnerships are needed to enhance the ISCM's role in migration governance and with which type of actors?	
57.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation and synergies with other ISCMs and the added value of this cooperation for the ISCM. *Please specify the names of these partner ISCMs.* *Note*: Annex 2 lists all active ISCMs.	
58.	Please list examples of the RCP and/or IRF meeting outcomes and recommendations that the ISCM has submitted to or presented at the meetings of global processes on migration (e.g. IDM and GFMD), if any.	

59.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation with intergovernmental organizations (e.g. International Organization for Migration, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Labour Organization, and International Committee of the Red Cross) and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM. _Please specify the names of these partner IGOs._	
60.	Please describe your ISCMs' cooperation with regional political and economic unions (e.g. European Union; the African Union and its regional economic communities; African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; Association of Southeast Asian Nations; League of Arab States; Central American Integration System; Mercosur; Union for the Mediterranean; Ibero-American General Secretariat; and Eurasian Economic Community) and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM. _Please specify in your answer the names of your partner regional political and economic unions._	
61.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation with United Nations regional (economic) commissions and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM. _Please specify the name of these partner United Nations regional (economic) commission._	
62.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation with NGOs and CSOs and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM. _Please specify the names of these partner organizations._	
63.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation with the private sector and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM. _Please specify the names of these partner private companies._	

64.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation with academia, universities and research institutions and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM. *Please specify the names of these partner organizations.*	
65.	Please describe the ISCM's cooperation with migrants and diasporas and the added value of this cooperation to the ISCM.	
66.	What is needed to enhance the ISCM's cooperation with more partners?	

Submitted by: _____

(Kindly indicate name and position.)

Date: _____

Annexes [not shown here]

Definitions

List of ISCMs

(Non-comprehensive) list of ISCM thematic focus areas

ANNEX 4.
SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF ISCM MEMBER STATES

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Partnerships Division (IPD)

Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration
Survey Questionnaire for ISCM Member States

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) pursues this survey as part of its Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCMs). The aim is to assess their continued relevance and contribution to migration governance at all levels (national, regional and international) and the synergies among ISCMs and with other international and regional actors.

ISCMs have emerged more than 30 years ago as forums for policy dialogue and information-sharing on migration. They have played and continue to play a significant role in contributing to the migration policy debate at various levels and enhancing cooperation in migration management and governance. As of 2019 over 200 countries and territories are engaged with at least one ISCM, with some countries being a member to as many as 10 ISCMs.

The increasing recognition of the importance of concerted approaches to migration calls for a review of ISCMs' practices and partnership models and a reassessment of their role in current migration governance setting. The Assessment is expected to guide the ISCMs in identifying a way forward to its continued role and relevance in migration governance. To this end, the findings of the survey will be discussed at the upcoming global gathering of ISCM chairs and secretariats building on which the Assessment Report will be finalized.

The Assessment includes a survey of ISCM chairs and secretariats, a survey of governments of ISCM member States, and a survey of selected intergovernmental organizations and political and economic unions engaged with ISCMs.

This questionnaire is to be completed by governments of member States and/or observers States of ISCMs. It addresses the following aspects:

    (a) Added value of country membership/observership in the ISCMs;

    (b) ISCM sustainability.

Please note that in the questionnaire the acronym ISCM is used to indicate regional consultative processes on migration, interregional forums on migration and global processes on migration.

Please provide your feedback to the questions below and submit the completed questionnaire to IOM by 17 February 2019.

We kindly request to receive one completed questionnaire per government, which we ask to be coordinated with the State entities engaged with ISCMs.

The IOM International Partnerships Division is ready to provide further details on the Assessment and answer your queries.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

	I. General information	
1.	Please specify the ISCM(s) to which your country is a member State.	
2.	Please specify the ISCM(s) to which your country is an observer State.	
3.	Please specify your name and position (including division and institution).	
4.	Please list for which ISCMs your country serves as a focal point.	
5.	Which other government entities are regularly involved in ISCMs and in what capacity?	
6.	Which government entities have contributed to the completion of this questionnaire?	
	II. Added value of membership in ISCMs	
7.	What has been the main added value to of your engagement with the ISCMs? *Please provide examples with your answers.*	☐ Trust-building ☐ Networking ☐ Partnerships ☐ Policy coordination ☐ Access to more stakeholders ☐ Technical advice and policy guidance ☐ Knowledge ☐ Common understanding and approaches to migration issues ☐ Dialogue on new and emerging issues ☐ Possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration ☐ Capacity-building ☐ Actual projects and programmes ☐ Others (please specify): _____
8.	How has your membership in an ISCMs shaped and/or contributed to national migration policies? *Please provide examples with your answers.*	
9.	Please describe how (using indicators) you measure ISCMs' impact on your national migration governance or polices. *Please provide examples with your answers.*	

10.	How are ISCMs relevant to migration governance and policy dialogue in your region? *Please provide examples with your answers.*	
11.	Please detail any regional or bilateral agreements or policies covering your country that were initiated by or through an ISCM(s). *Please specify the title, year, thematic area(s) and how the regional policy was adopted, implemented and monitored.*	
12.	(If applicable) Please describe how ISCMs have facilitated your government's implementation or monitoring of global initiatives on migration (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals).	
13.	Please describe your engagement with **global** processes on migration (e.g. International Dialogue on Migration, Global Forum on Migration and Development and the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Migration) and its added value for your government. *Please provide examples with your answers.*	
14.	How can ISCMs better serve your government as a member State?	
15.	How can you enhance your engagement with ISCMs?	
16.	What factors would facilitate ISCMs' greater impact and contribution to migration governance at any level (national, regional or global)?	
17.	In what role can ISCMs better serve their member States and in which areas and/or initiatives?	
III. ISCM sustainability		
18.	Does your government pay membership fees to any ISCM, and if so, to which one(s)?	
19.	How are your government's attendance costs at ISCM meetings covered? *Please select as many as applicable.*	☐ State budget ☐ Donor funding ☐ Organizers of the event ☐ ISCM secretariat ☐ ISCM chairing State ☐ Host government ☐ Others (please specify): _____
20.	Please describe your contributions (in-kind and/or financial) as a host country to ISCM meetings held in your country.	
21.	Has your country ever chaired an ISCM? If so, which one and what were the inclusive years?	

22.	What has been the added value for your government in chairing the ISCM?	
23.	What challenges did you face as an ISCM chair and how did you address them?	
24.	Have you ever funded an ISCM as a donor, and if so, which ISCM was it? When did you issue funding as a donor? What kind of programme or initiative did you fund?	
25.	Has funding an ISCM resulted in the prioritization of your country's strategy within the ISCM's covered region?	☐ Yes ☐ No
26.	Has funding provided by your government to the ISCM been used to further the ISCM's own strategy?	☐ Yes ☐ No
27.	Please describe the added value for your government of the ISCM programmes funded by your government.	
28.	Does donor funding result in certain thematic priorities or limitations, and, if so, how does this affect your ISCM's strategy and work?	
29.	Do you find that any donor dictates the ISCM agenda? _Please explain your answer._	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known
30.	Do you find it appropriate for ISCMs to also engage non-State actors (e.g. civil society, private sector and academia) in its discussions?	☐ Yes ☐ No
31.	Do you find that some ISCMs have overlapping geographic and/or thematic coverage? If so, please specify which ones.	
32.	How do you see your engagement in ISCMs in the coming five years?	

Submitted by: _____

(Kindly indicate name and position.)

Date: _____

Annexes [not shown here]

Definitions

List of ISCMs

ANNEX 5.
SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ORGANIZATIONS

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Partnerships Division (IPD)

Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration
Survey Questionnaire for ISCM Member States

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) pursues this survey as part of its Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCMs) aimed to gauge their continued relevance and contribution to migration governance at all levels (national, regional and international) and the synergies among ISCMs and with other international and regional actors.

ISCMs have emerged more than 30 years ago as forums for policy dialogue and information-sharing on migration. They have played and continue to play a significant role in contributing to the migration policy debate at various levels and enhancing cooperation in migration management and governance. The increasing recognition of the importance of concerted approaches to migration calls for a review of ISCMs' practices and partnership models and a reassessment of their role in current migration governance-setting.

The Assessment includes a survey of ISCM chairs and secretariats, a survey of governments' members to ISCMs and a survey of selected intergovernmental organizations and political and economic unions engaged with ISCMs.

The Assessment is expected to guide the ISCMs in identifying a way forward to their continued role and relevance to migration governance. To this end, the findings of this survey will be discussed at the upcoming Global Meeting of ISCM Chairs and Secretariats, building on which the Assessment Report will be finalized.

This questionnaire is to be completed by intergovernmental organizations and political and economic unions engaged with ISCMs. It addresses the following aspects:

    (a) Added value of engagement with the ISCMs;

    (b) Partnership and sustainability.

Please note that in the questionnaire the acronym ISCM is used to indicate regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs), interregional forums on migration (IRFs) and global processes on migration.

Please provide your feedback to the questions below and submit the completed questionnaire to IOM by 17 February 2019.

The IOM International Partnerships Division is ready to provide further details on the Assessment and answer your queries.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

I. General information		
1.	Please indicate the name of the organization or political/economic union.	
2.	Please list the inter-State consultation mechanisms (ISCMs) to which your organization/union is a member, if any.	
3.	Please list the ISCMs to which your organization/union is an observer, if any.	
4.	Please list the ISCMs for which your organization/union serves as the secretariat, if any.	
5.	Please list the ISCMs with which your organization/union cooperates and specify the area(s) for cooperation and/or project/programme/initiative.	
6.	Which government entities have contributed to the completion of this questionnaire?	
II. Added value of engagement with ISCMs		
7.	What has been the main added value to of your engagement with the ISCMs? *Please provide examples with your answers.*	☐ Access to policy dialogue on migration ☐ Access to member States ☐ Opportunity to promote your organization's/union's strategy or mission ☐ Opportunity to shape a common understanding on various migration issues ☐ Trust-building ☐ Networking ☐ Partnerships ☐ Policy coordination ☐ Access to more stakeholders ☐ Technical advice and policy guidance ☐ Knowledge ☐ Access to data ☐ Common understandings and approaches to migration issues ☐ Dialogue on new and emerging issues ☐ Possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration ☐ Capacity-building ☐ Actual projects and programmes ☐ Others (please specify): _____

8.	How are ISCMs relevant to the work of your organization/union? *Please provide examples with your answers.*	
9.	What is the nature of your organization's/ union's contribution(s) to ISCMs? *Please select as many as applicable.* *Please provide examples with your answers.*	☐ Technical advice and policy guidance ☐ Secretariat services ☐ Funding ☐ Programme implementation support ☐ Joint initiatives, advocacy or programmes ☐ Data ☐ Research ☐ Capacity-building ☐ Visibility and public awareness ☐ Others (please specify): _____
10.	How can you enhance your engagement with ISCMs?	
11.	What factors would facilitate the ISCMs' greater impact and contribution(s) to migration governance at any level (national, regional or global)?	
12.	In what role could the ISCMs better serve their member organizations/unions and in which areas and/or initiatives?	
III. Partnership and sustainability		
13.	Does your organization/union pay membership fees to any ISCMs, and, if yes, to which one(s)?	
14.	Have you ever funded an ISCM as a donor, and if yes, which ISCM was it? When did you issue the funding? What kind of programme or initiative did you fund?	
15.	Has funding an ISCM result in the prioritization of your organization's/union's strategy in the given ISCM region?	☐ Yes ☐ No
16.	Was the funding provided to the ISCM by your organization/union used to further the ISCM's own strategy?	☐ Yes ☐ No
17.	Please describe the added value for your organization/union of the ISCM programmes funded by your organization/ union.	
18.	What is needed to enhance your cooperation with ISCMs?	
19.	Do you find it appropriate for ISCMs to engage in its discussions also non-State actors, (e.g. civil society, private sector, academia, etc.)?	☐ Yes ☐ No

20.	Do you find some of the ISCMs have overlapping geographic and or thematic coverage and, if yes, please specify which ones?	
21.	How do you see your engagement in ISCMs in the coming 5 years?	

Submitted by: _____

(Kindly indicate name and position.)

Date: _____

Annexes [not shown here]

Definitions

List of ISCMs

ANNEX 6.
ENTITIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Inter-State consultation mechanisms for migration

Regional consultative processes on migration

1. African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI)

2. Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration

3. Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Asylum Affairs (ARCP)

4. Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC)

5. Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM)

6. Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT)

7. Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management

8. Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Region (MiD-IGAD)

9. Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS)

10. Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)

11. Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)

12. Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)

13. Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)

14. Prague Process

15. Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)

16. Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)

17. South American Conference on Migration (SACM)

Interregional forums on migration

1. 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean

2. African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States–European Union (ACP-EU) Dialogue on Migration

3. Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

4. Budapest Process

5. European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)

6. Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process)

7. European Union–Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration (EU-CELAC MD)

8. Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD)

9. Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM)

10. Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)

11. Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)

12. Pan-African Forum on Migration

Global processes on migration

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

Organizations

1. International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

2. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

States

1. Albania	21. Honduras	41. Sudan
2. Armenia	22. Hungary	42. Suriname
3. Belarus	23. Jamaica	43. Sweden
4. Belgium	24. Latvia	44. Switzerland
5. Benin	25. Lithuania	45. Turkey
6. Bulgaria	26. North Macedonia	46. Ukraine
7. Canada	27. Mauritius	
8. Chad	28. Mexico	
9. Chile	29. Morocco	
10. China	30. Netherlands	
11. Colombia	31. Norway	
12. Croatia	32. Panama	
13. Cyprus	33. Peru	
14. Czechia	34. Philippines	
15. Egypt	35. Poland	
16. Estonia	36. Portugal	
17. Ethiopia	37. Republic of Korea	
18. Gambia	38. Serbia	
19. Georgia	39. Spain	
20. Guinea	40. Sri Lanka	

ANNEX 7.
ISCM PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 ISCM ASSESSMENT SURVEY AND AT GRCP 8

ISCMs in the 2019 Assessment Survey

1. ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration
2. Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration
3. Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Asylum Affairs (ARCP)**
4. Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
5. Budapest Process
6. Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC)
7. Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM)
8. Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (EaP Panel)
9. European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)
10. Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process)
11. European Union–Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration (EU-CELAC MD)
12. Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
13. Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Region (MiD-IGAD)
14. Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)
15. Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)
16. Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)
17. Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)
18. Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)
19. Prague Process
20. Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)
21. Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)
22. South American Conference on Migration (SACM)

Note: 21 ISCMs participated in both the Assessment Survey and at GRCP 8.
6 ISCMs participated at GRCP 8, but not the Assessment Survey. (*)
1 ISCM participated only in the Assessment Survey. (**)

ISCM at the GRCP 8

1. 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean*

2. ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration

3. African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI)*

4. Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration

5. Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

6. Budapest Process

7. Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC)

8. Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM)

9. Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT)*

10. Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (EaP Panel)

11. European Union–Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)

12. Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process)

13. European Union–Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration (EU-CELAC MD)

14. Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

15. Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM)*

16. Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Region (MiD-IGAD)

17. Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)

18. Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)

19. Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)

20. Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)

21. Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)*

22. Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)

23. Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM)*

24. Prague Process

25. Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)

26. Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)

27. South American Conference on Migration (SACM)

Note: 21 ISCMs participated in both the Assessment Survey and at GRCP 8.
6 ISCMs participated at GRCP 8, but not the Assessment Survey. (*)
1 ISCM participated only in the Assessment Survey. (**)

ANNEX 8.
AGENDA OF THE EIGHTH GLOBAL MEETING OF CHAIRS AND SECRETARIATS OF CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES ON MIGRATION

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Advancing a common understanding of migration governance across regions

Eighth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of
Consultative Processes on Migration

Agenda
(5 April 2019 – International Conference Centre of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland)

9.45–10.15	**Opening Session**
	Statement of Welcome
	H.E. Mr António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
10.15–11.15	*Session 1*: **Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration: Achievements and Lessons Learned**
	Moderator: Mr Lars Petter Henie, Senior Adviser, Section for Migration, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Norway, for the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)
	Introduction: Advancing a common understanding of migration governance across regions
	Ms Jill Helke, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM
	Discussion
11.15–13.00	*Session 2*: **ISCMs' Contributions to Migration Governance at National, Regional and Global Levels**
	Moderator: H.E. Mr Paul Robert Tiendrebeogo, Minister of African Integration and Burkinabè Abroad of Burkina Faso, Chair of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process)
	Continent-wide free movement
	Mr Geoffrey Wafula Kundu, Migration Progarmme Coordinator, Department of Social Affairs, African Union Commission, for the Chair of the Pan-African Forum on Migration
	Assistance to vulnerable migrants at the national and regional levels
	Ms María José Del Águila Castillo, Counselor Minister, Permanent Mission of Guatemala in Geneva, for the Chair of Regional Conference on Migration
	Labour migration schemes, skills recognition and equal treatment across regions
	H.E. Mr W. A. Chulananda Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunication, Foreign Employment and Sports of Sri Lanka, Chair of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue
	Cross-regional exchanges and discussion

13.00–14.30	*Working Lunch*: Synergies and partnerships
	Group 1: Africa
	Co-facilitators: H.E. Mr Frans Kapofi, MP, Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration of Namibia, Chair of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) and Co-Chair of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States–European Union (ACP-EU) Dialogue on Migration; and
	Mr Charles Obila, Migration Officer, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), for the Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional Consultative Process on Migration (MiD-IGAD)
	Group 2: Americas
	Co-facilitators: Ms Frieda Roxana Del Águila Tuesta, Director, National Authority for Migration of Peru, Chair of the Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM); and
	Mr Diego Beltrand, Reginal Director for South America, IOM, Head of the Secretariats of the South American Conference on Migration (SACM) and the Ibero-American Network of Migration Authorities (RIAM)
	Group 3: Asia, Pacific and the Middle East
	Co-facilitators: Mr Geoffrey Shaw, PhD, Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking for Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Co-Chair of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; and
	Mr Andreano Erwin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia in Geneva, for the Co-Chair of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
	Group 4: Europe
	Co-facilitators: Mr Gintaras Valiulis, Adviser, International Cooperation Group, Ministry of Interior of Lithuania, Chair of the Prague Process; and
	Ms Victoria Kasabyan, Head of Almaty Sub-Office, IOM Kazakhstan, Co-Head of the Secretariat of the Almaty Process
14.30–15.45	*Session 3*: Structures and Sustainability
	Moderator: H.E. Mr Emilio Rafael Izquierdo Miño, Permanent Representative of Ecuador in Geneva, for the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
	Mr Christopher Mensah-Yawson, Programme Officer, Trade, Customs and Free Movement Directorate of the Economic Community of West African States, for the Secretariat of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA);
	Mr Nemani Vuniwaqa, Director, Department of Immigration of Fiji, Chair of the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC);
	Mr Ramazan Seçilmiş, Head, Combating Irregular Migration Department, Directorate General of Migration Management of Turkey, for the Chair of the Budapest Process; and
	Mr Tirtha Raj Wagle, Acting Permanent Representative of Nepal in Geneva, for the Chair of the Colombo Process
	Cross-regional exchanges and discussion
15.45–17.15	*Session 4*: Synergies and Partnerships (plenary presentations and discussion)
	Moderator: Mr Nassir Elkabashi, Head, Passports and Civil Registry, Ministry of Interior of Sudan, Chair of the African Union–Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI)
	Rapporteur for Africa: Mr Charles Obila, Migration Officer, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, for the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional Consultative Process on Migration (MiD-IGAD)
	Rapporteur for the Americas: Mr Luis Alonso Serrano Echeverría, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Conference on Migration
	Rapporteur for Asia, Pacific and the Middle East: Mr Shaun Choon, Executive Officer for Home Affairs, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, for the Bali Process
	Rapporteur for Europe: Mr Aleksey Maleev, Project Manager, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation Directorate, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), for the Prague Process Secretariat
	Cross-regional exchanges and discussion
17.15–17.30	*Closing Session*: Reflections on the Way Forward
	Ms Jill Helke, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM

ANNEX 9.
GRCP 8 SESSION OBJECTIVES AND DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Advancing a common understanding of migration governance across regions

Eighth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of
Consultative Processes on Migration (GRCP 8)

Objective of GRCP 8

The Eighth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Consultative Processes on Migration (GRCP 8) ("Advancing a common understanding of migration governance across regions") aims to provide a forum for inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) to:

(a) Jointly consider ISCM's contributions to migration governance at all levels, their achievements, effective practices, structures and partnership models; and

(b) Identify a way forward to their renewed role in the new migration governance era.

The following issues will be addressed at GRCP 8:

(a) Continued relevance of ISCMs in the current migration governance architecture.

(b) Shaping of migration governance and policies at all levels by ISCMs.

(c) Strengthening the sustainability of ISCMs.

(d) Fostering synergies and partnerships among ISCMs and with other actors.

Session 1: Inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration: Achievements and lessons learned

Objectives

1. To inform participants on the main preliminary findings of the IOM Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration, including its survey.

2. To reflect on preliminary Assessment recommendations and ways to fulfil them.

Discussion guide questions

1. The preliminary Assessment findings and recommendations derive from the survey and interviews with ISCMs. Do the ISCMs agree with and feel committed to these findings and recommendations?

2. Which of the findings of the ISCM Assessment/survey are prioritized by the ISCMs in strengthening their role in migration governance and making them more sustainable?

3. Which of the Assessment recommendations are most feasible for realization in the near future? How ISCMs can act on and fulfil the Assessment recommendations?

4. What other actionable recommendations can be added by the participants?

Session 2: ISCMs' contributions to migration governance at the national, regional and global levels

Objectives

1. To highlight effective practices of ISCMs' contribution to migration governance at the national, regional and global levels.

2. To formulate recommendations on how ISCMs can have an impact on migration governance at various levels and how to measure that impact.

Discussion guide questions

1. How can an ISCM contribute to or shape to…

   (a) …national migration governance and/or polices of its member State(s) without jeopardizing State sovereignty? Are there existing effective practices that can be applied across regions?

   (b) …regional migration governance and/or policies? Are there existing effective practices? What partnerships are required for such contribution?

   (c) …a global policy on migration or global migration governance? What are the avenues for such contribution?

2. How can ISCMs' contributions or impacts on migration governance or policy be measured and recognized?

Working Lunch: **Synergies and partnerships**

Session 4: **Synergies and partnerships (plenary presentations and discussion)**

Objectives

1. To suggest possible means of increasing synergies among ISCMs;

2. To discuss what partnerships are needed to enhance ISCMs' role in migration governance.

Working lunch discussion guide questions

1. What are (up to five) recommendations on increasing synergies among the ISCMs?

2. What type of partnerships are needed to enhance ISCMs' role in migration governance and with which type of actors?

Plenary discussion guide questions

1. What five recommendations on increasing synergies among the ISCMs were identified by each region?

2. Which of the recommendations can work across the regions?

3. What type of partnerships towards enhanced ISCM role in migration governance were identified by each region?

4. What is needed for an ISCM to establish or enhance partnerships with various actors (e.g. United Nations regional (economic) commissions, regional economic/political organizations, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, academia and civil society)?

Session 3. Structures and sustainability

Objectives

1. To highlight effective practices of ISCM structures (chairmanship, steering committees, secretariats, formal association with a legal entity/organization, national focal points, working and expert groups, resource centres, CSO or business sector groups, etc.);

2. To identify structures and resources needed to increase ISCMs' sustainability.

Discussion guide questions

1. What have proved to be effective and sustainable ISCM structures?

2. What commitments and resources are required for such structures?

3. What is needed to increase ISCMs' sustainability and ultimately increase their role in migration governance?

Thematic focus	SACM	RIAM	RCM	Rabat Process	Prague Process	PIDC	PAFoM	OCAM	MIDWA	MIDSA	MIDCOM	MIDCAS	Khartoum Process	IGC	MiD-IGAD	GFMD	FIBEMYD	EU-CELAC MD	Eap Panel on Migration	Colombo Process	CMC	Budapest Process	Bali Process	AU-HoAI	ARCP	Almaty Process	ACP-EU MD	Abu Dhabi Dialogue	5+5 Dialogue on Migration
Asylum	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
Biometrics	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Border management	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Brain drain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
Counter-human smuggling	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Counter-trafficking	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diaspora	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Global Compact for Migration	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Humanitarian emergency preparedness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IDPs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irregular migration	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Labour migration	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓
Migrant integration	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Migrants' rights	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Migrants in vulnerable situations	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-
Migration and development	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓

Thematic focus	Migration and gender	Migration and security	Migration and health	Migration data and statistics	Migration management	Migration policy and governance	Migration, environment and climate change	Migration trends/ drivers of migration	Mixed migration	Multi-stakeholder engagement (private and/or civil society)	Partnerships and cooperation on migration	Refugees and protection	Remittances	Return, reintegration and readmission	Sustainable Development Goals
SACM	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RIAM	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RCM	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Rabat Process	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-
Prague Process	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
PIDC	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
PAFoM	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OCAM	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
MIDWA	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-
MIDSA	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
MIDCOM	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
MIDCAS	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Khartoum Process	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
IGC	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
MID-IGAD	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-
GFMD	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
FIBEMYD	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
EU-CELAC MD	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
EaP Panel on Migration	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
Colombo Process	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓
CMC	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
Budapest Process	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
Bali Process	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-
AU-HoAI	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARCP	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓
Almaty Process	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
ACP-EU MD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
Abu Dhabi Dialogue	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
5+5 Dialogue on Migration	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-

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