



IOM International Organization for Migration

**Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of  
Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs)  
Bangkok, Thailand, 4-5 June 2009**

**BACKGROUND**

While migration management is a sovereign prerogative, States increasingly recognize that national efforts are most effective when supplemented with inter-State cooperation. To this end, States have favoured the development of informal and non-binding consultation mechanisms, notably in the form of regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs).

RCPs are frequently recognized as making concrete and practical contributions to inter-State dialogue, cooperation and capacity building on migration. Their relative informality, flexibility and focus on addressing the particular migration challenges shared by their participants make them dynamic fora for discussion, debate and development of action-oriented responses.

The value of RCPs has been noted in a variety of regional and global fora, including at the first-ever consultation among Chairs and Secretariats of RCPs, co-organized by IOM and the former Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) in 2005. At that time, participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to meet with representatives of other RCPs and welcomed periodic meetings of this kind in the future that would facilitate inter-regional dialogue and sharing of experiences.<sup>1</sup>

At the 2007 and 2008 meetings of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) in Brussels and Manila, respectively, participants also recognized that RCPs can offer good practices and “lessons learned” in international cooperation in areas such as capacity building, policy coherence and governance; and that a global meeting among Chairs and Secretariats of RCPs would be key in facilitating the sharing of experiences across regions.<sup>2</sup>

Hosted by the Royal Thai Government in collaboration with the IOM, the purpose of the meeting is to draw together representatives from the major RCPs throughout the world to share experiences and exchange views on the value and benefits of promoting regional dialogue, capacity development and cooperation on migration through RCPs.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on the first ever-consultation among RCPs organized by IOM and the GCIM, including the summary report, please refer to <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research/regional-consultative-processes/pid/866>.

<sup>2</sup> For further information on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, please refer to <http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/> (Brussels 2007) and <http://gfmd2008.org/> (Manila 2008). In particular, you might find it useful to consult the following background papers, available in English, French and Spanish from the Document Libraries: 2007 Session 3.4 “*Regional Consultative Processes and Development: Advancing Cooperation*”; 2008 Session 2.2 “*Managing Migration and Minimizing the Negative Impacts of Irregular Migration*”; and 2008 Session 3.3 “*Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), Inter-regional Consultative Fora and Regional Organizations and Economic Integration Processes at the Interface of Migration and Development*”.