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## igc process: working methods, meetings and structure

### The igc

Established in 1985, the igc is an informal, non-decision making forum for inter-governmental information exchange and policy debate on the management of international migration.

### Participants

The IGC process brings together 16 **Participating States** (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, and The United States of America) and three **organizations** (The European Commission, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).

### Organisation

#### The Chair

The IGC process is overseen by a chairing State. The Chair serves for one year (June to June) and typically chooses a theme. Switzerland is the current chair (June 2008 – June 2009) and has chosen as its theme: "Skilled Labour Migration: Opportunities for International and National Cooperation".

#### The Troika

The current, future and past chairs of the process make up the so-called IGC Troika, which help the Chair in guiding the overall process. The last chair was Sweden (2007-2008), and the next chair will be Finland (2009-2010).

#### The Secretariat

- Based in Geneva.
- Funded by Participating States (annual budget of CHF 1.8 million: CHF 120,000 contribution per State).
- Reports to the IGC Chair.
- Enjoys diplomatic status, with technical assistance from IOM under special administrative arrangements.
- Organizes 20 meetings per year.
- Maintains a secure website and statistical databases.
- Compiles documentation on policy and procedures.
- Produces studies and analytical reports.

### Working methods

IGC activities are characterized by informality, openness and efficiency.

Consultations proceed from:

- Identification of issues of interest.
- Exchange, compilation and analysis of information.
- Discussion of possible policy responses.

### Meetings

Senior IGC officials meet twice annually at a **Full Round of Consultations** (typically hosted by the Chair) and a **Mini Full Round of Consultations** to discuss recent trends in international migratory and refugee movements and concomitant policy developments.

A **Steering Group** of senior officials meets twice a year to review the IGC activities (working groups, workshops) over the last program year and set new orientations for the next one.

Six **Working Groups** of policy makers and experts meet twice a year. There are also **workshops** on specific themes/countries.

### The IGC Structure

