

Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration Factsheet 2017

Definitions

Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) are state-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues for those States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration. ISCMs may either be officially associated with formal regional institutions, or be informal and non-binding. ISCMs' geographical scope can be **regional (regional consultative processes on migration or RCPs)**, **interregional (interregional forum on migration or IRFs)** or **global (global processes on migration)**. ISCMs may be chaired by a country on rotation basis or have permanent chairs. Most ISCMs are supported by Secretariats (often managed by an International Organization). The first ISCM was established in 1986. While some processes are dormant, in general ISCMs have expanded in number and diversified geographically and in focus. They are an increasingly important element in international migration governance.

ISCMs in figures

- **15 active RCPs**
- **16 active IRFs**
- **3 global processes / dialogues on migration** (Global Forum on Migration and Development; International Dialogue on Migration (IDM); UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development)

Country engagement in ISCMs

- **166** countries participate in at least one **RCP**
- **179** countries participate in at least one **IRF**
- **195** countries participate in at least two **global processes on migration**

ISCMs thematic focuses

Some ISCMs focus on specific issues; others address a broader range of topics according to the common interest of their constituent states:

- **Labour migration - 19 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migration and development - 14 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Irregular migration - 14 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Counter trafficking - 14 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migrant rights - 11 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migration policy - 9 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migrant integration - 9 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Border management - 8 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migration data - 8 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Return and readmission - 8 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migration health - 6 RCPs and IRFs**
- **Migration and climate change - 2 RCPs**

IOM role

IOM support to ISCMs includes: technical expertise, policy guidance, research, capacity building and targeted project initiatives. IOM is responsible for convening the IDM as a major policy discussion forum. IOM is a full participant of the Bali Process and the IGC. IOM is an observer to 16 ISCMs. Pursuant to the participating governments' requests, it serves as a technical secretariat to 9 ISCMs and manages secretariat support projects for another 5 ISCMs. IOM administratively hosts 2 secretariats (GFMD and IGC).

Global Meeting of ISCMs or Global RCP Meeting (GRCP)

The GRCP brings together Chairs and Secretariats from the main ISCMs – RCPs, IRFs and global processes on migration – to foster exchanges and synergies among them on various migration topics and contribute to improved policy coherence at the regional, interregional and global levels. IOM has been facilitating GRCPs since 2005; GRCP7 was held in Geneva on 10-11 October 2017 and focused on the global compact for migration.