Regional Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration:

Approaches, Recent Activities and Implications for Global Governance of Migration

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CHARLES HARN
Study Author
Senior Migration Advisor, IOM (retired)
CHARLES/HARN@GMAIL.COM
Why a New Study on RCPs and Similar Mechanisms?

- They are proliferating in number
- They are diversifying in their characteristics
- New terminology is beginning to enter into the migration vernacular to describe them
- There is no single comprehensive resource
- A common base for much of their work is now well-developed in the Migration and Development paradigm
The Process of the Study

- Review of documentation
- Consultation through IOM field offices
- Input from relevant meetings
- Review of drafts by key parties
The Organization of the Study

- Introduction and Background
- Approaches to Definitions and Taxonomy
- Major Activities and Trends of Regional and Interregional Processes and Forums
- Implications for the Harmonized Governance of Migration
- Conclusions
RCPs are, in general:

“restricted information-sharing and discussion forums for States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration”
RCPs have been specifically described as:

- Repeated, dedicated to discussing specific migration issues
- Informal, not put in position to defend national policies
- Non-binding, incurring no obligations
- Purposefully created to deal with migration issues only
- Regional: Region is “unit of measure”, RCPs are within or among regions (not bilateral, not global); ‘regional characteristic’ can be geographic, economic level, migration characteristic, or combination
Approach to Definitions and Taxonomy
25 Case Studies

18 RCPs + 7 Interregional Forums, or other type of consultation mechanism

- Background
- Recent Meetings and Evolution of the Agenda
- Linkages with Multilateral Agreements
- Taxonomy Placement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RCP, Pillar</th>
<th>COMESA Regional Consultative Process on Migration (Tentative: 2013)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCP</td>
<td>Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)</td>
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<td>RCP</td>
<td>Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCP, Pillar</td>
<td>Inter-governmental Authority on Development, Regional Consultative Process on Migration (IGAD-RCP)</td>
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Africa with Europe

RCP

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

IRF, Pillar

Tripoli Process
Americas and the Caribbean

RCP  Regional Conference on Migration (RCM, or Puebla Process)

RCP  South American Conference on Migration (SACM)

IRF, Pillar  Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD)
## Asia (Intra-Asian)

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<th>RCP</th>
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<tr>
<td>RCP</td>
<td>Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other, Pillar</td>
<td>ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML)</td>
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The Arabian Peninsula in West Asia, with other Asia

RCP Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)
Europe with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States

IRF, Pillar - ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration
Asia with Europe

IRF, Pillar

Asia-Europe Meeting, Conference of the Directors-General of Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows (ASEM CDGIMM)
Major Activities and Trends of Regional and Interregional Processes and Forums

Asia with Oceania

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

RCP  Inter-governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC)
Major Activities and Trends of Regional and Interregional Processes and Forums

Europe with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States

RCP
Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)
Europe with the Former Soviet Union

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<tr>
<th>RCP</th>
<th>Budapest Process</th>
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<tr>
<td>RCP</td>
<td>Prague Process</td>
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<td>RCP, Pillar</td>
<td>Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum – EPPMA (formerly, the Cross-Border Cooperation Process, CBCP, or Söderköping Process)</td>
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Europe with Latin America

IRF, Pillar European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration (EU-LAC SCDM)
**Mediterranean**

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<tr>
<th>RCP</th>
<th>Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue (MTMD)</th>
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<td>RCP, Pillar</td>
<td>Regional Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean (5+5 Dialogue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRF, Pillar</td>
<td>Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Migration Dialogue (E-MP MD)</td>
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Key Factors Affecting Regional Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms’ Impact on Global Governance of Migration

- Linkage of migration consultation mechanism with regional economic and trade bodies: More direct influence on regional binding agreements on human mobility
- Linkage of migration consultation mechanisms with summit-level multilateral agreements
Key Factors Affecting Regional Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms’ Impact on Global Governance of Migration

- Strength and inclination of global institutions and mechanisms to push a global policy agenda: IOM, UN Agencies, HLDIM, GFMD

- The opportunities for regional consultative mechanisms to share ideas and create common practice across regions
Implications for the Harmonized Governance of Migration

Key Factors Affecting Regional Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms’ Impact on Global Governance of Migration

- Common Platform: Migration and Development
- Increasing de facto policy coherence through regional mechanisms
Concluding Remarks

- Gaps in the study: Content and Process
- The need for a comprehensive encyclopaedia of regional inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration