

igc organigram



intergovernmental consultations
on migration, asylum and refugees

IGC Participants



USA (Current Chair)

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Australia | New Zealand |
| Belgium | Netherlands |
| Canada | Norway |
| Denmark | Spain |
| France | Sweden |
| Germany | Switzerland |
| Greece | United Kingdom |
| Ireland | United States |

IOM, European Commission & UNHCR



Friedrich LOEPER

Co-ordinator
Liaison and outreach to States &
International organizations,
Strategic planning, Management

Laurent DALMASSO
Programme Officer

Immigration,
Integration

Harald FRIEDRICH
Programme Officer

Admission, Control &
Enforcement,
Technology

Ward LUTIN
Programme Officer

Asylum/Refugees,
Country of Origin
Information

Colette DOYLE
Administrative
Assistant

Pierre GARNIER
IT Co-ordinator



- about igc
- igc organisation
- igc activities
- igc organigram

The igc

The igc is an informal, non-decision making forum for inter-governmental information exchange and policy debate on issues of relevance to the management of international migration.

Participating States

The IGC brings together the following 17 Participating States:

- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The United Kingdom
- The United States

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR), the **International Organization for Migration** (IOM) and the **European Commission** also participate in the IGC process.

The Chair rotates annually among Participating States, and consults with the previous and next Chairs as part of the so-called "Troika" in overseeing the process.

The **United States** currently chairs the IGC (June 2010- June 2011) and its theme focus on Humanitarian Responses to Crisis with Migration Consequences. Germany will take on the IGC Chair in July 2011.

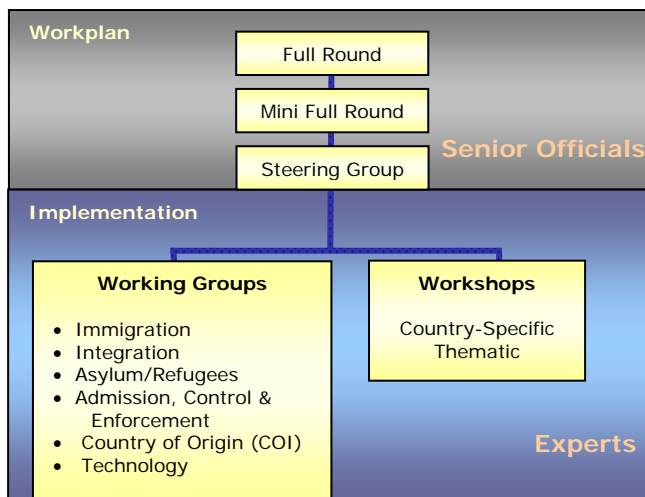
Background and History

The starting point for the IGC was a conference held in May 1985 under the auspices of UNHCR to consider "The Arrivals of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Europe". Thirty-five States and a number of international organizations, including the IOM and the Commission of European Communities, attended. There were follow-up discussions and seven States decided to launch an informal consultative process to study the challenges facing their asylum systems and possible solutions. A coordinator for IGC was appointed within UNHCR headquarters in 1987 as head of a unit responsible for the preparation of meetings of senior officials. In 1990, this unit was reorganized as the IGC Secretariat. In 1991, the Secretariat became an independent entity with funding provided by States. While historically focused on asylum issues, IGC is now having discussions on immigration and integration policies given States' interests in these topics.

Organisational framework

The **IGC Secretariat is funded by Participating States**. It is currently composed of eight permanent staff members, and operates on an annual budget of 1.8 million Swiss Francs (CHF 120,000 per State). While reporting to Participating States and being fully under their supervision, the Secretariat enjoys diplomatic status, with technical assistance from IOM under special administrative arrangements.

The **Secretariat administers the IGC process**. It organizes the roughly 20 senior official and expert meetings per year that take place within the IGC process, maintains statistical databases and websites, gathers documentation on policy and procedures, produces studies and analytical reports, and generally facilitates multi-lateral co-operation.



Meetings

Senior IGC officials meet annually at a **Full Round of Consultations**, to discuss recent trends in international migratory and refugee movements and concomitant policy developments. The Full Round determines the themes and number of meetings for up to a maximum of 16 working group and workshop meetings per year.

A separate shorter exercise (**Mini Full Round of Consultations**) is held once a year to address matters of immediate interest and to co-ordinate on-going activities.

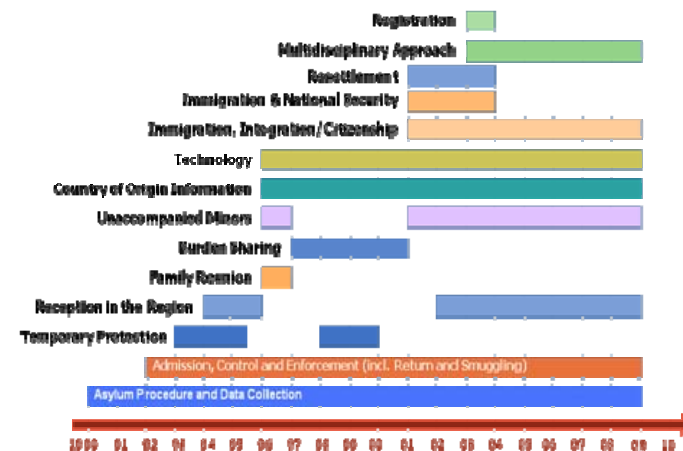
A **Steering Group** of senior officials meets twice a year to review the IGC activities (working groups, workshops) over the last program year and set new orientations for the next one.

There are **Working Groups** on Immigration, Integration, Admission, Control and Enforcement, Asylum and Refugees, Country of Origin Information (COI), and Technology, which generally meet twice a year.

Workshops are also convened on specific themes/countries.

Areas of interest

Major subjects dealt with since 1985 have included: asylum, data, temporary protection, return, smuggling and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, family reunification, reception in the region, country of origin information, specific outflows, illegal migration, burden sharing, and the use of technology in the management of migration and immigration policies. Recent activities have been initiated on immigration policies, national security, integration, interception and processing in the region.



Working Methods

IGC activities are characterised by three essential features:

- Informality:** IGC is not an institution but a process that allows for informal information exchange and discussion.
- Openness:** IGC activities do not require participants to reach common positions or be bound by resolution or decision. Issues can thus be explored in a climate of openness and confidentiality, in full acknowledgement of individual concerns and priorities.
- Efficiency:** IGC has a very light administrative structure, with emphasis on ease and directness of communication among participants rather than adherence to strict procedures and standing orders. Use is made of electronic communication for rapid access to documentation through a secure website.

On the basis of these principles all consultations in the IGC proceed along the following lines:

- Identification of an issue of common interest or concern;
- Careful compilation of data on the chosen topic;
- The analysis of the issue in the light of the pooled information; and
- The discussion of possible policy responses that individual participants can then evaluate according to their particular circumstances and needs.