

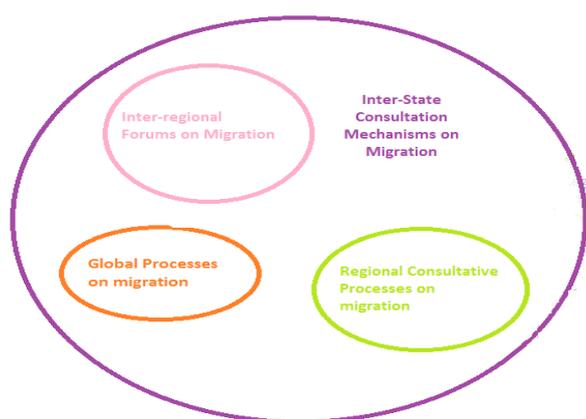
\*This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. This map was produced using mapchart.net.

# Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCM)

## What is an ISCM?

**Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on migration (ISCM)** are state-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues at the regional, inter-regional or global level 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.

## Types of ISCM



ISCM can be global (global processes on migration), inter-regional (bridging two or more regions) or regional. Their defining characteristic is that they are state-led processes addressing migration issues.

**Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCP)** are ISCM within an agreed (usually geographical) region.

**Inter-Regional Forums on migration (IRF)** are ISCM connecting countries from two or more regions.

**Global Processes on migration** are ISCM at the global level and are usually facilitated by an intergovernmental organization.

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is the only state-led global process on migration.

There exist other important global dialogues on migration, which are led by intergovernmental organizations (e.g. IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (UN HLD), UNHCR High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges, the International Labour Conference, UNODC Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice). ISCM foster synergies with these latter global initiatives.

## ISCM Thematic Focuses

Some ISCM have focused exclusively on specific issues (e.g., the Bail Process focuses on counter trafficking; the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue focus on labour migration.); others address a broader range of issues of interest to their constituent states. More and more, however, ISCM focus spans several areas of migration management.

Migration and development is a thematic focus for 14 RCP and IRF; labour migration – for 19 RCP and IRF; irregular migration and mixed flows – for 14 RCP and IRF; counter trafficking – for 14 RCP and IRF; migrant rights – for 11 RCP and IRF; border management – for 8 RCP and IRF; migration data – for 8 RCP and IRF; migration policy – for 9 RCP and IRF; migration health – for 6 RCP and IRF; migrant integration – for 9 RCP and IRF; return and readmission for 8 RCP and IRF; migration and climate change – for 2 RCP, etc.

All ISCM address aspects of international cooperation and governance of migration and can contribute to identifying planned and well-managed migration policies in their respective regions.

## Global ISCM Meetings

Since 2005 IOM has been facilitating *Global RCP Meetings* (GRCP) to foster synergies and mutual exchanges among all ISCMs.

The **Global Consultation of ISCM Chairs and Secretariats**, also known as Global RCP Meeting (or GRCP), bring together representatives of Chairs and Secretariats of the main ISCM – RCP, IRF and global processes on migration – to foster exchanges and synergies among ISCM on various migration topics thereby contributing to improved policy coherence at the regional, intra-regional and global levels.

## ISCM Role and Impact

ISCM have contributed to shaping national migration policies and to the emergence of convergent policy approaches at the regional and international level. At the **international level**, ISCMs have played an important role in creating regular dialogues with countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as all relevant stakeholders, on issues related to migration governance.

The Global Forum for Migration and Development and the International Dialogue on Migration continue to provide a space for States and other stakeholders to exchange views on key migration issues and thereby enhance migration governance at the global level.

GRCP also contributed to shaping common approaches to migration governance at the global level: the 2013 GRCP resulted in specific recommendations for the UN Secretary General and the UN General Assembly consideration in the context of the 2013 UN HLD thus further contributing to the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the **regional and national levels**, RCP and IRF have encouraged migration-related ministries and agencies to coordinate their activity and to develop plans, policies and practices on migration in a joined-up approach.

Thus, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) has facilitated the development of the Southern African Community (SADC) Regional Action Plan on Labour Migration for 2013 – 2015 and for 2016-2019; the SADC Regional Action Plan to Address Mixed and Irregular Migration; and recommendations on Border Management in SADC.

The Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) has developed a Regional Guide to Effective Practices for the Protection of Migrants in Disasters; as well as regional guidelines on border control and repatriation for children, adolescents and other vulnerable migrants.

## Country Participation to ISCM

There are RCP and IRF in every region of the world. There are 15 principal RCPs, 16 active IRFs and 1 state-led global process on migration (GFMD). A total of 166 countries are participants to at least one RCP; a total of 179 countries are participants to at least one IRF; and 195 countries are participants to the GFMD.

## Partnerships and observership in ISCMs

ISCMs may allow for participation of non-state stakeholders, e.g. inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations or other civil society representatives, as members or observers. This interactive, participatory and continuous policy dialogue advances the understanding of the opportunities and challenges of migration, the identification and development of effective policies for addressing those challenges, and ultimately contributes to a process which culminates in a policy decision on migration at the regional, inter-regional or global level; and may be translated into national migration policies. RCP and IRF can be linked to other actors at the regional level, such as regional organizations and United Nations Regional Commissions. This strengthens the focus on migration in the regional social, economic and political agenda.

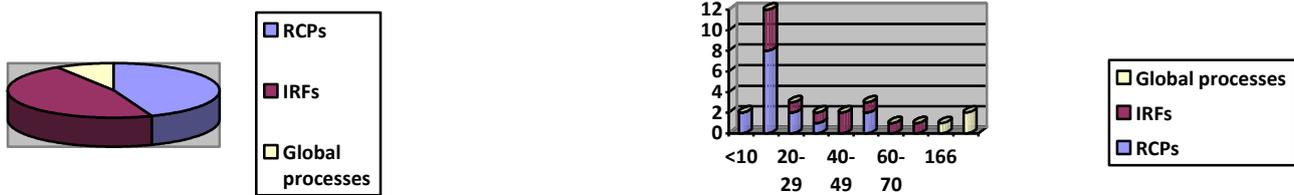
## ISCM Governance

ISCM may be chaired by a country on rotation basis or have permanent chairs. Most ISCM are supported by Secretariats. IOM, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), League of Arab States, European Commission, African Union Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO), International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) and others have been providing secretariat support to individual ISCM upon their request.

## IOM Engagement

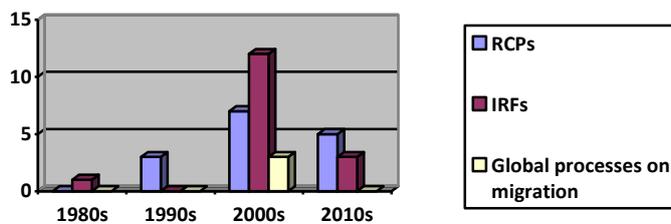
IOM has been engaged in supporting various ISCM for the last 30 years. It provided them technical expertise, policy guidance as well as secretariat support according to the participating governments' requests. IOM mainly facilitates the work of various ISCMs. IOM has conducted research and produced publications on migration processes.

## ISCM in figures\*



Numbers of ISCM by type

ISCM participating States by type of ISCM and number of states



ISCM by year of establishment, in decades

*IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.*

## International Organization for Migration (IOM)

International Partnerships Division • 17 route des Morillons, P.O. Box 17, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland • Tel: +41 22 717 91 11 • Fax: +41 22 798 61 50 • E-mail: [grcp@iom.int](mailto:grcp@iom.int) • Internet: <https://www.iom.int/inter-state-consultation-mechanisms-migration>



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

\* This statistics includes in addition to GFMD also the IDM and UN HLD as major global dialogues.

ISCM	Type	Region	Year Established	Constituent States	Selected Principal Thematic areas
5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean	IRF	Africa – Europe	2002	10	Labour migration; trafficking; smuggling; migrant rights
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) –EU Dialogue on Migration	IRF	Europe – Africa – Pacific	2000	107	Readmission; Human trafficking; Migrant smuggling; Remittances, Visa
Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration	RCP	Eurasia	2013	7	Irregular Migration; Human Trafficking; Migrant Vulnerabilities; Migrant Integration; Migrant Rights
Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)	RCP	Middle East	2015	22	Irregular Migration; Forced Migration; Asylum; Migration and Development; Migrant Rights
ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML)	IRF	Intra-Asian	2007	10	Labour Migration
Asia – EU Dialogue on Labour Migration	IRF	Asia – Europe	2008	39	Labour Migration
ASEM Conference of the Directors General of Immigration and Management of Migratory Flows	IRF	Asia – Europe	2002	53	Labour migration; Migration and education; Human trafficking; Irregular migration
Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime	IRF	Europe – Asia – America –Africa	2002	45	Border management; Human trafficking; Migrant smuggling; Return
Budapest Process	RCP	Eurasia	1993	52	Irregular migration; Migration and development; Human Trafficking
Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC)	RCP	Americas	2016	17	Border Management; Migrant Smuggling; Human trafficking
Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum	RCP	Eurasia	2001	34	Border management; Asylum
EU – Latin America and the Caribbean Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration	IRF	Americas – Europe	2009	61	Migration and development; Labour migration; Irregular migration; Human trafficking; Smuggling
EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process)	IRF	Africa – Europe	2014	39	Irregular migration; Return; Human trafficking; Migrant smuggling;
Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process)	IRF	Africa – Europe	2006	57	Border management; Return; Migrants rights; Irregular migration
Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)	Global process	Global	2007	195	Migration and development
Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD)	IRF	Americas – Europe	2008	23	Migration and development; Labour migration; Migrant rights
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) RCP	RCP	Africa	2008	7	Labour migration; Irregular migration; Trafficking; Smuggling; Border management; Migration and development
Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)	IRF	Europe – Australia –America	1985	16	Asylum; Border management; Return; Migrant integration
Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS)	RCP	Africa	2015	10	Migration and development; Labour migration; Mixed flows; Migrant Rights, Climate change
Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)	RCP	Africa	2000	15	Border management; Migration and development; Health; Labour migration; Trafficking and smuggling; Migrants' rights; Return
Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)	RCP	Africa	2001	15	Border management; Migration and development; Labour migration; Irregular migration; Trafficking and smuggling; Migrants' rights; Return
Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)	RCP	Africa	2013	19	Irregular migration; Labour Migration; Free movement; Migrant health
Abu Dhabi Dialogue)	IRF	Asia – Middle East	2008	18	Labour migration
Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM)	IRF	Africa – Europe	2003	46	Irregular migration; Labour migration
Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC)	RCP	Asia and Pacific	1996	23	Border management; trafficking; smuggling; Labour migration
Pan African Forum on migration (PaFOM)	IRF	Intra-African	2015	45	Border management; Labour migration; Free movement
Prague Process	RCP	Eurasia	2009	50	Asylum; Legal migration; Irregular migration; Migration and development
Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)	RCP	Americas	1996	11	Migration and development; migrant health; climate change; trafficking, smuggling; integration; return
Colombo Process	RCP	Asia and Pacific	2003	12	Labour Migration
South American Conference on Migration (SACM)	RCP	Americas	2000	12	Migrant rights; migration and development; trafficking; smuggling