

Concept note

“Tools and Good Practices on Migration Governance: National and Regional Levels”

Side event in the margin of the GCM informal thematic session on

“International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions”

20 June 2017, 13:15 – 14:45, Room XXI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This event on the margins of the GCM June thematic consultation in Geneva is proposed to showcase tools and good practices on migration governance both at national and regional levels, including state-led migration policy dialogue through Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs) and other Inter-state Consultation Mechanisms on migration (ISCM). This builds upon the Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Migration makes a number of recommendations linked with the governance of migration, which include to:

- Improve data for fact-based migration policies and accountability (e.g., by developing tools to help states implement and monitor migration related SDGs).
- Foster inclusive national debate and policy coherence on migration.
- Utilize Regional Consultative Processes to foster inter-state dialogues on migration issues.¹

Migration governance could be defined as the legislation, policies, practices, common principles and approaches for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. While States are the primary actors of migration governance, given the international nature of such migration, international partnerships and cooperation on migration are vital to migration governance.

At the national level: this side-event will be an opportunity to discuss some of the tools that can help states develop and evaluate comprehensive migration policies, through improved policy coherence and in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7. Useful tools to consider well-managed migration policies are the Migration Governance Framework (MIGOF) and the Migration Governance Index (MGI). This side event will feature remarks on national good practices on migration governance including the application of MIGOF and MGI to national contexts. This will also be an occasion to discuss initiatives that have been taken at the national and local levels to address migration governance through a whole of government approach.

At the regional level: this side event will look at the role of ISCMs in promoting inter-state policy dialogue and in shaping regional governance of migration. ISCMs generally refer to all state-led, regular information-sharing and policy dialogues at the regional, inter-regional or global level among states interested in promoting cooperation in the field of migration. Global processes on migration, inter-regional forums on migration (bridging two or more regions) and RCPs (covering one region) are all considered ISCMs. ISCMs can contribute to identifying and shaping well-managed migration policies in their respective regions, and to the emergence of convergent policy approaches at the international level. This side event will showcase different ISCMs’ experiences in enhancing regional migration governance through international cooperation and explore the role that existing state-led migration policy dialogues can play in the process leading to the GCM.

This side event is co-hosted by the governments of Australia, Mexico, Norway (Chairing the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees), Peru, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates (respectively Chair and Secretariat of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue).

¹ Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Migration; A/71/728; recommendations 12, 13.

Suggested questions to guide the panel discussion

- ⇒ What tools, frameworks and guidance exist to help states move towards well-managed migration policies? What tools, frameworks and guidance would need to be developed?
- ⇒ How can the Migration Governance Framework and the Migration Governance Index be used as tools to help Member States achieve the ambitious commitments of the SDGs, the New York Declaration, and eventually of the GCM?
- ⇒ What are some of the good examples from your country in terms of evidence-based, whole of government approach to migration policy?
- ⇒ How have ISCMs contributed to their Member States' capacities to effectively formulate and implement sound migration policies?
- ⇒ What are examples of ISCM best practices set by ISCMs for effective governance that could be replicated at national, regional, inter-regional and global levels?
- ⇒ What type of partnerships are needed for ISCMs to contribute to the GCM preparation (and later to the GCM implementation)?
- ⇒ Which practical approaches (e.g. policy, legislation, project, institution, fund, etc.) developed by the ISCMs could be considered for the GCM?

Preliminary Agenda

- *Moderator: H. E. Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General, IOM*

Migration governance at the national level

- H. E. Mr Juan Jose Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York, Co-facilitator leading the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations on issues related to the global compact and the intergovernmental conference
- H. E. Ms Roxana Castro, Director of Protection and Assistance to Nationals, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru
- Dr Richard Johnson, Minister Counsellor (Immigration), Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Australian Permanent Mission to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva

Migration governance at the regional level

- *Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)*
- *Ministerial Consultation On Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)*