

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
International Partnerships Division (IPD)  
**Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration**

***Summary of Findings per ISCM***

As part of an assessment of inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs), a survey was conducted in 2019. Carried out by IOM among ISCMs, their Member States and relevant inter-governmental organizations, the survey aimed to assess ISCMs' continued relevance and contribution to migration governance at all levels (national, regional and international) and the synergies among ISCMs and with other actors. The findings of this survey were presented at the global gathering of ISCMs in 2019 and were used to develop recommendations to enhance ISCMs' engagement in migration governance.

46 States and 22 ISCMs and 3 inter-governmental organizations provided answers to the questionnaires. The results are to be found in the 2019 assessment report: *Advancing a common understanding of migration governance among regions*, which provides an overview on ISCMs' organization, engagements, their continued relevance and synergies with relevant actors in the area of migration management. In addition to the report, the information below is meant to outline each individual ISCM's thematic priorities, structure, impact and relevance.

Name of the Inter-state consultation mechanism (ISCM): ***Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration***

**1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus**

Since the Almaty Process was established in 2013, its thematic areas have remained unchanged. These include irregular migration; cross-border displacement and impacts of migration in the region; regional migration policies and migration and refugee protection issues.

The Almaty Process work is implemented and monitored through its Action Plan, the most recent one being the "Outcome Protocol of the 1st Technical Expert Group Meeting of the Almaty Process" which took place from 12-13 February 2019 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

**2. Contribution to migration governance at national, (inter)regional and global levels (with examples)**

**Regional level:** Through the development of guidelines the Almaty Process aims to shape national and regional policies. The two most prominent guidelines developed by experts of Almaty Process Member States, are the "Regional guidelines on how to identify and refer refugees and asylum-seekers at the borders of Central Asia", published in 2016 by UNHCR and "Guidelines for the Identification and Referral of Migrants and Their Family Members in Vulnerable Situations", published in 2018 by IOM. It is expected that national referral mechanisms based on the regional guidelines will be developed by each country. However, none of these guidelines are endorsed yet.

**National level:** The Almaty Process also supports countries in drafting and amending their national migration laws and policies, as it was the case when discussions at the process have led to recent amendments in migration policies in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

### 3. **Salient ISCM structures**

The operations of the Almaty Process are set out in the formal “Operating Modalities” document, adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the Almaty Process in June 2013. This document has set the following operating structure: Chair in Office, technical secretariat (functions as the institutional memory of the Almaty Process, provides technical, administrative and communication support to the Chair, organizes meeting, conducts research) and working groups. The government of the chairing country also acts as secretariat. Upon Almaty Process’ Member States’ invitation, IOM and UNHCR perform the support unit functions providing technical and administrative assistance to the Chair and the secretariat. The Almaty Process is funded entirely by external donors through allocation for targeted projects. However, the Almaty Process Member States have never perceived any attempts from donors to influence the Almaty Process agenda.

### 4. **Effective partnership models by the ISCM**

While there is no formal cooperation with other **ISCMs** since the Almaty Process is still building its own capacity, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue shared its experience at the Almaty Process Senior Officials’ Meeting in 2018. In the future, the Almaty Process considers enhancing its cooperation with ISCMs for experience sharing, such as the Budapest Process and Prague Process due to common Member States and a similar thematic focus. Furthermore, the Bali Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue are of interest for possible synergies. The Almaty Process cooperates with UNHCR and IOM which provide experts’ opinion on refugee and migration issues. Further, **NGOs and Academia** were invited to the 5th SOM, some presented their regional researches.

### 5. **Added value of Membership in the given ISCM for States and Organizations (with examples)**

The Almaty process provides a platform for networking, partnerships and experience-sharing. It supports its Member States in evidence-based approaches to policy making and protection of vulnerable communities. This is seen in practices and programs, such as private employment agencies in Kyrgyzstan and reintegration of fighters in Tajikistan.

Among the Member States and IGOs surveyed, two referred to the Almaty Process in their questionnaire. For UNHCR, being involved with the Almaty Process provides opportunities to discuss, promote and advocate for protection sensitive entry systems and protection sensitive migration policies and practices that respect the rights of persons under UNHCR’s mandate and the universal human rights framework. IOM values the Almaty Process as a platform to promote rights of vulnerable migrants, build the capacity of government officials and shape common understanding on migration issues through enhanced regional cooperation.