

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): The ***Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process)***

1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus

The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Person and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process) was established in 2002 to raise regional awareness of the consequences of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime. It is a voluntary and non-binding forum for policy dialogue, information sharing and practical cooperation to help the region address these challenges.

The Bali Process is co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia and led at ministerial level by the Indonesian and Australian Foreign Ministers.

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

National level: The Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO) supports Bali Process members through the provision of technical support and the facilitation of capacity building to promote policy knowledge and the sharing of best practice Examples include "Guide on Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking" (2014), as well as the "Guidelines for Information-sharing to Address People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime" (2018). The RSO maintains the regional strategic roadmap which is an interactive online portal that supports members in evaluating their policies, identifying gaps in the system and improving responses to strengthen counter-trafficking responses.

Regional level: The Bali Process has been strategic and effective in driving regional cooperation and capacity-building. This has led to the creation of regional norms and approaches which are reflected in various Bali Process documents and materials. The Bali Process has actively engaged other regional mechanisms. For example, ASEAN SOM TC has been invited to various Bali Process working groups' meetings to share progresses, developments, and strategies.

Global level: By establishing regional norms and approaches that are applicable globally, the Bali Process also has contributed to migration governance at a global level.

3. Salient ISCM structures

The Bali Process comprises of the permanent Co-Chairs (Australia and Indonesia); a Steering Group; an Ad Hoc Group and working groups. Unique to the Bali Process is the Regional Support Office (RSO), located in Bangkok, which engages experts from member countries and organisations to provide capacity building for member countries through seminars, workshops, collaborative training and the development of guidance notes and best practice.. . Bali Process activities are funded through project-based contributions from members and observers.

4. Partnership models by the ISCM

The Bali Process liaises with other ISCMs on selected topics, such as return and reintegration issues, particularly with the Budapest Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue. With the Colombo Process and Budapest Process there is an ad hoc mutual exchange – both ISCMs attend each other's meetings on an ad hoc basis. There is further cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the Asia–Pacific. To include the private sector in discussions, the Bali Process has established the Government and Business Forum, focusing on efforts to eradicate human trafficking, forced labor, modern slavery and child labor. This government–private sector joint forum is the first of its kind in the Asia–Pacific.

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

Member States value the Bali Process for trust building, partnerships and common understanding and approaches to migration.

Among the member countries and observers surveyed, the Republic of Korea and Canada refer to the Bali Process in their answers. Korea understands that cooperation of neighboring nations through regional ISCMs, such as the Bali Process is imperative. Canada values its participation in the Bali Process for cooperation in fighting transnational crime, policy discussions and expertise and relationship building. Engaging with the Bali Process improved Canada's capacity to counter transnational crime and enhanced its national security. One example of Canada's involvement with the Bali Process is Canada's operational project with the Bali Process Regional Support Office. To effectively counter migrant smuggling, people trafficking and related transnational crimes, the project develops regional guidelines and a toolkit for border officials within the Bali Process Membership to analyze, report and disseminate timely and accurate intelligence and information.

IOM and UNHCR, both members of the Bali Process, also benefit from cooperation and partnership opportunities through the Bali Process. They further benefit from participating in the migration forum, since the Bali Process addresses topics of key concern to both agencies.