

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): ***Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)***

1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus

Emerging from the 2006 High-level Dialogue on international Migration and Development and launched the following year, the GFMD serves as the largest state-led global process on migration that brings together policymakers on the interrelated issues of migration and development. Its thematic focus lies on all migration and development related issues.

The GFMD's strategy and work plan remain flexible. Each Chair sets its own strategy and steers the forum, while receiving input from the Steering Group. At the end of its Chairmanship of the GFMD, the Chair produces a report highlighting the activities and outcomes of the Chairmanship period, culminating on the Summit Meeting. To the extent possible, the next Chair refers to this report to try to promote coherence and continuity of thematic priorities and other work plan activities.

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

National level: The GFMD creates a forum for policy discussion, highlighting policy gaps and providing recommendations for governments. Such recommendations include policy ideas or suggestions on migration related issues; concrete programs or approaches supporting specific policy objectives and migration and development-related initiatives. The GFMD input – offered on a voluntary basis – provides guidelines for interested Member States to develop necessary policies. Burundi, for instance, created a draft of its national

migration policy and national diaspora policy during the GFMD 2017 Berlin Summit. Similarly, Nigeria developed a national policy on migration during the GFMD 2014-2015.

(Inter)regional level: Similarly, the GFMD contributes towards regional migration policies by creating a space for participants to engage with each other. GFMD roundtable discussions often address regional policies, generating awareness about the importance of regional processes and inter-regional fora.

Global level: As the largest global, informal, multi-stakeholder space for discussion of migration issues, the GFMD significantly contributes towards global migration governance. For instance, the GFMD paved the way for the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which in turn led to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The GFMD also provides a space for informal exchange and multi-partner cooperation on the implementation of the GCM. The GFMD furthermore had substantial input into the development of the migration-related SDGs in the 2030 and played a major part in mainstreaming the whole of government and whole of society approaches to migration. Since 2017, the GFMD has provided a thematic contribution to the annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

3. Salient ISCM structures

The GFMD's Operating Modalities were endorsed in 2007 and set out the following structures: Chair-in-office (rotates annually); Chairmanship Troika (comprised of the immediate past, present and future Chairs-in-Office); Steering Group (ca 30 governments); Friends of the Forum (open to all Member States and GFMD Observers); the Chair's Task Force; Support Unit (acts as secretariat; provides administrative support to the Chair; facilitates partnerships, organizes events; manages communication and knowledge management; hosted by IOM Geneva); Platform for Partnerships/ Policy and Practice Database; Working Groups (created and adapted as necessary to keep up with the changing policy environment); GFMD Civil Society Mechanism; GFMD Business Mechanism; GFMD Mayors Mechanism. Knowledge management is conducted through a documents library and the GFMD Platform for Partnerships, an initiative aimed at fostering the exchange of practices and policies of state and non-state actors. The forum communicates with its Member States through the GFMD Focal Point Network, where GFMD Focal Points within each government or organization provide a contact point for the GFMD's activities.

The GFMD does not have a regular funding mechanism. Financial contributions are offered on a voluntary basis by Member States to rotating Chairmanships. Over the past years, in-kind-contributions have also been provided by a few governments, international organizations and foundations to the rotating Chairs-in-Office. In order to increase its impact, the GFMD would need an increase in financial resources. Other challenges include a crisis of multilateralism and an increasing hostility towards migrants and refugees.

4. Partnership models by the ISCM

ISCMs are participating in the GFMD through side events and roundtables or as observers. Furthermore, many **IGOs** are observers and active participants in the GFMD. Similarly, several **regional groups** are observers to the GFMD, including the ACP Group of States,

ASEAN, COMESA, Commonwealth Secretariat, EU, Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) and Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB). The GFMD has a close relationship with IOM, as the latter has accompanied the GFMD over the years, by providing thematic support and hosting the Support Unit in the IOM premises. The GFMD maintains close working relationships, too, with other **UN entities** dealing with migration and development. The GFMD also has formal mechanisms to include civil society (through the GFMD civil society mechanism), the private sector (through the GFMD business mechanism) and local authorities (through the mayors mechanism). In order to foster the exchange of migration and development practices, as well as to encourage governments to work in partnership, the GFMD has introduced the “Platform for Partnerships (PfP) in 2010. The PfP is integrated into the GFMD web portal and contains an evolving catalogue of migration-and-development practices and policy tools.

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

The GFMD conducts periodic review exercises. In these reviews, States have repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of the GFMD as an informal, state-led and multi-stakeholder process. Member States emphasized that they benefit from their participation in the GFMD for networking, partnerships and acquiring knowledge. International Organizations have also acknowledged GFMD’s impact on fostering coherence of thematic agenda and generating partnerships with Member States.

Almost all the GFMD member States taking part in the survey referred to the GFMD in their questionnaires. 13 States (Canada, Egypt, Morocco, Philippines, Bulgaria, Georgia, Suriname, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Norway, Spain, Sudan, Serbia) underlined the benefits they gained through their participation in the Global Forum. Such benefits include the informal nature of the Forum, policy coordination, possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration, awareness raising on migration-related issues, partnerships, experience sharing, facilitating bilateral and multilateral agreements and exchange with intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and the civil society.

Morocco, for instance benefitted from the opportunity to coordinate with other African countries to seek common understandings on migration and from the GFMD Platform for Partnerships for access to stakeholders on migration and development. Furthermore, the country was able to examine and review its national migration policy with regards to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration. The GFMD inspired Georgia to define migration and development as a priority in public policies. Similarly, Jamaica’s national policy on international migration and development was influenced greatly by their participation in the GFMD. Norway values the GFMD for its broad scope of topics which has proven relevant for various government sectors, such as integration, education and research and migration and development. As a result of joint engagements in the GFMD, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland have signed a migration partnership agreement. Also, Sri Lanka and Germany resumed working on a bilateral agreement on labor migration due to their active participation in the 10th GFMD summit.