



Conclusions and Recommendations of the consultative meeting on the establishment of a Migration Dialogue for Indian Ocean Commission Countries (MiDIOCC)

Mahe Consensus

Mahe, Seychelles - 26-28 August 2019

Participants of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Member States as well as the Indian Ocean Commission Secretariat General and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), meeting in Mahe, Republic of Seychelles from the 26 to 28 August, 2019;

RECOGNIZING the common benefits of inter-State dialogue and intra-regional cooperation on migration and related issues in the Indian Ocean region, came to a Consensus (Mahe Consensus) to establish a an informal and non-binding Process for regular consultations on migration issues, with a core purpose of promoting the common interest of the IOC Member States and cooperation on migration issues amongst the IOC Member States and, where necessary, with other regional economic communities;

Participants agreed on the importance for regular dialogue and consultations on migration to promote common understanding and policy coordination on migration issues in the Indian Ocean region. Participants deliberated on a number of key thematic issues including;

- a) Labour mobility and human development;
- b) Sustainable development of island states, including Small Island Developing States;
- c) Migration, environment and climate change;
- d) Integrated border management ;
- e) Collection, analysis and information sharing on migration data;
- f) Migration and health;
- g) Free movement of people in the IOC area;
- h) Maritime security and safety;
- i) Migration, trade and tourism;
- j) Countering human smuggling and trafficking in human beings;
- k) Addressing irregular migration;
- l) Diaspora engagement for development.

Participants call on IOM to continue its support to Member States and to strengthen its close operational collaboration with the IOC Secretariat General to foster dialogue on migration management in the IOC geographic area.

Discussions led to a consensus on the relevance of establishing an informal and non-binding process for regular dialogue on migration and other related issues. More specifically, this consultative process would aim :

- To initiate a forum for consultations and regular exchange of information, experiences and good practices on migration and other related issues of interest and common concerns, such as facilitating human mobility; promoting targeted labour mobility; integrated border management and the fight against transnational crimes; effects of climate change and environmental degradation;
- To enhance knowledge and foster a greater understanding and policy coherence by stakeholders of the migration phenomenon and migration dynamics in the IOC region, as well as policy coordination in this area;
- To build consensus among IOC Member States on migration and related issues;
- To enhance national and regional institutional and technical capacities for effective migration management in a collaborative and knowledge-based manner;
- To identify priority issues of common interest to IOC Member States focusing on technical cooperation, capacity building, migration-related information collection, dissemination and sharing.
- To enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration and related issues between the IOC Member States and, where necessary, other States from the region and Regional Economic Communities;
- To promote Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in accordance with the United Nations Agenda 2030, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

Recalling the 33rd IOC Council of Ministers meeting (12-13 September 2018, Mauritius), in its decision No. 6 on the free movement of people and goods in IOC areas, inviting the IOC Secretariat general to continue the reflection and propose solutions particularly related to the facilitation of movements; Referring to the IOC's 2018-2021 Strategic Development Plan;

Participants thank the Republic of Seychelles, the IOM and the IOC Secretariat general for organizing and facilitating this consultation.

Participants recommend that the results of the Migration Dialogue for IOC Countries (MiDIOCC), the Mahé Consensus, be brought to the attention of the 34th Council of Ministers, for decision.