

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): ***Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional Consultative Process on Migration (IGAD-RCP or MiD-IGAD)***

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

Since its establishment in 2008 MiD-IGAD's thematic foci have remained unchanged: Migration and development; Labour migration; Social integration of migrants; Protection of migrants' rights; Smuggling and trafficking in persons; Migration data and research; Migration and health; Migration and trade; Migration and environment; Migration and security; Voluntary return of migrants; Mixed migratory flows and protection of refugees; Movement of pastoralist communities; Brain drain and unethical recruitment.

MiD-IGAD's work is governed by its strategy, the IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework (2012) and its work plan, the IGAD Migration Action Plan (2015-2020). The ISCM is working on revising its Action Plan to address more emerging migration issues more effectively. To implement and monitor these documents, the MiD-IGAD has developed a recommendation tracking system whereas each MiD-IGAD meeting includes a follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations.

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

**National level:** MiD-IGAD has contributed to policy development in the field of migration in its Member States. For instance, the ISCM has facilitated draft migration policies in Kenya and Uganda, it has encouraged Djibouti and Ethiopia to review their refugee laws and all

MiD-IGAD Member States have developed legislation to counter trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Moreover, the ISCM has worked towards a shift in narratives on migration governance in challenging the view that migration is a threat to national security. In addition, it has provided entry points for initiatives on migration in its Member States, such as the Better Migration Management project (BMM).

**Interregional level:** MiD-IGAD has impacted migration governance on an interregional level by facilitating discussions between States. For instance, MiD-IGAD discussions have facilitated the development of bilateral labour migration agreement between Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia and Uganda. The ISCM has also developed the interregional policy the “Nairobi Plan of Action for Somali refugees and returnees.”

**Global level:** MiD-IGAD has been instrumental in linking the region to global discussions on migration, such as informing the Global Compact on Migration. IGAD in collaboration with other partners organized a side event during the intergovernmental conference for the adoption of the GCM in Marrakech. Also, IGAD is regularly invited to the Global RCP meetings. In addition, IGAD is the only pilot region for the CRRF.

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

MiD-IGAD comprises of the following structure: Chair; Steering Committee; Political Secretariat; Technical Secretariat (hosted by IGAD; organizes meetings; prepares background papers; tracks recommendation; in charge of communication); civil society organization group/dialogue; academia group. Additionally, MiD-IGAD maintains national coordination mechanisms in its Member States. Knowledge management is addressed by creating background papers and through the recommendation tracker which takes stock of the recommendations developed by the ISCM. Communication is performed by sharing updates and reports via email. In order to handle issues requiring a legal personality, the parties involved sign declarations and agreements. MiD-IGAD relies on 100% external donor funding, partly provided by the ISCM’s observers. Donors also cover travel costs for ISCM meetings and fund the secretariat staff. Throughout the last 5 years, the ISCMs funding has been stable. A challenge for the ISCM remains the inability to support Member States in implementing the recommendations developed. Due to a lack of resources, Member States are rather slow in the implementation.

### **4. Partnership models by the ISCM**

MiD-IGAD occasionally works with other **ISCMs**, for instance with MIDSA and MIDCOM. These ISCMs are invited to MiD-IGAD meetings on an ad hoc basis. To expand its engagement with destination regions, it aims to further enhance its engagement with MIDSA and to collaborate with the Abu Dhabi Dialogue. It works closely with **IGOs**, such as IOM, UNHCR, ILO, PDD, ICRC and **UN regional commissions**, such as UNECA. MiD-IGAD’s Members include NGOs and civil society organizations. It aims to strengthen its engagement with academic institutions, as well as the private sector and migrant groups. To further expand its role in migration governance, MiD-IGAD needs more exchanges with other ISCMs and more assistance from the migration network on implementing the GCM.

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

By providing a regular, informal and non-binding platform for dialogue, MiD-IGAD promotes partnership, policy coordination, policy guidance, exchange of information and best practices among its Members. It contributes to common understanding and approaches to migration in its Member States.

2 of the Member States (Sudan, Ethiopia) surveyed referred to MiD-IGAD in their questionnaire. Both value MiD-IGAD for facilitating discussions on regional policies, for instance for the IGAD Protocol on Free Movements of Persons and for the IGAD Migration Governance and Policy Framework. For Sudan, MiD-IGAD furthermore provides a space for learning opportunities and experience-sharing. Ethiopia benefited from capacity building of border administrators which has helped the country to better manage human mobility in a coordinated and efficient way.