

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): ***Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM)***

1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus

Since its establishment in 2013 MIDCOM's thematic foci have remained unchanged: free movement of persons; labour; services and right of establishment and residence.

MIDCOM's work is implemented under the COMESA medium strategic plan (MSTP). This plan is part of trade facilitation under the market integration pillar of COMESA.

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

National and regional: MIDCOM has successfully contributed to national and regional migration governance by developing policies on free movement of persons. One example includes the introduction of the COMESA business visa in 2015. Furthermore, MIDCOM's activities in migration governance enhanced the implementation of the COMESA free movement program for trade and investment. While the ISCM's contribution on national policies can be measured by its impact on Member States' visa regimes, regional policies are monitored through immigration departments.

Interregional: MIDCOM contributed to a 2015 interregional policy on "collaboration and coordination with other RCPs with overlapping membership." Interregional policies are implemented and monitored through the COMESA Secretariat.

Global: MIDCOM also contributed to global migration governance, namely through the African position on the UN Global Compact on Migration in 2018. Moreover, the ISCM has submitted recommendations regarding migration and development and diaspora remittances to the meetings of global processes on migration.

3. Salient ISCM structures

The ISCM comprises of a Chair, a Technical Secretariat (hosted by COMESA; the legal personality of the dialogue; carries out coordinating and other secretariat functions) and a private sector group/dialogue. Communication is performed through official government channels. To address knowledge management, MIDCOM aims to develop a regional information sharing system and database. The MIDCOM constituency has changed since its establishment: new Member States have joined. MIDCOM's governing document, however, has not been revised since its adoption. MIDCOM's funding sources include annual fees and project funding by Member States and Observer States. 80 % of MIDCOM's funding is provided by external donors for thematic areas prioritized by the donor. Travel costs for MIDCOM's meetings are being covered by Member States and occasionally through development partners. Funding is not stable and financial sustainability remains a challenge for MIDCOM. Thus, MIDCOM is considering developing a sustainability plan including ways for Member States to fund their participation.

4. Partnership models by the ISCM

MIDCOM has developed links and synergies with other **ISCMs**, mainly through its 2015 interregional policy on "collaboration and coordination with other RCPs with overlapping membership." **IGOs**, such as IOM and ICMPD have been providing financial and technical assistance to MIDCOM. MIDCOM maintains close partnership with **regional political and economic unions**, with COMESA acting as the MIDCOM Secretariat which in turn is a building bloc of the African Union. Moreover, the ISCM has strong relations with the EU which provides financial and technical resources and sharing of experiences. In the framework of the MIDCOM COMESA has worked together with UNECA, the **UN economic commission** for Africa, researching migration and trade issues. Also, the **private sector** and **diaspora** have a voice in the ISCM: the private sector is represented through the COMESA business council (CBC) and the diaspora through an umbrella African diaspora organization in Europe. Furthermore, **academic institutions** assist MIDCOM with research and knowledge management.

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

MIDCOM provides its Member States with a platform for trust-building and networking where Members can develop a common understanding on MIDCOM's thematic areas of work.