

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 for Southern Africa (MIDSA)***

1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus

Since its establishment in 2000, MIDSA's thematic foci have remained unchanged: Mixed Migration; Trafficking in Person and Migrant Smuggling; Policy Development; Disaster Risk Management and Capacity Building on Border Management.

Also, MIDSA's governing document has not been revised since its adoption. However, there has been an increasing focus on the Global Compact for Migration.

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

Regional level: MIDSA has contributed to the development of several regional policies of the Southern African Development Community (SADC): *Regional Action Plan to Address Mixed and Irregular Migration (2015-2018)* and the *Labour Migration Action Plan (2016-2020)*. Progress on the implementation of these action plans is monitored through MIDSA.

National level: Particularly the action plan on irregular migration has had an influence on the policy development of SADC member states on migrant protection. SADC member states, namely Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have operationalized the action plan through various initiatives at the national level.

Global level: MIDSA has contributed to the discussions of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

In order to enhance its impact on migration governance, MIDSA is working to strengthen its collaboration with the SADC Secretariat. A stronger engagement of the SADC Secretariat would ensure that MIDSA recommendations are implemented on a regional and national level.

3. Effective ISCM structures

MIDSA comprises of a Chair, a technical secretariat (facilitates communication; provides technical and organizational support; advises on migration topics; follows-up on recommendations and agreed action points) and working or expert groups. In 2017, MIDSA's constituency changed when the Comoros joined as a new Member State. MIDSA lacks a legal personality, which represents a major limitation for the ISCM. For this reason, MIDSA aims to become closer attached to the SADC Secretariat. MIDSA mainly relies on project-based funding. Additionally, MIDSA receives in-kind contributions from Member States and through the Secretariat (hosted and funded by IOM). 90% of MIDSA's funding is external, which also determines the thematic focus of the ISCM: MIDSA has been working on mixed/irregular migration issues because they were priorities for the donor. To become more sustainable, the ISCM is discussing self-funding mechanisms.

4. Effective partnership models by the ISCM

Due to complementary regional and thematic priorities, MIDSA is considering a strategic partnership with MiD-IGAD, another **ISCM**. It also receives support from various **IGOs**, such as IOM, ILO, UNHCR and UNODC and maintains a long-standing collaboration with UNODC and IOM on human trafficking and smuggling issues. It works closely SADC, a **regional and economic union** and with the African Union on an ad hoc basis. It maintains successful cooperation with the civil **society**, such as the International Detention Coalition (IDC) and Save the Children and benefitted from the expertise and technical insight of **academia and research institutes** that are invited to make presentations on specific topics during MIDSA meetings. These include the Southern African Migration Program (SAMP), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the University of Witwatersrand. To further strengthen its impact, MIDSA needs to form partnerships with relevant UN agencies, think tanks/academia, private sector and migrant and diaspora groups.

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

MIDSA provides the only platform in Southern Africa for discussing migration management and governance issues. Thereby, MIDSA has shaped Member States' understanding on migration related topics, such as mixed migration or labor mobility. Member States have highlighted the added value MIDSA brings during the GCM consultations, as well as in continental platforms convened under the African Union.