

Assessment of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration

Summary of Assessment Survey Findings for the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA)

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 West Africa (MIDWA)*

1. Evolution of programming and thematic focus

MIDWA's thematic areas have remained unchanged throughout its existence: Border Management; Return and Reintegration; Migration Data; Labor Migration and Mixed Migration.

Since 2016, MIDWA's work is monitored according to the Action Plan of its Thematic Working Groups. This plan is divided into thematic areas which are implemented in MIDWA's Member States. It features a monitoring and evaluation mechanism which measures the progress of the implementation.

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

(Inter-)Regional: MIDWA has developed several regional policy documents, such as the *Common Approach on Migration* (2008) and a draft *Regional Migration Policy* (2018). In 2018, it furthermore drafted an interregional policy, the *Regional Common Position*.

National: These regional policy documents also serve as a reference point for the development of Member States' national migration policies. By providing technical support, MIDWA (in collaboration with IOM) has also contributed to national policies on migration of several MIDWA Member States (such as Benin, Guinea and Ghana).

The ISCM aims to enhance its engagement in migration governance, by making the ISCM structure more efficient and through capacity building, as well as more sustainable funding mechanisms.

3. Salient ISCM structures

MIDWA's operating modalities set out the following structure: Chair; Steering Committee; Technical Secretariat (hosted by ECOWAS; coordinates working groups and experts; monitors the implementation of recommendations; provides administrative and communicative support; organizes meetings and events; Liaises with partners) and Thematic Working Groups (Chaired by Member States; each addresses a specific thematic area). In the course of MIDWA's existence, this structure has expanded significantly— MIDWA's secretariat, working groups and steering committee were established subsequently. Furthermore, new Member States joined the ISCM. These changes also affected the operating modalities, which were revised to account for the expanded structure. ECOWAS and IOM represent MIDWA if a legal personality is required. The ISCM's main sources of funding is project-based funding from Members and Observers, accounting for 95% external donor funding. MIDWA's funding structures are stable. Some of the funding depends on thematic priorities of the donor. However, this has had no known impact on the ISCMs agenda. MIDWA aims to increase its sustainability through closer cooperation with ECOWAS, enhanced engagement in global initiatives and by further expanding its structure.

4. Partnership models by the ISCM

MIDWA collaborated with SACM to exchange experiences on effective remittance systems. The ISCM benefits from close partnership with IGOs, such as IOM, ICMPD and ILO which provide technical and financial support. It similarly receives assistance from regional and economic unions, including the EU, ECOWAS (which furthermore hosts MIDWA's Secretariat) and the AU (through provision of continental migration policies).

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

MIDWA is the only RCP in West Africa. It enables its Member States to discuss issues which cannot be resolved at a national level and at the same time enhances trust among its constituency. It facilitates networking with experts, access to more stakeholders and collaboration with initiatives and projects in the area of migration. It enables Member States to coordinate and harmonize national migration policies. Through its working groups it supports its Members with technical advice and policy guidance. It provides a platform to discuss new emerging migration related issues and in doing so induces solutions to these. Furthermore, it builds capacities of Member States in the area of national migration policy developments. Finally, it gives its Member States a possibility to feed into global initiatives, such as the Global Compact on Migration.