

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): ***The Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)***

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

Since its establishment, PIDC's areas of work have expanded significantly. Initially, when PIDC was still termed "South Pacific Immigration Directors", it coordinated an annual meeting to provide a platform for States to discuss issues of mutual interest and to facilitate an exchange on immigration standards and best practices. In 2016, PIDC became a legal entity with a dedicated workplan across several immigration thematic areas. Now PIDC has further expanded its scope, which is also reflected in its new name: Pacific Immigration Development Community. PIDC's objectives include improving international people movements' management, strengthening border management and security and building capacity to deliver immigration services. Building on these objectives, PIDC's thematic areas of focus comprise of strategic partnerships and international engagement; policy and regulatory frameworks; information and intelligence management; institutional strengthening and capacity, and capacity development and governance and accountability.

PIDC's strategy is set out in its three-year strategic plan which currently covers the period 2019-2021. The ISCM's work is implemented and monitored according to its annual workplan. PIDC's secretariat is responsible to progress the organization's work towards the objectives and activities outlined in these two documents. The activities undertaken are then measured against the activities listed in the annual workplan by the PIDC board, as well as the wider membership.

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

**National level:** PIDC contributes to its Member States policy improvement through its policy and legislative modernization and review program. As part of this program, Members endorse the PIDC Model Immigration Legislation Framework and receive technical support to review their immigration programs. This kind of support has been given, for instance, to the Marshall Islands (to complete their Immigration Draft Bill and Draft Amending Act and Regulations), Samoa, Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and Tonga (to complete phase 1 national legislation review consultations and draft instructions) and Kiribati (to draft its standard operating procedures). Government representatives receiving support have expressed satisfaction of the technical assistance that has been provided by PIDC to deliver the review of their program. Additionally, an increasing number of Member States have expressed interest in PIDC's immigration legislation review program and technical support.

**Regional:** Also, on a regional level PIDC is actively engaging in migration governance. PIDC's Member States have endorsed a Regional Modal Legislation Framework which provides regional best practices. Furthermore, PIDC developed Regional Model Standard Operating Procedures (pertaining to the thematic areas of passport and visa issuance, passenger clearance, criminal deportees and outlaw motorcycle gang members) and a Regional Migration Policy Framework.

**Global:** In 2017, PIDC contributed to a meeting to in the regional preparatory meeting organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2017. The aim of the meeting was to identify migration issues and migration governance structures in the Asia-Pacific region. The conclusions drawn from this meeting were supposed to feed into a global stocktaking meeting of the GCM that was held in Mexico in December 2017. PIDC's role in global migration governance is being acknowledged by the GRCP meeting for the Pacific region – which recognizes PIDC as a leading Regional Consultative Process and furthermore by IOM which included PIDC's annual meeting in the 2018 ISCM-Highlights.

PIDC's contribution to migration governance could be further enhanced by receiving additional support for developing more resources on best practices for Member States and assistance to establish an academic program for immigration officers in the Pacific region. Furthermore, a review of the PIDC Model Code of Ethics for Immigration Officers and strengthening of data collection and analysis through the PIDC Data collection Prototype and country support would advance PIDC's role in migration governance.

## **3. Salient ISCM structures**

Since it signed a headquarter agreement with Samoa in 2016, PIDC has a legal entity status. The ISCM's operations and governance are guided by its foundation documents which are revised through the board and endorsed at PIDC's regular annual meeting. These documents comprise of the Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution, PIDC Employee Regulations, PIDC Financial Regulations and PIDC Rules and Procedures. They set out the following structure: a Chair (rotating); a steering committee; a technical secretariat (provides administrative and logistical support; develops, implements and

monitors the work plan; convenes meetings; engages with key partners; manages communication; performs knowledge management; hosted and funded by Samoa) and working or expert groups. Additionally, the PIDC board provides oversight. It is made up of donors, the Chair, vice-Chairs, and representatives of Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia and the Small Island Developing States. Communication with and between Members is performed through the regular annual meeting, circulars, newsletters, reports and the website. Moreover, PIDC convenes regular board meetings, and tele-conferences. Funding is provided by annual fees by Member States, in-kind contributions by the Chair-in-Office, Member States, the secretariat and Samoa, the country hosting the secretariat. Most of PIDC's funding comes from donor members which are also included in PIDC's strategic plan. They provide a stable funding and, through their membership on the PIDC board, are included and made aware of PIDC's activities. As a result, donors can support the ISCM where it is needed, and Member's and donor's objectives are generally aligned.

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

PIDC has collaborated with other **ISCMs** in the Pacific region, namely the Bali Process and the now dormant ACP – EU Dialogue on Migration. The ACP - EU Dialogue on Migration and PIDC have coordinated their reviews of Members' migration policies and immigration acts. Together with IOM, UNODC, UNHCR and the Bali Process, PIDC builds Member States' capacity on people smuggling, human trafficking, asylum and refugee determination, immigration curriculum development and leadership training. It maintains partnership and acts as a focal point for **IGOs**, such as the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, Interpol, PACRIM, IATA, IOM and other relevant UN agencies. Additionally, PIDC signed a Declaration of Partnership with the Oceania Customs Organisation and the Pacific Islands Chief of Police Conference to combat transnational organized crime. It also works together with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), a **regional political and economic union**. Furthermore, PIDC partners with the University of South Pacific in creating an academic program on border security in the region. While it does not deal with migrants and diasporas directly, it provides a forum for Member States to discuss issues relating to these stakeholders. PIDC has invited NGOs, CSOs and private sector representatives to participate in national consultations. However, it does not maintain formal relationships with such entities.

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

PIDC maintains a network of national, regional and international immigration policy makers which enables its Members to share knowledge, resources and expertise to address priorities and implement activities. It supplies Members with resources on migration issues and provides them with technical capacities. Members furthermore profit from PIDC's growing engagement with a variety of stakeholders. Moreover, PIDC facilitates access to new emerging issues through research and participation in international migration platforms, such as consultations on the Global Compact on Migration. Regarding future developments, PIDC is strategically positioned to play a major role in the management of people movement associated with climate change in the Pacific region. Furthermore, PIDC is ready to support its Members' growing engagement in the labor mobility space.