

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): ***South American Conference on Migration (SACM)***

1. Evolution of programing and thematic focus

Through its 20 years of existence SACM thematic foci have remained unchanged: Human Rights of Migrants; Migration and South American Integration; Enhancing of International Migration Governance; and South American Regional International Projection.

Since 2002, SACM's work is implemented and monitored according to its Action Plan: priority actions are set by each Chair inside the Plan's parameters.

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

National level: As evidenced at the SACM Meetings and documents (e.g. [2017 Lima Declaration on the GCM](#)), SACM has contributed to its Member States' policy improvement, in particular, in the areas of migratory regularization, migration norms harmonization, South American citizenship, free human mobility and permanent documentary regularization of migrants. It also assisted its Members States in developing policy positions on the Global Compact for Migration.

Regional level: SACM offers forum for discussion and facilitates the regional policy development and information sharing, e.g. the residence accords within the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), Decisions within the Andean Community (CAN), like the Andean Card for Migration/Andean Passport; and the Union of South American Nations

(UNASUR). These regional policies are implemented and monitored by the given IGOs' meetings, SACM meetings and MSs' Foreign Ministries. The South American Migration Observatory database ([OSUMI](#)) generates strategic information for development of public policies on migration in the region since 2002 and is SACM's main knowledge management tool.

Global level: Since 2009, SACM's South American Citizenship initiative has been acknowledged by the IOM. During the Bolivian Chair in 2017, the proposal moved forward to Universal Citizenship Initiative. In response to the Migrants in Countries of Crisis (MICIC Initiative), SACM addressed the issue in its own regional meetings.

3. Salient ISCM structures

SACM's Functioning and Organization Regulation Act of 2016 (replaces earlier 2004 documents) serves as its operating modalities and has set the following operating structure: Chair in office (rotating annually); Chairmanship Troika (outgoing and incoming chairs and Chair-in-office), Steering Committee; and Technical Secretariat (provides technical, administrative and communication support, organizes meetings, etc.). One of the main sources of SACM funding is its secretariat, IOM, however, the MSs have never perceived any attempts from IOM to influence the SACM agenda, which is set by the MSs themselves; and rely on continued financial support from IOM. MSs cover their own travel costs. Ad hoc observer organizations and representatives from specific countries outside the region are invited to each SACM Meeting.

4. Partnership models by the ISCM

SACM has established links and carried out activity with **other ISCMs**, i.e. the RCM and MIDWA. The SACM and RCM hold regular bi-regional meetings; they have met, for example, to develop a coordination position for the consultation phase of the GCM. SACM and MIDWA exchanged experiences on effective remittance systems. It has been working with **regional political and economic unions**, i.e. CAN and Mercosur; and with **international organizations**, i.e. mainly IOM and the UNECLAC. For example, the successful cooperation between SACM and Mercosur has led to the adoption of human-rights-based migration policies in the Mercosur Member States. SACM considers enhancing its relations with (i) IGOs, such as UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women; and (ii) ISCMs in other regions to exchange good practices. It also considers possible cooperation with NGOs. From among academia, SACM has successful collaboration with the Mercosur Public Policy Institute and is considering cooperation with others.

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

SACM facilitates information exchange, promotes common understandings and approaches to migration issues among its Member States. It also provides the possibility for Member States to plan and execute public policies in a harmonized way.

4 Member States surveyed (Chile, Colombia, Peru, Suriname) referred to SACM in their questionnaires. The MSs valued SACM for increasing common understanding and

approaches to migration issues, for the opportunities of policy coordination, capacity building and networking, and for the possibility to feed into global initiatives addressing migration.

For example, Peru was inspired by its participation in ISCMs, including SACM and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in drafting its National Migration Policy 2017-2025 and its Law of Migration. SACM has helped Chile in monitoring the global initiatives on migration, including the themes of the meeting and the follow-up on implementation. Colombia's participation in SACM has helped shape its migration policy with special regard to human rights and it greatly values the coordination role of SACM in observing principles and implementing national policies.