



حوار أبوظبي بين الدول الآسيوية المرسلية والمستقبلة للعمالة
Abu Dhabi Dialogue among the Asian Labor-Sending and Receiving Countries

ABU DHABI DIALOGUE

| SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING |

THEME 4

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION: TOWARD GREATER ENGAGEMENT BY
REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES (RCP'S) IN GLOBAL FORA

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THE ROLE OF THE ABU DHABI DIALOGUE IN REGIONAL AND GLOBAL MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper was prepared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the request of the Secretariat of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) in anticipation of the ADD Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) session on “Global governance of migration: toward greater engagement by Regional Consultations Process (RCP's) in global fora” to be held on May 2021. The paper is a contribution to thematic track four of the ADD Research agenda on assessing the participation of regional consultative processes in the GFMD programme of activities and elaborating a way forward for a sustained and active participation of Regional Consultative processes (and other inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration) in the GFMD and other global fora.

The paper focuses on how the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) contributes to regional and global policy dialogue on migration by exploring convergent regional approaches to migration issues in the ADD region and beyond; by cooperating with other inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCM) with thematic and geographic overlaps; and by feeding into global processes such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and other initiatives such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Examples of ADD pursuing synergies with other ISCMs that share thematic and/or geographic foci are considered. The ADD notably cooperates with the Colombo Process on joint projects; it is exploring avenues of dialogue with other ISCMs, such as the Bali Process and the Almaty Process, and notably through the Special Meeting on Interregional cooperation during its 2019 Ministerial event. It has contributed substantively to the Global meetings of Chairs and Heads of Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration and other inter-State consultation mechanisms (GRCP meetings); and to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), most recently through the newly introduced regional dimension. These approaches have enabled the ADD to share expertise and seek convergence on concrete migration policy issues across regions.

Going forward, an important initiative to which the ADD could continue contributing is the GCM. The ADD and its membership have actively participated in the process of consultations and negotiations of the GCM. Since the adoption of the GCM, the dialogue on its implementation is ongoing through multiple fora, to which the ADD can further contribute through regional positions and building towards the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022.

INTRODUCTION:

Since the mid-1980s a number of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration² have emerged, to consider evolving migration dynamics and associated migration governance challenges. These consultations, organized outside the United Nations framework, are State-led, ongoing, informal, dedicated fora promoting information sharing, policy dialogue and cooperation on migration at the regional, interregional or global level. The general term ‘ISCMs’ refers to (i) Regional Consultative Processes on Migration or RCPs, bringing together countries within a given region; (ii) interregional forums on migration (IRF), connecting countries in a dialogue across two or more regions and / or migration corridors; and (iii) global processes on migration, facilitating dialogue across all regions. There are currently 27 active ISCMs, including 17 RCPs, nine IRFs and one global process on migration. Of the 27 active ISCMs, three RCPs and three IRFs focus on the Middle East and Asia regions.³

In general, ISCMs address migration issues of common concern to their member states and inform their national policies. They are intended to facilitate the understanding of contemporary migration dynamics, assist in identifying shared and complementary interests, seek synergies and strengthens the ability of States to work together and with other stakeholders more effectively to develop and manage coherent migration management policies.

One effective way of contributing to national, regional and cross-regional governance of migration is through joint concrete actions and projects by ISCMs. Conversely, ISCMs’ positions can feed into the global policy dialogue on migration governance and related initiatives⁴, as in the case of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development etc.

To further promote exchanges and synergies among all ISCMs, from 2005 onwards IOM has organized and hosted Global Meetings of Chairs and Heads of Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes. These events, also referred to as GRCP Meetings, aim to facilitate information sharing among participating ISCMs, their member States and where relevant, other regional organizations, on respective programmes of work, good practices and achievements. GRCP meetings have been held mostly biennially. In 2020 however, given the impact on international travel and the working environment brought about by the pandemic, the GRCP live event was replaced by online workshops, building on the outcomes of the 2017 and 2018 GRCPs and focusing on the potential role of ISCMs in the 2020 – 2021 GCM regional reviews.

² <https://www.iom.int/inter-state-consultation-mechanisms-migration>

³ ARCP, ADD, Colombo Process, Bali Process, Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) and Budapest Process.

⁴ Global initiatives addressing migration are the international instruments without legally binding force that either address migration in all its dimensions or certain aspects of migration and their interrelations with other domains. Global initiatives addressing migration are distinct from the global processes on migration (inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration at the global-level), which are ongoing forums for informal and non-binding dialogue that address a broad range of issues in regular meetings. Essentials of Migration Management, IOM, forthcoming.

Cooperation among ISCMs is often referred to as synergy. The IOM review conducted in conjunction with the 8th GRCP Meeting in 2019 identified the following recurrent types of synergies among ISCMs:

- (i) Continent-wide forums, such as the bi-regional meetings held by the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration in the Americas; or the Pan African Forum on migration, bringing together all ISCMs in Africa;
- (ii) Dialogue between countries of origin and those of destination, e.g. the case of data sharing or discussion across a common migration corridor;
- (iii) Interregional working groups (exchange of expertise and information on a common theme or issue or across a common geographic region);
- (iv) Inter- and intra-State collaboration, as in the case of cooperation among two or more Abu Dhabi Dialogue Member States through the joint implementation of ADD generated projects); and
- (v) Joint initiatives. The following sections provide some examples of the synergies pursued by the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD)

Building on the achievements at their Bali 2005 Ministerial Meeting of the Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labor for Countries of Origin in Asia - the Colombo Process (CP) Member States met in Abu Dhabi with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Malaysia, Singapore and Yemen; this meeting culminated in the adoption of the Abu Dhabi Declaration, giving rise to an interregional forum on migration (IRF) - the “Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia” or Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD). It brings together 17 Member States (MS), either as countries of origin or destination⁵. In addition to the MSs, ADD Observers include Switzerland, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Migrant Forum in Asia. The International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Women, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations are invited to participate in thematic ADD meetings on an ad hoc basis as observers and thematic experts. The Permanent Secretariat is hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE is currently also the ADD Chair-in-Office.

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue focusses on action-oriented partnerships for development between Countries of Origin and Destination of temporary contractual labour, based on the notion of shared responsibility in four key areas⁶. It has sought synergies with other ISCMs at the regional level and beyond through: (i) mutual participation in each other’s events; (ii) joint programming (e.g. with the Colombo Process) and (iii) interaction at coordination fora at regional and global levels, such as at the 2017 Regional Consultations on the Global compact for migration and the regional breakout discussions at the GRCP Meetings in 2018 and 2019.

⁵ These are Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

⁶ The four key areas are:

Developing and sharing knowledge on labour market trends, skills profiles, workers and remittance policies and flows, and the impact of such factors on development; Building capacity for more effective matching of labour supply and demand; Preventing irregular recruitment and promoting welfare and protection measures for contractual workers; and Developing a framework for a comprehensive approach to managing the entire cycle of temporary contractual work that fosters the mutual interest of countries of origin and destination.

Like other ISCMs, the ADD has sought to cooperate also with other migration governance stakeholders than ISCMs, both at the (inter-)regional and global levels and in line with its programmatic priorities.

The ADD Contribution to Policy Dialogue at Regional and Interregional Level

While there are relatively fewer ISCMs in the Middle East and Asia Regions with some geographic and thematic overlap than in other parts of the world, the ADD has sought dialogue with these by way of either joint programming, the exchange of good practices or capacity building.

As a specialized ISCM, that is with a specific thematic focus - in this case on labour mobility and labour migration, the ADD overlaps with the Colombo Process in both thematic scope and geographical focus. Ten of the twelve Colombo Process Member States are also members of the ADD. Twelve of the Bali Process Member States are also members of the ADD; whereas six of the member states of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs or ARCP are also ADD members.⁷

- **Joint programming**

The ADD has spearheaded a number of pilot initiatives and programmes to improve labour migration governance. These initiatives represent important steps in building regional approaches to migration management in the ADD region and along relevant migration corridors.

ADD-Colombo Process partnership. Thematic and geographic overlaps between the ADD and the Colombo Process have facilitated the identification of programmatic synergies between these two ISCMs and the development of joint programmes, notably: the “Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programmes” (CIOP); the Certification and Mutual Recognition of Skills; the Future of Domestic Work in the Gulf; Technology in the Governance of Labour Mobility; and An Alternative Model of Labour Recruitment. These have been instrumental in developing and testing national, bilateral, regional and cross-regional solutions to migration issues and in practical and policy-oriented cooperation among the ADD MSs and other ISCMs. Under the patronage of the ADD Secretariat, CIOP is currently being piloted with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The 2017 joint project «Certification and Mutual Recognition of Skills» piloted between Sri Lanka and the UAE provides another salient example where the long-standing cooperation between ADD and CP has allowed to comprehensively address labour mobility along the Asia-Gulf migration corridor through both country of origin and destination angles. These synergies have enabled ADD and CP to complement each other and multiply the migration policy effect of their common approaches.

Approaches to the Gulf-Africa labour corridor. Besides the long-standing cooperation with the Colombo Process on joint programming, a newly emerging area for possible joint programming by some of the member countries of the ADD is being explored with the African Union Commission. The ADD Secretariat invited representatives from

⁷ Labour migration is addressed by various ISCMs in different regions; e.g. the Budapest Process, Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC), Central American Commission of Migration Directors (OCAM), Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (MID-IGAD), Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM), Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA), Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process), Migration Dialogue for Indian Ocean Commission Countries (MiDIOCC), Prague Process, and the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM).

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to observe the ADD 2018 Senior Officials' Meeting on the future of domestic work in the countries of the Gulf. Subsequently, representatives from the African Union (AU) and four regional economic communities – the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)⁸, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), - attended the 5th ADD Ministerial and the Special Meeting on Inter-Regional Cooperation held on 16 October 2019 in Dubai. Following numerous consultation within the African Union (AU), the Commission and representatives of main African countries, in January 2021 the UAE, Saudi Arabia and the AU Commission issued a joint announcement on the margins of the GFMD Forum on plans to replicate the CIOP programme with a focus on Gulf-bound African migrant workers.

- **Exchange of Information and best practices with other ISCMs**

ISCM representatives' attendance of other ISCM events also facilitates the exchange of information and best practices, leading to the development of joint approaches and identification of partnerships among them.

Other ISCMs Participation to ADD events. In recent years ADD has started inviting representatives from other ISCMs to its own events. Notably the 2019 Special Meeting on Interregional Cooperation in conjunction with the 5th ADD Ministerial Meeting, to consider avenues for improved interregional cooperation to benefit the governance of human mobility and amplify the development returns of migration. Representatives from 13 ISCMs and - in the case of Africa, associated economic communities participated to this consultation. Main forms of cooperation considered included reciprocal attendance of events in the case of thematic and geographic overlaps; information and good practices exchanges and compilation; establishing on-line 'common spaces'; joint inputs to global processes on migration such as the GFMD. The ensuing 5th ADD Ministerial Meeting Report noted that “although each region is faced with unique contexts and specific challenges, and the nature and structure of the various RCPs vary, experiences in one region can be highly relevant to those of another region,” and “strengthened engagement between RCPs at an inter-regional level would help them draw on the experiences of other regions and bridge knowledge gaps” also underlining the need to strengthen RCP interactions with global processes on migration, notably the GFMD.

ADD - Bali Process dialogue. The Bali Process is a specialized IRF addressing migrant smuggling and human trafficking and looking at recruitment, forced labour and exploitation issues. Indonesia, also an ADD member state, is a permanent co-chair of the ADD. Twelve ADD Member States participate in the Bali Process; of these eleven are on the Bali Process Ad Hoc Group, which advises the Bali Process on solutions, actions, cooperation and partnerships. The Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting of 27

⁸ These entities are formally associated with ISCMs: COMESA is formally associated with the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM); IGAD with the Migration Dialogue for the IGAD Region (MID-IGAD); ECOWAS with the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and ECCAS with the Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS).

⁹ The ARCP, Bali Process, Colombo Process, Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC), Khartoum Process, Prague Process and Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) as well as the African Union Regional Economic Communities of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

June 2018 recommended engaging with other ISCMs, including the ADD and the Colombo Process¹¹. A Bali Process representative attended the 2018 ADD Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and the 5th ADD Ministerial in 2019. Cooperation between these two ISCMs is yet to be tapped and if realized, could lead to consider fair recruitment effective practices and addressing forced labour and exploitation in both regions.

ADD and ARCP. Established in 2014, the ARCP is a relatively more recent ISCM addressing migration movements and refugee issues in the Arab region. Besides some membership overlap, the ADD – ARCP thematic overlap is confined to remittances and migrant integration and their interfacing mostly occurring within the framework of events focusing on migration in the Arab region. Both contributed to the 2017 Regional consultation on international migration in the Arab region in preparation for the GCM and the ARCP also participated to the 2019 ADD Ministerial Special Meeting on Interregional Cooperation.

ADD - Almaty Process exchanges. In 2018 the Almaty Process invited a representative of the then ADD Chair - Sri Lanka, to introduce the ADD process at the Almaty Process Senior Officials' Meeting session on Future Prospects for Development of the Almaty Process¹². Notwithstanding different thematic foci, and the fact that only Afghanistan is a member of both processes, the ADD Chair presentation was well received in light of the Almaty Process plans to develop a new Strategy. In return, Tajikistan, as then Chair of the Almaty Process, was invited to the 2019 ADD SOM, to the High-Level Symposium on the Future of Work and to the V ADD Ministerial event, thereby further enhancing the Almaty Process familiarization with another ISCM and its practices.

The above examples illustrate how the ADD has pursued convergent regional and interregional approaches on a number of migration governance issues either through policy dialogue of concrete programmatic initiatives.

The ADD contribution to the Global Policy Dialogue on Migration

The significant role played by ISCMs in shaping international migration governance at a national, regional and interregional level, has contributed to enhanced cooperation at a global level, such as in the case of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Itself an ISCM, the GFMD has been instrumental in consolidating a “shared narrative – backed by compelling evidence – on the noticeable impact of migration on development”, in its turn contributing to ensuring that migration was reflected in the 2030 Agenda¹³. ISCMs contribution to shaping convergent approaches to migration governances at regional and cross regional level was acknowledged in the 2016 UN declaration for Refugees and Migrants and subsequently in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The following section provides an overview of ADD's contribution to the GFMD and to the development of the GCM as two relevant examples of global migration policy dialogue.

¹⁰ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan; Philippines; Sri Lanka; Thailand; UAE and Vietnam

¹¹ <https://www.baliprocess.net/UserFiles/baliprocess/File/180627%20AHG%20SOM%20Co-Chairs%27%20Statement.docx>.

¹² https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/5thalmatyprocessseniorofficialsmeeting_agenda_eng.pdf.

¹³ Elaine Lebon-McGregor, September 2020.

ADD and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The relationship between the ADD and the GFMD has evolved over time thanks to the active engagement of ADD member States within the GFMD. The 2008 Chair - the Philippines, also an ADD member state, included in its GFMD programme a roundtable discussion on different forms of inter-State dialogue on migration and development, focusing on “Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), Inter-regional Consultative Fora and Regional Organizations and Economic Integration Processes at the Interface of Migration and Development”.

The 2016 Bangladesh GFMD chairmanship focused on ‘Sustainable Development for All Including Labour Mobility for Development’, a topic closely related to the ADD areas of interest; the ADD Senior Officials’ meeting final report was submitted to the GFMD to inform consultations and enrich discussions at global level through the ADD regional perspective.

ADD contributions featured in the GFMD 2017 background paper for Roundtable 1.1 «Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence - Finding the right policy mix to balance different interests and objectives,” and in the 2018 Background Paper for Roundtable Session 2.1 «South-South Mobility: Trends, Patterns and Transferable Learning», which informed consultations at the 2017 and 2018 Summits held in Berlin and Marrakech respectively. In the 2017 paper ADD was acknowledged as an example of a regional consultative process taking positive action on policy coherence between countries of origin and countries of destination, while the 2018 paper captured ADD’s transition from a purely consultative process to implementing projects on ethical recruitment, skills certification, information and orientation programming, and the role of technology in the governance of labour mobility.

The ADD 2018 Chair - Sri Lanka, submitted a research paper on the Labour Recruitment Industry among the UAE, India and Nepal, and the ADD Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme (CIOP) for inclusion in the GFMD Policy and Practice Database, as part of the IOM-facilitated ISCM contributions to the GFMD compilation of regional cooperation practices.

The GFMD 2020 program focused on ‘The Future of Human Mobility: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development. The UAE, Chairing the ADD and the GFMD at the same time, introduced a regional level of GFMD consultations; these were organized in collaboration with a number of RCPs and other regional organizations. This was the first systematic effort to promote regional perspectives into the preparations for the GFMD Summit by directly involving RCPs as both hosts and participants. ADD co-hosted one of these regional consultations, as did the Bali Process, the RCM-Puebla Process, the African Union and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The results of these regional consultations contributed significantly to the background papers for 13th GFMD Summit in January 2021 and the ensuing global level discussions.

Another innovative aspect of these joint consultations was the inclusion of the local and regional governments (LRGs) perspective as one of the GFMD community of stakeholders into the regional consultations. This represented a first step in the direction of fostering a whole-of-government approach across regional and global processes, promoting vertical coherence among different levels of government, also in line with the principles established in the GCM, which acknowledge the increasing relevance of the local dimension of migration.¹⁴

¹⁴ The GFMD involves cities, local and regional governments (LRG) in State-led multi-stakeholder consultations through the Mayors Mechanism. Established in Marrakech in December 2018, as a fourth pillar of the GFMD governance structure, which includes States, civil society and the private sector, the Mayors Mechanism provides opportunities for cities and LRGs to engage with States and other stakeholders on migration policy and migration governance. <https://www.mayorsmechanism.org/>

ADD contribution to the development of the GCM

The consultations and negotiations on the GCM built heavily on the principles and approaches to international migration of existing bilateral, regional and global cooperation and partnership mechanisms, including ISCMs. The resulting inter-governmentally negotiated and agreed outcome of the GCM acknowledges the importance of regional dimensions in migration governance, by specifically emphasizing that improving migration governance requires ‘international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue’ (§42)¹⁵. The consultations and negotiations on the GCM saw significant engagement from the ISCMs. The ADD membership formulated a number of recommendations, which were reflected in the final draft of the GCM,¹⁶ in particular on:

- The validation of employment terms and contracts between countries of origin and destination by respective Governments, in order to mitigate contract substitution and end discrepancies between employment terms offered at home and received abroad;
- Certification and mutual recognition of skills, towards a harmonized ecosystem between countries of origin and destination;
- Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programmes, providing customized information on employment and countries of destination to temporary labour migrants, in order to ease transitions, protect and understand rights, and increase productivity;
- Online platforms for information-sharing between governments of countries of origin and destination, including for processing applications and approval of applications for recruitment of workers and their deployment to CODs.

These recommendations built on the 2017 ADD multi-stakeholder Special Workshop “Operationalizing the Four Collaborative Ministerial Programmes of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue” and are well reflected in the final text of the GCM. The ADD also contributed to the combined ISCM inputs to the GCM through its inputs in the 2017 preliminary survey and subsequent participation to the 7th GRCP Meeting on ISCMs and the GCM. It actively participated and co-organized successive side events on the margins of the consultative sessions contributing to the development process of the GCM, which included:

Side-event on Migration Governance, on the margins of the GCM informal thematic session organized on 20 June 2017 in Geneva, under the auspices of the Governments of Australia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Sri Lanka, the UAE and IOM, on the margins of the GCM informal thematic session on “International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions”.

Side-event on “Mobilizing Regional Consultative Processes to implement the GCM” held on 3 September 2018 in Geneva on the margins of the GFMD proceedings, jointly organized by the UAE, IOM, Migrant Forum Asia and the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and chaired by Morocco as the GFMD co-Chair.

¹⁵ A/RES/73/195. https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/195

¹⁶ Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Cooperating to Improve Temporary Labour Mobility Governance among Asian Countries of Origin and Destination: Inputs from the Abu Dhabi Dialogue to Inform the Development of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Side-event on Regional Dimensions in the GCM implementation, follow-up and review, on the margins of the GCM Intergovernmental Conference organized by the UAE Ministry of Labour and Emiratization, IOM, IOE and the ICMC on 9 December 2018 in Marrakesh. The event focused on regional cooperation on the GCM and the roles of regional actors, in particular ISCMs; the chairs of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA), RCM, Bali Process, South American Conference on Migration (SACM), and GFMD also presented at this side-event.

Contributions to the global migration policy dialogue by other ISCMs in the ADD Region. Many ISCMs have contribute to the global policy dialogue on migration, including in the context of the GCM development, follow-up and review. The ARCP was among the first ISCMs to consider the GCM at its 2016 event; in 2017 it formulated positions on both the GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees¹⁷. The GCM remains a standing item in ARCP high-level meeting agendas. The Colombo Process has also issued joint recommendations during the development phase of the GCM¹⁸. The Bali Process¹⁹ shared its experiences from the perspectives of regional coordination and dialogue, policy guidance, capacity building, operational cooperation, information and data, private sector engagement, partnerships, etc. The ARCP, Colombo Process and Bali Process have actively contributed to various events on ISCMs and the GCM including the GRCP 7, the High-level webinar on ISCMs and the GCM, regional GCM consultations and the GCM Regional Reviews on GCM implementation. The ARCP is pursuing the compilation of collective ISCMs inputs to the GCM regional review.

Concluding observations

ISCMs contribute to regional, interregional and global governance of migration either directly, by articulating initiatives within their defined areas of interest, or indirectly by engaging in consultations and other forms of cooperation with other entities. While ISCMs vary enormously in the extent of their geographical and thematic focus, they are all unique in their approach and dynamics, and there is no intrinsic subsidiarity in their relevance to the ongoing migration governance narrative.

The ADD has effectively engaged in shaping regional approaches to migration through programmatic initiatives. This has fostered joint approaches, enabling the assessment of practical evidence and lessons learnt based on shared experiences. It has also enabled ADD member States to establish and explore cooperation ties with other entities. The ADD has also explored synergies within expanded inter-regional contexts to share experiences and find common ground for action on issues of common focus (e.g. ADD - Bali Process or ADD-Almaty Process cooperation). Such cooperation beyond the immediate regional and thematic scope offers the opportunity for contributing further to the global policy dialogue on migration.

¹⁷ Contribution of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

¹⁸ Joint Recommendations of the Colombo Process Member States to the Global Compact for Migration.

¹⁹ Global Compacts on Refugees and Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: The Bali Process experience.

At the global level, the ADD has contributed considerably to the migration policy dialogue through the GFMD; and to the development of the GCM, through the GRCP meetings and a succession of other events ancillary to the GCM development process, including the 2017 Regional Consultations on the Global compact for migration; etc.), as well as the GFMD GCM dedicated events on the margins of the Forum.

The GCM focus on the regional dimensions also extends to implementation, follow-up and review, recognizing the importance of stocktaking by State-led fora, at the outset of implementation, to identify regional priorities for implementation and mechanisms for follow-up and review, as well as capacity deficits and technical assistance requirements²⁰. ISCMs²¹ can contribute to the follow-up and review of the GCM in a variety of ways, including by providing forums to discuss GCM and formulate collective / regional inputs on the GCM; stock-taking of their respective activities in support of GCM Objectives; collecting relevant data and statistics; creating working groups on GCM implementation and review; building their member States' capacities; and building partnerships with other regional actors (e.g. regional political and economic unions or UN Regional Commissions) towards joint regional GCM reviews.

Preparatory consultations and dialogues were conducted in 2020-2021 in respective regions for the Regional Reviews. Given the challenges brought forth by COVID-19, the preparations and first rollout of Regional Reviews took place in unprecedented times. Regional UN Networks/Issue Based Coalitions in coordination with the Global UN Network on Migration Secretariat worked towards these first reviews and endeavoured to include all stakeholders. While noting the invitation to RCPs in paragraph 47 of the GCM Resolution to provide platforms to exchange experiences, this could be further expanded upon in the lead up to the IMRF in 2022. The ADD and other RCPs and ISCMs can play a key role in GCM implementation and review and many are in the process of considering opportunities and modalities for engagement in the future. While GCM regional reviews are well under way and about to conclude, preparations for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) are taking shape and discussions promoted through the ADD can be instrumental in identifying constructive ways forward for its membership and for partner processes.

²⁰ IOM (2019). The role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

²¹ IOM (2019). Information Note on Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

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- ADD webpage
- Bali Process webpage
- Colombo Process webpage
- GFMD webpage

Annex. List of acronyms

ADD	Abu Dhabi Dialogue
ARCP	Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs
AU	African Union
CIOP	Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme
CMC	Caribbean Migration Consultations
COD	Country of Destination
COO	Country of Origin
COMESA	African Union regional economic communities of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CP	Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GRCP	Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Global and (Inter)Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (Global ISCM Meeting)
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
IGC	Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOE	International Organisation of Employers
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRF	Inter-Regional Forums on Migration
ISCM	Inter-State Consultation Mechanism on Migration
LRG	Local and regional governments
MIDCAS	Migration Dialogue for Central African States
MIDCOM	Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States
MID-IGAD	Migration Dialogue for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development
MiDIOCC	Migration Dialogue for Indian Ocean Commission Countries
MIDSA	Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
MS	Member States
OCAM	Central American Commission of Migration Directors
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
RCM	Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process)
RCP	Regional Consultative Processes on Migration
SACM	South American Conference on Migration
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting