

INFORMATION NOTE ON
INTER-STATE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS ON MIGRATION AND
THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

This note outlines the potential role of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and other Inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) in the implementation, follow-up and review process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). While GCM implementation rests with States, ISCMs can be requested by their Member States to facilitate the exchange of practices, information and knowledge thereby contributing to building States' capacities. The role of other regional actors, such as the political and economic unions or UN Regional Commissions is articulated in the table in Annex.

UN Member States positions on the GCM implementation vary considerably. While 156 States have endorsed the GCM, a few have not and may not pursue its implementation, follow-up and review. Many are keen to stress the GCM's State-led, non-binding nature; some have suggested that where and as relevant ISCMs' State-led, non-binding nature make them well suited to support the GCM implementation, follow-up and review.

Finally, States continue reaffirming their appreciation of ISCMs' role as discussion forums and migration governance processes, irrespective of their position on the GCM.

BACKGROUND ON ISCMs, GRCP, GCM AND IMRF

Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms (ISCMs)

Inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCMs) are State-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues at the regional, inter-regional or global level for States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration. They may either be officially associated with formal regional or multi-stakeholder institutionsⁱ or be informal and non-binding.

- Regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) refer to ISCMs among countries within a given region.
- Interregional forums on migration (IRFs) connect countries in a dialogue across two or more regions and / or migration corridors.
- Global processes on migration, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development - GFMD, facilitate dialogue across all regions.

There are currently 17 RCPs, 12 IRFs and 1 global process on migration: over 200 States and territories participate in at least one ISCM either as Members or Observers. ISCMs are often the only entities specifically focusing on migration within or across the regions. Irrespective of their common defining features, each ISCM is unique, with a specific geographic and thematic context. Some ISCMs focus exclusively on specific issues (e.g. counter-trafficking, labour migration, etc.); others address a broader range of issues of interest to their constituent States.

Global Meeting of Regional Consultative Processes and other ISCMs (GRCP)

Initiated and coordinated by IOM, the biennial Global meeting of RCPs and other ISCMs (GRCP) brings together the Chairs and Secretariats of main ISCMs to foster exchanges and synergies on various migration

topics and contribute to improved policy coherence at regional, interregional and global levels. As evidenced at GRCP 4, 6 and 7, GRCP meetings can also facilitate formulation of collective ISCMs positions, inputs and approaches to other ongoing migration-related global initiatives (e.g. SDGs and the GCM).ⁱⁱ

GRCPs also have facilitated partnerships between ISCMs and [UN Regional Commissions](#) (UN ReCs). In fact, depending on the topic selected for the GRCP meeting, IOM has co-opted UN ReCs in some of the GRCP events, notably GRCP 6 in 2016, focusing on Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and [GRCP 7](#) in 2017, focusing on the role of ISCMs and other regional partners (political and economic unions and UN Regional economic Commissions) in the GCM. The ensuing [GRCP 7 outcome document](#) reflected such collective position on the GCM - a set of joint actionable commitments on the GCM derived from ISCMs and their regional partners' recommendations. These were submitted to the GCM stocktaking conference in December 2017 along with the [summary of the pre-GRCP stocktaking survey on ISCMs and the GCM](#).

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

The [Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration](#) (GCM) is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh in December 2018, the GCM is a non-legally binding document; it acknowledges States' sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory and it demonstrates commitment to international cooperation among all actors on migration.

International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)

The International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) is the primary intergovernmental global platform for UN Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM, including as it relates to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The IMRF will convene every four years, starting in 2022. It will allow for interaction with other relevant stakeholders with the intention of building upon accomplishments and identifying opportunities for further cooperation. Each IMRF is expected to result in an inter-governmentally agreed Progress Declaration, which may be taken into consideration by the [high-level political forum on sustainable development](#) (HLPF).

In order to effectively inform the IMRF, "relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions and regional consultative processes on migration" (as outlined in the IMRF resolution)ⁱⁱⁱ are invited to review the implementation of the GCM within their respective regions **every four years beginning in 2020**, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders^{iv}.

The IMRF resolution task the UN Network on migration^v to assist in the preparation and organization of regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact^{vi} and in preparation to forums collect all inputs received at local, national, regional and global levels.^{vii}

ISCMs' POSSIBLE ROLE IN THE GCM REVIEW PROCESS

ISCMs and the GCM preparatory process

Both the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#),^{viii} and the [GCM Modalities Resolution](#)^{ix} refer to ISCMs as ‘valid existing mechanisms’ contributing to the preparatory process and negotiations towards the GCM. The GCM document^x assigns important roles to RCPs and other ISCMs in its implementation, follow-up and review, in particular by contributing to the IMRF.

Many ISCMs have been considering their potential engagement with the GCM since 2016 and some also participated in the GCM consultations. During the two-year long GCM preparatory process, various ISCMs included the Compact in their agendas, workplans and strategies; at least 9 ISCMs formulated formal positions or recommendations during the GCM stocktaking exercise.

While GCM implementation rests with States themselves, ISCMs can contribute to their efforts by providing expert platforms for exchange of practices, information and knowledge on the GCM; and thereby building respective Member States’ capacities.^{xi} According to IOM’s 2018 review,^{xii} irregular migration, labour migration, migration and development, drivers of migration, counter-smuggling and counter-trafficking are GCM themes also frequently addressed by ISCMs in their positions and recommendations on the GCM.

Many ISCMs see their having a role in contributing towards the GCM Objectives on data, drivers of migration, regular migration pathways, reducing vulnerabilities, counter-trafficking, social inclusion, and international cooperation and partnerships.

Both GRCP 7 outcomes^{xiii} and the 2018 IOM Review^{xv} point to the ISCMs potential for partnerships with other regional actors (e.g. UN Regional Commissions or regional political or economic organizations) for more effective engagement in GCM implementation, review and follow-up at the regional level.

ISCMs and GCM implementation, follow-up and review

The GCM invites RCPs and other ISCMs (or in the words of the GCM document, “State-led initiatives on international migration”) to provide platforms to exchange experiences, foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and contribute to the IMRF “by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation” of the GCM^{xvi}. The GFMD^{xvii} and the [International Dialogue on Migration](#) (IDM)^{xviii} are mentioned specifically. Annex II details the role of the GFMD.

Most international migration takes place within regions and States therefore invite the RCPs, as well as other relevant sub-regional, regional and cross-regional processes and the UN ReCs to review the implementation of the GCM at four-year intervals, beginning in 2020. This regional review should allow for the participation of all relevant stakeholders and feed into each edition of the IMRF.

Should they be mandated by respective Member States, **individual ISCMs** may therefore both contribute to the implementation of the GCM and to the GCM review process at regional and global levels– within the confines of their thematic focus and geographic coverage, by:

- offering forums for their Member States to regularly discuss GCM implementation, exchange practices, and review and formulate collective / regional inputs on the GCM, to feed into the IMRF.
- stock-taking of their respective activities in support of GCM Objectives; maintaining knowledge bases on effective regional practices, approaches and innovative solutions relevant to the GCM contributing towards the knowledge platform and connection hub of the GCM capacity building mechanism.
- collecting data and statistics on migration to support GCM implementation and reporting at the regional level.
- creating networks of officials within their respective constituencies responsible for the GCM

implementation and review; or establishing action-oriented working groups on the GCM within each ISCMs, with concrete deliverables.

- building their member States' capacities; providing expertise and guidance on the GCM, including from the GCM capacity building mechanism.
- building partnerships with UN ReCs, regional political and economic unions and other regional actors towards joint regional GCM reviews and feeding into the GCM reviews by these organizations.
- discuss funding gaps and opportunities, as well as possible joint projects for funding under the Start-up Fund for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration ("Migration MPTF").

NB: for the different roles of various regional actors (e.g. various political and economic unions or the 5 UN Regional Commissions), please consult Annex III.

Collectively, ISCMs may forge joint positions on the GCM and IMRF: the GRCP can offer a venue to formulate these in anticipation of the IMRF.

ISCMs can prepare for possible engagement by:

- Stocktaking on their existing engagement in and contribution to the GCM objectives.
- Formulating their possible role in the GCM review.
- Obtaining respective MSs' agreement on their formal engagement in the GCM review.
- Considering modalities for such engagement, e. g. establishing a working group on GCM review; nominating focal points or charging their 'Secretariats' to deal with the GCM Review-related matters; maintaining a database of regional activities in support to the GCM and other databases; quantifying the human and financial resources needs; etc.
- Considering how to feed into the GCM review process, whether directly through the ISCM Chair (forwarding an ISCM report to the IMRF), or indirectly, or a combination of both. Such combination can take various forms at national, regional, interregional or global: through the ISCM MSs, their partner regional organizations (relevant UN ReCs, political and economic unions in their respective regions), global processes on migration (GFMD, IMRF itself) as well as the GRCP Meetings.

Some Relevant References

United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/71/1 of 3 October 2016 "[New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)"

UN GA A/RES/71/280 of 17 April 2017 "[Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration](#)"

UN GA A/RES/73/195 of 19 December 2018 "[Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)"

UN GA A/RES/73/326 of 19 July 2019 "[Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums](#)"

IOM, "[References to ISCMs in the New York Declaration and the GCM Modalities Resolution](#)" (2017)

IOM, "[Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Summary Report of the Seventh Global RCP Meeting](#)" (2017)

[GRCP 7 Highlights Document](#) (11 October 2017)

IOM, "[Summary of the Results of the Survey on ISCMs' and partners' contribution to the global compact for migration](#)" (2017)

IOM, "[The Role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)" (2018)

IOM [website on ISCMs](#)

Annexes

Annex I. Relevant articles from the New York Declaration, GCM Modalities Resolution and the GCM.

Annex II. Potential GFMD Role in GCM Implementation and Review.

Annex III. Comparative table: Regional Actors in the IMRF.

Annex I to Information Note on Inter-State consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Relevant articles from the New York Declaration, GCM Modalities Resolution and the GCM.

New York Declaration, Paragraph 54.

“We will strengthen cooperation to this end among countries of origin, transit and destination, including through regional consultative processes, international organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, regional economic organizations and local government authorities, as well as with relevant private sector recruiters and employers, labour unions, civil society and migrant and diaspora groups.”

GCM Modalities Resolution, Paragraph 22(b).

Invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders, through regional and subregional consultative processes and, as appropriate, within global processes, mechanisms and initiatives, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the International Dialogue on Migration held by the International Organization for Migration and relevant sessions of United Nations entities that address migration-related issues, to contribute to the preparatory process of the global compact.”

Major references to ISCMs in the global compact for migration text (A/CONF.231/3 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration)

Paragraph 47.

Further recognizing the important role of State-led processes and platforms at the global and regional levels in advancing the international dialogue on migration, we invite the Global Forum on Migration and Development, regional consultative processes and other global, regional and subregional forums to provide platforms to exchange experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact, share good practices on policies and cooperation, promote innovative approaches, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships around specific policy issues.

Paragraph 49.

Considering that international migration requires a forum at the global level through which Member States can review the implementation progress and guide the direction of the work of the United Nations, we decide that:

- (a) The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, currently scheduled to take place every fourth session of the General Assembly, shall be repurposed and renamed “International Migration Review Forum”;
- (b) The International Migration Review Forum shall serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- (c) The International Migration Review Forum shall take place every four years beginning in 2022;
- (d) The International Migration Review Forum shall discuss the implementation of the Global Compact at the local, national, regional and global levels, as well as allow for interaction with other relevant stakeholders with a view to building upon accomplishments and identifying opportunities for further cooperation;
- (e) Each edition of the International Migration Review Forum will result in an intergovernmentally agreed Progress Declaration, which may be taken into consideration by the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Paragraph 50.

Considering that most international migration takes place within regions, we invite relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions or regional consultative processes, to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020,

alternating with discussions at the global level at a four-year interval, in order to effectively inform each edition of the International Migration Review Forum, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Paragraph 51.

We invite the Global Forum on Migration and Development to provide a space for annual informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and to report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum.

Paragraph 52.

Recognizing the important contributions of State-led initiatives on international migration, we invite forums such as the IOM International Dialogue on Migration, regional consultative processes and others to contribute to the International Migration Review Forum by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Major references to ISCMs in the IMRF modalities (UN GA A/RES/73/326 of 19 July 2019 “Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums”)

Paragraph 7.

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including specialized agencies, funds and programmes, related organizations and regional economic commissions, as well as all relevant special procedures mandate holders and treaty bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates, giving due regard to Geneva-based expertise, is coordinated to support the State-led forums and to facilitate their participation therein;

Paragraph 10.

Invites relevant subregional, regional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional economic commissions and regional consultative processes on migration, to review the implementation of the Global Compact, within their respective regions, and to contribute to the work of the forums, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

Paragraph 11.

Invites also the Global Forum on Migration and Development, including its civil society, business and mayoral mechanisms, to provide a space for informal exchanges on the implementation of the Global Compact, and report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the forums;

Paragraph 12.

Invites forums such as the IOM International Dialogue on Migration, regional consultative processes on migration and others to contribute to each forum by providing relevant data, evidence, best practices, innovative approaches and recommendations as they relate to the implementation of the Global Compact;

Annex II to Information Note on Inter-State consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Potential GFMD Role in GCM Implementation and Review

From among the ISCMs, the Global Forum on Migration and Development GFMD has been invited to provide a platform to exchange experiences on the GCM implementation^{xix} and “to provide a space for annual informal exchange on the implementation of the Global Compact, and to report the findings, best practices and innovative approaches to the International Migration Review Forum”^{xx}. The GFMD has an Ad hoc Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the GCM and has hosted dedicated sessions on the GCM since 2016. Its contribution to the GCM Stocktaking was a “Thematic Recollection 2007-2017”, highlighting the GFMD work relevant to each of the six GCM themes and suggesting the following role for GFMD in the GCM:

- providing a platform for open dialogue among governments, international organizations, civil society, trade unions and the private sector on all issues related to migration and development.
- serving as a catalyst for practical cooperation and partnerships.
- contributing to the review of the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda and in the GCM.
- interacting with the UN system and feeding its outcomes into relevant UN processes.

What can the GFMD offer to the IMRF^{xxi}:

- advice and guidance to member States.
- platform for exchanges and partnerships on GCM implementation.
- expanding and developing the Platform for Partnerships^{xxii} to compile and maintain information on GCM implementation.
- forum for stocktaking on GCM implementation.
- stocktaking on policy suggestions and options for practical action as outlined during the GFMD thematic roundtables.
- possible platform to transmit States’ reviews on the GCM to the IMRF.
- possible platform at GFMD Summits for annual reporting on the GCM by other ISCMs.
- report to the IMRF on effective practices, key developments and trends (subject to Member States’ approval).

Annex III to Information Note on Inter-State consultation Mechanisms on Migration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Comparative table: Regional Actors in the IMRF

	ISCMs	UN ReCs	Political and Economic Unions and other regional organizations
Description	State-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues on the regional, inter-regional or global level for States with an interest in promoting cooperation in the field of migration	Regional outposts of the United Nations in their respective regions operating under the United Nations Economic and Social Council.	Intergovernmental organizations (including supranational unions, trade blocks, common markets, customs unions and regional economic communities) usually established through a treaty or charter.
Type	Informal gatherings	Formal, UN system entities	Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
Mandate / Role	Provide a forum for States to discuss migration issues of common interest and find solutions or common approaches to migration issues.	Assist in the economic and social development of their respective regions and to strengthen economic relations of the countries in each region, both among themselves and with the other countries of the world. They foster economic integration at the sub-regional and regional levels, promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals (including the SDGs), support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and sub-regions through multilateral dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking at the regional level.	Coordinate their member States' economic policies and foster cooperation and political and economic integration or dialogue among States or entities within a restrictive geographical or geopolitical boundary
Overall Thematic Focus	Migration, narrow areas differ from one ISCM to another	Economic and social development, regional development, narrow areas may differ from one UN ReC to another	Political and economic integration and regional cooperation
Structure	Differs from one ISCM to another. Lack legal personality (legal personality is usually provided by the ISCM secretariat).	UN system entities with Secretariat, sectoral committees. They lead the UN Regional Coordination Mechanisms in each UN Region.	Have legal personality, own governing bodies, can issue policies, legislation. Usually have legal supremacy over their member States.

	ISCMs	UN ReCs	Political and Economic Unions and other regional organizations
	Usually chaired by a MSs (on rotation or permanent basis), supported by a Secretariat, may have Steering Committees, Working groups, national focal points, resource centers.		
Geographical Coverage	Differs from one ISCM to another. RCPs rarely coincide with a whole UN region. IRFs may partially cover 2 UN Regions. The largest global processe on migration has 195 MSs (which are the UN MSs and OSs).	Each covers a given UN Region. Both UNESCAP and UNECE have the same Member States from Europe and Central Asia.	Differs from one IGO to the other. Some of them may cover one UN region (either fully, e.g. UNECA and AU, or partially). There may be several regional organizations in a given UN Region or one IGO may partially cover more than one UN Region.
Engagement in migration management	Direct mandate, at times the only experts on migration at the regional level.	Limited mandate: migration is included in UNESCAP's, UNESCWA's and UNECA's Social Development portfolios and under UNECLAC's Population and Development portfolio; while only migration statistics is an area of focus in UNECE's Statistics portfolio.	Some may thematically focus on migration.
Legal grounds for engagement in the GCM	<u>Mandate:</u> New York Declaration, § 54; GCM Modalities Resolution, § 22; GCM §§ 47, 50 and 52.	<u>Mandate:</u> GCM Modalities Resolution, §§ 12 and 22(a); GCM § 50.	<u>Mandate:</u> GCM § 50.
Existing engagement in the GCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual ISCM positions and recommendations on the GCM: at least 14 ISCMs formulated formal positions or recommendations to the GCM stocktaking exercise. - participation in GCM Regional Consultations in 2017. - GRCP 7 stocktaking survey on ISCMs and the GCM. - GRCP 7 Highlights – a set of joint actionable commitments on the GCM derived from ISCMs and their regional partners recommendations. 	- led the GCM Regional Consultations.	-differs from one IGO to the other

	ISCMs	UN ReCs	Political and Economic Unions and other regional organizations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. - the GCM has already been included in various ISCMs' meetings agendas, workplans and strategies 		
Role in the GCM implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can provide forums for their Member States to regularly discuss GCM implementation, exchange practices, and review and formulate collective / regional inputs on the GCM to feed into the IMRF. - continuing stock-taking of their respective activities in support of GCM Objectives; maintaining knowledge bases on effective regional practices, approaches and innovative solutions relevant to the GCM. - collecting data and statistics on migration to support GCM reporting at the regional level. - creating networks of officials within their respective constituencies responsible for the GCM review or establishing working groups on the GCM within each ISCMs. - building their member States' capacities; providing expertise and guidance on the GCM. - building partnerships with UN ReCs, regional political and economic unions and other regional actors towards joint regional GCM reviews and feeding into the GCM reviews by these organizations. -Collectively, ISCMs may consider joint positions on the GCM and IMRF (possibly through the GRCP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional review and monitoring of GCM implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can facilitate the effective translation of regional migration policies into concrete actions at the national level and promote convergence in policy and legislation among their Member States. - Can contribute to strengthening sustainable and responsive democratic processes in their regions and ensuring their members accountability and effective implementation of global commitments. This could represent an additional layer of accountability over existing national checks and balances.

	ISCMs	UN ReCs	Political and Economic Unions and other regional organizations
	<p>While IMRF modalities are negotiated, ISCMs can prepare themselves for possible engagement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stocktaking their existing engagement in and contribution to the GCM objectives. - Formulating their possible role in the GCM review. - Obtaining respective MSs' agreement on their formal engagement in the GCM review. - Considering modalities for such engagement, e.g. establishment of a working group on GCM review, nominating focal points or charging their 'Secretariats' to deal with the GCM Review-related matters, maintaining a database of regional activities in support to the GCM and other databases, quantifying the human and financial resources needs, etc. - Considering avenues for feeding into the GCM review, either directly through the ISCM Chair (an ISCM report to IMRF), or indirectly, or a combination of both. The latter can be done through various channels and at various levels: the ISCM MSs, through their partner regional organizations (relevant UN ReCs, political and economic unions in their respective regions), global processes on migration (GFMD, IMRF itself) as well as the GRCP Meetings. 		

	ISCMs	UN ReCs	Political and Economic Unions and other regional organizations
Comparative advantages for engagement with the GCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unique role in regional migration governance (often the only migration expert entity at the regional level). - forum for inter-State policy dialogue to shape convergent approaches to migration issues. - existing effective practices in support of the GCM and partnerships models to contribute to GCM implementation, review and follow-up. - ability / mechanism to collect and analyze data (by most ISCMs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they are part of the UN system. - mission (regional development arms of the UN, promoting economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration, including through policy dialogue), - mandate in the GCM (regional review of the GCM), - mandate in SDG follow up and review. - mandate to issue formal documents (such as standards and models, guidelines, recommendations, policy briefs), - existing structures and resources (UN system entities, with secretariats, sectoral committees, coordination mechanisms, staff, budget, etc.), - competence (experience in SDG review that can be used as effective practice, data collection mechanisms, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have own structures, budget, legislation and policies. - some have formal associations with the ISCMs. - their existing structures can be used effectively to monitor GCM implementation at the national level and accountability thereof, while at the same time ensuring national ownership and leadership of the review processes.
Potential challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As State-led forums, ISCMs will need to be mandated by their Member States to be engaged in the GCM and IMRF. - Informality: most ISCMs are of an advisory and informative nature. Not many are formally associated with other regional organizations so as to be able to translate their recommendations into binding regional policies or legislation. - ISCMs are State-led, independent of and outside the UN system. - Geographical coverage: the geographical focus of each ISCM in any one region may not necessarily coincide with the one of the UN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limited mandate in migration (not addressing all aspects of migration): migration is included in UNESCAP's, UNESCWA's and UNECA's Social Development portfolios and under UNECLAC's Population and Development portfolio; while only migration statistics is an area of focus in UNECE's Statistics portfolio. - little expertise in migration by some, such as the UNECE. - Not all of their Member States have voted in favour of the GCM and may not be committed to implementing it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they will need the consent of their Member States to engage with the GCM and its review. - may have limited mandate in migration or mobility. - are independent of and outside the UN system.

	ISCMs	UN ReCs	Political and Economic Unions and other regional organizations
	<p>ReCs whereas in a defined UN Region several ISCMs may be active.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic focus: each ISCMs may have a different thematic focus; some specialize in certain areas of migration governance only, and others with a wider range. - Dedicated structures and resources to undertake “review and follow-up”: ISCMs may need to reform, re-structure and seek legal personality, staff and dedicated budget for such regular, systematic and large-scale activities. - Not all of their Member States have voted in favour of the GCM and may not be involved in implementing the GCM. 		

ⁱ For example, the Migration Dialogue from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Member States (MIDCOM) is associated with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) with the League of Arab States, etc.

ⁱⁱ GRCP 4 in 2013 concluded with specific recommendations for the 2013 UN HLD, including mainstreaming migration into the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, GRCP 6 made recommendations on ISCMs' contribution to attaining the SDGs. In 2017, GRCP 7 formulated recommendations on ISCMs' engagement in the GCM, many of which fed directly into the Global Compact's adopted text, showing the significant role that the GRCP can play in supporting ISCM's contributions to global migration governance.

ⁱⁱⁱ UN GA A/RES/73/326 of 19 July 2019.

^{iv} UN GA A/RES/73/326, Paragraph 10.

^v Established in 2018 to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to the GCM implementation, the UN Network on Migration brings together 38 entities (Annex II, Terms of Reference for the UN Network on Migration) with 8 of them having a mandate in relation to migration, whereas others may encounter migration issues during the course of implementing their projects and programs. These 8 entities form the Network's Executive Committee. IOM serves as the Network's Coordinator and Secretariat.

^{vi} Paragraph 9.

^{vii} Paragraph 13.

^{viii} paragraph 54.

^{ix} paragraph 22.

^x Paragraphs 47, 50 and 52.

^{xi} "[GRCP 7 Highlights Document](#)", and IOM, "[The Role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)" (2018), Recommendations, page 22.

^{xii} IOM, "[The Role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)", 2018.

^{xiii} "[GRCP 7 Highlights Document](#)", Point 8 "The importance of partnerships among all stakeholders at all levels was reiterated throughout the proceedings. These include:

(i) continued cooperation and synergies among the inter-state cooperation mechanisms themselves, particularly between the global processes on migration and the regional and inter-regional fora;

(ii) partnerships with inter-governmental organizations such as IOM, the Regional Economic Organizations and UN Regional Commissions; and

(iii) cooperation with non-governmental partners – including civil society, the private sector, media, diaspora, migrants and academia."

^{xiv} IOM, "[GRCP 7 Summary Report](#)" (2018).

^{xv} IOM, "[The Role of inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)", Recommendation (i) "Enhance partnerships with ISCMs in the same region/continent and with other regional entities that have a formal role in the Global Compact, such as regional political and economic organizations and the United Nations Regional Commissions; partnerships with other entities, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, in the spirit of the Global Compact's whole-of-society approach, should also be considered."

^{xvi} Paragraph 52.

^{xvii} Paragraph 51.

^{xviii} Paragraph 52.

^{xix} paragraph 47 of the GCM.

^{xx} paragraph 51.

^{xxi} "[GFMD Review 2018. Ten Years of GFMD: Lessons Learnt and Future Perspectives](#)" and "[Non-Paper in Preparation of the Informal Consultation with the GFMD Friends of the Forum on the Role of the GFMD in the International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\)](#)".

^{xxii} A GFMD "mechanism to facilitate partnerships and cooperation" for governments and other GFMD stakeholders to showcase their good practices and GFMD products or policy tools, provide a space for new and ongoing projects and partnerships as well as communication and exchange.