

FOURTH GLOBAL MEETING OF RCP CHAIRS AND SECRETARIATS

*Lima, Peru
May 22 and 23, 2013*

-- Chair's Summary --

The fourth **Global Meeting of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) Chairs and Secretariats** took place in Lima, Peru, on 22 – 23 May 2013 under the theme “*Defining the Place of RCPs in a Changing International Migration Landscape.*”

Representatives of RCP Chairs and Secretariats¹, regional bodies² and inter-regional forums on migration participated alongside experts from ICMPD, ILO, IOM and UNHCR. Representatives of past, present and future chairing governments of the **Global Forum on Migration Development (GFMD)** and the representative of the **Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration and Development** also participated in the conference which was chaired by the Government of Peru, with secretariat support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

As host of the 2011 Third Global Meeting of RCP Chairs and Secretariats, the Government of Botswana shared the outcomes of the last global meeting of these entities. Representatives from the Bali Process, Budapest Process, MIDSA and SACM further highlighted key features of their dialogue and cooperation processes, and specific actions they have undertaken since the previous global meeting. The OAS led a discussion involving representatives of the League of Arab States, the European Union, ECLAC and ECOWAS on how best regional bodies and inter-regional fora might best engage with RCPs.

The background study commissioned for this conference – entitled ***Regional Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration: Approaches, Recent Activities and Implications for Global Governance of Migration*** -- highlighted that regional and inter-regional consultation mechanisms on migration have emerged and expanded, particularly over the last fifteen years, as an important means for fostering dialogue and cooperation amongst states with common migration interests and challenges. While some are organized regionally and others more thematically, they have received and continue to receive considerable

¹ Abu Dhabi Dialogue; Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime; Budapest Process; Colombo Process; IGAD-RCP; Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC); Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue (MTM); Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA); Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA); Puebla Process; Prague Process; South American Conference on Migration (SACM); and 5+5 Dialogue (Regional Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean). Representatives of two dialogue processes that are yet to be formalised – the Almaty Process and the Migration Dialogue for Central African States (MIDCAS) – also participated.

² European Union (EU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), League of Arab States, Economic Commission for Latin America, the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Andean Community, the Organization of American States (OAS).

attention by policymakers and practitioners and are an important component of the global migration landscape. They serve an important function in pursuing common perspectives and practical arrangements at the regional level and across migration areas that span geographic regions.

The discussions that followed brought to the fore the view that although the majority of these mechanisms were not set up with the explicit aim of promoting global migration governance, they are recognized by the participants as having contributed significantly to *de facto* convergence of perspectives and policy in some regions, as well as to the building of capacity in a wide range of migration governance domains.

Participants also acknowledged the value of opportunities for sharing amongst the various regional and inter-regional entities specifically dedicated to migration as well as those with a migration pillar of their work. Equally, participants stressed the importance of fostering greater opportunities for exchange between the regional consultation mechanisms on migration and global level dialogues on migration, such as the **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** and the forthcoming **UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD)**. Participants stressed that these are mutually informative and reinforcing mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation on migration, and collectively constitute important components of the existing global migration architecture, informed by the normative framework comprised, amongst others, of international human rights, international labour standards, refugee and transnational organised crime law.

Participants welcomed the opportunity to deliberate on the four roundtable themes of the upcoming HLD – **Mainstreaming migration into development frameworks, Protection of migrants rights, Multi-stakeholder coherence and cooperation** and **Regional and global labour mobility** -- and shared important regional perspectives and lessons learned with respect to each. They stressed the need to ensure that these regional perspectives, as well as the role of the RCPs and inter-regional forums, be explicitly recognized in the Secretary General's report to the HLD.

In the various breakout sessions and plenary discussions, participants brought to the fore several key points, as follows:

- Migration has become a more significant global policy domain and is relevant to nearly all states in all regions;
- There is need for continued engagement at the local, national, regional and inter-regional level to improve migration outcomes for both migrants and states;
- There are huge potential benefits in expanding and sustaining cross-regional interaction and of advancing engagement with global level dialogues such as the GFMD, the HLD and the IOM International Dialogue on Migration (IDM);

- Further, RCPs and inter-regional forums can play an important role in preparing for GFMD and HLD deliberations and taking forward outcomes at the regional level, to the extent relevant;
- There is need to support the ongoing efforts at the global level to define a post-2015 development agenda, and the emerging understanding of the relevance of migration to all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental, as well as to conflicts and disaster situations -- and therefore its potential relevance to several aspects of the emerging agenda.
- Participants acknowledged the role of IOM as the global lead agency on migration and in particular its efforts to promote, facilitate and support regional and global debate and dialogue on migration as well as the support it has provided to RCPs and other fora for migration dialogue and cooperation.

This meeting was timely in view of the forthcoming second General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and the Development to be convened on 3 – 4 October 2013, and the call in **General Assembly Resolutions A/RES 65/170 and A/RES/67/219** for Member States to **contribute to the HLD**, and to its preparatory processes, through amongst others, appropriate regional consultative processes.

The participants expressed the wish to draw to the attention of the Secretary General and the United Nations General Assembly the following key conclusions of the meeting:

- 1) Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs) and emerging inter-regional forums on migration (IRF) are critical pieces of the global institutional architecture on migration, and an important means for fostering dialogue and cooperation among states with common migration interests and challenges. Their impacts go well beyond information exchange and are now directly impacting policy, practice, capacity and cooperation.
- 2) There are important benefits in expanding engagement at the regional and inter-regional level, including and within regional economic, trade and development entities, and advancing interaction between these two levels and the global migration dialogue processes with a view to improving outcomes for both migrants and states.
- 3) RCPs and IRFs have an essential role to play in contributing to deliberations at the global level such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD).
- 4) RCPs and IRFs often have an important role to play in fostering productive linkages between migration and development, as well as in enhancing the protection of human rights of migrants, in particular of those in vulnerable situations.

- 5) Deepening the evidence base, information exchange and the sharing of lessons learned, particularly on enhancing the benefits of migration for human and societal development, constitute important next steps in this field.

Participants expressed deep gratitude to the **Government of Peru** for generously hosting and chairing these deliberations.

Lima, May 23, 2013