

THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON MIGRATION, ASYLUM AND REFUGEES

MISSION

Established in 1985, the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) is a state-led, multidisciplinary and interregional, consultative process. It fosters informal information exchange, policy debate, and cooperation among Participating States on recent trends in international migration, asylum and refugee movements and emerging policy and operational challenges across the migration continuum.

APPROACH

The IGC is characterised by the following core operating principles: flexible; informal; confidential; comprehensive and multidisciplinary; and evidence-based.

The IGC supports Participating States by:

- Providing a platform for open and frank information exchange;
- Serving as a repository of knowledge including official documentation, reports and statistical information;
- Enabling the development of new approaches and solutions to longstanding and emerging issues pertaining to migration, borders, and integration;
- Acting as a laboratory for migration management where States can test policy ideas; and
- Maintaining and expanding networks of experts across Participating States.

PARTICIPATING STATES

Australia
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

OBSERVER STATES

Austria

ORGANISATIONS

UNHCR
IOM
European Union

THE IGC CHAIR

The IGC Chair rotates on an annual basis among Participating States. Key functions of the Chair include setting the main theme(s) for examination and objectives for IGC activities during the year of chairmanship, overseeing the management and activity of the IGC Secretariat, and chairing Senior Officials' meetings.

The Netherlands currently holds the IGC Chair and their theme for consideration is *Achieving strategic outcomes through the use of migration as an international and domestic policy tool*. They will be followed by the United States in 2023.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Each year, the IGC undertakes a range of activities including: senior official and expert meetings supporting the Chair's theme and Participating States' priorities; policy and programme information collation and dissemination; data collection and trend analysis; and the preparation of reports, comparative documents and thematic compilations on areas of interest as requested by Participating States.

Senior Officials (i.e., senior executives from the responsible ministries and agencies) meet twice yearly to discuss key priorities and strategic topics, including the Chair's theme for the year, as well as to review IGC activities and set the forward direction.

At an expert level, the IGC's work is organised around six broad portfolios, each led by a working group which meets twice yearly:

- **Admission, Control and Enforcement** (ACE) covers the enforcement continuum, including cross-cutting topics like identity management, compliance, and security.
- **Asylum and Refugees** focuses on the range of asylum, refugee and international protection matters, from case processing and refugee status determination to strategic policy issues.
- **Country of Origin Information** (COI) covers all policy and practical aspects of COI, including for asylum, protection, resettlement, enforcement and immigration.
- **Immigration** covers legal pathways, from workers to students to family migration, as well as cross-cutting issues such as the immigration-integration nexus.
- **Integration** focuses on policy and practice in settlement and integration, including economic and social inclusion, civic participation and citizenship.
- **Technology** is cross-cutting and supports other IGC portfolios by covering all technologies being employed in the areas of regular and irregular migration.

As part of its comprehensive approach, the IGC also undertakes multidisciplinary activities based on the priorities of Participating States. This includes exploration of emerging themes or country-specific issues through in-person or virtual workshops, expert networks, and site visits.

THE IGC SECRETARIAT

The IGC Secretariat provides administrative, technical, and logistical support, as well as subject matter expertise, in relation to IGC activities, and can be reached at admin@igc.ch.

THE IGC'S SECURE WEBSITE

The [IGC website](#), which is restricted to officials in Participating States, provides a one-stop-shop of comparative analyses, reports and publications, meeting documentation, and a wealth of other information. The website also includes:

- A **Business Intelligence Tool** which allows users to access and customise comprehensive asylum data; and
- A **Request for Information** (RFI) system which allows Participating States to seek specific information from each other.