

## International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

### Key features

**Type of organisation:** Intergovernmental organisation

**Charter/Constitution:**

IOM Constitution, [www.iom.int/constitution-and-basic-texts-governing-bodies](http://www.iom.int/constitution-and-basic-texts-governing-bodies)

**Membership**

- Nature: Representatives from governments
- Number: 166 member States (September 2017)

**Year of establishment:** 1951

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Country offices:** 150 (2017)

**Secretariat staff:** 9000 (2017)

**Total budget:** US\$ 1,13 billion (likely to reach 2,13 billion) (2017) details available at <https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/107/C-107-6-Rev%201%20-%20Programme%20and%20Budget%20for%202017.pdf>

**Type of activity:** Promotion of international migration law and policy debate and guidance

**Sectors of activity:** Migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, forced migration, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration

**Website:** [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

### Members

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Relationship with non-Members

“In carrying out its functions, the Organization shall cooperate closely with international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees and human resources in order, inter alia, to facilitate the coordination of international activities in these fields”. IOM Constitution, Article 1, second paragraph.

NGOs might be collaborators with IOM, service providers or projects implementers, donors, beneficiaries of IOM technical cooperation, grant recipient, or service recipient.

### Observers

Article 8 of the Constitution of IOM states that “The Council may admit, upon their application, nonmember States and international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources as observers at its meetings under conditions which may be prescribed in its rules of procedure. No such observers shall have the right to vote”.

8 States, 27 Organs and Organisations of the United Nations System and 117 Intergovernmental Organisations and non-governmental Organisations have Observer status at IOM.

### Mandate

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration for the benefit of all, to promote international co-operation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people.

## IRC processes taking place within the International Organisation for Migration

Exchange of information and experiences	Systematically
Data Collection	Systematically
Research and policy analysis	Systematically
Discussion of good regulatory practices	Systematically
Development of rules, standards or good practices	Systematically
Negotiation of international agreements	Systematically
Enforcement: imposition of sanctions	Never
Dispute settlement	Never
Crisis management	Never

### Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)		
Legally binding decisions		
Recommendations	√	
Political declarations	√	50-70
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards	√	Many –both from HQ as well as field
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	Ibid

### Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments		UNHCR, WHO, MERCOSUR (Common Market of the South), UNDP (The United Nations Development Programme), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The Republic of India, Uruguay, etc.
MoU or other agreements		
Participate in co-ordinating institution		
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination		
Observe relevant actions of other bodies		
Exchange information	√ Frequently and ongoing	

#### IOM History

IOM was born in 1951 in response to the large number of internally displaced people in Europe following the Second World War. First a logistics agency for arranging transport for nearly a million migrants during the 1950s, IOM has experienced multiple name changes since its beginnings. The transition from the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) in 1951 to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) in 1952, to the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) in 1980, and finally to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 1989, reflects the evolution of IOM's mandate over its existence by becoming the lead agency in the field of migration. In September 2016, Member States of the United Nations (UN), through the General Assembly, have unanimously adopted a resolution approving the Agreement to make IOM a Related Organization of the UN. This Agreement has thus strengthened the relationship between IOM and the UN and enhanced their ability to fulfil their respective mandates in the interest of migrants and Member States.

Source: Data provided by the IOM to the OECD as part of a data collection exercise, October 2017.