Regional Consultative Processes and Data Exchange

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Regional consultative processes (RCPs) are “repeated, regional meetings of states dedicated to discussing migration.” (Hansen, 2010)

They share the common key features:

- State-led and -owned
- Informal
- Flexible
- Periodic meetings
- Focus on areas of common interest and concern
What is the purpose of RCPs?

- They are *not* negotiations
- They are a platform for non-binding dialogue and information exchange on migration issues

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**Building**
- Confidence
- Networks
- Understanding
- Consensus

**Promoting**
- Shared perspectives
- Areas for cooperation

**Facilitating**
- Implementation of activities
- Inputs to policies
RCPs in the Asia-Pacific region

- Ministerial Consultation on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (Colombo Process)
- Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin and Destination in Asia (Abu Dhabi Dialogue)
- Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime
RCPs and data

- Cooperation and exchange of data is key for migration policy-making...
- ...However, exchange of data may be sensitive for countries
- The RCP methodology can therefore be helpful in paving the way for data exchange
  - Builds trust between actors
  - Shared understanding on data needs
  - Members retain control of data release
  - Mechanism to organise capacity-building activities
Examples of RCPs addressing data issues

- Mediterranean Transit Migration Process i-Map
  - Member-State owned process
  - Consolidates data on wide range of migration topics
  - Specific portal for member States to share data on sensitive/confidential matters
  - Feeding into processes of dialogue and cooperation
Intergovernmental Consultation on Migration, Asylum and Refugees

- Addresses migration data
- Confidential portal to share data
Possibilities for RCPs to data exchange in Asia

Colombo Process:
- Set up a Thematic Area Working Group on migration data

Abu Dhabi Dialogue
- Introduce data-sharing as a potential area of dialogue
Conclusions

- RCPs present a promising means of opening possibilities for building confidence towards data exchange between countries in migration corridors
- More could be done through existing processes to begin dialogue on these issues
Thank you!