

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Abstract

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), created in 1951, is the main intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and has the mission of promoting humane and orderly migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. It was created due to the chaos and displacement of Western Europe following the Second World War.

It was first known as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME). Since then, the organization has been expanding both its geographical scope, which ceased to be exclusively European, and its range of activities (assisted voluntary returns, combating human trafficking, labor migration, migration, and health), as well as humanitarian responses in emergency situations.

Basically, the Committee's work consists of the following actions: promoting international cooperation on issues related to migration; helping in the search for practical solutions to migration problems; and offering humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, whether they are refugees or displaced persons. IOM explicitly recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as the importance that the freedom of movement has to people.

This said, IOM is in charge of promoting international law on migration, the political debate on the subject, guidance services, the protection of the rights of migrants, migration and health, and a gender perspective in matters related to migration. Therefore, the Organization collaborates strategically with various civil society organizations to achieve the following purposes: maintaining a central file of information between both parties; creating platforms that allow the bilateral exchange of both dialogues and good practices; and promoting communication and participation of both parties in normative and operational matters, at local,



national, regional and international levels.

Even though IOM has many faculties to protect the rights of migrants and to provide them with a better quality of life, the Committee has some limitations. The International Organization for Migration cannot make military or political decisions; also, it is not that easy for its member States to send economical resources to other countries. It is important to make it clear that, for the most part, IOM can only endorse other international organizations to cooperate.



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