

From a Functional to a Normative IGO?
**The IOM and the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Migration**

ABSTRACT

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The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) actively advocated for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). Despite lacking any supervisory role over these multilateral texts, it not only pledged to assist states in their implementation, but it also drafted the 'IOM Strategic Vision' document to realign its priorities accordingly for the years to come. The involvement of the IOM in the implementation of these texts represents its latest efforts to shore up its claim to global leadership in migration governance. While the IOM is often understood as a functional organisation showcasing its expert authority, this paper argues that such involvement manifests its aim to transform into a more normative organisation. These multilateral texts sustain the attempts of the IOM to bolster its moral authority so that it could embody, serve, and protect their widely shared set of principles. Rather than being restricted to designing projects on behalf of its wealthiest member states, the IOM would autonomously become in authority over the global governance of migration. This paper considers the endeavour of the IOM to alter its authority, patterns of interactions with its member states, and structure both as a discursive and an organisational strategy. Based on a Critical Discourse Analysis of the IOM Strategic Vision, it examines: (a) its discursive content; (b) the process of its adoption and implementation within the institutional context of the IOM; (c) and the organisational change it entails.