On 23-24 October 2019, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) organised the 2nd International Conference on Comprehensive Border Governance in Yerevan, Armenia. The Conference was attended by the experts with practical and technical professional backgrounds, including academia, policy-makers and decision-takers from various public institutions and agencies, as well as private sector representatives working in the international sphere of border governance.

Based on successful implementation of the 1st International Border Management Conference organised by ICMPD in Lebanon last year, also this year Conference brought together representatives of numerous countries, institutions and agencies involved in border governance. It provided a platform for government, organisations and the private sector to jointly discuss challenges, lessons learnt and creative practical and sustainable solutions on border management urgent issues.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Martijn Pluim, ICMPD Director of Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, said, that "Solutions should strive to bring relevant stakeholders together and should connect relevant actors and proactively contribute to the overall human progress. A concept of comprehensive border governance need to be embraced by national and international partners, as it will serve the interests of governments, citizens, migrants, travellers and businesses alike." Colonel Vaghinak Sargsyan, Commander of Border Troops of the National Security Service of Armenia, emphasized the efforts and contribution of ICMPD in introducing the IBM model in Armenia and implementing activities aimed at enhancing border security.

The Conference explored how a step-change from the management of borders towards their comprehensive governance may provide the tools needed to meet modern challenges faced by border management agencies. In particular, the following topics were addressed:

- Border management in 2025: what has changed since 2015?
- Seamless border controls and hybrid security threats: realistic future or commercial advertisements?
- International technical assistance in border management

During the Conference the representatives of border management agencies from the EU but also from countries benefiting from the EU support, including Central Asia and Eastern Partnership, sought to identify workable solutions to facilitate cooperation and coordination among traditional border and migration management agencies on national, regional and global levels. Participants had an opportunity to present their daily practices and achievements, exchange views and discuss potential developments in border governance, as a means to address today's threats to global security and prepare for future challenges.
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