



# GMPA

**Global Migration Policy Associates**

*An International research, policy development,  
advisory services and advocacy group*

## **GMPA CONCEPT NOTE**

### **1. Background and justification**

International migration has been described as the mega-trend of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a major issue on the economic, political and social landscape worldwide. It has re-emerged as a headline feature of news and communications, a dominant theme in global political discourse and international relations, and an urgent concern for governance, policy-making and administration at all levels. Dominant paradigms feature migrants as “agents of development” praised for their utilitarian value but encouraged to trade away universal rights in exchange for presumed development gains. Or they are vilified as threats to security, employment, health, and community even as most countries increasingly depend on migrants and migration to sustain their economies and development.

At the same time, it is said that migration remains an arena where the most amount of policy is made with the least amount of –often distorted– knowledge and data. While an array of international organizations, academic centres and policy *think tanks* address migration, most pursue the topic from specific institutional mandates and interests and some operate on the basis of short term project-oriented approaches that often rely on a dearth of research basis, knowledge, data and analysis. Many civil society organisations engage on concerns of migrants and refugees, but all too often with a lack of –or inaccurate– knowledge and analysis.

### **2. GMPA in a nutshell**

In order to 'make a difference' in this context, GMPA comprises a unique cooperative network among migration experts across all regions of the world, focused on developing knowledge, analysis, and policy alternatives independent of the dominant framework, while supporting mobilization around common strategic activities and actions. Members reflect diverse academic and practical disciplines addressing multiple aspects and impacts of migration. Members possess knowledge and experience along with commitment to human rights necessary to challenge the rationales that rights can be traded away for access to jobs and labour markets while discrimination and exclusion are collateral costs justifiable to advance development and welfare.

Global Migration Policy Associates support, encourage and generate knowledge and analysis for a broad-based international defence of the rights-based approach. Members challenges and articulate alternatives to the instrumental cost-benefit logic of 'migration management' and "human resource management" discourse and approaches, including among those who consider themselves humanitarian in their world-views.

### **3. GMPA's comparative advantage**

We represent and give life to a rights-based agenda expressed in advocacy, practice and the experience of migration worldwide. We give emphasis to migrants as human beings first and foremost, addressing discrimination and equality of treatment for all migrants and immigrants. We uphold human rights, democratic approaches and social justice as defining principles for migration whether circular or permanent, and promote leadership and action by government, civil society and migrant communities.

GMPA comprises a unique, independent and global resource for governments, international agencies, unions and other entities, most of which cannot afford to sustain teams with the needed breadth of knowledge and experience commensurate with the complexity of understanding and governing migration today. International institutions focused on migration tend to be increasingly project-oriented –with donor driven agendas-- and have limited internal research capacity. Most research and policy advisory bodies are rooted in national contexts and/or specific regional perspective. Policy and practice initiatives by governments, employers, trade unions and civil society on migration and international skills and labour mobility can be well-informed and better supported by the sound research that our specialized global professional body can provide.

GMPA's advantages include:

- 1) Policy research and advisory services from a global perspective;
- 2) Core members from every region of the world;
- 3) Breadth and diversity of interdisciplinary linkages, covering main areas of international migration law, policy and practice;
- 4) Capacity to combine research with policy and practice at multiple levels of governance; and
- 5) Global research and action synthesis to formulate and deliver sound analysis, advice and programmes meeting stated needs.

#### **4. Network Member Attributes**

Associates, Affiliates and cooperants represent:

- internationally recognized expertise on migration and related fields in institutional and academic settings;
- broad knowledge on migration law, policy and practice across the North and the South;
- extensive experience in working with government and with migration-concerned organizations at national, regional, and international levels.

#### **5. Value Added**

This association is rooted in multi-disciplinary perspectives and approaches deriving from notions of social justice, international norms and good governance. It proposes clear alternatives to migration management approaches based on narrow security and economic considerations, and it brings out issues and perspectives often overlooked elsewhere. With its unique identity and status, GMPA acts as a point of engagement for stakeholders and for dialogue in international forums

Global Migration Policy Associates are thus able to play important roles:

- serving as expert advisers for governments, international bodies, social partners and civil society on policy and practice;
- elaborating policy and institutional guidelines on governance of migration;
- identifying, evaluating, and promoting effective practices;
- designing and implementing inter-disciplinary research, technical cooperation, capacity building;
- providing training on all issues of migration and its governance, covering all world regions.

#### **6. Organization**

GMPA is structured to facilitate shared cooperative action:

- The core Associates serve as a Policy Board of Experts guiding overall directions and shaping evolving analysis, identifying emerging policy challenges and reviewing practices, through tele-consultations, face to face meetings and member forums.
- A coordinating team elected among core Associates provides formal statutory responsibility for the Association and oversees coordination and communication.
- A Roster of Affiliates represents a wider group of specialists, academics, experts and others.
- Associates and Affiliates participate in research activities, advisory missions, consultancies, bidding on calls for proposals or for tender, etc. relevant to their areas of expertise.
- Associates/Affiliates are employed and deployed as needed on project-supported basis, in 'made to order' teams to meet each specific request or situation with appropriate competencies.
- A secretariat facilitates GMPA activities, coordination, project administration and communications.

The founding Assembly of member Associates took place on 7 October, 2011. GMPA Statutes were adopted, officers elected, and initial work- plan and budget agreed. GMPA was officially registered in February, 2012 in the State of Geneva as an international non-governmental organization. GMPA obtained UN ECOSOC NGO consultative status accreditation in 2015.

## **7. Thematic expertise**

Member Associates and Affiliates are experienced specialists and internationally recognized experts on a range of migration themes including:

- Migration theories and dynamics
- Determinants of migration
- Migration statistics
- Migration and development
- Globalization and mobility of labour and skills
- Decent work, employment and migration
- Environment, climate change and migration
- Gender and migration
- Health and migration
- Social security and migration
- Family and migration; children in migration
- Integration, equality and non-discrimination
- Normative frameworks and rights based approaches to migration
- Governance of migration at national, regional and international levels
- Migration and regional economic integration ·
- Regional expertise on Africa, Arab States, Asia, the Caribbean, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America and North America.

## **8. Activities and services**

The Associates conduct activities and provide expertise for governments, international bodies, social partners and civil society in support of rights-based governance of migration in areas of:

- Research and analysis on international migration related issues & trends
- Identifying current and future governance challenges and responses
- Technical assessments of national/regional situations and needs
- Elaboration of policy options and recommendations
- Advisory work on policy, legislation, administration, and good practices
- Design and implementation of technical cooperation/capacity building programs and projects
- Assessment, advice and assistance on institution building
- Design and implementation of capacity building and training activities
- Organization of conferences, workshops and seminars on migration

## **9. Salient GMPA accomplishments and products, a partial listing**

- Successful promotion of ratification and domestication by States of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families-ICRMW, also ILO Convention 97 on *migration for employment* and C-143 on *migrant workers* (2011 to present).
- Advisory report for the Indonesian Government for revision of migration law in line with ICRMW.
- Research and report on compliance by Sri Lanka with the ICRMW (2017)
- Preparing, conducting, lecturing at knowledge-sharing training activities with International Training Center of the ILO, on site in Africa and Middle East as well as at the Turin campus (since 2012)
- Elaboration of the African Union-ILO-IOM-UNECA *Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) for integration and development in Africa*, adopted in 2015 by African Heads of State and Government.
- Co-preparation & publication (2016) of a first analytical review report on *cities welcoming migrants and refugees*, with UNESCO and European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR).
- Preparation of a global matrix on application of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its SDGs to migrants, refugees, migration and migration-compelling situations. (2016, revised 2018)
- A comprehensive review of protection of rights of migrants and refugees in Europe *Migrants Have Rights!* published by Caritas Europa (2016)

- Research “*Engaging the Diaspora and Migrant Workers for Home Country Development: Diaspora Finance and Remittances*” article published by Asian Development Bank, OECD and ILO (2017).
- Research and preparation for ILO (in consultation with UNAIDS) of the first global manual on *migration, health, human rights and HIV & AIDS*, launched February 2018.
- Conducted formal evaluations: *EU-Africa Migration and Mobility for Development -MMD partnership implemented by ICMPD* (2017-18); 1<sup>st</sup> phase of *MEET Africa-Mobilisation de l'Entrepreneuriat Europe-Africa* programme (2018); and ITC-ILO training activity on labour migration (2019)
- Contributed inputs to preparing the inter-governmental Global Compact on Migration (2017-2018).
- Research and editorial support to 11 national studies in EU countries on *Migration and Development*; research and drafting of *Common Home: Migration and Development in Europe and beyond report*, explicitly tying migration to the Sustainable Development Agenda, as part of Caritas Europa MIND (Migration. Interconnectedness. Development) project (2018-2019).
- Preparing the IGAD Inter-Governmental Authority for Development *Guidelines on Rights-Based Bilateral Labour Agreements -BLAs*, adopted by an IGAD Ministerial Conference in 2021
- Preparing the *African Union Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements* (adopted by the AU Specialized Technical Commission on Social Affairs, Labour and Employment in April, 2022)
- Expert advisory briefings and statements to UN human rights Treaty Bodies: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination CERD and Committee on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families CMW (on occasions 2012-2022)
- Co-organizing side-event Panel Dialogues at the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women (on occasions 2012 to date).
- Advisory support to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on parliamentary participation in migration governance, including at IPU Assemblies and global topical conferences. (since 2013).
- Expert participation in OSCE-Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe conferences
- Preparation of ILO *issues papers* on fair recruitment and migrant protection, and on return and reintegration of migrant workers for the Government of India.
- Drafting a first historical review of 500 years of Geneva migration history and policy (2022).
- Preparing a first comprehensive *handbook for cities welcoming migrants & refugees* on reception, inclusion and integration, in cooperation with UNESCO and ECCAR cities (forthcoming)

#### 10. GMPA expert network core members and cooperants, indicative listing:

*Organizational posts and affiliations indicated for identification purposes*

**Anastasia Crickley** (former chair, UN treaty body CERD; professor emeritus, Maynooth University), Ireland  
**August Gächter** (project leader, work and equal opportunities, Centre for Social Innovation), Austria  
**Ibrahima Guisse** (Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme-RADDHO), Senegal/Geneva  
**Eivind Hoffmann** (former Director, Statistics and Analysis, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration)  
**Nayeth Idalid Solorzano Alcivar** (professor Polytechnical University, Editor in chief RTE journal), Ecuador  
**Irina Ivakhnyuk** (former department head, Lomonosov Moscow State University), Russian Federation  
**Ray Jureidini** (professor, migration studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha), Lebanon/Qatar  
**Olga Kadysheva** (former associate professor of economics, Finance University of the Russian Federation)  
**Mamadou Niang** (international affairs officer, Confédération Générale des Travailleurs de Mauritanie)  
**Anna Ohannessian Charpin**, (researcher-consultant on anthropology, sociology, migration), France  
**Marius Olivier** (director, International Institute for Social Law and Policy-IISLP), Australia/South Africa  
**Yelena Sadovskaya** (Research Council-CIS Migration Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences), Kazakhstan  
**Petra Snelders** (Rights Equality Solidarity Power Europe Cooperation Today-RESPECT), Netherlands  
**Patrick Taran** (former senior migration specialist, ILO; former Secretary for Migration, WCC), USA/Geneva  
**Piyasiri Wickramasekara** (former senior migration specialist, ILO), Sri Lanka/Geneva  
**Bridget Wooding** (director, Observatory Caribbean Migrants), UK/Dominican Republic

#### GMPA Interim Coordinating Team:

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