



GMPA

Global Migration Policy Associates

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

GMPA SUMMARY ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

About GMPA

Global Migration Policy Associates is a unique network among migration-concerned experts in all regions of the world. Its Associates reflect diverse academic and practical disciplines addressing multiple aspects and impacts of migration. The organisation seeks to support, encourage and generate knowledge and analysis for a broad international articulation, promotion and realization of the rights-based approach. It articulates alternatives to the instrumental cost-benefit logic of *harnessing migration* and 'migration management' predominant today. To 'make a difference', GMPA conducts research and develops analysis and policy directions independently while supporting partner activities. GMPA continues to be a key space and place for ongoing rights-based, multidisciplinary, participative research, policy development, advisory services, training-teaching, and knowledge and values-based advocacy.

GMPA conducts its activity with financial and other resources from modest member dues and project funding for research, advisory, and training activities. GMPA has never received external grant or other funding to sustain core operations and administration, instead 'supporting itself' by *pro-bono* voluntary staff work by member Associates and *cooperants*. It thus retains an ability to function independently of agendas, grant conditionalities, and funding cycles of other international or national institutions, philanthropic foundations, or governments.

GMPA's comparative advantage

We represent and give life to a rights-based agenda rooted in practice, the experience of migration worldwide, and engagement and advocacy in the field. We give emphasis to migrants as human beings first and foremost, addressing discrimination and equality of treatment for all migrants and immigrants. We offer alternatives to emphasis on migrants as "agents of development" praised for their utilitarian value but encouraged to trade away universal rights in exchange for presumed development gains. We uphold human rights, democratic approaches and social justice as defining principles for migration whether temporary or permanent, and we promote leadership and action by government, social partners, civil society and migrant organizers and organizations.

In 2021

Despite the continuing constraints imposed by the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic and responses to it, GMPA work continued apace with 2019 and 2020. Association activity focused on four cutting edge arenas of knowledge-building and policy-development supporting practice on: Bilateral labour Agreements (BLAs) and migration governance in the African context; research and writing on *COVID and migrants & refugees; cities welcoming migrants and refugees*; and co-editing a special issue on global migration for an Ecuadorian-based peer-reviewed scientific journal.

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I. In Brief: main GMPA research, policy advisory, and writing-editing work in 2021:

1. GMPA elaborated, carried out and completed a major research and policy development project over the course of 2021, **"Preparation of AU (African Union) Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements"** under joint AU and ILO auspices. It was a key component of the AU-ILO-IOM-UNECA **JLMP** - Joint Labour Migration Programme for Development and Integration in Africa. The project entailed more than a year's equivalent of full time senior professional work by members of the GMPA expert specialist team: Patrick Taran, Piyasiri Wickramasekara, and Marius Olivier, assisted by Olga Kadyshcheva and Hiral Hirani. Project activity included a broad review of literature both Africa specific and global, identification and analysis of relevance of the wide array of applicable African and international normative standards, review directly or indirectly of nearly 100 BLAs concerning African States with other both within Africa and with countries in other regions, particularly Europe and the Middle East, consultative meetings with concerned tripartite constituents in AU member countries as well as AUC, ILO, IOM LMAC, and the RECs. The outcome was preparation of both the draft [AU Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements](#) (subsequently endorsed by the African Union Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment) and the 100 page *AU Guidelines Manual on BLAs*. See details on *Featured activity* pages 7-8 below.

2. Ongoing research on **COVID-19 & Migrants, Refugees and Mobile Workers** resulting in a peer-reviewed journal [article \(in Spanish\)](#) by Patrick Taran with Nayeth Idalid Solorzano Alcivar published in *Revista Compendium*, Ecuador; and further research and preparation of journal [article](#) by Patrick Taran and Olga Kadyshcheva in *Revista Tecnológica – Espol* (published in March 2022). Piyasiri Wickramasekara conducted research in Asia resulting in two published studies: **"Covid-19 pandemic and migrant workers in Malaysia and Singapore with special focus on South Asian workers"** in: Nasra Shah (ed.). Covid-19 and Asian Migration, published by the Lahore School of Economics and **"Return and reintegration challenges and policy responses in Asia following the COVID-19 pandemic"** in: *Labor migration in Asia: COVID-19 impacts, challenges, and policy responses* jointly issued in 2022 by ADBI – OECD – ILO. Team members also conducted research on cities' responses on COVID and migrants and refugees across Europe as well as local and regional responses in India. GMPA work in 2021 was among the only fully comprehensive approaches; other material remained specific to mandate concerns of UN and other specialized agencies and/or to a specific topical approaches such as gender, health sector, businesses, etc. GMPA work emphasized the application of the international normative framework to protection of migrants, refugees, stateless persons and mobile workers. See Feature Activity pages 9-10.

3. Design and preparation of Special Issue **Global Migration Challenges and Remedies: An interdisciplinary review** (published March 2022) of the open access academic-scientific journal RTE – Revista Tecnológica ESPOL, Polytechnic University of Ecuador produced in cooperation with Global Migration Policy Associates and GSD --Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations. GMPA President Patrick Taran was the *Guest Editor*, working in cooperation with RTE Editor-in-Chief Nayeth Idalid Solórzano Alcivar (based in Guayaquil). Activity included developing the TORs, identifying key topics, doing publicity via emailings and social networks, soliciting articles/papers worldwide from experts on specific migration topics, vetting submissions for peer review, recruiting peer reviewers and editorial follow-up for publication. GMPA Associates August Gachter, Eivind Hoffmann, Olga Kadyshcheva, and Patrick Taran prepared articles for submission. See Feature Activity page 11.

4. GMPA team continued further research and revision of the draft comprehensive **City Practitioners Handbook on Welcoming Migrants and Refugees; towards inclusive and sustainable cities**, forthcoming 2022, to be published by/with UNESCO as a first comprehensive manual for cities, covering all relevant aspects; a pioneering work specific to migrants in cities. The manuscript was 250 pages at end of 2021. Chapters were further revised with information from a follow-up survey with responses from Barcelona, Esch-sur-Alzette, Ghent, Graz, Helsingborg, Karlsruhe, Lausanne, Liège, Soest, Stockholm, and Vienna. Data was also updated from the other cities participating in the original in-depth survey: Athens, Berlin, Bologna, Darmstadt, Erlangen, Geneva, Metz, Malmö, Nancy, Rotterdam, and Uppsala.

II. GMPA Participation in conferences, meetings, workshops and trainings in 2021:

1. Piyasiri Wickramasekara delivered a lecture on ***Multilateral (Global) processes, mechanisms and stakeholders in international migration*** on 23 January 2021 at the ***2021 Special Lecture Series on Migration and Diaspora*** jointly organised by the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Manila, and Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), New Delhi. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQe1nVcVDSM>
2. Piyasiri Wickramasekara was a resource person at the 2021 online ***Professional Course on Global Migration Governance*** organised by the University of the Philippines - Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders (UP-CIFAL), Philippines with UNITAR and IOM, held in April 2021. He made a presentation on ***Inter-state consultation mechanisms for cooperation on international migration governance*** under Module 2.3 of the course. See <https://up.edu.ph/up-cifal-philippines-offers-the-online-professional-course-on-global-migration-pcgm/>
3. A global webinar on "***Regular Pathways and Irregular Migration***" on Tuesday, **4 May 2021** included Patrick Taran among the speakers, along with Joel Odigie, ITUC Africa; Michele LeVoy, PICUM; and Oscar Chacon, Alianza Americas. It was part of the *Civil Society Mobilization* Webinar Series 13 April -18 May 2021, jointly organized by global and regional civil society networks Migrant Forum Asia (MFA), the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), the Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM), the Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC), Alianza Americas, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and the Climate Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP). See announcement at: <https://csactioncommittee.org/webinar-3-regular-pathways-and-irregular-migration/>
4. Evalyn Tennant, Associate at GMPA and co-moderator of the CMDP (Climate Migration and Displacement Platforms) Steering Group was **Moderator** of the global webinar conference "***Climate Change, Migration and Vulnerability***" on **18 May 2021** organized by [Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism \(GRFDT\)](#), [Migrant Forum in Asia \(MFA\)](#), the [Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants \(CCRM\)](#), the [Civil Society Action Committee \(CSAC\)](#), [Alianza Americas](#), the [Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants \(PICUM\)](#) and the [Climate Migration and Displacement Platforms \(CMDP\)](#).
See summary report of this webinar event at: <https://www.themigrationnews.com/news/climate-change-and-migration-civil-society-perspective/> ;
Video recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nftL2zrxjIs>
5. Piyasiri Wickramasekara was a lead trainer-lecturer-resource person for the **ITC ILO** online course on **Developing, Negotiating and Implementing Bilateral Labour Agreements** (A9713753), 14 June to 31 July 2021. 62 participants from all regions representing tripartite partners and international organizations had registered for the course. In addition to course presentations, Wickramasekara also responded to online Forum questions and also marked about 30 essays submitted by participants on BLAs.
6. ***COVID-19, migration, and mobility, whither our common future?*** was topic of panel presentation by Patrick Taran at the Symposium *Opportunités et défis de l'après-Covid-19 / Post-Covid-19 Opportunities and Challenges* organized by SARECEO -Swiss Applied Research Center for Enterprises and Organizations, hosted by the Swiss UMEF University in Geneva on 19 June.

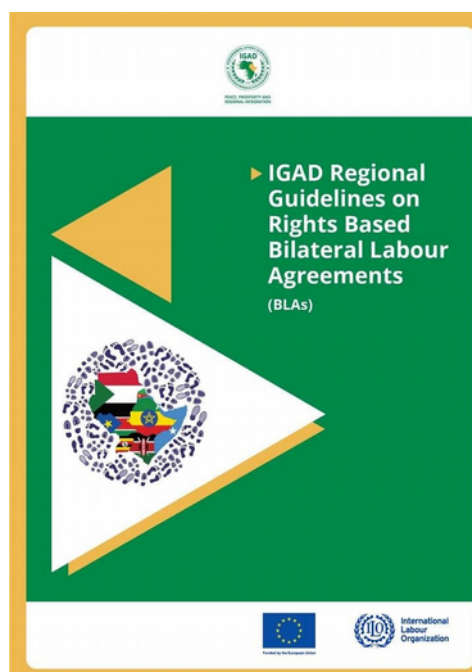
7. Patrick Taran was a speaker at the ***Intergenerational Dialogue 2021. People, Planet, Prosperity: Can social mobilisation shape the agenda at the local, national, and global levels?*** held at the University of Geneva 28 June, organized by Greycells and partners Kofi Annan Foundation, UN Office at Geneva, Geneva Model United Nations, Ville de Genève, and others. See concept note, program and short bios of panellists at <https://greycells.ch/events/intergenerational-dialogue-2021-people-planet-prosperity/>. Video recording at <https://greycells.ch/people-planet-and-prosperity-2021/>.
8. Patrick Taran and Piyasiri Wickramsekara co-conducted with senior AU officials the second segment of the ***Validation meeting with the RECs, Member States, and other Stakeholders on the development of the AU Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Africa and the Guidelines on Developing Bilateral Labour Agreements*** held virtually on 22 July 2021. The second segment reviewed the draft guidelines, provided inputs for corrections and final revision, and endorsed the document to forward for formal adoption by the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment. See Feature Activity summary below, pages 7-8.
9. Gabriela Liguori, Executive Director of CAREF (Argentine Commission for Aid to Refugees and Migrants) and Patrick Taran, GMPA President were featured guest speakers on the Chile radio/social media live broadcast: ***Reality of refugee and migrant populations in Latin America*** (in Spanish), 28 July, 2021 produced by FASIC –the Foundation for Social Assistance of the Christian Churches of Chile, set up by its long-time Executive Director Claudio Gonzalez and moderated by Gloria Konig. Video recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhCUqlvPxSY>
10. **Patrick Taran**, GMPA President, moderated the fourth round of People’s Migration Challenge virtual meetings held on 7 September. The topic of the webinar was '***Migration, COVID-19 and a New Social Contract***'. The video recording is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFet8c_Lkw
11. Patrick Taran, GMPA President and visiting professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations (GSD), taught the BA-International Relations course ***International Migration: Current Challenges and Policy Responses***, September to December 2021 (14 sessions). GMPA Associate Olga Kadyshева, former Associate Professor at the Finance University in Moscow, provided teaching assistance and technical support and was second reader of mid-term exams and term research papers.
12. Patrick Taran, GMPA President, conducted interactive sessions on the topics *Civil Society, Social Participation and Democratic Governance* for the *Executive Master in International Relations* Programme at the Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations (GSD), held 26 October 2021.
13. Patrick Taran was one of two featured speakers (with Guillaume Charron, Geneva Director for Independent Diplomat) for ***Climate Dilemma: Challenges and Impacts on Migration*** video interview recorded for ***Geneva Peace Week Digital Series 2021*** held in November. The video recording is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVNANwsOz68>
13. Piyasiri Wickramasekara was trainer-Lecturer-resource person for the **ITC-ILO** online course, **E-Academy on Labour Migration**, A9713860, held in December 2021. Piyasiri Wickramasekara, GMPA resource person conducted two sessions on *Concepts and Core Elements of BLAs* and *Making bilateral labour agreements and MOUs work* for participants who had selected the elective module on BLAs.

III. Publications 2021 including research papers and reports: by GMPA and by Associates credited in association with GMPA

III. A. Published in 2021

1. ILO-IGAD (2021). **Background Report for IGAD Regional Guidelines for a Rights-based Approach to Bilateral Labour Agreements**, Co-authored by Patrick Taran and Piyasiri Wickramasekara, assisted by Olga Kadyshcheva and Marubini Muswede, Global Migration Policy Associates, under auspices of the ILO-IGAD Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance in the IGAD Region project. (online posting pending)

2. ILO-IGAD. (2021). **Guidelines for a common IGAD approach on bilateral labour agreements (BLAs)**, research and drafted by Piyasiri Wickramasekara and Patrick Taran of GMPA vetted by IGAD review consultation and an IGAD technical commission and adopted by the IGAD Ministerial Conference on 21 October 2021. (online posting pending)



3. **La Pandemia de Covid y Los Migrantes: una Agenda de Diez Puntos Para Mitigar el Desastre en Curso.** Patrick Taran & Nayeth Idalid Solorzano Alcivar. *Revista Compendium: Cuadernos de Economía y Administración*. Guayaquil, Ecuador, April 2021. (Vol. 8 Núm. 1, pp. 1-24). <http://www.revistas.espol.edu.ec/index.php/compendium/article/view/933>

4. **"Covid-19 pandemic and migrant workers in Malaysia and Singapore with special focus on South Asian workers"** Chapter by Piyasiri Wickramasekara of GMPA in: Nasra Shah (ed.). *Covid-19 and Asian Migration, Centre on Migration, Remittances and Diasporas*, Lahore School of Economics, Lahore, 2021. See news story on launch of the book at <https://www.gid-s.org.pk/book-on-covid-19-crisis-asian-migration/>

5. ILO (2021). **Thematic brief on Bilateral Labour Migration Instruments – Africa and Arab States**, Prepared by Piyasiri Wickramasekara of GMPA as a background brief for the Africa – Arab States Tripartite Interregional Meeting on Labour Migration, 15-16 November 2021 organised by the International Labour Organization and the African Union Commission (AUC).

See:

https://www.ilo.org/africa/technical-cooperation/fairway/WCMS_825459/lang-en/index.htm

The **Thematic brief** is available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-abidjan/documents/publication/wcms_831911.pdf



6. “**Guest Opinion: Junie Joseph and Patrick Taran: A day for workers across the globe**”

Boulder Daily Camera, Boulder Colorado. April 29, 2021.

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2021/04/29/guest-opinion-junie-joseph-and-patrick-taran-a-day-for-workers-across-the-globe/>

III. B. Publications prepared in 2021/ published in 2022

1. AU (2022). **AU Guidelines on Developing Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs)**, Revised draft based on African Union tripartite stakeholder Validation Meeting of 22 July 2021, Prepared by Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA) for submission to the AU Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment set for October 2021, postponed to April 2022, when the guidelines were adopted by the STC https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/41106-wd-GUIDELINES_ON_DEVELOPING_BILATERAL_LABOUR_AGREEMENTS_BLA-ENGLISH_0.pdf

2. AU-ILO (forthcoming). **AU guidelines manual on bilateral labour agreements (BLAs)**, Complement to the AU Guidelines on BLAs adopted by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment, Addis Ababa (to be published).

3. Piyasiri Wickramasekara (2022). **Chapter 3. Return and reintegration challenges and policy responses in Asia following the COVID-19 pandemic** -in: *Labor migration in Asia: COVID-19 impacts, challenges, and policy responses*. ADBI – OECD – ILO, pp.33-62.

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/797536/labor-migration-asia.pdf>

2021 Feature Activity

Research and evaluation of Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) and Development of Guidelines on BLAs, a common approach for the African Union and member countries

GMPA elaborated, carried out and completed a major research and policy development project over the course of 2021, "*Preparation of AU (African Union) Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements*" under joint AU and ILO auspices. It was a key component of the AU-ILO-IOM-UNECA JLMP - Joint Labour Migration Programme for Development and Integration in Africa.

The project entailed more than a year's equivalent of full-time senior professional work by members of the GMPA expert specialist team: Patrick Taran, Piyasiri Wickramasekara, Marius Olivier, assisted by Olga Kadyshcheva and Hiral Hirani. The project was proposed by GMPA in response to an original call for expression of interest issued by ILO in November, 2020; a revised proposal was submitted and accepted in January 2021. The formal full-time GMPA engagement spanned from March 2021 – although GMPA began compiling and analysing documentation in November-December 2020--through September 2021. It comprised ten months full time equivalent senior researcher work over seven months between three core team members plus research support staff work.

Project activity included a broad review of literature both Africa specific and global, identification and analysis of relevance of the wide array of applicable African and international normative standards, review directly or indirectly of nearly 100 BLAs concerning African States with other both within Africa and with countries in other regions, particularly Europe and the Middle East, consultative meetings with concerned tripartite constituents in AU member countries as well as AUC, ILO, IOM, the AU LMAC –Labour Migration Action Committee, and migration-concerned officials of the African RECs –Regional Economic Communities, also social partner organisations, namely Business Africa (employers confederation), Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), ITUC-AFRICA and other organisations dealing with migration and migrant workers.

The output was two book-length documents developed in initial drafts, peer reviews and three revisions over the course of 2021: draft *AU Guidelines on Developing Bilateral Labour Agreements* (BLAs) and the 100-page *AU Guidelines Manual on BLAs* (publication pending). The *Guidelines* were endorsed by African Union Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment during its session 4-8 April 2022. See

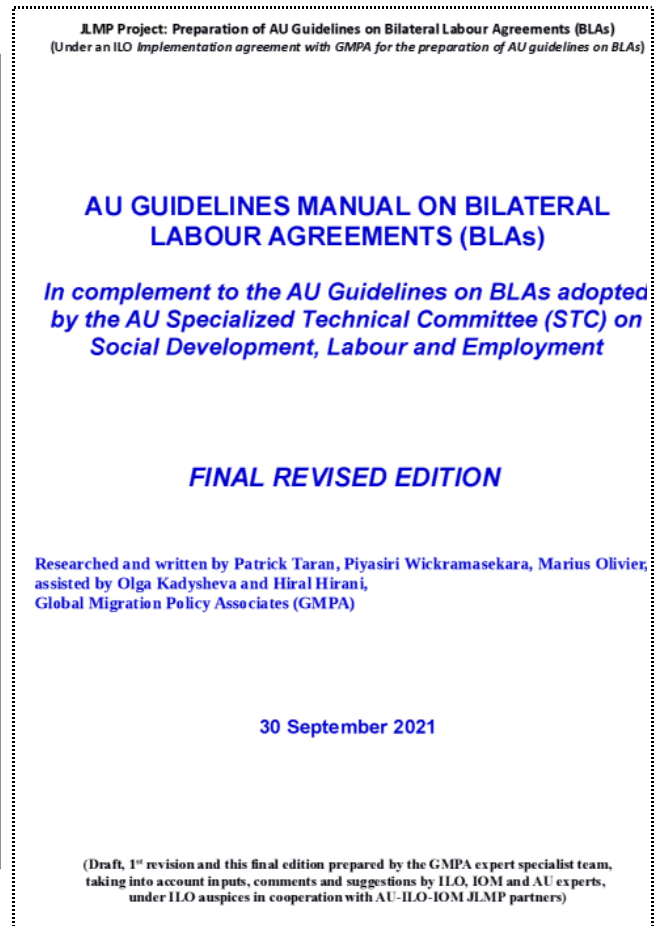
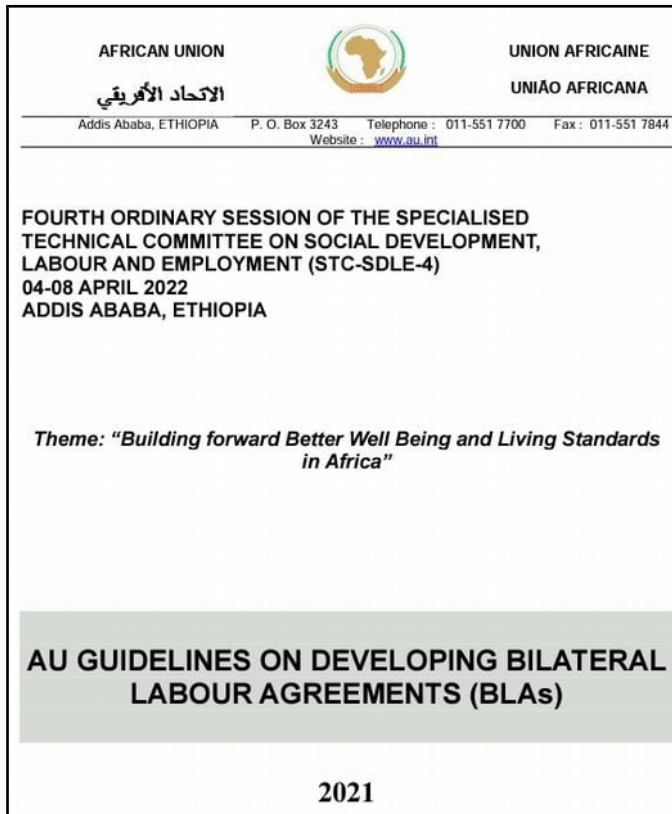
https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/41106-wd-GUIDELINES_ON_DEVELOPING_BILATERAL_LABOUR_AGREEMENTS_BLA_s-ENGLISH_0.pdf

The parallel work on both documents included conceptualisation and development of background research, literature review, organization of constituent based review of experience, concerns and proposals for common basic approach, proceeding to produce first and inception report then an initial draft document for the guidelines, then reviewed and commented first by AU, ILO and IOM officials, then extensively revised and circulated for constituent review by a tripartite vetting meeting, then further refinement for formal submission/transmittal to the STC process.

The Guidelines drafting drew substantial and sought harmony with the IGAD Guidelines on BLAs elaborated the previous year. The drafting also took into account the then evolving preparation of UN Network Guidelines on BLAs.

As evident in the Guidelines, particular and major attention was dedicated to carefully reviewing the African and international normative standards applicable, and to existing formal international guidance on BLAs, in particular ILO Recommendation 86 which presented the first specific international guidelines on BLAs, which remain largely relevant and widely referred today, as well as recent preparatory work under AUC auspices towards AU Guidelines on BLAs.

The accompanying **Manual** was drawn out from research material and from the issues and challenges identified in the guidelines elaboration process, and also review by and consultations with AU, ILO and IOM experts. It is intended to provide needed detailed guidance for the implementation of the Guidelines, namely the 'how to' of formulating, negotiating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating BLAs in practice.



(L) *AU Guidelines on Developing Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs)*. Prepared by Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA) for submission to the AU STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment.

(R) *AU guidelines manual on bilateral labour agreements (BLAs)*, Researched and prepared by Patrick Taran, Piyasiri Wickramasekara and Marius Olivier, assisted by Olga Kadyshcheva and Hiral Hirani, GMPA (forthcoming). Complement to *AU Guidelines on BLAs*.

Feature Activity 2

Research on *COVID-19 & Migrants, Refugees and Mobile Workers*

GMPA continued extensive **global policy advisory research on COVID-19 & Migrants, Refugees and Mobile Workers** originally intended for a parliamentarians brief on COVID 19 & migrants, refugees and mobile workers. That effort followed research and substantial literature review done in 2020 under an agreement with the IPU – Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop a brief for parliamentarians on COVID-19 & Migrants, Refugees and Mobile Workers. GMPA activity in 2021 by Patrick Taran and Olga Kadyshva included further research, updated data and text, revising the draft following peer review.



Subsequent to deferral of publication of the parliamentarian brief, the research was revisited and expanded with the collaboration of GMPA Senior Fellow Nayeth Solorzano, and transformed into an article for scientific publication.

The article was translated into Spanish and submitted in early April 2021 to academic-scientific journal **Compendium** produced by the Ecuadorian Polytechnical University. After being peer-reviewed and revised, it was published on 30 April:

"*La Pandemia de Covid y Los Migrantes: una Agenda de Diez Puntos Para Mitigar el Desastre en Curso.*" Patrick Taran & Nayeth Idalid Solorzano Alcivar. *Revista Compendium: Cuadernos de Economía y Administración*. Guayaquil, Ecuador, 2021. (Vol. 8 Núm. 1, pp. 1-24).

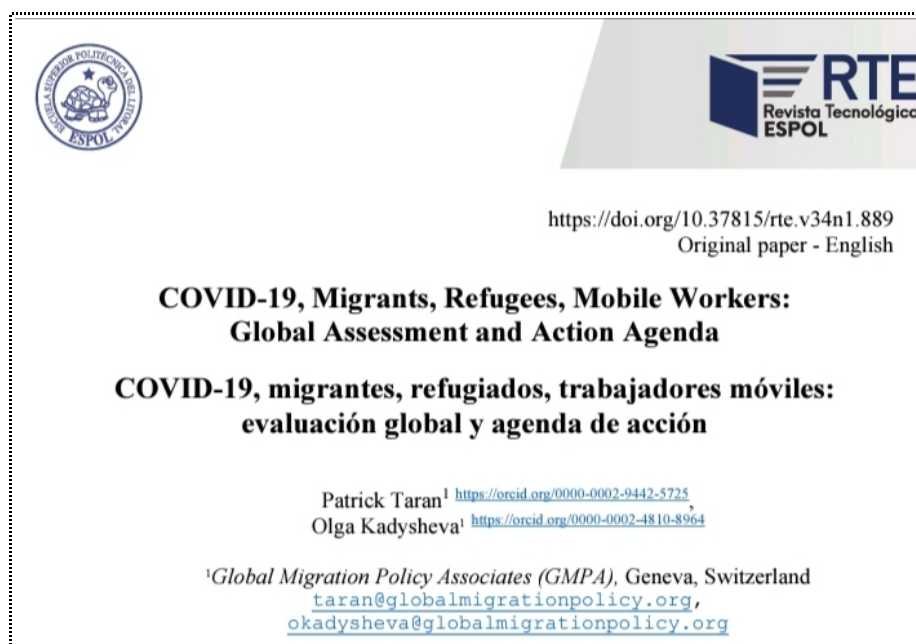
<http://www.revistas.espol.edu.ec/index.php/compendium/article/view/933>

The research itself and subsequently published article remained in 2021 the first and only fully comprehensive approach; other material remained specific to mandate concerns of UN and other specialized agencies and or to a specific topical approach such as gender, health sector, businesses, etc. It manifestly linked international normative framework to specific coverage/application to all migrants, refugees, stateless persons and mobile workers.

Research Associate **Hiral Ramesh Hirani** contributed to the study by doing review of migration-related policies, practices and measures of various countries during the pandemic. This included conducting literature review, identifying data, and finding country examples of policy and practice. Research Associates **Calvin Andrade** and **Rebecca Lily Shepard** carried out research on city/local responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and migrants and refugees across Europe for the *Cities Welcoming Migrants and Refugees* handbook, while Research Associate **Arnaaz Ali** did a review of local and regional responses in India.

Data, findings and analysis of the research were presented as a paper **COVID-19, migration, and mobility, whither our common future?** by Patrick Taran at the Symposium *Opportunités et défis de l'après-Covid-19 / Post-Covid-19 Opportunities and Challenges* organized by SARECEO -Swiss Applied Research Center for Enterprises and Organizations, hosted by the Swiss UMEF University in Geneva on 19 June 2021.

By end of 2021, further academic research, analysis of policies and practices, and review of substantial evolving literature allowed for preparation of another article by Patrick Taran and Olga Kadyshcheva, submitted to **Revista Tecnológica – Espol** (RTE journal, published by the Polytechnic University of Ecuador), *Special Issue on International Migration*. The article went through peer review and was published in March 2022.



Taran, P. & Kadyshcheva, O. (2022). **COVID-19, Migrants, Refugees, Mobile Workers: Global Assessment and Action Agenda**. Revista Tecnológica - Espol, 34(1), 28-57, Guayaquil, Ecuador. <http://www.rte.espol.edu.ec/index.php/tecnologica/article/view/889>

In parallel, Piyasiri Wickramasekara conducted **research in Asia on the Covid-19 pandemic and migrant workers** in Malaysia and Singapore focused on South Asian workers, and on migrant return and reintegration challenges and policy responses in Asia during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The later research covered countries of origin in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam). For some issues, the study focused on Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. That study was commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The research done resulted in two published studies:

1. "**Covid-19 pandemic and migrant workers in Malaysia and Singapore with special focus on South Asian workers**" a chapter in: Nasra Shah (ed.). **Covid-19 and Asian Migration**, published by the Lahore School of Economics, Lahore, and
2. "**Return and reintegration challenges and policy responses in Asia following the COVID-19 pandemic**" -in: **Labor migration in Asia: COVID-19 impacts, challenges, and policy responses** jointly issued in 2022 by ADBI – OECD – ILO. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/797536/labor-migration-asia.pdf>

Feature Activity 3

Design and preparation of the **Special Issue *Global Migration Challenges and Remedies: An interdisciplinary review*** of the **open access academic-scientific journal RTE –Revista Tecnológica ESPOL** by the Polytechnic University of Ecuador (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral), produced in cooperation with GMPA and GSD --Geneva School of Diplomacy.



Initial *Call for Papers* issued 15 April 2021

GMPA President Patrick Taran was the *Guest Editor*, working in cooperation with RTE Editor-in-Chief Nayeth Idalid Solórzano Alcivar (based in Guayaquil). GMPA Associates August Gachter, Eivind Hoffmann, Olga Kadysheva, and Patrick Taran prepared articles for submission. Among the 31 peer reviewers were GMPA Associates and Affiliates: Elena Dingu-Kyrklund, Tamirace Fakhoury, Pedro Gois, Ibrahima Guisse, Olga Kadysheva, Juliana Masabo, Paolo Ruspini, Petra Snelders, Piyasiri Wickramasekara, and John Wrench, as well as GMPA Research Associates Alexandra Kramskaya and Rebecca Lily Shepard and former Research Associate Rakesh Krishnan.

Activity by the Editorial team included developing the TORs; identifying key topics; publicising the call for submissions and inviting articles via mass mailings and social networks; directly soliciting articles/papers from GMPA members, ESPOL and GSD students and other experts on specific migration topics; counselling intending authors on preparing and submitting articles according to academic journal standards; initial qualifying review of submissions; arranging and following-up peer review; assisting authors to understand and address peer review comments and concerns; and editorial check of revised submissions for dispatch to RTE copy-editing, layout and publication.

The TORs established by the editorial team called for soliciting content concerning all world regions; obtaining regional and national diversity across the globe among authors and peer reviewers; ensuring gender balance in authors and reviewers; covering multiple disciplines; and seeking a range among authors/contributors from migrants to young women scholars to international specialists to academics.

Extensive solicitation and encouragement –and extension of submission deadline to December 2021-- obtained 15 formal article texts qualified for peer review out of 18 original submissions; ten were ultimately selected for publication. Issues covered included: policy for rights, decent work and well-fare of women migrant workers; health and risks facing migrants and refugees in the COVID-19 pandemic; small island country mitigation and adaptation to global warming; impeding climate-change displacement of indigenous pastoralist communities; preventing discrimination and promoting equality of treatment; common approaches of cities welcoming migrants and refugees; international migration sustaining economies and development worldwide; anti-migration discourse by populist ethno-nationalism; lessons from ancient history for contemporary refugee law; and including human rights and migration in university education. The RTE *Special Issue* was published on 15 March 2022. The full issue in PDF is available at: <http://www.rte.espol.edu.ec/index.php/tecnologica/issue/view/40/34>

GMPA OPERATIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY 2021

Governance

Main activity included:

1. Regular meetings of officers –core Coordinating Team (Piyasiri was in Geneva part of year).
2. Review, monitoring and supervising GMPA project and other activity for 2021
3. Approval/preparation of proposal for AU-BLA Guidelines project with ILO
4. Drafted financial and activity reports for 2020, revised 2019 annual report draft

The Secretariat (at Villa Masaryk, 11 Avenue de la Paix, Geneva)

1. Provided support and arrangements, materials and logistics for GMPA team activities.
2. Provided research assistance to main research activities.
3. Providing training for intern research associates
4. Maintained administrative activity and intern/research associate staff support.
5. Regular weekly staff team meetings either in-person as permitted or virtually.

Staff

The secretariat team, including *Research Associates/interns* in 2021 (respecting pandemic restrictions) was a fully global group reflecting five world regions; all were international migrants. All staff worked on a non-remunerative basis, either under formal Research Associate internship agreements or as 'pro-bono' executive staff. (Research Associate interns worked primarily on mutually agreed research activity)

1. **Patrick Taran**, GMPA President, USA/France, provided executive functions *ad interim*.
2. **Olga Kadysheva**, Associate, Russian Federation/France, provided professional support on both research and administrative work and served as Acting Secretary.
3. **Nayeth Solarzano, PhD** Senior Fellow 2021, **Ecuador**, Director Revista Tecnológica ESPOL, *Profesor Principal* ESPOL- Polytechnic University of Ecuador
4. **Arnaaz Ali**, Research Associate, **India**/Geneva School of Diplomacy, June-December.
5. **Calvin Andrade**, Research Associate, **India**/Geneva School of Diplomacy, March-September.
6. **Hiral Ramesh Hirani**, Research Associate, **Kenya**, Geneva School of Diplomacy, February-May.
7. **Alexandra Kramskaya**, Research Associate, **Russian Federation**/Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva (MA in 2022) February-June
8. **Rebecca Lily Shepard**, Research Associate, Chicago, **USA**/Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva (MA in 2022), February to August 2021.

Communications and advocacy

- Regular postings on GMPA **Facebook** page, occasional postings on **Twitter**
- Regular list-serve informational mailings to 400 plus *GMPA Network* constituent contacts
- Three mass mailings to nearly 5,000 persons worldwide in the *GMPA contact data-base*

Official/Diplomatic

- Registration for 2021 annual accreditation & badges for UNOG

Proposals & Consultations re ongoing and future cooperation

- Consultations with UNAIDS on preparation of implementation of migration, health and HIV & AIDS guidelines in 2022

Advance drafted by Patrick Taran (GMPA President) and Olga Kadysheva (Acting Secretary), February 2022
Inputs by Piyasiri Wickramasekara (Vice-President) in mid-2022 and approval by Officers 14 October 2022
Approval to be proposed for GMPA Assembly planned for December 2022