



# GMPA

**Global Migration Policy Associates**

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

## **GMPA QUADRENNIAL REPORT (2019-2022) TO UN ECOSOC** as required by NGO consultative status regulations

*(The text below is a full version of the abbreviated brief report posted to UN DESA NGO Branch on 31.12.2023)*

### **1. Introduction**

*(A brief introductory statement recalling organization's name and its geographical coverage)*

**Global Migration Policy Associates** is an independent global expert group established in 2011 in Geneva with *consultative status* to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) since 2015. GMPA is a dynamic space and place for ongoing rights-based, multidisciplinary, participatory research, policy development, advisory services, training-teaching, and knowledge- and values-based advocacy. It generates knowledge and analysis for a broad international articulation, promotion and realization of the *rights-based approach*. GMPA Associates and Affiliates are recognized academic and practitioner experts from countries in all world regions with rich experience in spheres of migration-related research, policy and governance. GMPA members reflect diverse academic and practical disciplines addressing multiple aspects of migration comprising regional expertise on Africa, North and Latin America, Asia, the Caribbean, Eurasia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Oceania.

### **2. Aims and purposes of the organization and its course of action**

GMPA members individually and collectively deliver multi-disciplinary research, policy development, expert advisory services, training and advocacy advancing rights- and knowledge-based governance of migration, realisation of human rights for all, and promoting just and sustainable development. GMPA upholds human rights, social justice, non-discrimination, equality of treatment, and democratic participation as defining principles. We promote engagement by government, social partners, civil society and migrant communities.

Our comparative advantage derives from: competence and ability to conduct policy research and advisory services from a global perspective; cross cutting approaches combining research with policy and practice; global knowledge to deliver sound analysis, advice and programmes; and membership breadth and diversity addressing all areas of migration and all regions.

### **3. Any change that may have had a significant impact**

GMPA conducted two major regional policy development processes 2020 to 2022 in cooperation with and in support of the African Union (AU) and the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) (7 East Africa/Horn of Africa countries) developing common regional guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs) subsequently adopted at the respective regional inter-ministerial governance bodies. The AU process was conducted under auspices of the **AU-ILO-IOM-UNECA** Joint Labour Migration Program (JLMP) for development and integration in Africa. Both of these efforts were conducted in operational cooperation with the **ILO**. These unique tripartite consultative policy elaboration efforts involved complex, strategic processes of background situation research, application of international normative frameworks, extensive consultations with government and social partner stakeholders, peer review of drafts including by **ILO** and **IOM**, and vetting by tripartite government, employer and union officials in online consultations. The IGAD exercise also involved a month of research and consultations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda and tele-consultations with government and social partner officials in Somalia and South Sudan.

These processes represented pioneering approaches to regional policy development fully involving both government and the concerned social partner stakeholders from start to conclusion with formal adoption at the highest regional entity political level. While the outcome policy commitment documents are non-binding, the engagement of government and other stakeholders in the concerned countries gives the formal African Union Guidelines significant political weight across all 54 AU member countries as well as the 7 IGAD member countries for the IGAD specific guidance.

In addition, the impact of other GMPA activity and publications in 2018-2022 made significant contributions to building the global knowledge base on international migration and rights-based governance of migration.

#### 4. Your contribution to the work of the UN

GMPA pursued a strategic multi-disciplinary approach on human rights, sustainable development, and human welfare/well-being, supporting implementation of United Nations normative instruments and policy agendas. Activity focussed on: promotion of ratification and application of UN Human Rights Conventions and International Labour Standards and support for implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

**Accomplishments and products** included:

- Ongoing 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**) and **ILO Conventions** 97 on migration for employment and 143 on migrant workers.
- Knowledge-sharing and training activities with **International Training Center of the ILO**, focusing on protection of migrant workers and application of **ILO Standards**. (several trainings per year)
- Research and revision of draft *Handbook on Cities Welcoming Migrants and Refugees: Rights, Inclusion, Integration, Sustainability*, in collaboration with **UNESCO** and ECCAR - European Coalition of Cities Against Racism. (publication foreseen 2024)
- [Independent External Evaluation of the ITC ILO training and learning activities in the area of labour migration](#) (Taran, 2019).
- Chapter "[Ensuring that migration is voluntary, safe and orderly](#)" in the **UN Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020**, produced by UN Regional Network on Migration for Asia and Pacific. (Wickramasekara, 2020, co-author)
- [Malaysia: Review of admission and recruitment practices of Indonesian workers in the plantation and domestic work sectors and related recommendations](#), published by **ILO**, Bangkok. (Wickramasekara, 2020)
- [Background Report: IGAD Regional Guidelines on Rights-Based Bilateral Labour Agreements \(BLAs\)](#). Taran and Wickramasekara, **ILO-IGAD**, 2021.
- [IGAD Regional Guidelines on Rights-Based Bilateral Labour Agreements \(BLAs\)](#). IGAD, 2021. Adopted by the IGAD Member States' Ministers of Labour and Employment in 2021.
- [AU Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements](#). African Union, 2021 (prepared by GMPA team in cooperation with **ILO** and African Union), adopted by AU Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment in 2022.
- *AU guidelines manual on bilateral labour agreements (BLAs)*, Complement to the AU Guidelines on BLAs. AU-ILO (forthcoming).
- Research and preparation of [Thematic background brief on Bilateral Labour Migration Instruments – Africa and Arab States](#) for the Africa – Arab States Tripartite Interregional Meeting on Labour Migration, organised by **ILO** and African Union Commission (Wickramasekara, 2021).
- Support for proceedings and outcome of the [Global Parliamentary Conference on refugees and migration](#), Istanbul, 20-21 June, organized by Inter-Parliamentary Union - IPU and Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. specifically urging ratification and implementation of the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW)** and implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration. (Participation by 300 parliamentarians from 50 countries across all regions.)
- Extensive multidisciplinary rights-based research and publications on *COVID-19, Migrants and Refugees* emphasizing application of **UN and ILO Conventions** and guidance from **ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UN WOMEN, WHO** for protection of migrants, refugees, stateless persons and mobile workers as well as the Right to Health and health related rights for all. Publications were:
  - [La Pandemia de Covid y Los Migrantes: una Agenda de Diez Puntos Para Mitigar el Desastre en Curso](#). Revista Compendium: Cuadernos de Economía y Administración, Ecuador. (Taran & Solorzano, 2021)
  - [COVID-19, Migrants, Refugees, Mobile Workers: Global Assessment and Action Agenda](#), Revista Tecnológica - Espol, 34-1, Ecuador (Taran & Kadysheva, 2022)
  - [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* published by Asian Development Bank (ADB), OECD, and **ILO** (Wickramasekara, 2022).
  - [Covid-19 pandemic and migrant workers in Malaysia and Singapore with special focus on South Asian workers](#) published by Lahore School of Economics (Wickramasekara, 2020).

Other accomplishments featuring **UN Conventions** and/or cooperation with **UN agencies**.

- Comprehensive *national migration profiles* on 8 East Europe and Eurasia countries: Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, covering migration history, migrant worker recruitment, conditions of employment, legislation, and review of ratification and implementation of **UN and ILO Conventions**. ( in cooperation with ITUC, 2022.)
- Co-editing and co-production of [Special Issue Global Migration Challenges and Remedies: An interdisciplinary review](#) of academic-scientific journal RTE –Revista Tecnológica ESPOL, Polytechnic University of Ecuador (Guayaquil). Nearly all articles featured discussion of **ILO International Labour Standards** and **UN Human Rights Conventions**.

## 5. Your participation in the fora of the UN

### 2019:

- Presentation at Global workshop: *HIV among Migrants and Refugees: Strengthening collaboration among faith-based organizations, multi-lateral organizations, governments, and civil society in addressing HIV risk, provision of services, and advocacy*, 20 – 21 February, Geneva. Organized by the World Council of Churches, International Catholic Migration Commission and **UNAIDS**.
- *Presentation at UN Expert symposium on international migration and development*, organised by **UN DESA**, 26 February, UN headquarters in New York.
- *Participation in and speaking at IOM-Civil Society Information Sharing session*, 17 June, Geneva.
- Research and preparation of background report on Effective Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers in ASEAN for the **ILO** and the Government of Indonesia, presented and validated at ASEAN Workshop *Reintegration Programmes for Returning Migrant Workers*, organized by Government of Indonesia and **ILO TRIANGLE** in ASEAN programme, 27–28 August, Yogyakarta.
- Participation in and preparation of paper for 12th **UN Forum on Minority Issues**, Geneva, 28-29 November.
- *Conducting a study on Admission Policies and Recruitment Practices for Indonesian Workers in the Domestic Work and Plantation Sectors of Malaysia*, presented and approved at *Validation workshop*, 20 December, Kuala Lumpur, **ILO** Improving Migration Governance Project in Malaysia.
- Research and preparation of Background paper presented Inter-regional meeting *Labour mobility between Asia and the Arab States: Sharing of experiences and progress under the Bali Declaration with specific focus on women migrant workers*, 3-4 December, Bangkok, organised by **ILO** Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

### 2020:

- Conducted a *fact-finding* mission to IGAD Member States Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, 21 February - 11 March to consult with and obtain data and perspective from stakeholders in preparation of *IGAD Guidelines for Rights-Based BLAs* and the *Background Report*. (arranged by the IGAD-**ILO** Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance project).
- Online consultations 8-9 June with Somalia stakeholders towards preparation of the draft *IGAD Guidelines for Rights-Based BLAs* and the *Background Report* (under auspices of **ILO-IGAD**)
- Online consultations 17-18 June with South Sudan stakeholders for preparation of the draft *IGAD Guidelines for Rights-Based BLAs* and the *Background Report* (under auspices of **ILO-IGAD**)
- Resource person and lecturer for several sessions of the **ITC-ILO E-Academy on labour migration: Promoting decent work for migrant workers**, 9 November - 18 December.
- Co-conducted with senior IGAD officials the Validation Workshop for the draft *IGAD Guidelines for Rights-Based BLA*, held on 9 December, in cooperation with **ILO**.

### 2021:

- Presentation *Inter-state consultation mechanisms for cooperation on international migration governance* at online *Professional Course on Global Migration Governance* organised by University of the Philippines - Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders (UP-CIFAL) with **UNITAR** and **IOM**, held in April.
- Served as a lead trainer-lecturer-resource person for the **ITC ILO** online course on *Developing, Negotiating and Implementing Bilateral Labour Agreements*, 14 June - 31 July.
- Speaker at *Intergenerational Dialogue 2021. People, Planet, Prosperity: Can social mobilisation shape the agenda at the local, national, and global levels?* University of Geneva, 28 June, organized by Greycells and partners Kofi Annan Foundation, **UN Office in Geneva**, **Geneva Model United Nations**, Ville de Genève, and others.
- Co-conducted with senior African Union officials the *Validation meeting with the RECs, Member States, and other Stakeholders the Guidelines on Developing Bilateral Labour Agreements* held virtually 22 July (in cooperation with **ILO**).
- Presentation at Africa – Arab States Tripartite Inter-regional Meeting on Labour Migration, 15-16 November, organised by the **ILO** and the African Union Commission (AUC).

- Trainer-lecturer-resource person for the **ITC-ILO E-Academy on Labour Migration**, December.

## 2022:

- Served as key expert trainer for **International Training Center of the ILO** at:
  - Bilateral Labour Agreements for Protection of Kenyan Migrant workers, Mombasa, Kenya, 17-19 March;
  - E-Course on Developing, Negotiating and Implementing Bilateral Labour Agreements, 13 June - 22 July;
  - Special training for participants from South Asia on BLAs under the ILO Governance of Labour Migration in South and South-East Asia (GOALS project), online June-July;
  - *ITC-ILO-IGAD Training on Protection of migrant workers and their families in and from the IGAD region countries*, Entebbe, Uganda, 22-26 August;
  - E-Academy on Labour Migration, 15 – 18 November.
- Input contributions to the *Expert Meeting on Recommendations on the Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk in Migration Contexts*. Geneva 19 - 20 July, organised by **UN Women**.

## 6. Your cooperation with UN Bodies

GMPA cooperated extensively with **ILO**, the **International Training Center of the ILO**, and **UNESCO**.

GMPA engaged with **OHCHR**, the **Human Rights Council**, several Special Rapporteurs, and human rights Treaty Bodies **CERD** and **CMW**.

GMPA also interacted in research, consultative dialogue, and in meetings and conferences with **UN Women**, **UN ESCAP**, **IOM**, and **UNAIDS**.

## 7. Your initiatives taken in support of the MDGs/SDGs

The GMPA [Migration and SDG Matrix](#) developed in 2016 and expanded in 2018 identifies 45 targets across 16 of 17 SDGs, linking migration-development rationales with Sustainable Development Agenda goals and targets, respective implementing actions, measurement indicators, and baseline data sources.

The UNESCO-published [Cities Welcoming Refugees and Migrants: enhancing effective urban governance in an age of migration](#) (2016) prepared by GMPA featured urban governance in implementing *SDG 11 on inclusive and sustainable cities and human settlements* as well as the *New Urban Agenda*. The [sequel research](#) 2017-2022 for the *Handbook on Cities Welcoming Migrants and Refugees: Rights, Inclusion, Integration, Sustainability* in collaboration with **UNESCO** and ECCAR - European Coalition of Cities Against Racism, continued elaborating support for implementation of the SDGs at city/urban level.

In 2018-19, GMPA supported research, writing and finalisation of [11 Caritas national studies in EU countries](#) (*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Sweden*) on *migration and development* explicitly tying migration to the Sustainable Development Agenda (published May 2019). GMPA cooperated in the development of structure/outline, identifying relevant literature and data sources, revision, editions and comments on 3 drafts of each national report over 2018. In early 2019, the GMPA colleagues final edited revised drafts for publication of all 11 national reports. From early 2019 to mid-year, GMPA researched and drafted [Common Home: Migration and Development in Europe and beyond](#) published in 2019 by Caritas Europa.

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