



# GMPA

**Global Migration Policy Associates**

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

## CONCEPT NOTE

### 1. Background and justification

International migration has been described as the mega-trend of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is today a major issue on the economic, political and social landscape worldwide. It has re-emerged as a headline feature of news and public communications, a dominant theme in global political discourse and international relations, and an urgent concern for governance, policy-making and administration at national and regional level worldwide.

Nevertheless, it is said that migration remains an arena where the most amount of policy is made on the least amount of information and data. There are no estimates of annual global flows of migrants and the migrant stock data reported periodically by the UN Population Division cannot capture short-term temporary migration. 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. These institutions tend to reflect biases of specific regions where they are based.

Existing literature, research, policy prescriptions and recommendations on migration often do not adequately reflect accumulated experience and historical perspectives; they lack references to international standards and propose migration ‘management’ and sharing of “best practices” devoid of normative foundations.

### 2. The case for a new initiative

There is a clear need for balanced analysis, advice, support and advocacy that highlights rights-based approaches to international migration focusing on governance at various levels and protection issues of migrant workers. A major lacuna is the absence of broad-based participation in migration policy and practice, notably of social partners and civil society. What is needed is the promotion of integrated, multi-disciplinary approaches beyond ‘project-oriented’ activity evaluated on “value for money” criteria. There is certainly a strong case for bringing to bear perspectives from the South and from migrants’ own experiences.

Even major governments and international agencies cannot afford individually to sustain teams with the breadth of knowledge and experience commensurate with the complexity of governing migration. Today, government ministries and agencies, regional bodies and international organizations often rely on external services to obtain information, produce research documents, draft policy papers, develop projects and implement specialized activities on migration issues. International institutions focused on migration are largely project-oriented and have limited internal research capacity. Other migration

research and policy advisory bodies are rooted in specific regional perspective or country contexts.

Initiatives and advocacy by employers, trade unions and civil society groups on migration and international skills and labour mobility will also be better-informed and supported by the sound research that a specialized global professional body can provide.

### 3. A timely alternative

In this context, dedicated professionals from around the world with recognized expertise, wide experience, and proven credentials formed a team, *Global Migration Policy Associates*, to address international migration with a rights-based approach from a truly global perspective.

Members of the association possess:

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

Global Migration Policy Associates are thus able to play a major role as follows:

- serve as expert advisers for governments, international bodies, social partners and civil society on policy and practice;
- elaborate policy and institutional guidelines on governance of migration;
- identify, evaluate, and promote effective practices;
- design and implement inter-disciplinary research, technical cooperation and capacity building; and
- provide training on all issues of migration and its governance, covering all world regions.

### 4. Value Added and Comparative Advantages

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

GMPA's comparative 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 all main areas of international migration policy and practice;
- 4) Capacity to combine research with policy and practice at multiple levels of governance; and
- 5) Global research and action networking to formulate and deliver sound analysis, advice and programmes meeting stated needs.

### 5. 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 cooperating with the Association.
- An Advisory Council incorporates professional counterparts in partner international organizations to facilitate dialogue and cooperation
- 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 will facilitate website, email, telephone and postal contacts as well as implement GMPA activities.

The founding Assembly of member Associates took place on 7 October, 2011. Its 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.

## **6. 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 trends and statistics Political economy of migration
- 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.

## **7. Activities and services**

The Associates conduct activities and provide expertise in cooperation with governments, international bodies, social partners and civil society in support of rights-based governance of migration. Contributions include:

- 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
- Guidance on public awareness and news media communications on migration.

### **The Associates:**

(Organizations listed for identification purposes)

**Maruja Asis** (Scalabrini Migration Center, Philippines), **Pablo Ceriani** (National University of Lanús, Argentina), **Jana Costachi** (Moldova), **Anastasia Crickley** (National University of Ireland, Maynooth), **Abdelhamid El Jamri** (Morocco/France), **Tamirace Fakhoury** (Lebanese American University, Beirut), **August Gächter** (Centre for Social Innovation, Austria), **Irina Ivakhnyuk** (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russian Federation), **Guillermo Kerber** (World Council of Churches, Uruguay/Geneva), **Zonke Majodina** (UN Committee on Human Rights, South Africa), **Mamadou Niang** (Confédération Générale des Travailleurs de Mauritanie), **Nicola Piper** (University of Sydney, Germany/Australia), **Lisa Simeone** (University of Chicago, USA), **Ahmadou Tall** (Millenium Challenge Account, Senegal), **Patrick Taran** (GMPA, USA/Geneva), **Piyasiri Wickramasekara** (GMPA, Sri Lanka/Geneva), **Bridget Wooding** (Observatory Caribbean Migrants, UK/Dominican Republic), **John Wrench** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, UK/Norway).

### **Global Policy Council**

(Organizations listed for identification purposes)

**Gervais Appave** (*International Organization for Migration -IOM*), **Stephen Castles** (*University of Sydney*), **Vincent Chetail** (*Graduate Institute, Geneva*), **Ryszard Cholewinski** (*International Labour Office -ILO*), **Raul Delgado Wise** (*Red Desarrollo y Migraciones*), **Sherif Elsayed**, (*Amnesty International*), **Bimal Ghosh**, **William Gois** (*Migrant Forum in Asia -MFA*), **Katja Hujò** (*UN Research Institute on Social Development - UNRISD*), **Prasad Kariyawasam**, (*UN Migrant Workers Committee*), **Jin Sook Lee** (*Building & Woodworkers International Union -BWI*), **Michele LeVoy** (*Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migration -PICUM*), **Jan Niessen** (*Migration Policy Group -MPG*), **Pia Oberoi**, (*Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights -OHCHR*)

### **GMPA Coordinating Team:**

Patrick Taran (*President*) [taran@globalmigrationpolicy.org](mailto:taran@globalmigrationpolicy.org)

Piyasiri Wickramasekara (*Vice-President*) [piyasiriw@globalmigrationpolicy.org](mailto:piyasiriw@globalmigrationpolicy.org)

Lisa Simeone (*Secretary*)

Pablo Ceriani

Tamirace Foukhury

Nicola Piper

**Office Address: 11 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland**

**Telephone: +41 22 733 8927**

**Email: [gmpa@globalmigrationpolicy.org](mailto:gmpa@globalmigrationpolicy.org)**

**Website: [www.globalmigrationpolicy.org](http://www.globalmigrationpolicy.org)**

*Accorded with Statutes & Founding Meeting of 7 October 2011, new members May 2012. Updated April 2015*