



Global Diaspora Policy Alliance: Final Draft Terms of Reference

June 2024

1 Introduction and Overview

As an integral component of the [Dublin Declaration: A Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement](#), the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA) provides the foundational networked base of technical and governmental collaboration to maximise diaspora engagement. The importance of this statement of future action is rooted in the vision of the Global Diaspora Summit (GDS) to initiate an integrated process that supports implementation of Objective 19 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by providing measurable interventions to track impact through the GDS in support of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

During the GDS a commitment was made to create a Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA), as a means of cultivating an inclusive ecosystem of collaboration across governments, diaspora organizations and key stakeholders to empower diasporas to be able to fully contribute to sustainable development. In this regard, IOM and partners will facilitate the GDPA. The GDPA will bring together senior policymakers, diaspora organizations, international agencies, the private sector, and other formative actors in designing sustainable diaspora policies for countries of origin and residence. The purpose of the alliance will be to create a networked tool of expertise and exchange to complement existing facilities prioritizing diaspora engagement in global development policy frameworks. It is envisaged that GDPA will play a critical role in nurturing technical and high-level political exchange to unearth new knowledge that can then be embedded into existing UN processes and platforms. The GDPA will also serve as an important platform to consolidate achievements reached under GCM objective 19 leading up to a second Global Diaspora Summit, envisioned to take place in 2026.

Considering this, the purpose of the GDPA is three-fold, it is designed to:



2 Governance of the GDPA

To establish the GDPA, it is recommended that a governance framework be created to provide continuity in stakeholder engagement, including through the establishment of an Institutional Steering Committee (ISC) comprising of IOM Member States who have supported the Dublin Declaration and government-nominated diaspora organizations. New members can be admitted to the GDPA upon request.

It is further recommended that the ISC be supported by a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) which will serve as a consultation body to inform the work of the ISC and the technical working groups that will operate under them and to identify best practice and lessons learned. The SAG will engage diaspora organizations, including the Global Diaspora Confederation and other stakeholder and international cooperation partners such as donor agencies, foundations, and the private sector.

This governance framework has been provided in respect and recognition of the key constituencies active across the GDS. This will ensure that the stated aim for the GDS to be an inclusive process to advance a future agenda of action for global diaspora engagement.

The work of the GDPA is conducted within thematic working areas by Technical Working Groups (TWGs) prioritised, selected, and led by Network members in alignment with the Dublin Declaration other relevant frameworks such as the GCM and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.1 Role of the Institutional Steering Committee

As Leading Participating States of the Global Diaspora Summit, the ISC members are expected to actively engage in the meetings convened by IOM in the framework of the GDPA. The ISC is composed of the governments of Armenia, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Türkiye, Uruguay and the African Union and their respective diasporas. All members will be designated by their respective constituencies, represent them at the highest-level and are accountable to them. It is the responsibility of the representatives of all constituencies to communicate and consult with their peers as appropriate.

Each Member State is expected to nominate a diaspora organization to participate in the GDPA as a Member of the ISC. This will result in the further coordination with diaspora communities. It is also stipulated that the ISC will be supported by the SAG formed by experts on diaspora engagement from different sectors to ensure the objectives of the GDPA. Meetings between the ISC and the SAG will take place biannually and are expected to be a platform to further engage, enable and empower diasporas globally.

The tasks of the ISC are as follows:

- Provide strategic and technical guidance on the structure and activities of the GDPA including recommendations on the Technical Working Groups and potential organization of ad-hoc meetings or events to maximise the impact of the GDPA.

- Provide strategic guidance to Member States to support the implementation of GCM Objective 19 and the Dublin Declaration.
- Work with other relevant global bodies and supporting mechanisms within SDG processes aiming to maximise diaspora engagement.
- Provide guidance regarding the focus, agenda and outcomes of the periodic Global Diaspora Policy Alliance Meetings or High-Level Meetings.
- Provide guidance to diaspora engagement stakeholders on key priorities, as well as catalytic actions including on potential flagship initiatives, including the Second Global Diaspora Summit.
- Build strong partnerships among diverse stakeholders and leverage support for the achievement of GCM Objective 19.
- Encourage harmonization and coordination of diaspora engagement activities in all countries and regions including at the global, regional and national levels.
- Contribute to and support of key GDPA documentation, including revision of outcome documents.
- Support in paving the way towards the next Global Diaspora Summit including recommendations on potential partners, panellists, and topics of interest.
- Promote iDiaspora amongst relevant stakeholders as the global digital hub for diaspora organizations and leaders to connect, learn and contribute.

Upon formalization of the governance apparatus through the ISC, it is envisaged that the ISC will meet biannually with the SAG to align active co-delivery of the planned impacts from the GDPA.

IOM will remain active as the lead logistical coordinator of the relevant meetings and reporting requirements.

2.2 Role of the Technical Working Groups

The Technical Working Groups will be the main vehicle for policy dialogue in the GDPA. They will bring together members to discuss specific issues related to diaspora engagement through a sectoral approach. Thematic areas will be identified, prioritized, and selected by members. The TWGs will also create relevant synergies with agencies and actors from the United Nations Network on Migration to further implement GCM Objective 19. The Technical Working Groups are chaired by a public authority with recognised expertise on the topic. The position of Chair is voluntary and serves to provide strategic guidance and direction to the Group. A co-chair will be nominated to support the work of the chair. Decision making within TWGs will operate based on consensus.

The following TWGs have been identified:

- Health and well-being
- Climate action and environment
- Gender equality and youth

2.2.1 Composition and Participation in TWGs

Membership in the TWGs is voluntary and open to public authorities, diaspora organizations and members of the United Nations Network on Migration. There is no membership fee or financial

obligation to participate. Member States will nominate suitable diaspora organizations from their respective countries for each TWG.

There is likewise no restriction on the number of stakeholders participating in different TWGs from a single Member State or organization. Members are encouraged to join TWGs based on their interests, needs, priorities, and areas of technical expertise. Each TWG must ensure a multi-stakeholder approach including the participation of relevant government institutions, diaspora organizations, private sector and relevant stakeholders.

A commitment to participate in good faith and to learn and share with participating stakeholders is the primary responsibility of Members. This includes active listening and learning as key elements of participation.

2.3 Role of the Stakeholder Advisory Group

As key experts in diaspora engagement, the SAG members are expected to actively engage in the meetings and will be convened by IOM, in consultation with the ISC, in the framework of the GDPA. It is also envisaged that these meetings will result in key action points for each group member including potential action, liaison, outreach, moderation, or other supports key for the success of the GDPA.

Support provided by the Stakeholder Advisory Group members include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Strategic and technical advice to the ISC on the structure and activities of the GDPA including recommendations on the Technical Working Groups and potential organization of ad-hoc meetings or events maximise the impact of the GDPA.
- Provide outreach and liaison to prospective participants including diaspora organizations, government officials, experts on diaspora engagement and the private sector.
- Support in creating potential linkages to support capitals for the GDPA (human, financial, communication, and otherwise).
- Input to and support of key GDPA documentation, including revision of outcome documents.
- Support in paving the way towards the next Global Diaspora Summit including recommendations on potential partners, panellists, and topics of interest.
- Promoting iDiaspora amongst relevant stakeholders as the global digital hub for diaspora organizations and leaders to connect, learn and contribute.

2.3.1 Composition and Participation in the Stakeholder Advisory Group

Members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group are experts on diaspora engagement. They will be selected to provide representation in the following key categories:

- Diversity to reflect the global focus of the GDPA with key selection criteria ensuring a diverse scope of age, gender, and geography.
- Range of technical expertise to access expertise fields of governance, communications, networking research, and other key areas of expertise to support the GDPA and TWGs.
- Key stakeholder groups such as diaspora associations, civil society, private sector, and research community and government authorities.

- Although individual members may be selected because of their role in key organizations, they are expected to serve on the SAG in an individual capacity.

Is it envisaged that the calendar of commitment for the SAG members will be four years. Across this timeframe, it is expected that there will be virtual meetings. It is expected that bilateral consultations with members will also be requested when appropriate.

2.3.2 Meeting Frequency and Logistical Information

Upon formalization of the governance apparatus, it is envisaged that the ISC will meet biannually with the SAG to align active co-delivery of the planned impacts from the GDPA.

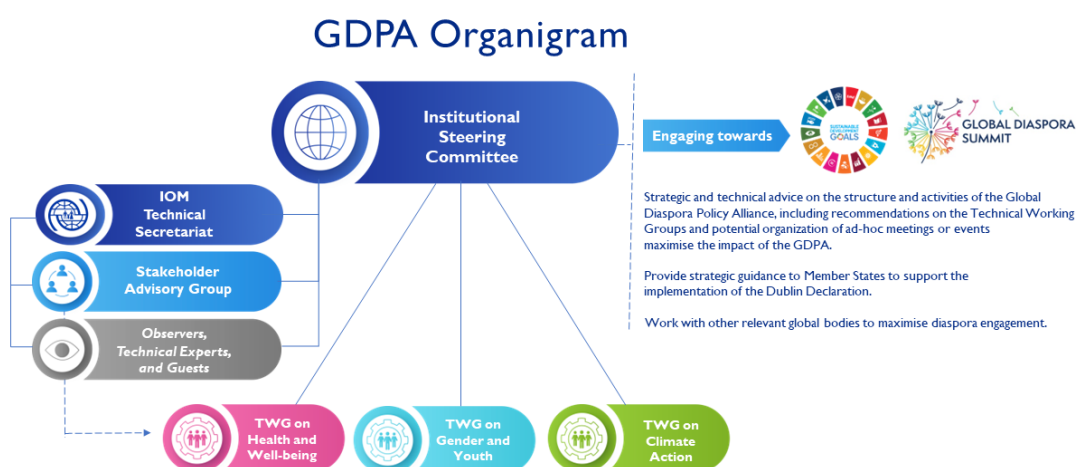
IOM will remain active as the lead logistical coordinator of the relevant meetings and reporting requirements.

3 Observers, Technical Experts, and Guests

The successful delivery of the GDPA as a coordination network for diaspora engagement will require an open and collaborative culture of cooperation across governments. Whilst the SAG provides a natural governance checks and balance system, there will also be scope within the GDPA to invite non-governmental observers as appropriate to track governance efficiency.

Furthermore, the increased policy cooperation driven through the GDPA will likely result in the advancement of areas of new knowledge and opportunity for diaspora engagement. Therefore, the GDPA will retain a mechanism through which technical experts and guests conversant in the subject may be selectively engaged in response to areas of emerging opportunity. Such participants may provide technical or strategic input and advice but will not be involved in any aspect of the decision-making of the GDPA.

4 Organigram



5 Planned Impact of GDPA

The potential positive impact from the creation of GDPA is multi-faceted. As the number of diaspora policies and diaspora engagement frameworks across countries of origin and residence continues to rise, the GDPA can play a critical role in establishing a government-led network of exchange and action to support the effectiveness of such policies. The provisional scope of impact from GDPA includes:

- Providing access to clear, practical guidance to promote policy and legislative good practice on diaspora engagement.
- Delivering a coherent and strategic network to ensure GDS emerges as a primary process in recognizing the need for such a stand-alone diaspora policy coordination tool to advancement of Objective 19 of GCM (for example, through scaling distribution of the reporting mechanisms built through the GDS to inform the IMRF).
- Detailed validation of existing practices on diaspora policies as well as providing explorative new knowledge to advance diaspora policies through strengthening an exclusively diaspora policy orientated community of expertise.
- Encouraging stronger diplomatic and inter-governmental exchange on diaspora engagement policies, both in terms of information sharing and direct engagement expertise.
- Empowering active inclusion of diaspora communities and organizations in policy development processes.