



Final Draft Terms of Reference

Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

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, 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 Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (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 Government 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).

3 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 issues 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

4 Thematic Areas and Specific TWGs

The specific focus of each of the identified TWGs is elaborated upon below:

4.1 Health and well-being thematic area

The TWG on Health and well-being serves as a platform for policy dialogue to identify common challenges; propose and co-develop potential solutions; and discuss good practices. It sets out to

develop “model” approaches to maximise diaspora engagement initiatives aiming to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being.

It will address a range of themes prioritised and agreed by members, including but not limited to:

- Good practices in policy and programming which engage diaspora to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.
- Partnerships which engage the diaspora to strengthen the capacity of countries of residence and destination, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.
- Cooperation between member states, diaspora organizations, international organizations and the private sector, including at national and sub-national levels.
- Impact of diaspora organizations and individuals on the health sector at the local level and the sustainability of their transnational initiatives.
- Capacity development of diaspora to serve health needs of migrants, refugees and their own communities in countries of origin, transit, and destination.
- Capacity development of diaspora to promote equal participation in the health care sector for patients and employees with immigration backgrounds in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- Promoting the ethical recruitment of migrant health workers.

4.2 Climate action and environment thematic area

The TWG on Climate action and environment serves as a platform for policy dialogue to identify common challenges; propose and co-develop potential solutions; and discuss good practices. It sets out to develop “model” approaches to maximise diaspora engagement initiatives aiming to combat climate change and its impacts.

It will address a range of themes prioritised and agreed by members, including but not limited to:

- Good practices in policy and programming aiming to engage diaspora to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in countries of origin and destination.
- Partnerships improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning across countries of destination, countries of origin, diaspora organizations and key partners.
- Cooperation between member states, diaspora organizations, international organizations, and the private sector, including at national and sub-national levels.
- Transnational mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management.
- Strengthen of diaspora organizations and individuals on the environmental sector at the local level in countries of origin, transit and destination and the sustainability of their transnational initiatives.

4.3 Gender equality and youth thematic area

The TWG on Gender equality and youth serves as a platform for policy dialogue to identify common challenges; propose and co-develop potential solutions; and discuss good practices. It sets out to develop “model” approaches to maximise diaspora engagement initiatives aiming to achieve gender equality and empowering women and youth.

It will address a range of themes prioritised and agreed by members, including but not limited to:

- Good practices in policy and programming aiming to empower diaspora women and youth in countries of origin and destination.
- Partnerships promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across countries of origin and destination.
- Cooperation between member states, diaspora organizations, international organizations, and the private sector, including at national and sub-national levels.
- Transnational initiatives ensuring women and the youth full and effective participation and equal opportunities in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- Impact of diaspora organizations and individuals working for the promotion of gender equality and the promotion of youth engagement at the local level in countries of origin, transit and destination and the sustainability of their transnational initiatives.

5 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.

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.

6 Meeting Frequency and Logistical Information

Upon formalization of the governance apparatus through the ISC, it is envisaged that the TWG will meet biannually to align active co-delivery of the planned impacts from the GDPA. There may be extraordinary meetings according to the needs of GDPA.

The co-chairs of the TWGs will agree during the first year of the GDPA on the procedures for the TWGs.

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

7 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.

8 Role of IOM

In addition to coordinating all administrative and logistical aspects of the Alliance and TWGs, IOM will facilitate communication between Members, prepare and circulate meeting reports, disseminate relevant resources to the GDPA Members, and serve as a link to other aspect of GDPA.

It will also manage external communications and the GDPA Members and Working Group promotion, as needed and maximise the use of iDiaspora for this purpose.