



GLOBAL  
DIASPORA  
SUMMIT  
DUBLIN 2022

CRUINNIÚ MULLAIGH  
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BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2022

## GLOBAL DIASPORA SUMMIT 2022

# PAVING THE WAY TO ACHIEVING OBJECTIVE 19 OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

## **Thematic Working Group No.3: Diaspora Social Capital**

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*Enable political participation and engagement of migrants in their countries of origin, including in peace and reconciliation processes, in elections and political reforms, such as by establishing voting registries for citizens abroad, and through parliamentary representation, in accordance with national legislation. (Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration).*

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## 1. Introduction

The focus on ensuring active political and civic participation of diaspora communities in both countries of origin and residence as enshrined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration elevates the importance of engaging diaspora social capital.<sup>1</sup> The IOM defines social capital as “the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.”<sup>2</sup>

Such networks broadly manifest through two key types of engagements – political participation and civic participation. In these areas, such networks can be formal and informal which opens important challenges and opportunities for governments in countries of origin and residence to design coherent strategies or systems of engagement to advance more formal diaspora engagement. This increases the level of partnership and multistakeholder approaches required with such informal and formal networks operating in different political and social spaces.

In this light, diaspora social capital engagements then become instrumental to shaping a participatory and inclusive framing of diaspora engagement. In this thematic working group, specific themes such as political participation in both countries of (ancestral) origin and residence and civic participation (including though civil-society organizations), will be addressed.<sup>3</sup>

In terms of political participation, key considerations will include the role of diaspora politics in areas such as advocacy, lobbying, and political participation. The focus on civic participation will assess how and why diaspora members engage in civil society organizations and other forms of civic engagement such as diaspora leadership and support to vulnerable members of the diaspora. These areas are by no means exhaustive but provide an informative lens to gauge how governments can engage diaspora social capital.

Diaspora social capital can also be a key tool in understanding the organizational composition of a diaspora which can inform on the types of networks and organizations working across a diaspora. It is also a window through which to understand the aims, concerns, and needs of your diaspora in terms of their civic relationship with countries of origin and destination.

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<sup>1</sup> For all background papers for the GDS, the official IOM definition of diaspora is used. This defines diaspora as “migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands, and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity, or mutual experiences in the destination country.” This is sourced via IOM. (2019). Glossary on Migration. International Migration Law, No. 34. IOM. Geneva.

<sup>2</sup> This definition was provided by IOM to inform this background paper.

<sup>3</sup> This focus is aligned with that offered on diaspora social capital as advanced in IOM’s Diaspora Mapping Toolkit.

By designing ways of nurturing civic and political participation from diasporas, countries of origin and destination can create a base upon which to build other engagements in areas such as cultural, economic, and human capital of the diaspora. This can have significant impact across a multitude of areas, including but not limited to, economic competitiveness, human development, nation-branding, and security.

## 2. Diaspora Social Capital for Countries of Origin

The advancement of diaspora social capital for countries of origin has traditionally been aligned with IOM's 3E strategy on diaspora engagement to engage, enable, and empower diasporas. This has resulted in countries of origin mostly focusing on work to ensure diaspora organizations and networks are equipped to emerge as influencers for the domestic development of their homelands. They have also been envisioned as repositories of access and networks to advance foreign policy visions for countries of origin also.

In this context, certain challenges and themes have emerged in terms of core engagement areas of diaspora social capital. The rise of diaspora politics, encompassing the political involvement of diaspora at home and abroad through engagements such as political representation and advocacy, has been central to this journey. For example, the Irish diaspora in the United States played an instrumental role in road towards peace in Northern Ireland. Country of origin governments are now thinking through creative and fresh ways in which to strengthen the civic and political involvement of their diasporas.

Beyond the political scope, the engagement of diaspora social capital is gaining new emphasis through diaspora policies and strategies which are advancing new tools to help develop diaspora capabilities and leadership. These are also embedding new communication strategies to ensure consistent and structured dialogue with diasporas with civic and political leadership in countries of origin.

A core commitment of such work must be to nurture the diaspora, and this is particularly noteworthy in the commitment of social capital engagements of diasporas to support more vulnerable members of the diaspora. It is a well-established viewpoint that diaspora engagement should be mutually beneficial.

Increasing support to vulnerable members of the diaspora is a natural way for governments in countries of origin to gain credibility for their diaspora engagement activities by enhancing trust from the diaspora through a long-term commitment to the collective well-being of all members of the diaspora. The challenge for government in this context is that such layers of the community are often hidden or afraid of engaging with official government entities. Therefore, the importance of partnership to reach such communities is critical.

A brief assessment of five key intervention areas provides a solid baseline of core organizational and operational approaches for governments in countries of origin to engage the social capital of diasporas.

### 2.1 Diaspora Politics

Diaspora communities can, in some instances, become highly politicized. This can cause tension between diasporas and government but also within the diaspora itself. Whilst developmental impact will be inextricably linked to political and high-level leadership in countries of origin, the rising demand

from diasporas to be an active influencer in the governance of diaspora engagement must be acknowledged.

This posits an interesting if somewhat subtle consideration for diaspora social capital engagements. If diaspora engagement becomes overly politicized, then it can sometimes grind to a halt. Therefore, is there a way to ensure that the diaspora demand for political influence does not extend to over-politicizing engagement?

Through the prism of diaspora politics, there has been an emergence of some key trends and tools that are working towards this balance. At its core, these tools work upon giving the diaspora a stronger sense of agency in the governance models of diaspora engagement. They are designed on ensuring that governments in countries of origin and their diasporas are walking on the same developmental journey without necessarily making such diaspora engagements overtly political.

### *Case Study One – Tunisia Diasporal Dialogue*

*The objective of the Diasporal Dialogue is the creation of a network of Tunisian diaspora associations on the one hand and in the establishment of a structured and lasting dialogue across the associations themselves, and with institutions in Tunisia.*

*The dialogue uses both digital networking and in-person networking events. In 2021, there was a large civic dialogue held in Tunisia which attracted representatives of the Tunisian diaspora associations. This gathering was also addressed by governmental and development cooperation partners.<sup>4</sup>*

The advancement of structured dialogues with diasporas helps to ensure continuous access to decision makers for the diaspora. This also has the additional benefit of providing governments in countries of origin with real-time analysis on diaspora aims, concerns, or needs. These dialogues can take many forms and may rely on both digital and in-person engagements.

For example, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines host the Ugnayan Series which is a form of diaspora dialogue aimed to “continue reaching out to the Filipinos in various regions of the world to monitor migrants’ welfare, discuss means of cooperation for diaspora engagement,” and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) conducts the Ugnayan Series in “partnership with various government and non–government agency partners.”<sup>5</sup> There have been a plethora of national level diaspora conferences across the globe in recent years that are designed to initiate or sustain dialogue processes with different diaspora communities. For example, the Government of Ireland held two Global Irish Civic Forums.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, non-governmental actors such as GERMIN in the Balkans region through Diaspora Flet (Diaspora Speaks), have created several such engagements in diaspora dialogues.<sup>7</sup>

In terms of layering the growing institutional base for such work, diaspora policies and strategies have embraced the creation of several forms of official apparatus to base political engagements of diaspora communities. The European Union Global Diaspora Facility has produced a diaspora engagement

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<sup>4</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/projects/diasporal-dialogue>.

<sup>5</sup> For more information, please see <https://cfo.gov.ph/ugnayan-series/>.

<sup>6</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/support-overseas/global-irish-civic-forum/>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, please see <https://germin.org/diaspora-flet/en/en/>.

mapping that provides a synopsis of such approaches.<sup>8</sup> Ranging from diaspora ministries, units, or desks, the importance of providing an institutional home for diaspora engagement should be a primary focus of all diaspora policies and strategies. These entities provide the building blocks through which a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach can be built into formalized engagement of diasporas.

With such frameworks built for the internal formalization of diaspora engagement, then other tools have emerged as important in the social capital engagement of diasporas in countries of origin. For example, several governments leading from the formative work of the Government of Mexico in terms of previously using a Consultative Council to embed diasporas into the governance of such engagements, have advanced similar tools.

These entities help to build a sense of ownership for the diaspora in the design and delivery of engagements by providing them a seat at the leadership table. Whilst such tools arguably need to be elevated and enhanced, early examples do showcase how they can be strategically designed to engage diasporas across geographies, sectors, and community profiles.

### *Case Study Two – Albanian Diaspora Coordination Council*

*The Albanian Diaspora Coordination Council aims to protect and strengthen relations with the Albanian Diaspora. The Diaspora Coordination Council, consisting of 15 members with special status, was created to promote closer cooperation between state institutions and Albanian communities around the world.*

*The council members reflect key countries of destination for the Albanian diaspora. It has built its own specific governance culture through a Rules of Procedure and its creation was legislated by the respective governmental frameworks in Albania. These provide guidance on key council operations such as the selection of its directors.<sup>9</sup>*

Whilst the political participation of diasporas can be instrumentalized through such steps, the most direct political involvement of diasporas remains in rights-driven engagement areas such as the portability of their rights back home and voting rights. There is a deep literature on the potential political involvement of diasporas in countries of origin. Whilst different jurisdictions place different eligibility and operational criteria for such participation – ranging from registration processes, voting procedures, eligibility limits based on time spent outside the country, limits on types of elections that diasporas can participate in, different representations of diaspora political involvement, and other criteria – the political involvement of diasporas in some capacity is now seen as normal practice for countries of origin.

*Case Study Three – The French National Assembly consists of 577 MPs, who are elected to five-year terms. Since June 2012 (the 14th Parliament), 11 MPs are elected by French citizens living outside of France.<sup>10</sup>*

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<sup>8</sup> For more information, please see <https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/diaspora-engagement-map/>.

<sup>9</sup> For more information, please see <https://diaspora.gov.al/en/mbledhja-e-pare-e-keshillit-koordinues-te-diaspores/>.

<sup>10</sup> For more information, please see <https://www2.assemblee-nationale.fr/langues/welcome-to-the-english-website-of-the-french-national-assembly>.

A short definitional note should be reflected on here as such involvement is usually based on citizenship. Whilst unlocking the wider developmental impact of diasporas for development will likely include engagement of a broader concept of diaspora, working through and beyond citizenship, it is important then for governments of countries of origin to understand the different categorizations of diaspora that will be engaged in different activities across their policy portfolio. This becomes increasingly important in determining how to shape another key influence in building social capital engagements of diasporas – effective diaspora communication strategies.

## 2.2 Diaspora Communication Strategies

Whilst the dialogue processes noted earlier are part of communications with the diaspora, they are but one aspect of an emerging fascination with building effective communication strategies with diaspora communities for countries of origin. Such strategies reflect the reality that a key skill in engaging diasporas is the ability to listen to the diaspora.

The purpose of such communication work is also that it aligns to an increasing demand from diasporas to ensure accountability and transparency in the governance codes informing diaspora engagement from countries of origin. The ability to bring diasporas and government together more consistently and coherently is a key factor for success in diaspora engagement. It is a way to ensure that there are no disconnects between what the diaspora can do and governmental plans to engage what the diaspora will do.

The communication tools available to achieve this are multi-faceted. For example, through the institutional home for diaspora engagement, countries of origin are producing regular communication outlets such as brochures or newsletters. The Government of Chile, for example, publish the *Somos Todos (Chile We Are All)* publication for all Chileans overseas.<sup>11</sup>

Many governments are also embracing e-government and digital communication hubs to ensure active dissemination of reliable information and consular services to their diasporas. It is important for government to lead in this regard as it is important to establish a reliable, go-to source of information and support to the diaspora in an age increasingly vulnerable to misinformation. These tools can often align closely with other aspects of the social capital of diasporas. For example, the government of India have an online services portal for voters and an online consular services management system (MADAD).<sup>12</sup>

The latter provides capacity for non-resident Indians to feedback any grievances they have whilst abroad. It has registered 77,144 grievances with 72,376 of those being resolved. It has 23,390 students registered and over 172,872 users registered in total.<sup>13</sup> Such direct communication platforms can streamline service delivery by governments that increase social capital engagements of diaspora in time. However, in terms of driving scale in this type of engagement area then partnership can also be a powerful way of ensuring communication strategies impart lasting impact.

Whilst key partners of scale for such communication strategies, such as media, are covered in other technical working group background papers in areas such as cultural and human capital of the diaspora,

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<sup>11</sup> For more information, please see

[https://chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/site/tax/port/all/taxport\\_2\\_\\_1.html](https://chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/site/tax/port/all/taxport_2__1.html).

<sup>12</sup> For more information, please see <https://madad.gov.in/AppConsular/welcomeLink>.

<sup>13</sup> Information sourced from Madad website (<https://madad.gov.in/AppConsular/welcomeLink>).

governments can nurture key strategic partnerships to help scale communication strategies. This can include engagement with mainstream and diaspora media partners as well as investment in innovative tools such as mobile applications.

#### *Case Study Four – Migration Advocacy and Media Awards*

*In recognition of the significant role of media in information dissemination and advocacy of migration and development, the Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards was conceived in 2011 by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas for the celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day in the Philippines every December. The MAM Awards recognize the positive and significant contributions of media outlets, institutions and practitioners in the fields of print, radio, movie and television, advertising and internet from the government and private media organizations in the Philippines and abroad, in raising public awareness on Filipino migration issues (i.e., human trafficking, illegal recruitment, brain drain and brain circulation, remittance flows, political crisis, families left behind by migrants, etc.) advocating the cause of and promoting a positive image of Filipinos overseas.*

*Since 2011, this recognition has been conferred on 50 awardees in six categories (The Print Journalism Award, Radio Journalism, Television Journalism Award, Film Media Award, Interactive Media Award and Advertisement Award) and serves to highlight the important role of media in tackling Filipino migration issues and concerns.<sup>14</sup>*

### 2.3 Diaspora Networking

In this section so far, the focus has been on the role of government in building the institutional and informational base through which diaspora politics and communication strategies can build relationships between diasporas and countries of origin to promote engagements of diaspora social capital. It is also imperative to focus on what is happening within the diaspora and try to ensure active collaboration across the diaspora to build diaspora leadership, civil society organizations, and networks.

Ensuring the prosperity and vibrancy of diaspora organizations is a long-term strategic endeavour by governments in countries of origin to build a community infrastructure that can, hopefully in time, develop without their support. It is important for the country of origin to occupy this incubator role to help align external capacity across the diaspora with the internal capacities built through diaspora policies or strategies.

An important yet simple tool adopted by many countries of origin in this area is the development of diaspora registries or directories. These provide a go-to listing through governmental research of verified diaspora civil society organizations and leaders. There has also been progress in terms of developing such listings at an individual as well as organizational level, for example, through the pilot programme of Registry of Croatian Entities Abroad implemented by the Central State Office for Croats Abroad. Another recent intervention in this area includes NIDCOM's Nigerian Diaspora Registry.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> For more information, please see <https://cfo.gov.ph/mam-awards/>.

<sup>15</sup> For more information, please see <https://nidcom.gov.ng/registry/>.

### *Case Study Five - Registry of Croatian Entities Abroad*

*The pilot phase of the project was carried out from September to December 2018, and it was primarily addressed to Croats from Argentina, Germany, and the United States. With the intention of further improving the Registry, the pilot phase was extended until the end of January 2019.*

*The vision for the Registry is to be a digital database and a communication network available as a web application for desktop, tablet and mobile phone. The users of the web app of the Registry have the opportunity to establish business, scientific, cultural, sports and other types of cooperation with Croats from the homeland and all over the world. Furthermore, it makes it possible for users to directly communicate with each other and to be updated on the possibilities of achieving their professional and personal objectives.<sup>16</sup>*

Another creative way in which governments are beginning to work from data to engagement through diaspora networking is to partner with external diaspora organizations, directly or indirectly, to create targeted networks in the diaspora. This has resulted in the creation of a series of global diaspora networks that target overachievers in the diaspora.

Governments in countries of origin have begun to formalize and support such engagements by either directly shaping or supporting diaspora reward and recognition programmes. Such tools can be a low-cost way for governments to acknowledge the importance of diaspora engagement and to create networks of substantive social capital through diaspora engagement.

### *Case Study Six - World-class New Zealand Awards*

*Kea New Zealand was founded in 2001 to connect and engage global New Zealanders for the benefit of New Zealand. They focus on connecting NZ businesses for in-market advice, as a forum for sharing insights and relationships celebrating NZ's global achievements, promoting the return of highly skilled expats and facilitating professional networking.*

*World Class New Zealand is a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise initiative delivered by Kea. The annual World Class New Zealand Awards acknowledge the outstanding achievements of leading New Zealanders and friends of New Zealand. The awards programme began in 2003 with single award and expanded to the current programme which recognises high performers in various disciplines and honours a Supreme Award Winner and Friend of New Zealand.<sup>17</sup>*

This case study is a prime example of how diasporas through their social capital can become nudge factors or tipping agents in channelling foreign direct investment into their countries of origin. Quite often, it is through their personal or professional networks that diaspora engagements begin as diasporas feel more comfortable expending such non-financial commitments to help home. A story that encapsulates this is how Intel ended up investing in Ireland.

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<sup>16</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.registarhrvataizvanhrvatske.hr/en/o-registru-en/>.

<sup>17</sup> For more information, please see <https://keanewzealand.com/world-class-network/>.

## Case Study Seven – Intel Story

*IDA Ireland is the Irish government agency that promotes Ireland globally as an attractive location for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and there are now over 1000 overseas companies with operations in Ireland. One of these is Intel whose investment in Ireland is now over \$22 billion. However, when they were considering where to locate their European manufacturing HQ Ireland was not the first choice. The reason was that Intel were unsure if Ireland had the skills base to both build the plant and to operate when up and running. To deal with this issue IDA got a recruitment agency to scour the world. They talked to around 1000 Irish engineers who were working in the semiconductor sector to see if these members of the Irish diaspora would be willing to return to Ireland if there were opportunities. Around 80 per cent of them said they were interested and that helped Intel to decide to locate in Ireland. The economic impact of that decision on Ireland has been enormous and not just in the numbers of people employed but also the huge number of ancillary jobs that have arisen as a result of that choice. In short, then, an example of Diaspora = Jobs.<sup>18</sup>*

Governments in countries of origin can undertake economic diplomacy activities through embassies and consulates to also support the types of networks required to unlock the opportunities such as the Intel story above through diaspora social capital. In this light, a key skill for governments is the ability to create, support, and sustain diaspora networks.

It can be quite difficult for governments to do this alone so there are exemplars emerging through public and private partnerships that are creating strong networks of diaspora social capital through the lens of diasporas as tipping agents and nudge factors. This partnership is rooted in the fact that such actors and the diaspora themselves have a mutual interest to participate in such networks as they contribute to the personal, professional, and institutional development of such actors. These include the World Portuguese Network that involves an extended group of Portuguese of proven influence who are active abroad and have distinguished themselves in their field of expertise, namely culture, citizenship, science, and economics.<sup>19</sup>

Whilst a commitment to advancing such diaspora networking can, in turn, advance diaspora social capital, there is a slight danger that such engagements will find it easier to connect those in the diaspora who are more easily accessible such as successful and well-established members of the diaspora. Such engagements must be attuned to the fact that many in diaspora communities may also be vulnerable and key engagements must be built to ensure active participation of such members of the community also.

### 2.4 Supporting Vulnerable Diaspora

Delivering a truly reflective diaspora engagement cycle including diaspora social capital will require governments to not forget about more marginalized members of the diaspora community. For example, those that have irregular status in countries of residence face certain issues that need to be addressed through effective civil society engagements.

The impact of COVID-19 has also shown that countries of origin who had already invested in frameworks to engage more vulnerable members of the diaspora community were more equipped to

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<sup>18</sup> For more information, please see C. Taylor. (2021). How Intel ended up investing billions in Ireland. *Irish Times*, 26 March.

<sup>19</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.diasporaportuguesa.org/?lang=en>.

mobilize support services to this cohort of the community. These members of the diaspora also faced increased vulnerabilities caused by shocks to the labour market and other indices of vulnerability impacted by the pandemic.

At its core, diaspora engagement must do two things – engage the successful and support the vulnerable in the diaspora. A global exemplar in the latter is the Emigrant Support Programme by the Government of Ireland.

#### *Case Study Eight - The Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)*

*The ESP is a tangible expression of the Government’s support, commitment to, and interest in, Global Irish communities. It is administered by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, in partnership with Irish Embassies and Consulates abroad.*

*Through the ESP, the Government provides financial support to organisations engaged in the delivery of front-line advisory services and community care to Irish emigrants, particularly to the more vulnerable and marginalised members of our community abroad, including the elderly. In addition, the ESP also facilitates Irish Government investment in a range of cultural, community and heritage projects, which foster a vibrant sense of Irish community and identity, as well as strategic capital projects.*

*Since its inception in 2004, the Emigrant Support Programme has assisted over 530 organisations in over 36 countries with grants totalling over €200 million. Grants have ranged from small amounts for grass-roots groups, to major allocations awarded to voluntary and community organisations operating on a large scale.<sup>20</sup>*

The partnership model of the ESP is critical to its success. By centralizing the local market insights of embassies and consulates, it helps to identify reliable service providers through diaspora organizations and networks to serve the more vulnerable in the diaspora. Its primary focus on areas of culture, community, and heritage also pinpoints that these areas are the convening point for more marginalized members of the diaspora. The report on Supporting the Next Generation of the Irish Diaspora, which reflected on ten years of the ESP, acknowledges that the programme understands the therapeutic capacity of such engagement areas to access and support vulnerable members of the diaspora community.<sup>21</sup>

## 2.5 Diaspora Social Capital Engagements: Institutional, Informational, and Implementation Considerations

It is clear from the examples showcased above that governments in countries of origin can play multiple roles across the engagement of diaspora social capital. In terms of building a structured approach to this, the technical paper provides some preliminary reflections on the institutional, informational, and implementation technicalities to nurture diaspora social capital.

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<sup>20</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/support-overseas/emigrant-support-programme/>.

<sup>21</sup> L. Kennedy, M. Lyes, & M. Russell. (2014). *Supporting the Next Generation of the Irish Diaspora*. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland. Available at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ddfc1763d393a7e061bcb74/t/5e28847f59973a01ace229e7/1579713684112/Supporting+the+Next+Generation+of+the+Irish+Diaspora++C.pdf>.

At the institutional level, the government can be responsible for safeguarding the institutional development of diaspora engagement to identify and engage diaspora social capital. It can lay the internal legislative base to engage diaspora social capital through establishment of institutional apparatus for diaspora engagement in the government as well as through the government in areas such as civic and political participation.

The informational dynamics for social capital engagements of the diaspora reflect that there is no such thing as one diaspora for any country of origin. Adopting such a mindset will mean that governments can shape an inclusive definitional framing that can be then segmented through engagement cycles. It will also empower governments to draw diasporas into dialogue and listening processes which can help governments truly access real-time insights on how the diaspora can and want to be engaged.

Ensuring sufficient data on the organizational composition of the diaspora can smooth the delivery of social capital engagements of the diaspora. The other determining factor in terms of information is ensuring creative approaches to access hard to reach categories of the diaspora, such as vulnerable members of the diaspora.

As collaborative service delivery has already been identified as an important implementation approach, additional implementation considerations include the importance of government endorsement of preferred service delivery agents and allocation of supportive investment to promote diaspora social capital at home and abroad. This can result in the creation and delivery of a mutual case and cause for diaspora engagement that links government and the diaspora.

With these considerations in mind, the background paper can identify five preliminary reflections in terms of the technical development of diaspora social capital engagements by countries of origin. They are offered as top-tier reflections in view of the various capacities available across different countries to achieve such considerations. These range from institutional and legislative bases, budgetary capacity, density of diplomatic mission network, formality of diaspora community structures, and other key determinants in engagement of diaspora social capital.

1	Ensure legislative framework and procedures are developed to support the active political input for diaspora communities.
2	Provide both financial and non-financial strategic investment to strengthen diaspora civil society organizations and networks.
3	Commit to a dual framework of engagement that both engages overachievers in the diaspora but also prioritizes support to vulnerable members of the diaspora.
4	Establish key partnerships to ensure ongoing engagement of vulnerable diaspora.
5	Create meaningful and symbolic rewards and recognition tools to communicate pride in diaspora impacts.

Figure 1 Preliminary Reflections for Countries of Origin in Engaging Diaspora Social Capital

### 3. Diaspora Social Capital for Countries of Residence

Whilst the predominant focus in engagement of diaspora social capital has been from the perspective of countries of origin, it is instructive to begin to chart through some of the emerging discussion on the impact that such engagement can have for countries of residence. Certain countries of residence, such as Germany, United Kingdom, and United States, have led the way in terms of shaping diaspora diplomacy as a tool through which engagement of diasporas in their communities can advance political and civic participation.

Quite often, the level of engagement will also be determined by the commitment of diaspora communities in countries of residence to provide a unified voice for action. Whilst diasporas do tend to work in country or cause specific manners, building coalitions for change across diasporas can build a compelling movement for action by countries of residence to shape more formal engagement of diaspora communities in their countries. A flagship endeavour in this regard is the Global Diaspora Confederation.

### *Case Study Nine – Global Diaspora Confederation*

*The Global Diaspora Confederation is the world's largest diaspora-led organization for Diaspora Organizations. It is a global movement of Diaspora Organizations working towards a world of unity, peace and advancement. It aims to unify, support, develop and promote Diaspora Organizations across the world through linking with all groups interested in diaspora communities. It aims to be an influential system leader for global diasporas' interests and to establish, pioneer, and be the authentic voice of a worldwide sector alliance of Diaspora Organizations. It empowers Diaspora Organizations to continually create sustainable, collaborative and positive impacts for their communities and societies.<sup>22</sup>*

### **3.1 Advocacy & Policy Vision**

Countries of residence can embrace diaspora advocacy as an engagement area through which they can advance their own domestic and foreign policy agendas. Whether it is in the lens of local community development through to foreign policy goals around economic diplomacy, engagement of diaspora communities in countries of residence can provide access to influential civic and political leadership.

This, however, will be contingent on the respective civil and political leadership frameworks in such countries being open and responsive to increasing diversity of leadership. This can begin by providing key access for such diaspora advocacy to influence policy agenda. Whilst the increasing prominence of diaspora engagement as a developmental policy of choice at the global level is inspiring, such local political courage will be required in more ways than one as the world, at different paces, moves into a new geopolitical landscape after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some key early examples are available on how to increase this access, such as the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration in the United Kingdom and their collaboration with The Refugee, Asylum and Migration Policy (RAMP) Project.

### *Case Study Ten – All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration (APPG) on Migration and The Refugee, Asylum and Migration Policy (RAMP) Project's*

*The APPG's mission is to provide a continued opportunity for evidence-based political debate about the challenges and opportunities relating to contemporary migration flows in the UK. Key activities undertaken by the APPG on Migration include regular cross-party meetings in parliament on immigration issues, as well as in different regions of the UK with key parliamentarians and other stakeholders. The APPG produces regular briefing papers to support debate, as well as making the latest reports on key topics available to members.*

*The secretariat of the APPG on Migration is the RAMP Project. RAMP's vision is for the UK to have a world-class migration system which helps to create a successful and integrated society, and which is fair to all. It supports the APPG to be a source of well-evidenced and independent information on key migration issues*

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<sup>22</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.theglobaldiaspora.org/>.

*and to regularly host cross-party events, inquiries and briefings to ensure that parliamentarians can hear from academics, businesses, civil society organisations and those with lived experience of the UK's migration system to inform their work.<sup>23</sup>*

### 3.2 Political and Civic Leadership

Whilst diaspora leadership and its development are arguably best treated in the context of diaspora human capital, the role of political and civic leadership across the diaspora in countries of residence is clearly a contributor to advancing diaspora leadership at large. As the growth of international migration attests to, the reality ahead for countries of residence is that as diaspora communities increase their mobility and rootedness, there will be a need to increasingly embrace dual or multiple senses of identities in civic and political leadership.

This will, of course, also need to be reflected in the civic and political leadership of countries of residence as diaspora engagement becomes more formalized and institutionalized. It is likely that the political landscape will see an increasing number of leaders with a diaspora story. Whilst it is not in the scope of this background paper to identify samples of such current leaders, there are other forms of structured bodies that begin the linkages between civic, commercial, and political leadership in countries of residence through the lens of diaspora.

These include chambers of commerce, diaspora civil society organizations, and international business councils. These examples indicate that engaging such leaders in countries of residence will not be the sole domain of government and it is important for governments to structure engagements to identify partners whose work may be more agile to responding to opportunities through diaspora engagement.

#### *Case Study Eleven – US-India Business Council*

*The Council aims to create an inclusive bilateral trade environment between India and the United States by serving as the voice of industry, linking governments to businesses, and supporting long-term commercial partnerships that will nurture the spirit of entrepreneurship, create jobs, and successfully contribute to the global economy.*

*USIBC works with members to identify and advance key policy priorities, leveraging U.S.-India Business Council executive committee meetings, multilateral consultations, and sector-focused discussions with public and private stakeholders. It facilitates meetings between members and key policymakers in the U.S. and Indian governments, as well as offering introductions and networking opportunities within our membership.*

*USIBC organizes roundtables and business summits featuring heads of states from India and the United States, members of the U.S. Congress, members of the Indian Parliament, and notable influencers in the U.S.-India commercial corridor.<sup>24</sup>*

### 3.3 Diaspora Civic Empowerment in a Post-Pandemic World

In terms of diaspora social capital, there is an important opportunity moving into sight for countries of residence. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, diaspora communities were often on the front-

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<sup>23</sup> For more information on APPG on Migration, please see <https://appgmigration.org.uk/>. For more information on RAMP, please see <https://www.rampproject.org/>.

<sup>24</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.usibc.com/>.

line helping to deliver services in education, food, health, and other sectors that helped countries through the challenges of the pandemic.

As the world hopefully and gingerly moves into a post-pandemic setting, there will be renewed pressure on countries of residence to act to ensure active civic empowerment of diaspora communities. This can be driven both in recognition of their contributions during the pandemic but also in the reality that such communities often bore the heaviest brunt or impact during the pandemic. There is a moral leadership rationale emerging for countries of residence to truly embrace diaspora social capital and create ways through which the civic and political participation of diasporas can move into a new era.

In a post-pandemic world, this may be initiated in additional support in countries of residence to advance the role of diasporas in both countries of origin and destination. This can be another powerful instrumentalization of diaspora diplomacy by countries of residence. Whilst other technical background papers explore this from other perspectives, such as entrepreneurship, the civic leadership component considered here is based around the argument that diasporas have often been distanced from home over the past few years.

Countries of residence can now build a sense of belonging and loyalty within diaspora communities by further empowering them to be active agents of change back home and in their adopted homeland. Rooting this in the short-term needs of the diaspora and the needs of their communities at home and abroad can be a powerful call to action through diaspora engagement in countries of residence. This can take some of the responsive work conducted during the pandemic to a more proactive framing of helping diaspora civic and political leadership to set an agenda of collaborative action for a post-pandemic world.

*Case Study Twelve- Supporting COVID-19 Response and Relief at the Country Level Through Disbursement and Facilitation of Sub-Grants for Selected Diaspora Organizations*

*To galvanize diaspora's engagement in COVID-19 response, IOM in Washington, DC is implementing a project funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Affairs, with the ultimate goal to increase the reach and effectiveness of relief assistance to communities affected by the pandemic.*

*The initial stage includes needs assessment of the COVID-19 situation on the ground as well as preparing the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI). It invites diaspora organizations worldwide to submit their proposals for immediate and longer-term interventions to address the fallout of COVID-19 in conjunction with local, national and/or international partners, especially those with existing COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance efforts.*

*Under the second stage, a total of eight (8) grants will be available to the selected diaspora organizations to implement their projects in the following five (5) countries: Tunisia, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, and the Philippines.*

*The third stage is the monitoring and evaluation and exploration of lessons learned, whereby all the actors and stakeholders will share their experiences in cooperation, implementation, learning, and responding to the communities on the ground.<sup>25</sup>*

### 3.4 Scoping Institutional, Informational, and Implementation Considerations for Countries of Residence

The paper acknowledges that the analytical base on exploring the contributions and value of diaspora social capital for countries of residence is only emerging. Therefore, it is only able to scope out some of the early institutional, informational, and implementation technicalities for countries of residence in this area. These considerations are aligned with the fact that countries of residence face different prospects and pressures in terms of how they can benefit from, coordinate, and manage effective engagement of diaspora social capital.

The background paper offers five preliminary considerations for countries of residence to address the challenges and opportunities from diaspora social capital.

1	Commit to activities to further integrate diaspora social capital as a contributor to social and political cohesion in countries of residence.
2	Develop support, financial and non-financial, to create peer-to-peer networks between diaspora civil leaders and domestic civil leaders.
3	Commit to legislative and policy reform to embrace diaspora social capital in domestic development and sectoral plans.
4	Create tools to amplify voices and participation of diaspora social capital in public consultation or policy processes.
5	Embed diaspora diplomacy, including engagement of diasporas in countries of residence, as a key pillar of domestic and foreign policy agenda.

Figure 2 Preliminary Reflections for Countries of Residence in Engaging Diaspora Social Capital

## 4. Building a Co-Created Future for Diaspora Social Capital

The background paper has explored some critical interventions that can help governments in countries of origin and residence begin to scope out relevant abilities and tools to ensure active civic and political participation for diasporas. In many ways, the action of diaspora social capital inextricably links the importance of focusing on both countries of origin and residence as such capital bridges both terrains.

Critical questions remain for both constituencies on how far to go in terms of engaging diaspora social capital as to ensure political influence does not result in overly politicizing diaspora engagement. Similarly, important opportunities must now be embraced to respond to the potential legacies that can be built through diaspora social capital to build more equitable and participatory societies at home and abroad. This will, of course, also require careful negotiation with local communities in both countries of origin and residence so that they are supportive of such roles for diasporas.

Therefore, to transition focus towards the expected outcomes of this technical working group, the paper provides some early signals of what can be developed at a policy, programmatic, and partnership

<sup>25</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.idiaspora.org/en/projects/diasporas-engagement-covid-19-response-and-relief>.

level to enhance engagements of diaspora social capital both for and by countries of origin and residence.

#### 4.1 Delivering Action and Impact: Policy, Programs, and Partnership

These preliminary reflections are offered as a baseline for discussion. It is envisaged that through the technical exchanges of the working group that these recommendations will be supplemented with insights from relevant actors to advance a future framework of action to increase diaspora social capital engagements for both countries of origin and residence.

Area	Recommendation	Responsible Actor(s)	Potential Outcomes for Action from GDS
Policy	Prioritize diaspora social capital inputs in policy development and implementation processes in countries of origin and residence.	Governments in countries of origin and residence.	Commit to advancement of a Global Diaspora Policymaking Network that links government and diaspora civil leaders.
Programmatic	Programmatic diaspora social capital engagements should enhance the operational and leadership capabilities of diaspora civil society networks and organizations in line with contemporary expectations of such opportunities to promote further formalization of diaspora social capital engagements.	Governments in Countries of origin and residence; Diaspora organizations; international development partners.	Commit to invest in collaborative, large scale diaspora civil society leadership development programs.
Partnership	Diaspora social capital engagements must embed non-governmental service providers to ensure access to key marginalized members of the diaspora. These will include partners such as civil society actors, foundations, international organizations, and research partners.	Governments in Countries of origin and residence; Diaspora organizations; international development partners.	Commit to prioritizing a programme of multi-stakeholder action to engage both successful and vulnerable members of the diaspora.

Figure 3 Rationale Recommendations for Potential GDS Outcome Statements for Diaspora Social Capital

##### Policy Recommendation

Governments in countries of origin and residence face ongoing challenges in shifting diaspora engagement policies from the design phase to the implementation phase. Across these phases, the importance of diaspora social capital as both a contributor to policy design and implementation is emerging as a core focus for all actors. Greater policy collaboration and exchange is required across diaspora engagement so that countries of origin and residence can extract best practice on how diaspora social capital is informing and embedded into the policy process, most notably at a governance level for implementation.

Therefore, this background paper provides the policy recommendation that countries of origin and residence should prioritize diaspora social capital inputs in policy development and implementation processes in countries of origin and residence. This will ensure continuous ownership for the diaspora whilst also acquiring a stake for them to ensure sufficient development of the diaspora community infrastructure to commit to supporting government and other partners on going from design to implementation.

#### *Programmatic Recommendation*

The informational and implementation needs to build long-term impact from diaspora social capital means that programmatic engagements of diaspora social capital must cultivate a new era of leadership across diasporas. Many diaspora organizations remain well-meaning but are relatively informal organizations. To truly scale diaspora engagement, it is imperative to provide programmatic interventions from multiple actors to drive successful and sustainable diaspora organizations. What it took to be successful twenty years ago is fundamentally different now at an organizational and leadership level. These skills and tools must be wired within diaspora engagement to drive growth in the sector, and this will mean embracing non-traditional actors in the diaspora engagement sector.

Therefore, this background paper provides the programmatic recommendation that diaspora social capital engagements should enhance the operational and leadership capabilities of diaspora civil society networks and organizations in line with contemporary expectations of such opportunities. This must be primarily focused on further formalization of diaspora social capital engagements through creation of or support to diaspora organizations and leaders.

#### *Partnership Recommendation*

Governments in countries of origin and residence will not be solely responsible for the upgrading of diaspora engagement through diaspora social capital. As seen in this paper, the communication, networks, and access required to create a holistic engagement of diaspora social capital will bring the government into contact with a wide variety of potential partners.

Therefore, this background paper provides the partnership recommendation that diaspora social capital engagements must embed non-governmental service providers to ensure access to key marginalized members of the diaspora. These will include partners such as civil society actors, foundations, international development partners, and research partners. This will help to achieve the underlying commitment by governments in countries of origin and residence to embed vulnerable communities as a key target audience of any policy or programmatic interventions.

## 5. Four Questions to Guide Thematic Working Group

In navigating through the complex roles and opportunities for countries of origin, countries of residence, and the optimal framework for engagement diaspora social capital, this technical working group can be set some guiding questions to align with the expected outcomes from working group. This will be rooted in the outcome document of the GDS shaping important planning and monitoring of the GCM through the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). The outcome document is envisioned as a Future Agenda Document to guide and shape global collaboration on diaspora engagement.

In alignment with efforts to reinforce implementation of the GCM through the IMRF, the Future Agenda Document of the GDS provides a timely opportunity to shape an inclusive global statement

of a future agenda of action in diaspora engagement that can directly inform the IMRF and wider implementation of the GCM.<sup>26</sup> The Future Agenda Document, therefore, will aim to guide the process and prioritization of engagements to contribute to this global statement. Such a document can then serve as a first-step global framework for action on diaspora engagement to directly contribute to the further and future implementation of Objective 19 of the GCM by inspiring the active collaboration of all stakeholders across the ecosystem of diaspora engagement.

The guiding questions for each technical workshop at the GDS, therefore, have a collective responsibility to help shape actionable input to design such a global statement of support for action in diaspora engagement directly aligned with Objective 19 of the GCM. Four guiding questions to initiate this are identified below. They are designed to address the policy, programmatic, and partnership steps to achieve the future agenda and to explore how to establish the GDS as the global convening to guide the process of achieving this vision.

- Policy: What can the Future Agenda Document recommend at a policy level to achieve global collaborative action on diaspora social capital?
- Programmatic: What can the Future Agenda Document recommend in terms of programmes for diaspora engagement for diaspora social capital?
- Partnership: Who are the key actors to partner with governments to increase impact in engagement of diaspora social capital and how can the Future Agenda Document support such partnerships?
- Process: How can the Future Agenda Document reaffirm the importance of the GDS as the global ‘go-to’ process to achieve this global collaborative action for diaspora engagement?

## 6. Expected Outcomes of Technical Working Group

Given the preliminary framing provided in this background document and the expertise of participants in engaging diaspora social capital, the technical working group could consider the following outcomes in terms of shaping meaningful and measurable outcomes on diaspora engagement through social capital. These have been shaped as direct outcomes from the working group and visionary outcomes from the working group.

### *Direct Outcomes*

**Peer-to-Peer Modules of Impact:** The technical working group can serve as a purposeful peer-to-peer governmental exchange where modular designs of engagement of diaspora social capital are developed. This can result in creation of post-working group dialogue collaborations to build legacies beyond the Global Diaspora Summit through government-to-government collaboration on such engagements.

**Monitoring:** Collaborative decisions can be drawn on how best to monitor and track impact from diaspora social capital contributions. A baseline for such monitoring can be extrapolated by sharing of existing practices as well as identification of key lessons learnt and insights on any failures experienced in this area of engagement.

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<sup>26</sup> For more information on how the IMRF is supporting implementation of the GCM, please see <https://www.un.org/en/migration2022/> and <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/pledges>.

**Partnership Prospecting:** A direct outcome can be partnership prospecting which can identify the key external supporters that can be instrumental for both governments of countries of origin and residence to deliver meaningful engagement of diaspora social capital. This can include civil society including diaspora organizations, foundations, international development partners, technology companies, and others as identified by participants at the technical working group.

#### *Visionary Outcomes*

**Future Agenda for Diaspora Social Capital:** This visionary outcome is to scope out the framing of a future agenda of action for engagement of diaspora social capital. This can be rationalized through the direct outcomes above to set in place an achievable agenda to mainstream diaspora social capital for positive contributions to both countries of origin and residence. Dynamics to be considered in this agenda will be increased policy focus on diaspora social capital, strategic enhancement of research, creation of new applications to support diaspora social capital engagement, and scale or replicability of models of success already active in the market.

**A Participatory Framework for the Future Agenda:** This visionary outcome will unpack the complex layers of leadership and partnership required for success in engaging diaspora social capital to offer an overview of the stakeholders required to deliver the future agenda of action. This can serve as an inspirational ask of leadership across these different markets to centralize diaspora social capital into their current and future portfolio of strategic activities. This will ensure that the Future Agenda Document will be an inclusive agenda with active ownership for all actors across the diaspora engagement ecosystem.

## Conclusion

This short background paper is provided as a contextual scene-setter to the technical working group on diaspora social capital at the GDS. It provides explorative discussions with some baseline information and instruction to help guide the technical working group. With the expected outcomes of this working group, it is envisaged that the depth and range of expertise and experience from participants at the technical working group will advance these preliminary discussions to collaborative outline a future agenda of action to ensure that diaspora social capital will bring mutual benefit for both countries of origin and residence.