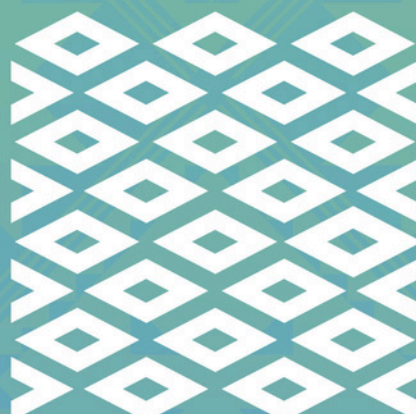


# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE AGENDA OF ACTION FOR GLOBAL DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

REPORT 2024



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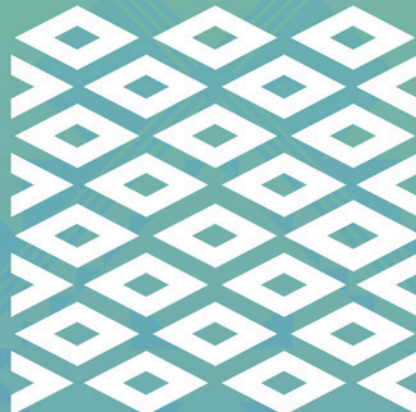
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REPORT 2024





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## Executive summary

The International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement brought together over 200 in-person participants and 300 virtual attendees, including government officials, diaspora members, private sector representatives and youth. This diverse group of stakeholders convened to discuss and advance the role of diaspora communities in global development. The conference marked a pivotal moment in diaspora engagement, underscoring the importance of their contributions to development, humanitarianism and peacebuilding.

A key outcome of the conference was the launch of the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA). Formed through an inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultative process, the GDPA is designed to institutionalize and enhance diaspora engagement by fostering collaboration between governments, diaspora groups, the private sector and civil society. The GDPA's focus on three thematic areas – Gender and Youth, Climate Action, and Health and Well-being – aligns with global priorities such as the Sustainable Development Goals, providing a strategic framework for diaspora-driven solutions.

This report highlights the pivotal role of diasporas as central partners, not merely beneficiaries, in driving global development. With their unique transnational expertise, diasporas are exceptionally positioned to foster innovation, expand markets and promote sustainable economic growth. They also play a vital role in saving lives and providing critical support during humanitarian crises. Their extensive networks and resilience make them indispensable actors in addressing global challenges across sectors such as health care, education, climate resilience, and social inclusion.

The GDPA was shaped by a series of regional consultations across four global regions in 2023, involving over 250 stakeholders. These consultations emphasized the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration and led to the establishment of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), focused on key areas like gender equality, youth engagement, health, and climate action. The 2024 Global Virtual Diaspora Exchanges further explored the strengthening of these partnerships, highlighting the value of diaspora contributions and reinforcing the GDPA's objectives.

The report underscores the importance of institutionalizing diaspora leadership within governance structures to ensure their participation in decision-making processes at both national and international levels. It highlights the need for policies that recognize diaspora contributions and incentivize diaspora-led programming, entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.

The Government of Ireland (term 2024–2026) and the Government of Georgia (term 2026–2028) were identified as co-chairs of the Institutional Steering Committee to guide the GDPA forward and ensure its long-term sustainability. This partnership establishes the GDPA as a critical platform for promoting impactful, long-term diaspora engagement worldwide.

In conclusion, the GDPA offers a comprehensive framework to institutionalize diaspora contributions to sustainable development. By fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, implementing targeted initiatives, and positioning diasporas as active partners in driving solutions, the GDPA is poised to deliver lasting, transformative, and collaborative change for global development.



## Chapter 1

### Introduction: Increasing global recognition of diaspora contributions to development

In 2022, against the backdrop of the upcoming [International Migration Forum Review \(IMRF\)](#) organized in the framework of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) partnered with the [Government of Ireland](#) and key participating States to co-host the inaugural [Global Diaspora Summit \(GDS\)](#). This summit, marking a significant milestone in diaspora engagement, culminated in the adoption of the [Dublin Declaration](#), a comprehensive plan of action aiming to institutionalize and operationalize diaspora capitals across policies, programmes and partnerships within a coherent framework.

The [Dublin Declaration](#), prepared through an inclusive and consultative process, outlines a clear and forward-thinking strategy to support the strategic engagement of diasporas, emphasizing their crucial role in sustainable development. A key recommendation that emerged was to establish a [Global Diaspora Policy Alliance \(GDPA\)](#) as a platform to cultivate an inclusive ecosystem of collaboration across governments and stakeholders, empowering diasporas to contribute fully to sustainable development.

In 2023, IOM and its partners facilitated a series of multi-stakeholder consultations to discuss the establishment of the GDPA. These consultations, spanning from May to September 2023, involved diaspora groups, member states, the private sector, youth and academia. A total of 250 stakeholders from around the world actively participated in this inclusive process, providing valuable feedback on the objectives, scope and global reach of the Alliance.

The GDPA through its dedicated [Technical Working Groups](#), focusing on [Gender and Youth](#), [Climate Action](#), and [Health and Well-being](#), aims to serve as a networked tool for facilitating concrete solutions for the empowerment of diasporas around the world. It will complement existing platforms, including those at regional and continental levels, and prioritize diaspora engagement in global development policy frameworks, accelerating the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

The [International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement](#) brought together supporters of the [Dublin Declaration](#) to glean insights from cutting-edge practices in diaspora engagement. Additionally, during the conference, the GDPA was launched. This alliance is envisioned as a pivotal foundation for shaping the future of global diaspora engagement initiatives.

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It's already very clear that diasporas everywhere are making immeasurable contributions to their countries of residence and origin, and that remittances are just one part of the story. What's needed now is to take global diaspora engagement to the next level – to identify ways to truly harness this vast potential to drive positive change. This conference is a call to action to do just that.

Amy Pope, IOM Director General



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## About this report

This report serves five key purposes, underscoring the critical role of diasporas in global development, humanitarian efforts, and peacebuilding. It draws from the insights and outcomes of the International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement.

- (1) Establishment of the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA): The report highlights the GDPA as the outcome of a dynamic, multi-stakeholder process. It emphasizes how governments, the private sector, civil society and diaspora communities work together across sectors to address global challenges, promoting a cohesive and integrated approach to diaspora engagement.
- (2) Diaspora contributions to development, humanitarianism and peace: Diasporas play a pivotal role in driving global development, providing humanitarian aid and fostering peace. This report illustrates how diasporas contribute to economic growth, knowledge transfer, and sustainable development in both their countries of origin and residence.
- (3) Innovative and targeted solutions from diaspora communities: The report showcases how diasporas offer tailored, innovative solutions to global issues such as migration, climate change and economic development. By leveraging transnational networks, cultural knowledge and professional expertise, diasporas create impactful initiatives that benefit both home and host countries.
- (4) The Dublin Declaration as a framework for partnerships: The report examines how the [Dublin Declaration](#) provides a practical framework for forming concrete partnerships between governments, diasporas and the private sector. It outlines strategies for measuring, scaling and amplifying the positive impacts of these collaborations to ensure long-term, sustainable benefits.
- (5) Key lessons and policy recommendations from the International Conference: Drawing from the presentations, discussions, and statements made during International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement held in Cabo Verde, this report summarizes key lessons, best practices and policy recommendations across sectors like health, climate action, and gender and youth. It outlines strategies for formalizing the GDPA and strengthening diaspora contributions to sustainable development.

Overall, this report provides a comprehensive overview of how diasporas, through targeted collaboration and innovative solutions, can drive meaningful progress and address critical global challenges.







## Chapter 2: Key Processes Shaping the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPA)

### A. Regional consultations 2023 towards the GDPA

The [Regional Consultations held in 2023](#), facilitated by IOM across four global regions (the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific), provided valuable insights into the structure, objectives, and aspirations for the GDPA. These consultations, which included a hybrid event, four online consultations and a survey, brought together a diverse range of stakeholders – governments, diaspora communities, NGOs, academia and the private sector – with the goal of refining the GDPA's framework and determining how it can effectively harness diaspora contributions to global development.

The discussions highlighted the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to diaspora engagement, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between governments, diaspora communities, the private sector, and civil society. This partnership approach was seen as essential to ensuring that diaspora engagement is inclusive, coherent, and responsive to the specific needs and capacities of diverse diaspora groups. Such coordinated efforts would maximize the potential of diasporas as key contributors to development, humanitarianism and peace.

One of the most significant outcomes from the consultations was the widespread support for the establishment of three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) focused on Gender and Youth, Climate Action and Health and Well-being. These groups will provide targeted expertise and drive innovative solutions within their respective areas, aligning with global priorities like the SDGs. Participants agreed that these TWGs would play a crucial role in guiding GDPA activities, ensuring that diaspora engagement efforts are impactful and sustainable.

A recurring theme from the consultations was the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of diaspora organizations. Participants advocated for mechanisms that would support both the financial and operational viability of these organizations while also ensuring that their contributions are measurable. By developing clear metrics for success, stakeholders can better track the impact of diaspora engagement and enhance their contributions to global development outcomes.

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Cabo Verde is a nation beyond its physical territory, thanks to a diaspora dispersed throughout the United States of America, Europe, Africa, Brazil and Argentina and other corners of the world. This sociodemographic reality not only amplifies the notion of the Cabo Verdean nation, but also enriches our country with significant human capital and economic resources. For example in sport, attributing our global success as being the fruit of the ability to recruit talent from beyond our borders, something that can also be reflected in sectors such as academia, science, technology and medicine.

H.E. Mr José Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister, Government of Cabo Verde

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The consultations also underscored the importance of maintaining flexibility within the GDPA framework. While the initial focus on the three TWGs is essential, stakeholders emphasized that the alliance must be adaptable enough to incorporate additional thematic areas in the future, reflecting evolving global challenges and the changing priorities of diaspora communities. This adaptability would ensure that the GDPA remains relevant and responsive over time, making it a long-term tool for effective diaspora engagement.

Formally integrating diaspora voices into policymaking processes was another key point of discussion. Participants called for the inclusion of diaspora representatives within the GDPA, ensuring that their perspectives are reflected in global governance structures. This institutionalized participation would bridge the gap between diaspora communities and decision makers, enabling more inclusive and effective policy outcomes.

The regional consultations laid a solid foundation for the design of the GDPA, ensuring that it reflects the diverse needs and priorities of stakeholders from around the world.

The insights from these regional consultations shaped the agenda of the International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement in 2024, where governments, diaspora representatives, and other stakeholders officially adopted the structure, objectives and technical focus areas of the GDPA and formally launched the Alliance as a global platform for action. This process underscores the importance of ongoing, inclusive dialogue in developing practical frameworks for diaspora engagement, ensuring that their contributions to sustainable development are recognized and supported.

## B. Global Diaspora Virtual Exchanges 2024

Between May and June 2024, IOM, iDiaspora, the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), the Global Diaspora Confederation (GDC) and the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) collaborated to organize three sessions for the [2024 Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange \(GDVE\)](#), focusing on powerful transnational partnerships. This marked the fourth edition of these annual exchanges, which have delivered notable outcomes in previous years. These include the 2020 report, *Global Diaspora Reacting to the COVID-19 Crisis*, the 2021 discussions on *Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability*, and the 2023 exploration of strategies to *Enhance Communication Skills in Project Management*.

“

Today marks a further milestone with the launch of the GDPA. The concept of empowerment is central to what we are setting out to achieve. We do not see migrants and the diaspora simply as a resource to be tapped into but as key actors who want to contribute, who do contribute and with whom our relationship as States and governments must be one of partnership and mutual benefit.

H.E. Ms Alma Ní Choigligh, Ambassador, the Embassy of Ireland in Cabo Verde



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## Key Processes Shaping the GDPA

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These dialogues have brought together diaspora leaders, policymakers, academics and youth, all of whom play key roles in establishing an ecosystem that maximizes diaspora engagement. Over the years, partnerships formed during these exchanges have facilitated the sharing of best practices, expanded impact through connections, and amplified voices for diaspora initiatives. Notably, the GDC was founded as a result of these collaborative efforts. The 2024 GDVE continued to strengthen and deepen connections between diasporas and key actors engaged in diaspora initiatives worldwide.

The 2024 GDVE was designed to foster powerful transnational partnerships and focused on enhancing collaboration between diaspora communities, the public sector and private entities, with an emphasis on promoting sustainable development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian efforts. The GDVE aimed to empower diasporas through self-mobilization, underscore the value of collaboration between diaspora groups and other stakeholders, and identify effective modalities for partnership and collaboration. A key objective was to inform strategies for engaging diaspora organizations in the GDPA, aligning with the vision set out in the Dublin Declaration of ensuring the voice of diaspora is incorporated into decision-making processes to achieve impactful and sustainable outcomes.

The GDVE sessions are closely aligned with the goals of the GDPA, which seeks to establish a cohesive global framework for diaspora engagement and to integrate diaspora voices and perspectives into the broader development ecosystem. The GDPA aims to ensure that diaspora contributions across multiple sectors are recognized, supported and maximized, enabling them to play a pivotal role in global development and policy formulation.

The recommendations from the GDVE underscore the need to enhance diaspora engagement through strategic partnerships, inclusive governance, and targeted support for grassroots organizations. A bottom-up approach is encouraged, with the creation of platforms that allow grassroots diaspora organizations to actively participate in policymaking. This increases their visibility and credibility while ensuring that their contributions are acknowledged by governments, international organizations and the private sector. Investing in the training and capacity-building of these organizations strengthens their ability to advocate for and engage in sustainable development efforts, ensuring long-term impact.

The GDPA builds on these recommendations by institutionalizing these engagement mechanisms within governance frameworks, promoting results-oriented approaches, and fostering stronger partnerships focused on sustainable outcomes. Through the promotion of diaspora-led initiatives in economic empowerment, job creation, and innovation, the GDPA encourages robust diaspora networks and peer-to-peer learning, positioning diasporas as integral actors in global development efforts.

“

The most important thing is the attitude of the leaders toward their diaspora communities. Attracting talent from the diaspora is essential. [...] With these talents, we can amplify national talents and bring more ideas and innovation. The Alliance is a commitment, and we must create a platform with a strong institution to connect with the diaspora.

H.E. Mr Jorge Pedro Maurício dos Santos, Minister of Communities and Minister of Sea, Government of Cabo Verde



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## C. Technical road map towards the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance

From May to August 2024, IOM implemented the road map towards the GDPA, which involved six technical meetings with Member States that supported the Dublin Declaration. The primary aim of these meetings was to co-define the structure, objectives, scope and membership of the GDPA.

The process was divided into two phases. During the first three meetings, technical teams from the Dublin Declaration supporters engaged in discussions to design the Terms of Reference for the GDPA, including the formation and roles of the TWGs. The following three meetings focused on the specific TWGs:

- Gender and Youth, co-chaired by the Governments of Georgia and Sierra Leone;
- Health and Well-being, co-chaired by the Governments of the Philippines and Somalia;
- Climate Action, co-chaired by the Government of Cabo Verde.

In these sessions, the co-chairs presented proposed action plans to mainstream and maximize diaspora engagement within each TWG. Diaspora organizations were actively involved, contributing to the discussions and playing a key role in shaping the actions foreseen by each group.

During these technical meetings, IOM presented the results of the GDVE to reinforce the discussions with insights from diaspora communities, reflecting their expectations and voices. The outcomes of these meetings led to the final adoption of the Terms of Reference for the GDPA and its operational pillars, particularly the three TWGs.

The formation of the GDPA has been a highly inclusive and collaborative process, integrating the perspectives of diaspora communities, youth, geographic representation, and key stakeholders such as Member States and the private sector. Through the 2023 Regional Consultations held across four global regions, diverse stakeholders came together to shape the GDPA framework. This multi-stakeholder approach emphasized the need for collaboration between governments, diasporas, private entities, and civil society to ensure effective diaspora engagement. The consultations led to the establishment of TWGs focused on Gender and Youth, Climate Action and Health and Well-being, ensuring the alliance's relevance to global challenges. The 2024 GDVE and the Technical Roadmap towards the GDPA further reinforced this inclusive process, enabling diaspora organizations to actively contribute to discussions and the development of action plans. These efforts culminated in the finalization of the [GDPA's Terms of Reference](#) and operational structure through [three Technical Working Groups](#), reflecting a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder platform that maximizes diaspora contributions to sustainable development through a whole-of-government approach.

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It is important to recognize the significance of the Dublin Declaration of 2022, as it paved the way for a robust mechanism that ensures multi-stakeholder participation and sector-specific engagement in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

Ugochi Daniels, IOM Deputy Director General



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## Chapter 3: International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement

This chapter will provide an overview of the panel discussions organized within the framework of the International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement. The specific key lessons will be outlined and grouped under those related to partnerships, innovation and policy. Based on these a series of recommendations will be provided to put the lessons into practice.

### Panel 1: Building bridges: Diaspora partnerships, governance and ecosystem

The panel focused on harnessing diaspora partnerships to enhance global governance and foster inclusive, resilient diaspora engagement ecosystems.

This session aimed to explore how diaspora communities, governments, private sector and academia can work together to create dynamic ecosystems that enable impactful global governance and development. The panel discussed practical strategies to integrate diaspora perspectives into governance and maximize their role as key development actors.

Panelists:

- Mr Kingsley Aikins (Moderator): CEO of The Networking Institute, a diaspora engagement expert.
- Ms Rose Kobusinge: Advocate on migration, climate change, and sustainability.
- Mr Peter Kwok: Founding Chair of the GDC.
- Dr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca: Former President of Cabo Verde, legal expert.
- Ms Eiman Kheir: Public Policy Manager at Meta, overseeing diaspora and migrant initiatives.





## Key lessons

### 1. Partnerships: Building strong and sustainable collaborations

- **Trust and mutual benefit:** Successful diaspora engagement hinges on trust, which must be earned over time. Diaspora organizations, stakeholders and governments must work together with transparency and accountability. As emphasized by multiple speakers, trust is essential in mobilizing diasporas effectively, and it must be cultivated through reliable systems that support long-term relationships.
- **Two-way partnerships:** Engaging diasporas is not purely philanthropic. It requires mutual benefit. For example, diaspora members often seek professional or personal development opportunities in return for their involvement. Whether it's for career advancement or leadership opportunities, the value exchange must be clear and attractive to sustain partnerships.
- **Diversity in diaspora engagement:** Diasporas are diverse, encompassing groups ranging from youth to the elderly and spanning professional associations to regional networks with varied interests. Effective partnerships must acknowledge this diversity by tailoring programmes to meet the unique needs of each segment. Notably, youth engagement has been identified as a key area currently lacking attention in many partnerships.
- **Global Diaspora Ecosystems:** An effective ecosystem is built on collaboration among diasporas, governments, NGOs and private sectors. The GDC exemplifies the value of convening diaspora organizations to share best practices and strengthen their global influence. The ability to connect and collaborate on a global scale enhances diasporas' roles in development and crisis response.

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Diaspora is now a significant component of national development goals, and it's no longer a backdoor conversation. As we discuss the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance, one of the things I hope we seriously consider is some synergy with data resource centers that would help all of us.

Mr Charles Boimah Blake, Head of Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Liberia

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### 2. Innovation: New approaches to diaspora involvement

- **Diaspora as crisis responders:** Diasporas have proven effective in crisis situations, such as the humanitarian crisis in the Sudan and the Türkiye–Syrian Arab Republic earthquake, where diaspora doctors and communities mobilized quickly. The integration of diasporas in crisis response programmes offers timely, culturally relevant and often life-saving interventions. For example, the use of WhatsApp bots to provide health advice in war-torn regions shows how programming can leverage diaspora expertise remotely.
- **Data-driven programming:** Effective diaspora programming requires data and feedback. By utilizing platforms like Meta's AI capabilities, governments and organizations can monitor public sentiment about diaspora policies and programmes and adjust strategies accordingly. This allows for evidence-based decision-making, ensuring programmes meet the needs of migrant communities.



- Sustainability of diaspora organizations: Many diaspora organizations operate on limited budgets and are self-funded, making sustainability a key challenge. Future programming must address financial sustainability by supporting these organizations with resources, training and access to funding. Without this, it is estimated that up to 20 per cent of diaspora organizations could cease operations by 2030.
- Capacity-building for diaspora youth: Young diaspora members are often overlooked in programming, yet they hold immense potential for innovation, particularly in areas like climate change. Capacity-building programmes that equip young diasporas with skills in digital platforms, advocacy and leadership can help unlock new opportunities for them to drive change.

### 3. Policy: Shaping the future of diaspora engagement

- Inclusion of diasporas in governance: Governments must involve diasporas in policymaking, especially in leadership roles. Creating positions within government institutions for diaspora representatives can bridge the gap between home and host countries. The inclusion of diasporas in decision-making processes fosters a more collaborative and inclusive approach to migration policies.
- Diasporas as agents of regular migration pathways: Diasporas play a crucial role in advocating for regular migration pathways. Their engagement helps to counter xenophobia and demonstrate the positive contributions of migrants to both host and home countries. Policies that empower diasporas to act as ambassadors for regular migration are critical in shaping a more inclusive global migration system.
- Streamlining remittances and investment policies: High remittance costs and unreliable systems are barriers to diaspora engagement. Policy reforms that lower the cost of remittances and create trusted channels for diaspora investments can enhance the financial contributions of diasporas. Policies should also incentivize diaspora investments through tax exemptions or other benefits, similar to those offered to foreign investors.
- Harnessing digital platforms for policy implementation: Digital platforms play a crucial role in connecting diasporas with their home countries. Policies that promote digital inclusion, especially among young people, which can significantly enhance the effectiveness of diaspora engagement programmes. For example, utilizing AI tools to map diaspora communities and monitor engagement enables governments to better understand and respond to their needs. Additionally, AI and language models can accelerate the impact and accountability of transnational initiatives by providing secure access to information for diasporas and partners.





## Recommendations for effective diaspora engagement

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- **Strengthen trust-building mechanisms:** Building trust between diaspora communities and governments is essential. Reliable and transparent systems should be established to encourage diaspora investment and engagement, addressing key concerns such as corruption, remittance costs and financial transfers. Implement whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to ensure long-term trust and collaboration. In creating a trustworthy environment, all parties – diaspora, government, and partners – must engage in open communication, take ownership of their roles and remain mindful of their reputations. This mutual accountability is key to fostering sustained trust and cooperation.
- **Enhance diaspora data and mapping:** Governments and organizations must leverage technology to better identify, engage, and recognize diaspora populations. Utilizing tools like AI and digital mapping systems can provide valuable insights into diaspora needs and contributions, enabling evidence-based policy development and more targeted engagement.
- **Tailor programmes to diverse diaspora segments:** Recognize the diverse nature of diaspora communities – including youth, professionals, elderly and regional groups – and design programmes tailored to their specific needs and capacities. Engage youth and marginalized groups through capacity-building initiatives, especially in climate action and digital platforms. Acknowledge that diaspora efforts can be both short- and long-term and mobilize the most effective partners to amplify and maximize results.
- **Institutionalize diaspora leadership in governance:** Governments should formalize diaspora participation in decision-making processes by creating spaces for diaspora representatives in leadership roles in national and transnational bodies, ensuring they have a voice in strategic planning and policy implementation. This includes prioritizing the involvement of young diaspora leaders in governance structures.
- **Support financial sustainability of diaspora organizations:** Governments and international organizations should provide financial support through grants, tax incentives and other mechanisms to ensure these organizations remain effective contributors to global development efforts.

“

I believe this will go a long way in strengthening collaboration between governments and the diaspora, enhancing their contribution to development and humanitarian action in the target countries, and also in building the capacity of policymakers to integrate diaspora engagement into relevant policies and strategies at the national level.

Ms Mariama Mohamed Cisse, IOM Special Liaison Office

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Allow me to also recognize that Zimbabwe really wants to participate actively in the follow-up to the Dublin Declaration, and we have done a lot to improve that. It is our pleasure to announce at this conference that the Government of Zimbabwe has taken a decision to join the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance and also pledges to collaborate and continue working with all members within the technical working group.

Ms Sienzeni Mateta, Director of Bilateral Trade and Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Zimbabwe

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## Panel 2: Transnational solutions in health: Concrete results for development

This panel highlighted the pivotal role of diaspora communities in strengthening global health-care systems through transnational collaboration. It showcased how diasporas have contributed to health care in both their home and host countries by delivering essential services, fostering capacity-building, and promoting innovative research. Panelists shared successful diaspora-led health initiatives, discussed effective methods for measuring their impact, and emphasized the importance of building sustainable partnerships to achieve long-term health outcomes.

The objective of the panel was to explore the intersection of health, diaspora engagement, and collaborative partnerships, with a focus on the significant contributions of diasporas to the health sector. The session underscored the need to measure the impact of these initiatives while fostering sustainable and accountable relationships among stakeholders to enhance global health outcomes through skill transfers, innovation and capacity-building.

Panelists:

- Ms Abigail Maristela (Moderator): Program Manager, Diaspora Engagement, IOM Washington, D.C.
- H.E. Mr Paul Raymund Pasion Cortes: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of Cabo Verde.
- Mr Tony Sepla Nimely: Nurse Practitioner, Republic of Liberia.
- Dr. Julio Teixeira: Founding President, Cabo Verdean American Medical Society.
- Ms Muna Muday: Director of Programs, Addis Clinic





## Key lessons

### 1. Partnerships: Collaboration for health equity and resilience

- **Diaspora as key health actors:** During crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, diaspora members served on the frontlines while providing critical support to their home countries, demonstrating their dual role in improving health-care outcomes. Diaspora communities must be empowered and confident in their ability to make meaningful contributions to global health solutions.
- **Sustained local engagement:** Fostering long-term, localized engagement between diaspora and local actors helps to align interventions with the specific needs of communities. Continuous communication strengthens health systems' resilience by ensuring diaspora contributions are relevant and sustainable.
- **Multi-stakeholder collaboration:** Coordinated efforts across sectors through structured partnerships between governments, NGOs, and the private sector with diaspora communities maximize the reach and sustainability of health-care interventions, leading to more impactful outcomes. Health responses should also incorporate influencers, diaspora leaders and faith leaders who can play a crucial role in education and disseminating key health messages. These partnerships and roles need to be clearly defined and tailored to the local context to ensure maximum effectiveness and community engagement.
- **Trust and cultural competency:** Facilitating trust-building between diaspora health professionals and local counterparts is crucial. Culturally sensitive engagement fosters knowledge sharing, capacity-building and better collaboration, resulting in improved health outcomes.

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[...] for us, migration and diaspora engagement – particularly through diaspora remittances, diaspora direct investment, and diaspora specialized skills – play a fundamental role in shaping our economy. [...] I would like to reiterate that Lesotho is deeply committed to strengthening the diaspora engagement agenda.

H.E. Mr Lejone Mpotjoana, Honorable Minister, Foreign Affairs, Lesotho

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Mali is at the heart of migration dynamics, and among the actions undertaken is the support for diaspora projects through the establishment of a one-stop shop, tax and customs exemptions for investors, as well as an adapted communication strategy. [...] The objective of this conference aligns perfectly with the approach of supporting the goals of the diaspora. Mali therefore reaffirms its commitment to continue a dialogue with our partners on migration and development issues.

H.E. Mr Attaher Mossa AG, Minister, Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration, Mali

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## 2. Innovation: Scaling diaspora initiatives to bridge global health gaps

- **Telemedicine to reach underserved areas:** Investing in telemedicine platforms led by diaspora, such as The Addis Clinic, can help bridge health-care gaps in remote and resource-limited settings. These platforms improve access to expert care and expedite diagnoses in underserved areas.
- **Holistic approaches to health-care delivery:** A comprehensive approach, that integrate social, cultural and economic considerations, ensures that health care is more effective, particularly in marginalized and vulnerable communities. These interventions should also include specialized health-care professionals such as nurses, surgeons and mental health practitioners, ensuring a multidisciplinary response that addresses the full spectrum of patient needs. This approach enhances the overall quality of care, ensuring that physical, mental and emotional health are prioritized in health-care delivery.
- **Skill transfer programmes:** Skill transfer initiatives, such as those by the Cabo Verdean American Medical Society, need to be formalized and scaled up to enable diaspora professionals to introduce advanced medical techniques like minimally invasive surgery and elevate local health-care standards.
- **Technology for health responses:** Innovative tech solutions, such as mobile apps, can enable real-time data collection and enhance health-care providers' ability to respond swiftly and effectively during crises. Technology also can analyse patient behavioural patterns, improve patient education and increase access to health care and diagnostic services. Research conducted on diaspora populations abroad can offer valuable insights into the diseases affecting the same population in their country of origin, contributing to a deeper understanding of health trends. This approach facilitates the creation of new, relevant information for both regions.





### 3. Policy: Creating enabling environments for diaspora contributions

- Recognition of qualifications: Addressing the cross-border recognition challenges faced by diaspora professionals through licensing reforms is fundamentally important. Countries should implement special exams and accreditation pathways, as seen in the Philippines, to ensure diaspora skills are effectively utilized both at home and abroad.
- Supportive policy ecosystems: Governments should develop policies that actively facilitate diaspora engagement in health care. Utilizing frameworks like IOM's diaspora engagement model – enable, engage and empower – can support diaspora health-care initiatives at both local and international levels.
- Diaspora contributions beyond remittances: Mechanisms to track and measure diaspora contributions to health systems need to be developed, such as skill transfers, innovation in health care and emergency response initiatives. These metrics will help capture the full scope of their impact beyond financial remittances.
- Inclusive health governance: Engagement of diaspora communities in the policymaking process ensures health interventions are inclusive and reflect their unique insights. Governments and international organizations must create platforms that allow diaspora voices to influence decisions and drive more effective health-care solutions.

#### Recommendations for effective diaspora engagement

- Establish a global health emergency response network: Diaspora communities have proven to be invaluable during health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Ebola epidemic, by quickly mobilizing resources, expertise and support. To harness this potential more effectively, governments and international organizations should establish a global health emergency response network that formally includes diaspora health professionals. This network would facilitate rapid mobilization, coordination and resource sharing during health emergencies, ensuring a more structured and timely response.
- Facilitate recognition of diaspora qualifications: One of the main barriers to effective diaspora engagement in health care is the lack of mutual recognition of qualifications across countries. Many skilled diaspora professionals are underutilized due to difficulties in having their credentials recognized abroad. To address this, policymakers should work towards creating standardized and streamlined processes for recognition of qualifications, enabling diaspora professionals to contribute their expertise wherever needed. Implementing international agreements that streamline certification will maximize the potential of diaspora professionals in improving health-care outcomes.

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External migration has complicated the humanitarian situation and ideally has created a unique cohesion among the people of the Sudan, both inside and abroad. Our people outside have also been a part of the support that comes for the Sudan, which has brought essential help to our people and has been instrumental in the final victory of the Sudanese people, bringing us closer than ever before.

H.E. Mr Osman Hussein Osman, Acting Minister, Cabinet Affairs, the Sudan

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- Invest in telemedicine and digital health solutions: The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of telemedicine in reaching remote and underserved communities. Diaspora-led telemedicine initiatives have demonstrated how technology can bridge health-care gaps by connecting local health-care providers with medical experts abroad. Governments should invest in expanding digital health infrastructure and support diaspora organizations in implementing telemedicine programmes. This approach will not only improve health-care access but also facilitate knowledge transfer and skill-sharing across borders.
- Develop long-term skill transfer partnerships: Sustainable health-care development requires ongoing capacity-building and knowledge transfer. Many diaspora professionals possess advanced skills and expertise that can significantly benefit health-care systems in their countries of origin. Establishing formal partnerships between diaspora organizations and local health-care institutions can facilitate long-term skill transfer through mentoring, training programmes, and collaborative projects. These partnerships will help build local capacity, improve health-care standards, and ensure the continuity of high-quality care.
- Integrate diaspora voices in health policy formulation: Diaspora communities have a deep understanding of both the health-care challenges faced by their home countries and the solutions that have proven effective abroad. To leverage this unique perspective, it is essential to create inclusive health governance models that actively involve diaspora voices in policy formation. By engaging diaspora professionals in decision-making processes, governments can ensure that health policies are culturally sensitive, responsive to local needs and more likely to succeed in improving health-care outcomes.

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Beyond financial contributions, our diaspora brings invaluable expertise, skills and networks vital to our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. [...] Fiji's diaspora continues to play a crucial role in fostering understanding and building bridges between Fiji and their host countries. Repatriating skills to Fiji and the Pacific empowers countries to develop and take ownership of homegrown solutions to development challenges. Additionally, it is encouraging to see Fijians abroad convert from being part of the diaspora to investors in Fiji, boosting productive activities and strengthening Fiji's development.

H.E. Mr Jovilisi Suveinakama, Fiji High Commissioner in London, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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The African Union Commission has always supported its diaspora and viewed it as Africa's sixth region – a group of people who can enact positive change for the continent. [...] In view of this, since 2003, the Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate has been formed and mandated to see about the mobilization, engagement and then streamlining of diaspora into the policies, programmes, and plans of the African Union.

Ms Angela Naa Afoley Odai, Head of Diaspora Division, CIDO, African Union Commission

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### Panel 3: Emerging forces: Diaspora youth and women's unique talent and skills

The panel explored the vital role of diaspora youth and women as key drivers of global development. It highlighted their unique talents, resilience and capacity for innovation, showcasing how they reshaped diaspora engagement and fostered societal change through advocacy, entrepreneurship and policy initiatives.

As diaspora engagement for sustainable development evolved, there was an increasing focus on inclusion and gender equality. Women and youth in diaspora communities were recognized for spearheading new approaches to social and economic progress. Their contributions to peacebuilding, intercultural exchanges and entrepreneurial ventures enriched both their countries of origin and their host nations. The panel emphasized that empowering these groups with inclusive policies and support structures would further amplify their impact on global development.

Panelists:

- Mr Roberto Cancel (Moderator): Senior Regional Labour Mobility Specialist, Regional Office in Panama, IOM.
- Mr Robert Koroma: First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.
- Ms Yessica Zuleima Avelar Aviles, President, Asociacion AmmiC.
- Ms Roberta Bojang, Working Student, Union for the new African and European generation.
- Ms Elisabeth Moreno, Chairwoman of the board at Ring Capital, President of Ring Africa.





## Key lessons

### 1. Partnerships: Empowering voices across borders

- Global collaboration platforms: There is a need for dedicated digital platforms where diaspora youth and women can connect, share skills, and collaborate on projects related to sustainable development. Governments, private sector and philanthropic organizations and partners should incentivize these platforms through grants and technical support.
- Public–private collaboration programmes: Policies that encourage collaboration between private sector companies and diaspora-led initiatives, focusing on youth and women can be very impactful. These partnerships can offer mentorship, investment and business incubation programmes for diaspora entrepreneurs.
- Exchange programmes: Governments, in partnership with academic institutions, international organizations, and the private sector, should introduce exchange programmes that allow diaspora youth and women to engage with their home and host countries through short-term professional and cultural exchanges. These programmes could be co-funded by multilateral organizations, with contributions from corporate sponsors and philanthropic groups. Travel grants, living stipends and professional development resources can be provided to ensure broad participation across socioeconomic backgrounds.

### 2. Innovation: Leveraging diaspora talent for development

- Digital innovation initiatives: There is a need for specific funding for digital projects led by diaspora youth, particularly those that focus on education, entrepreneurship and climate solutions. Policymakers can also streamline grant application processes to allow easy access for youth and women-led organizations.
- Capacity-building grants: Targeted capacity-building support is needed, such as training in leadership, project management and fundraising. Policy frameworks should ensure that diaspora women and youth receive ongoing mentorship to strengthen their organizational capabilities.
- Access to flexible funding: Flexible, continuous funding models cater best to the evolving needs of informal diaspora youth and women-led initiatives. Governments and international donors should create multi-year funding cycles that allow projects to scale sustainably.
- Diaspora skills in national development plans: Governments should integrate diaspora youth and women's skills in national development strategies, particularly in sectors like health, education and technology. This policy could include incentives like tax breaks for diaspora professionals contributing to these sectors.





### 3. Policy: Creating inclusive pathways for diaspora engagement

- **Diaspora representation in governance:** Enact inclusive policies that require the formal representation of diaspora women and youth in national parliaments, advisory boards and key governance structures. Governments, in collaboration with civil society organizations, international bodies (such as the IOM and the United Nations), and the private sector, should reserve seats for these groups, ensuring their active and direct involvement in policymaking. Multilateral organizations and diaspora associations should provide technical support to facilitate their engagement and capacity-building.
- **Incentives of diaspora contributions:** Diaspora youth and women who invest or launch businesses in their home countries benefit from policies with a multi-stakeholder approach that provide tax incentives, dual citizenship and business support. Governments can partner with international development agencies, financial institutions and private investors to reduce barriers to diaspora-led entrepreneurship, while creating mentorship and networking programmes between local entrepreneurs and the diaspora.
- **Recognition of qualifications:** Governments, in cooperation with educational institutions, professional associations and global accreditation bodies, can implement fast-track procedures for recognizing educational and professional qualifications earned abroad by diaspora members. Such policies would ensure that diaspora youth and women can contribute to the workforce without administrative delays. Multinational corporations and NGOs can also play a role by advocating for international standards of credential recognition and facilitating re-entry into the local labour market.
- **National diaspora strategies:** Comprehensive diaspora strategies developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders, including youth and women as key contributors in development planning can help governments consistently and sustainably mobilize diaspora resources. This can involve collaboration between local and international NGOs, diaspora networks, academic institutions and development agencies. These strategies should outline specific goals and metrics, with participation from multilateral organizations, to track the contributions of these groups in areas such as economic growth, health care, and social cohesion. Regular consultations between stakeholders should ensure the continuous alignment of these strategies with the evolving needs of the diaspora.

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In this context, the Philippines is proud and honored to co-chair the Technical Working Group on Health and Wellbeing with Somalia. The nexus of migration and health has long been evident, and we hope that the increasing global recognition of the importance of utilizing global diaspora engagement and collaborative partnerships will produce positive global health outcomes. [...] These technical working groups serve as the operating arm of the alliance, through which our collective work will hopefully bear fruit as we push together for meaningful diaspora engagement.

H.E. Deputy Minister Eduardo José A. de Vega, Introduced by H.E. Mr Paul Raymund Pasion Cortes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Philippines

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## Recommendations for effective diaspora engagement

- **Formalize diaspora representation in governance:** Governments should allocate reserved seats or create advisory boards where these groups have a direct influence on the formulation of socioeconomic policies. Where spaces are created for diaspora participation, there should be quotas for women and youth within that diaspora representation. Additionally, invest in long-term solutions by offering opportunities, recognition and enhancing connectivity between the homeland and the diaspora abroad.
- **Incentivize diaspora entrepreneurship:** Implement tax benefits, dual citizenship provisions and business grants for diaspora youth and women who invest or establish businesses in their home countries. These incentives should be structured to reduce the financial and bureaucratic barriers for diaspora-led development projects.
- **Create flexible funding models for diaspora initiatives:** Design grant programmes with multiyear funding cycles to support informal diaspora youth and women-led organizations. These programmes should provide ongoing capacity-building and mentorship to assist organizations to build internal governance structures needed instead of making these a prerequisite thus fostering sustainable growth and scalability of projects.
- **Launch digital innovation programmes:** Establish government-sponsored digital platforms that connect diaspora youth and women with opportunities to contribute to education, entrepreneurship and sustainable development. These platforms should offer resources for skill-sharing, collaboration and access to global markets.
- **Promote public–private partnerships for diaspora projects:** Encourage collaboration between private sector companies, government agencies and diaspora-led initiatives. These partnerships should offer mentorship, investment and business incubation programmes that focus on scaling diaspora youth and women’s contributions to sectors like health care, education and technology. Additionally, they should leverage the unique skills of diaspora communities in advocacy, lobbying, convening and leadership.



## Panel 4: Blue & green innovators and investors: Diaspora driving sustainable solutions

The panel focused on how diaspora communities contribute to the advancement of green and blue economies. The session explored the critical role diasporas play in promoting environmental sustainability through their investments, networks and innovative solutions across key sectors like renewable energy, conservation and sustainable land use.

The panel aimed to highlight examples of diaspora-driven initiatives addressing environmental challenges, foster collaboration between governments and diaspora communities, and explore ways to enhance data collection to better measure the impact of these initiatives. The discussions emphasized strategic alignment between diaspora contributions and national frameworks for sustainable development.

Panelists:

- Eng. Luís F. Rodrigues (Moderator): Cape Verdean and Norwegian citizen with 40 years of experience in oil and gas, who promotes investments in blue economy projects.
- Ms Nada Berrada: a Moroccan diaspora expert focused on youth workforce development and climate action, currently working with the Education Development Center.
- Ms Indira Kartalozzi: founder of Sustainability Leadership Kosova, specializing in social enterprise, sustainability and transformative leadership.
- Mr Miguel Pedro Sousa Monteiro: Chairman of the Board of Directors at Cabo Verde Stock Exchange, with a background in finance and governance.
- Ms Sonia Araujo Lopes: Environmental conservation consultant.





## Key lessons

### 1. Partnerships: Empowering positive change

- Strategic alliances for an inclusive green transition: Collaborative and complementary partnerships between governments, diaspora communities and international organizations, such as IOM, are essential for driving impactful policy changes. These alliances are pivotal in advancing initiatives focused on green and blue economies, fostering shared ownership of solutions. Moreover, they should accelerate the transition to a green economy and ensure that green jobs and skills development remain a top priority.
- Cross-sector engagement: Integrating diverse sectors – education, private industry and social enterprises – creates holistic solutions that address both immediate challenges and systemic issues. The Kosovo\* deforestation case study highlights the value of cross-sector collaboration in advancing sustainable development.
- Collaborative platforms: Digital platforms like [Blue X](#), developed in collaboration with UNDP and government agencies, illustrate the potential of such tools to attract diaspora investments. These platforms also integrate sustainable financial instruments like green bonds, further promoting climate resilience.

### 2. Innovation: Crafting solutions for green and blue economies

- Systemic approaches to problem-solving: Diaspora-led programmes that focus on systemic challenges, such as Kosovo's\* drone planting for reforestation, demonstrate how innovative approaches can disrupt entrenched practices. These scalable solutions offer models for long-term environmental resilience. Integrating diaspora knowledge and skills enhanced education, fosters scientific collaborations and exchanges, and accelerates the transition to a green economy.
- Youth engagement: Engaging youth in programmes that equip them with green skills and sustainability knowledge, such as the initiatives led by Education Development Company (EDC) in Morocco, is essential for addressing the future impacts of climate change. This fosters job creation in emerging sectors like renewable energy and waste management, ensuring the next generation's involvement in climate action.
- Data-driven impact: Accurate data collection is vital for measuring the effectiveness of diaspora-led programmes. Using tools like satellite data to track deforestation trends or measuring the carbon footprint of projects ensures transparency and supports evidence-based decision-making.
- Sustainable financing mechanisms: Diaspora-driven initiatives, such as green bonds, offer innovative funding mechanisms that align economic returns with environmental sustainability. These initiatives highlight the importance of creating financial instruments tailored to diaspora investors that support long-term development goals.

\* Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



### 3. Policy: Enabling diaspora contributions through targeted frameworks

- **Policy advisory groups:** Formal diaspora advisory groups, such as the African Diaspora Advisory Group under the Biden-Harris administration, enhance the role of diasporas in shaping national policies. This is particularly effective in areas related to climate action and green economies, where diaspora input can influence meaningful policy change.
- **Government-led engagement:** Governments can institutionalize diaspora engagement by appointing officers in embassies dedicated to strengthening ties with diaspora communities. These officers can then facilitate climate-related projects and investments, ensuring that diaspora contributions are effectively integrated into national development strategies.
- **Incentives for diaspora investment:** Governments can attract more diaspora investment by offering financial incentives, such as tax exemptions for investments in green bonds or sustainable industries. These policies stimulate greater diaspora involvement in local economic development and climate initiatives.
- **Climate capacity-building in education:** Integrating green skills into national education curricula is critical to preparing future generations for careers in sustainable industries. Collaboration with diaspora experts can support these efforts, ensuring that educational programmes align with emerging climate-related job sectors and drive sustainable growth at both local and national levels.

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As an early signatory of the Dublin Declaration, Bangladesh remains committed to leverage diaspora potential for mutual benefit beyond remittances. Our diaspora strengthens global networks provide knowledge, skills, and humanitarian aid. Active engagement with them in our development efforts can lead to more inclusive and effective solutions to both local and global changes.

Mr S M Ghulam Sarwar, Third Secretary, Embassy of Bangladesh in Lisbon, Portugal

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As we gather today, the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance provides a unique opportunity to formalize our collective efforts, and create a structured mechanism for cooperation, policy alignment and the empowerment of diaspora communities. The adoption of the GDPA terms of reference will set the stage for greater collaboration, mutual support and impactful actions that reflects the priorities of the Global Diaspora.

H.E. Mr Lang Yabou, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Gambia

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## Recommendations for effective diaspora engagement

- Establish diaspora advisory groups: Governments should formalize the role of diaspora communities in national development by creating an advisory group on green transition and/or climate action. These groups can provide critical guidance on shaping policies around green economies, climate resilience and sustainable development initiatives.
- Develop and scale digital platforms for diaspora investments: Digital platforms designed to attract diaspora investments into green and blue economies should be developed and scaled across countries. These platforms can facilitate investment in sustainable financial instruments like green and social bonds.
- Integrate green skills into education and workforce development: Governments should prioritize integrating green skills into national education curricula, preparing future generations for emerging jobs in renewable energy and sustainable industries. Diaspora professionals, with their diverse experiences and expertise, can provide valuable insights into global best practices and innovative approaches. By engaging diaspora communities, governments can ensure that education systems are aligned with the evolving needs of green economies, fostering a workforce that is not only skilled but also globally competitive. This collaboration can also facilitate knowledge transfer, mentorship programmes and the development of international partnerships, further strengthening the capacity of local institutions to adapt to the demands of sustainable development.
- Foster cross-sector collaboration for holistic solutions: Governments and international organizations should promote partnerships between education, private industry and social enterprises. Cross-sector collaboration helps create comprehensive solutions that address both environmental challenges and systemic economic needs.
- Offer financial incentives for diaspora investments in sustainable development: Governments can incentivize diaspora investments by offering financial benefits like tax exemptions for investments in green bonds or sustainable industries. Policies that streamline investment processes for diaspora communities will enhance their participation in local economic development and climate action.





## Panel 5: Multi-stakeholder dialogue: Diaspora members and private sector partners

The purpose of this panel was to explore the synergies between diaspora communities and private sector actors in advancing sustainable development, humanitarianism and peacebuilding. The panel emphasized the role of diaspora members as key contributors to economic development and market expansion, while also highlighting the importance of corporate responsibility and social integration in empowering individuals and communities.

### Panelists:

- Ms Larisa Lara (Co-Moderator): Diaspora Engagement Officer, IOM.
- Mr Roberto Cancel (Co-Moderator): Senior Regional Labour Mobility Specialist, Regional Office in Panama.
- Ms Irina Andrianina Randrianarivelo, Editor-in-Chief, MadaLiving.
- Prof. Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners and Migration for Sustainable Development Project in the Gambia.
- Mr Martin Russell, CEO, Global Diaspora Insights.
- Ms Daniela Villacres, Diaspora & Civic Engagement Team Lead, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), USAID.





## Key lessons

### 1. Partnerships: Strengthening collaboration for economic and social progress

- **Diaspora as economic development catalysts:** Policymakers, international organizations and private sectors are increasingly recognizing diaspora communities as drivers of economic innovation. Diasporas possess unique knowledge, networks and resources that facilitate market expansion, resilience and innovation, contributing to sustainable economic growth.
- **Corporate social responsibility and diaspora:** Governments, businesses and diaspora organizations should establish collaborative frameworks that integrate corporate social responsibility (CSR) goals with diaspora engagement. Diaspora members play a pivotal role in supporting corporate diversity, equity and social responsibility (DESR) targets. By working together, these stakeholders can achieve broader socioeconomic objectives, enhancing both corporate impact and diaspora-led development initiatives. Corporations can strengthen their business models and community ties by integrating diaspora contributions into their strategies, as evidenced by successful CSR initiatives in global companies.
- **Diaspora networking and knowledge-sharing:** Governments can foster platforms, both digital and in-person, that encourage diaspora members to share resources, expertise and experiences with other stakeholders. These networks amplify the potential for collaboration and open pathways to new business, social and policy opportunities.

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Kenya has focused on brain sharing and not brain drain, facilitating the transfer of skills and knowledge from our diaspora to support national development. [...] On the inclusion of the Diaspora in the national development agenda, we recognize that it is the government's obligation to create a conducive environment for the diaspora to strive, to want to participate, to be philanthropic, to invest both as individuals and within the diaspora associations.

H.E. Ms Hellen Adhiambo Gichuhi, Secretary Diaspora Welfare and Partnerships, Kenya

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The diaspora in Senegal is considered as the 15th region, which is why it was decided to create 15 deputies representing the diaspora across different areas. Today, the diaspora remains a priority for Senegal. The current authorities are committed because it is the diaspora that elected them, it is the diaspora that wrote the program, and if you look at the Senegalese government, practically 50% of the officials are from the diaspora or are returnees. We intend to mobilize the diaspora for Senegal's major projects.

H.E. Mr Amadou Chérif Diouf, Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad, Ministry of African Integration and Foreign Affairs / State Secretariat for Senegalese Abroad, Senegal

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## 2. Innovation: Driving long-term social and economic impact

- Engagement and diaspora needs: Governments and donors must engage diasporas based on their specific priorities and needs. Co-developing programmes with diaspora communities ensures that initiatives remain relevant, sustainable and impactful, enhancing the efficacy of diaspora-led interventions.
- Diaspora-led innovation and technology: Diaspora-driven programmes should prioritize the use of digital tools and innovation, which enhance communication, coordination and operational efficiency. Leveraging technology can amplify diaspora involvement in areas such as humanitarian aid, disaster response and entrepreneurial ventures.
- Peer-to-peer learning among diasporas: There is a need for governments and international organizations to create spaces for peer-to-peer learning across diaspora communities. Sharing knowledge across generations, sectors and regions empowers diasporas to transfer valuable skills and develop innovative solutions for global challenges.
- Diaspora-led social and business enterprises: Programmes that incentivize diaspora investments in business and social enterprises can significantly drive economic growth in both home and host countries. Establishing diaspora-focused funding channels and business networks creates a multiplier effect, fostering local economies while addressing pressing social challenges. To maximize impact, it is essential to learn from and integrate the private sector's clarity of purpose, ensuring a focused approach that aligns with both economic goals and social responsibility.

## 3. Policy: Establishing inclusive policies to maximize diaspora impact

- Diaspora representation in policy and programming: Governments, donors and partners should formalize diaspora involvement in policymaking and programming by establishing advisory boards and working groups. These platforms allow diasporas to influence key decisions and ensure their expertise and priorities are integrated into national and international policies and programmes. Improved coordination between stakeholders is essential, as diasporas are best positioned to identify their own priorities and propose relevant solutions.







- Accountability and transparency in diaspora programmes: Clear metrics for success, transparency and regular reporting are essential for maintaining trust and encouraging ongoing diaspora participation. When diaspora members see tangible outcomes from their contributions, sustained engagement and long-term partnerships become more likely.
- Diasporas in corporate and national development agendas: Governments benefit from establishing inclusive policies that allow diasporas to play a formal role in corporate and national development strategies. This integration unlocks the potential of diaspora members to act as intermediaries in both social and economic progress.
- Flexible governance frameworks for diaspora organizations: Governments can design adaptable frameworks that enable diaspora organizations to formalize their structures, access funding and collaborate across sectors. Flexible governance ensures that diaspora organizations remain resilient and can address evolving global challenges.

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Sao Tome and Principe's diaspora is mainly located in European countries and some African countries, such as Cabo Verde. The African diaspora has opportunities to contribute to innovative energy solutions; we have a young population, which represents a promising future for Africa to become a hub of consumption and innovation. Our diaspora can develop businesses and create opportunities for the economy, industrialization, digitalization, youth and gender, ensuring that the involvement of the diaspora results in mutual benefits for all stakeholders.

Mr Filipe Dias Nascimento, President of the Regional Government of Príncipe

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### Recommendations for effective diaspora engagement:

- Recognize and integrate diaspora contributions as economic catalysts: Policymakers should formally recognize diasporas as key drivers of economic development and innovation. Diaspora members provide unique networks and knowledge that fuel market expansion, trade resilience and sustainable economic growth, as highlighted by their integral role across sectors like health, technology, gender, climate, etc.
- Promote multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration: The public sector, private sector and diaspora organizations should collaborate through formal frameworks that foster cross-sector and interdisciplinary partnerships. Aligning CSR initiatives with diaspora engagement, while incorporating expertise from fields such as organizational psychology, can drive innovative solutions that address both economic and social objectives. Diaspora contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programmes in major corporations exemplify how these collaborations can generate meaningful, cross-sectoral impact.



- Support diaspora-led programmes through innovation and technology: Governments and donors should invest in diaspora-led initiatives that leverage digital platforms and technology. These tools enhance connectivity, coordination and efficiency, fostering innovative solutions in areas such as humanitarian aid and business development.
- Encourage peer-to-peer learning and capacity-building: Governments and international organizations should create spaces for peer-to-peer learning within diaspora communities. Sharing knowledge across generations and sectors empowers diasporas to transfer skills that can address global challenges, leading to more sustainable and impactful programmes.
- Institutionalize diaspora representation in policy and governance: Governments should formalize diaspora participation in policy through advisory boards and working groups. This inclusion ensures that diaspora priorities are reflected in both national and international policies, creating a more enabling environment for diaspora engagement and maximizing their social and economic impact.

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El Salvador reaffirms its commitment to continue creating favorable conditions for migrants and the diaspora. We consider it essential to continue fulfilling Goal 19 of the Global Compact for Migration, and therefore, El Salvador will keep implementing actions that allow the diaspora and migrants to fully contribute to the development of our countries. The participation of the Salvadoran diaspora will be facilitated through their inclusion in the political, economic, cultural, and social life of the country, as well as in national development through their investments, businesses, and co-development efforts. We are convinced that diasporas support both destination and origin countries. We urge all countries to continue strengthening actions to protect and guarantee their rights.

Ms Gilda Murillo, Head of the Department of Inclusion and Community Liaison,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of El Salvador

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To promote migration and development in South Sudan, we need to mobilize and engage the South Sudanese diaspora and friends of the diaspora for the country's socioeconomic development and welfare of South Sudanese, reap development benefits of diaspora remittances and establish a coordination mechanism to enhance diaspora engagement for the development of South Sudan.

Ambassador James Kur Muorwel, National Focal-Point and Former Chair of the Khartoum-Process,  
Director / Department of Consular Service, South Sudan

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## Chapter 4: From vision to action – Building inclusive and sustainable pathways for diaspora engagement

Building on the insights and recommendations outlined in Chapter 3, which examined the International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement, the focus now shifts from discussion to implementation. The previous chapter identified key areas such as partnerships, innovation and policy, providing practical guidance on building trust, fostering collaboration and enhancing diaspora engagement. These findings lay the groundwork for this section, which transitions from strategic recommendations to the concrete actions required to establish inclusive and sustainable pathways for diaspora engagement.

This section examines how these insights can be translated into action through inclusive governance, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and the integration of technology. It highlights the need for formalizing diaspora leadership, enhancing digital platforms for engagement and developing tailored initiatives to address the diverse needs of diaspora communities.

The journey toward meaningful and impactful diaspora engagement requires a comprehensive framework that combines institutionalization, a multi-stakeholder approach, targeted initiatives, and positions diasporas at the center as key partners. As stakeholders in global development, diasporas hold shared responsibilities in driving progress while simultaneously benefiting from collaborative efforts that enable their voices to shape policy and innovation.

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We recognize that this effort requires collective action, long-term commitment, and collaboration across borders. The work of our Technical Working Group stands as a testament to the power of unity in pursuit of a shared cause. With the continued guidance and support of our partners, particularly the IOM, we will build the efforts and create lasting impact for the diaspora.

H.E. Mr Isaak Mohamud Mursal, Deputy Minister, Ministry Foreign Affairs Federal Government of Somalia

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### Institutionalization of diaspora engagement in governance and policy

A crucial starting point is the formal institutionalization of diaspora leadership within governance structures. Establishing legal frameworks to secure diaspora representation at both national and global levels is essential for guaranteeing their involvement in decision-making processes. Governments should also create advisory groups to integrate diaspora voices into key policy discussions, particularly in areas like health care, sustainable development and economic growth. By ensuring the participation of diaspora women and youth in strategic planning, their contributions can be embedded in long-term policies, aligning global and local development priorities.



Moreover, providing financial support through grants, tax incentives, and sustainable funding mechanisms will further empower diaspora organizations to remain effective contributors to development, humanitarian and peace initiatives. Recognizing diaspora qualifications will maximize the impact of skilled professionals, reinforcing their role in global crises and beyond.

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The inauguration of the GDPA opens a new chapter for diaspora engagement, collaboration across governments, diaspora organizations and key stakeholders, to be able to fully contribute to sustainable development and achieve the SDGs. This alliance supplements existing resources by giving priority to diaspora engagement in global development policies, [...] It also enables the creation of a network tool of expertise and exchange to complement existing facilities, prioritizing diaspora engagement in global development policy networks.

Mr Ashwin Ruhee, First Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Mauritius

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## A multi-stakeholder approach for holistic solutions

Effective diaspora engagement must be grounded in a multi-stakeholder approach that promotes collaboration across sectors. Governments, international organizations, the private sector, academia and diaspora communities must collectively build transparent systems to foster trust, facilitate investment and streamline remittances. A whole-of-society approach ensures that no single entity bears the responsibility alone; instead, all partners work together to develop sustainable solutions. In addition, public-private partnerships can play a pivotal role in aligning CSR efforts with diaspora-led projects, especially in critical sectors like health care, technology and climate resilience.

## Utilizing technology for effective and impactful results

Digital platforms and innovative technologies are revolutionizing diaspora engagement by enhancing connectivity and policy implementation. By promoting digital inclusion, especially among young people, these platforms enable effective diaspora engagement programmes. AI tools, for instance, can map diaspora communities and monitor engagement, allowing governments to better understand and respond to their needs. In the health sector, mobile apps facilitate real-time data collection and improve health-care responses during crises, while analysing patient behaviours and increasing access to health-care services. Additionally, diaspora-driven programmes that leverage digital tools can significantly enhance communication, coordination and operational efficiency, amplifying their impact in areas such as humanitarian aid, disaster response and entrepreneurial ventures. Embracing digital platforms for knowledge exchange, telemedicine, and peer-to-peer learning can bridge the gap between diaspora professionals and their home countries, creating avenues for sustained capacity-building and collaboration.



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The Government of Mozambique recognizes that the diaspora can play a significant role in the development of the country due to its potential to contribute through remittances, among other factors. Governments increasingly recognize the role of diasporas in their countries of origin and seek ways to cooperate with them. Diasporas are major investors in emerging and critical sectors, including tourism, and are generous philanthropists. Our Government has developed a diaspora policy with the support of the IOM, and with this, we aim to demonstrate that our government collaborates with the diaspora. Our diaspora must participate politically, culturally and socially in all aspects of our country. [...] Mozambique is aligned with the Dublin Declaration and the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.

Mr Armando Pedro Muiuane Junior, General Director,  
National Institute for Mozambican Communities Aboard, Mozambique

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## Targeted initiatives to address diverse diaspora groups

Given the diversity of diaspora communities, targeted initiatives must be developed to reflect the specific needs and strengths of various groups, including youth and women, professionals and marginalized communities. Capacity-building programmes should prioritize engaging youth in emerging fields such as climate action and digital platforms, ensuring they have the tools to drive change in their home countries.

Governments, donors and implementing partners must also introduce flexible funding models that encourage diaspora entrepreneurship and innovation. Programmes like diaspora grants and investment incentives can reduce the barriers that often hinder diaspora-led projects. Additionally, exchange programmes and digital innovation platforms can strengthen the ties between diasporas and their home countries, facilitating more direct and impactful engagement.

## Diasporas at the centre as partners

Ultimately, diasporas must be viewed not just as beneficiaries but as central partners in global development. Their transnational expertise and networks position them as unique catalysts for economic and social progress. However, with this opportunity comes the responsibility to engage in open communication, build trust and remain accountable to their home and host countries.

Policies should formally recognize diaspora contributions as essential to innovation, market expansion and sustainable economic growth. Diasporas actively participate in multisectoral collaboration, driving forward solutions that align with global, regional and local priorities, such as green economies, sustainable development, and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.



## Conclusion and future steps: The Global Diaspora Policy Alliance – An inclusive ecosystem for sustainable diaspora engagement

Diasporas should be recognized not merely as beneficiaries, but as central partners in driving global development. Their unique transnational expertise and extensive networks position them as powerful catalysts for economic and social transformation. With this potential comes the responsibility to foster open communication, build trust and maintain accountability to both their home and host countries. Diasporas are uniquely equipped to navigate diverse contexts and leverage their connections, acting as bridges between societies. Their resilience and deep understanding of different cultural and economic landscapes make them indispensable in advancing global progress.

To maximize this potential, policies must formally acknowledge the critical contributions of diaspora communities, particularly in driving innovation, expanding markets and promoting sustainable economic growth. Diasporas play an essential role in multisectoral collaboration, driving solutions to address global, regional and local challenges. These include the transition to green economies, the pursuit of sustainable development, and the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion. Their role as connectors and innovators ensures they remain at the forefront of shaping and implementing transformative changes.





## Conclusion

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The International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement marked a significant milestone, bringing together over 200 participants in person and 300 online to discuss and engage in meaningful actions that will shape the future of diaspora engagement. The event was a unique opportunity for multi-stakeholder panels where diaspora visions and views were at the forefront. Representatives of Member States provided their insights, while the TWG chairs laid out concrete plans of action within the framework of the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.

To ensure the sustainability of this process, the Government of Georgia expressed interest in acting as co-chair of the Institutional Steering Committee, alongside the Government of Ireland, to support the ongoing efforts and host the next Global Diaspora Summit. This collaboration sets the foundation for a long-term, sustainable process that positions diasporas as central actors in global development, driving forward the initiatives outlined by the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.

Through this inclusive and collaborative ecosystem, the vision for diaspora engagement is translated into concrete actions, ensuring a lasting and impactful change for global development.

## References

- International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2023). [Regional Consultations: Towards the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance](#). IOM, Geneva.
- iDIASPORA, GRFDT, GDC and MYCP (2024). [Public Sector Synergies, Private Sector Alliances and Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration](#). International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva.

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This is an important milestone in advancing the engagement of diasporas as partners and prioritizing their involvement in sustainable development. An action plan has been developed to harness the unique talents of the diaspora in seeking transnational solutions in health, gender, youth, and climate action. These efforts are grounded in concrete and attainable actions. There are practical steps that will lead to meaningful and lasting impact. It is a source of great pride that Georgia has supported this consultative and multi-stakeholder process from day one. [...] It is with great pride and sincere appreciate that I announce Georgia's privilege to co-chair the GDPA's Institutional Steering Committee alongside Ireland. I'm also delighted to highlight that Georgia is ready to host the next GDPA International Conference with great enthusiasm in our beautiful country.

H.E. Mr Vladimer Konstantinidi, Deputy Minister, Government of Georgia



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## Annex I

### Agenda

## International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement: Concrete Steps, Impactful Solutions

All times are displayed in Cabo Verde time (GMT-1)

Mater of Ceremoney: Paulo Diniz Cabral, Cabo Verde

Time (GMT-1)	Activities / Speakers
12 September 2024	
8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.40	<p>Official Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome address by Mr Júlio Lopes, Mayor of Sal</li><li>• H.E. Ms Alma Ní Choigligh, Ambassador of Ireland</li><li>• H.E. Ms Amy E. Pope, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)</li></ul> <p>Opening speech by H. E. Mr José Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister of Cabo Verde</p> <p>Introduction remarks by the Co-Chairs and Lead Participating States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Marcela Cecilia Gabriela Cruz Merma, Third Secretary in the Diplomatic Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Peru</li><li>• Mr Ashwin Ruhee, First Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Mauritius</li><li>• Ms Angela Naa Afoley Odai, Head of Diaspora Division, CIDO, African Union Commission</li><li>• H.E. Mr Jovilisi Suveinakama, High Commissioner in London, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Fiji</li><li>• H.E. Ms Cindy Mariella Portal, Vice Minister of Diaspora and Human Mobility (video recording) - Introduced by: Ms. Gilda Murillo, Head of the Department of Inclusion and Community Liaison, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of El Salvador</li><li>• H.E. Mr Jorge Pedro Maurício dos Santos, Minister of Communities, Government of Cabo Verde</li></ul>





9.40 – 9.50	Group photo/ Coffee break
9.50 – 11.20	<p>Building Bridges: Diaspora Partnerships, Governance and Ecosystems</p> <p>Panelists will explore the dynamic interplay between diaspora communities, governmental bodies and private sector stakeholders. Through insightful discussions and case studies, the panel will highlight effective collaboration pathways, showcasing the transformative potential of diaspora engagement in global governance. Discussions will explore strategies to multiply and scale the impact of diasporas, fostering even greater contributions to global development.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Kingsley Aikins, CEO, The Networking Institute</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Rose Kobusinge, IOM Youth Changemaker</li> <li>• Mr Peter Kwok, Chair, Global Diaspora Confederation (GDC)</li> <li>• Dr. Jorge Carlos Fonseca, Former President of the Republic of Cabo Verde</li> <li>• Ms Eiman Kheir, Public Policy Manager, META</li> </ul>
11.20 – 12.50	<p>Transnational Solutions in Health: Concrete Results for Development</p> <p>This panel explores the crucial intersections of health, diaspora engagement, and collaborative partnerships. Emphasizing a sectoral approach, we will discuss how to measure and demonstrate the tangible outcomes of diaspora involvement in health initiatives. The session will highlight the analysis of transnational health projects, showcasing their significance and the necessity for accountable and transparent relationships among all stakeholders. Additionally, we will examine unique opportunities within health practices, such as the use of technology, short-term visits, and skill transfers, to enhance global health outcomes.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Abigail Maristela, Programme Coordinator, IOM</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr Paul Raymund Pasion Cortes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of Cabo Verde</li> <li>• Mr Tony Sepla Nimely, Nurse Practitioner, Republic of Liberia</li> <li>• Dr. Julio Teixeira, Founding President, Cabo Verdean American Medical Society</li> <li>• Ms Muna Muday, Director of Programs, Addis Clinic</li> </ul>



<p>12.50 – 13.50</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>13.50 – 15.20</p>	<p>Emerging Fores: Diaspora Youth and Women’s Unique Talent and Skills</p> <p>This panel explores the remarkable potential of diaspora youth and women, each a vibrant group endowed with diverse talents and skills. Our panelists will discuss how these crucial and unique actors are reshaping global engagement, driving innovation, and fostering significant societal change. From tech-savvy entrepreneurs to passionate activists, this session aims to showcase how both youth and women from diaspora communities are making waves and leaving a profound impact on the international stage.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Roberto Cancel, Senior Regional Labour Mobility Specialist, Regional Office in Panama, IOM</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Robert Koroma, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</li> <li>• Ms Yessica Zuleima Avelar Aviles, President, Asociacion AmmiC</li> <li>• Ms Roberta Bojang, Working Student, Union for the new African and European generation</li> <li>• Ms Elisabeth Moreno, Chairwoman of the board at Ring Capital, President of Ring Africa</li> </ul>
<p>15.20-15.30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>15.30 –17.00</p>	<p>Blue &amp; Green Innovators and Investors: Diaspora Driving Sustainable Solutions</p> <p>This session will highlight the pivotal role of diaspora communities in advancing sustainable solutions for blue and green economies. Our esteemed panelists will explore innovative approaches and best practices employed by diaspora innovators and investors to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. Through engaging discussions and case studies, we will uncover how diaspora-driven initiatives are driving positive change in areas such as renewable energy, conservation and sustainable agriculture.</p>



	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eng. Mr Luis Firpo Rodrigues, Country Manager, Nortuna Holding CV SA</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Nada Berrada, Youth, Workforce Development and Climate Coordinator, Education Development Center (EDC)</li> <li>• Ms Indira Kartallozi, Director, Sustainability Leadership Kosova</li> <li>• Ms Sonia Lopes, Expert consultant for the Government of Cabo Verde on GDPA TWG Climate Action</li> <li>• Mr Miguel Monteiro, President, Cape Verde Stock Exchange</li> </ul>
17:00 –17:30	<p>Catalysing Cabo Verde’s Future: Public Presentation of the Diaspora Investor’s Guide</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Maria Silva, President, International Organization of Cabo Verdean, Professionals in the Diaspora</p> <p>Presenter of the Guide: Mr Leonildo Monteiro, Director of Investment, Cabo Verde Trade Investment</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Eng. Mr Jorge Santos, Minister of Communities and Minister of the Sea, Government of Cabo Verde</li> <li>• Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM</li> <li>• Ms Lydia Picoteiro Bettencourt, Lawyer, Founder of LPB Intlaw law firm and of the digital platform “Mesteadvogado”</li> </ul>
19.30	<p>Dinner and Cultural event Venue: Hotel Oásis Belorizonte</p>



Time (GMT-1)	Activities / Speakers
13 September 2024	
9.00 – 9.15	<p>Inauguration of Ministerial Session: This hybrid session will serve as an opportune platform for the organizing partners to articulate their respective visions for the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.</p> <p>Opening Remarks by the Co-Chairs and Lead Participating States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, IOM</li> <li>• H.E. Mr Jorge Pedro Maurício dos Santos, Minister of Communities, Government of Cabo Verde</li> <li>• H.E. Ms Alma Ní Choigligh, Ambassador, Government of Ireland</li> </ul>
9.15 – 11.00	<p>Charting the Future: Formal Adoption of GDPA ToRs and Pledges Ahead This session will offer insight into the pivotal steps taken towards solidifying commitments and strategies essential for diaspora engagement on a global scale. Government officials, Ministers and Observer States will share their perspectives and commitments, shaping the agenda for future action.</p> <p>The order of statements from government officials and Ministers will be determined based on the confirmation of invitees.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, IOM</li> </ul> <p>Scaling synergies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Mariama Mohamed Cisse, Director, IOM Special Liaison Office (online)</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lesotho (online) H.E. Mr Lejone Mpotjoana, Honorable Minister, Foreign Affairs</li> <li>2. Mali H.E. Mr Attaher Mossa AG, Minister, Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration</li> <li>3. Sudan H.E. Mr Osman Hussein Osman, Acting Minister, Cabinet Affairs</li> <li>4. Fiji H.E. Mr Jovilisi Suveinakama, Fiji High Commissioner in London, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> </ol>



	<p>5. Ireland H.E. Ms Alma Ní Choigligh, Ambassador</p> <p>6. Philippines H.E. Deputy Minister Eduardo José A. de Vega (video message)</p> <p>Introduced by H.E. Mr Paul Raymund Pasion Cortes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cabo Verde</p> <p>7. African Union Ms Angela Naa Afoley Odai, Head of Diaspora Division, CIDO, African Union Commission</p> <p>8. Bangladesh Mr S M Ghulam Sarwar, Third Secretary, Embassy of Bangladesh, Lisbon, Portugal (3 min)</p> <p>9. Gambia H.E. Mr Lang Yabou, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>10. Kenya H.E. Ms Hellen Adhiambo Gichuhi, Secretary Diaspora Welfare and Partnerships</p> <p>11. Senegal H.E. Mr Amadou Chérif Diouf, Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad, Ministry of African Integration and Foreign Affairs / State Secretariat for Senegalese Abroad</p> <p>12. Somalia (online) H.E. Mr Isaak Mohamud Mursal, Deputy Minister, Ministry Foreign Affairs Federal Government of Somalia</p> <p>13. Mauritius Mr Ashwin Ruhee, First Secretary, Prime Minister's Office</p> <p>14. Liberia Mr Charles Boimah Blake, Head of Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>15. Mozambique Mr Armando Pedro Muiuane Junior, General Director, National Institute for Mozambican Communities Aboard (INACE)</p>
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	<p>16. Sao Tome and Principe Mr Filipe Dias Nascimento, President of the Regional Government of Príncipe</p> <p>17. Zimbabwe Ms Sienzeni Mateta, Director of Bilateral Trade and Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade</p> <p>18. El Salvador Ms Gilda Murillo, Head of the Department of Inclusion and Community Liaison, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>19. South Sudan (online) Ambassador James Kur Muorwel, National Focal-Point and Former Chair of the Khartoum-Process, Director / Department of Consular Service</p>
12.00 – 13.15	Lunch
13.15 – 14.15	<p>Multi-stakeholder Dialogue: Diaspora Members and Private Sector Partners</p> <p>In this session, observers, diaspora members and private sector partners will have the opportunity to share their perspectives on diaspora ecosystems and the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Larisa Lara, Diaspora Engagement Officer, IOM</li> <li>• Mr Roberto Cancel, Senior Regional Labour Mobility Specialist, Regional Office in Panama, IOM</li> </ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Irina Andrianina Randrianarivelo, Editor-in-Chief, MadaLiving</li> <li>• Mr Gibril Faal, Director, GK Partners and Migration for Sustainable Development Project in the Gambia</li> <li>• Mr Martin Russell, CEO, Global Diaspora Insights</li> <li>• Ms Daniela Villacres, Diaspora and Civic Engagement Team Lead, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), USAID</li> </ul>
14.15 – 14.45	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, IOM</li> <li>• Video message from H.E. Mr Vladimer Konstantinidi, Deputy Minister, Government of Georgia – Introduced by Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, IOM</li> <li>• H.E. Mr Jorge Pedro Maurício dos Santos, Minister of Communities, Government of Cabo Verde</li> </ul>



## Annex II

### Participants List

#### Member States

##### **Cabo Verde**

H.E. José Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister

H.E. Jorge Pedro Maurício dos Santos, Minister of Communities and Minister of Sea

##### *Prime Minister's Office*

Verónica Esmeralda Almeida dos Reis, Head of Office

Vlademiro Marçal, Director of the Communication and Image

Ivan Santos, Special Advisor

Hélder Cardoso, Special Advisor

Maria Conceição Teixeira Silva, Special Advisor

Arrigo Costa, Computer Technician

##### *Ministry of Communities*

Jorge Humberto Pires Lima, Head of Office

Ana Jaqueline Marques da Silva, Special Advisor

Martinho Moreno Ramos, Director General, Ministry of Communities

Edna Pinto Tavares, Director General Planning and Budget

Rosangela Alfama Miranda, Advisor

Romilene Leite Delgado, Advisor

Alírio Gomes Cabral, Consultant Communication and Image

Sandra Silva, Advisor Communication and Image

Ediliane Juceila Lopes Tavares, Executive Secretary to the Minister

Sónia Araújo Lopes, Consultant for Climate Action

Andrea Marisa Barbosa-Pereira, Technical Advisor

##### **Ireland**

H.E. Alma Ní Choigligh, Ambassador to Cabo Verde, Department of Foreign Affairs

Jonathan Mc Mahon, Diplomat, Department of Foreign Affairs

##### **El Salvador**

Gilda Murillo, Head of Inclusion and Community Liaison, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

María Elena Guzmán, Head of International Organizations and Intergovernmental Spaces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

##### **Fiji**

H.E. Jovilisi Suveinakama, Fiji High Commissioner in London, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Floeanne Wilson, Diplomat and Second Secretary, Fiji High Commission in London



### **Georgia**

Aliona Chkhotua, Head of the Division for Relations with Compatriots and Diaspora Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mariam Keburia, Attache, Diaspora Relations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (online)

### **Mauritius**

H.E. Bissoon Heerowa, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Ashwin Ruhee, First Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

### **Peru**

Marcela Cecilia Gabriela Cruz Merma, Third Secretary in the Diplomatic Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Alexis Manuel Rojas Suárez, Legal Specialist of the General Directorate of Peruvian Communities Abroad and Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Bangladesh**

S M Ghulam Sarwar, Third Secretary, Embassy of Bangladesh, Lisbon, Portugal

Md Moyenul Hasan, Deputy Secretary, Government Service, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (online)

### **Brazil**

Isabel Soares da Costa, Head of the Humanitarian Affairs and Migration Division (DHUM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE)

### **India**

H.E. Sanjeev Jain, Ambassador, Embassy of India in Cabo Verde

Hemant Singh Negi, Second Secretary, Embassy of India in Cabo Verde

### **Kenya**

H.E. Hellen Adhiambo Gichuhi, Ambassador, Secretary Diaspora Welfare and Partnerships, State Department for Diaspora Affairs

Gakenia Mwangi, Civil Servant, State Department for Diaspora Affairs

### **Lesotho**

H.E. Attaher Mossa AG, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (online)

Molefi Nyaka, Director Diaspora Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Mozambique**

Carlota Vasco Matsule Matsule, Head of Department of the Documentation and Information Department, National Institute for Mozambican Communities Aboard (INACE)

Armando Pedro Muiuane Junior, General Director, INACE

### **Nigeria**

Chinwendu Temple Obimba, Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Shalewa Emmauella Ajila, Planning Research and Statistics Officer, Nigerian in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM)



**Philippines**

H.E. Paul Raymund Pasion Cortes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Philippines Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal

Andrea Leycano, First Secretary, Permanent Mission in Geneva

Julito Babatla, Government Employee, Philippines Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal

Victor Galanza, Administrative Assistant, Department of Foreign Affairs

Abdul Rahman Pacasum, Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs

**Somalia**

H.E. Isaak Mohamud Mursal, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (online)

**Senegal**

H.E. Amadou Chérif Diouf, Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad, Ministry of African Integration and Foreign Affairs / State Secretariat for Senegalese Abroad

Ibrahima Dione, Technical Advisor in Communication, Secretary of State for Senegalese Abroad

Malang Badiane, Police Commissioner, Permanent Secretary of CILMI

Boubacar Camara, Police Commissioner

Ismaila Sene, Consular Affairs at the Senegalese Embassy in Cabo Verde

**Sierra Leone**

Chiblee Francis Kamara, Acting Commissioner of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security

Robert Koroma, Diaspora Representative, the Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone in Geneva

Jonta Foh, Administrative Officer (Assistant Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**Sudan**

H.E. Osman Hussein Osman, Acting Minister, Cabinet Affairs

Dr. Abdul Rahman Sayed Ahmed, Acting Secretary General, Secretariate for Working Abroad

**Gambia**

H.E. Lang Yabou Permanent Secretary (Ambassador), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad

Maimuna Sallah, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad

**Liberia**

Charles Boimah Blake, Head of Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

J. Brutus Hunder, Legal Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Madagascar**

Jessie Razafison, Director of Diaspora and Migration Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lanto Rahajarizafy, Managing Director, Development Partnership and Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



### **Mali**

H.E. Mossa AG Attaher, Minister, Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration  
Boulaye Keita, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration  
AG Mattou Mohamed, Project Manager, Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration

### **South Sudan**

H.E. James Kur Muorwel, Ambassador, National Focal-Point and Former Chair of the Khartoum-Process,  
Director / Department of Consular Service (online)  
Dit Gabriel Madit Dut, MP / Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

### **Togo**

Edem Komi, Director of Togolese Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese  
Abroad

### **Zimbabwe**

Monica Vimbayi Hanga, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission in Geneva  
Sienzeni Mateta, Director of Bilateral Trade and Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Trade

### **United States**

Ina Chu, Foreign Affairs Officer, US Department of State

### **Guinea-Bissau**

H.E. Nelson Antônio Pereira, Secretary of State for the Communities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
International and Community Cooperation  
Carlos Edmilson Marques Vieira, Career Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs International and  
Community Cooperation

### **Sao Tome and Principe**

H.E. Filipe Dias Nascimento, President of the Regional Government of Príncipe, Regional Government of  
Príncipe - Autonomous Region of Príncipe  
Maida Salima Pequeno Paraíso, Department of Decentralized Cooperation and External Relations, Cabinet  
of the Presidency of the Regional Government of Príncipe  
Hamilton de Jesus Fernandes Lavres, Advisor to the President of the Regional Government, Cabinet of the  
Presidency of the Regional Government of Príncipe  
Isaqueo Batista Dias Napolião, Regional Secretary for Infrastructure, Works and Spatial Planning, Regional  
Government of Príncipe  
Verdugal Gomes Mendonça, Regional Secretary of Finance and Public Administration, Regional Government  
of Príncipe

## **Regional and International Organizations**

### **Africa Union**

Angela Naa Afoley Odai, Head of Diaspora Division, CIDO, African Union Commission



### **ECOWAS Women Parliamentarians (ECOFEPA)**

Fanny Moussokoura Chantal, Vice-President of the Executive Board of the Association of ECOWAS Women Parliamentarians (ECOFEPA); Vice-President of the Public Accounts Commission, Abuja - Nigeria

### **USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)**

Daniela Villacres, Diaspora and Civic Engagement Team Lead

### **Diaspora Organizations**

Elisabeth Moreno, Chairwoman of the board at Ring Capital, President of Ring Africa, Ring Capital and LEIA Partners

Julio Teixeira, Physician, Cabo Verdean American Medical Society

Dr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca Ex. President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Ex. President's Office of the Republic of Cape Verde

Andrea consuelo Sorroza Saldarriaga, Directora Comercial, Instituto de Línguas de Oeiras

Prof. Dr. Manana Tandaschwili, Professor of Caucasian linguistics, Frankfurt University, Germany (online)

Yessica Zuleima Avelar, Presidente, Asociacion AmmiC

Emma Wenani, Chairperson, Kenyans in Ghana Association

Rannakoe Lehloenya, Professor (Medicine), Basotho Diaspora Association

Joana Piedade Eugenio Langa Business Woman and Vice President of Conselho Consultivo das Comunidades Mocambicanas, JTRADING and Conselho Consultivo das Comunidades Mocambicanas

Idonuagebe Akogun, Educationist, The Electronic Education Initiative Program (e-DON)

Ngone Ndoye, Présidente Fondatrice de FEMIDEC, Femmes Enfants Migration et Developpement Communautaire

Mercy Oguama, Diaspora Consultant, Ministry of Employment, Labour & Social Security

Abdelgalil Abdelrahman Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Diaspora

Prof. Gibril Faal, Professor / Director, GK Partners and Migration for Sustainable Development Project in the Gambia

Toni Sepla Nimely, Nurse Practitioner, Republic of Liberia

Andrianina Irina Randrianarivelo, Editor-in-Chief, MadaLiving

Mamadou Lamine Bane, in charge of migration and social affairs, High Council of Malians Abroad

Awien Chol Abur, Diaspora Representative, Advocacy for Community Transformation (ACT-South Sudan)

Abalo Abiyi, Vice-President, the High Council of Togolese Abroad - HTCE

Magla Tindame, Vice-President America Zone, the High Council of Togolese Abroad - HTCE

Cephas Tshuma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Anchor Africa Distribution

Man Ho Kwok (Peter Kwok), Founding Chair, Global Diaspora Confederation (GDC)

Paddy Wakunguma Siyanga Knudsen, Migration governance expert, GRFDT

Indira Kartalloyi, Director, Sustainability Leadership Kosova



## Young Diaspora Leaders

Florencio Venté, Co-director, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)

Nada Berrada, Workforce Development and Climate Coordinator, Education Development Center (EDC)

Rose Kobusinge, African Union–IOM Youth Migration Ambassador

Muna Muday, Director of Programs, The Addis Clinic

Roberta Bojang, Working Student, Union for the new African and European generation

## Private Sector

Kingsley Aikins, CEO, The Networking Institute

Martin Russell, CEO, The Global Diaspora Insight

Dr. Miguel Monteiro, President, Cape Verde Stock Exchange

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## Annex III

### Key Resources and Tools to Engage, Enable and Empower Diasporas



#### Global Diaspora Summit Report

The Global Diaspora Summit, organized by IOM and the Government of Ireland in Dublin in April 2022, represented a milestone in the highlevel recognition of migrants and diasporas' development contributions. The Summit built on the awareness achieved at the 2013 International Diaspora Ministerial Conference, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and – of particular pertinence – the 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

[READ](#)


#### Dublin Declaration

Countries and organizations that have supported the Dublin Declaration (as of October 2024):

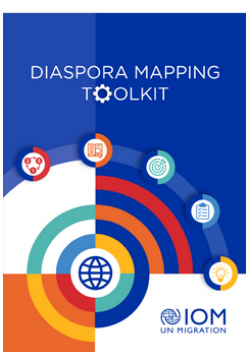
African Union, Armenia, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Türkiye, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

[READ](#)


#### Regional Consultations:

##### Towards the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance

This report summarizes the key information shared during the four regional consultations held on 25 and 27 September. The objective of this report is to update key partners on the progress made during the consultative process aimed at establishing the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.

[READ](#)


#### Diaspora Mapping Toolkit

The Toolkit builds on IOM's rich experience of over 150 diaspora mappings implemented across diverse contexts. It presents a systematic, comprehensive yet very flexible and agile approach to conducting diaspora mappings in differing contexts. By following the proposed clear guidance on how to collect and analyse data on diaspora communities, decision makers will have the possibility to create more strategic and evidence-based policies empowering diaspora members to contribute and engage thus maximizing their contributions to development.

[READ](#)



### Diaspora Investor's Guide

The Guide explores the significant role of remittances from Cape Verdean emigrants and details the tax and customs incentives designed to encourage Diaspora investment in Cape Verde. It highlights key business opportunities, strategies for international expansion, and financial support mechanisms aimed at bolstering the country's economic development.

[READ](#)

### iDiaspora Journal:

#### My Insights and Reflections on Diaspora Engagement

The iDiaspora Journal: Reflections on Diaspora Engagement is a unique tool to reflect deeply on the impact and potential of global diaspora communities. Designed as a personal and introspective journey, this journal will guide readers in understanding how diasporas contribute to both their host and home societies, enhancing the global dynamism and promise of migration.

[READ](#)

### Public Sector Synergies, Private Sector Alliances and Diaspora to Diaspora Collaboration

In 2024, IOM and partners organized the Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange on powerful transnational partnerships, aiming to foster the self-mobilization and empowerment of diaspora, articulating the value added of collaboration between diasporas and the other stakeholder groups, identifying effective modalities of partnership and collaboration, informing the strategies for engaging diaspora organizations within the frameworks of the upcoming Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.

[READ](#)

### Impactful Skills, Effective Strategies and Innovative Tools

In 2023, the Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange focused on communication, aiming to boost diaspora engagement for development. The core focus was on refining communication techniques, strategic frameworks, and cutting-edge tools within the intricate tapestry of project management. By providing concrete strategies on how to enhance communication skills, consider strategic techniques, and implement new tools, stakeholders can maximize the impact of their transnational initiatives.

[READ](#)

### Maximizing Diaspora Engagement: Building Trust, Mobilizing Resources and Ensuring Sustainability

The 2021 Global Diaspora Virtual Exchange explored the best practices across the regions and unpacked concerns and opportunities in supporting diaspora to reach their full potential. iDiaspora, GRFDT, CISAN, and ADEPT recognize the growing importance of the discourse on empowering the diverse range of diaspora actors in their endeavours to participate in homeland development.

[READ](#)





### **Diaspora and Transnational Identities: An Analysis of Legal Frameworks and Policies**

Diasporas possess unique qualities that make them valuable partners in the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus. They have the knowledge, networks and motivation to effectively respond to emergencies and contribute to long-term development solutions. This report focuses on the legal framework of diaspora engagement, evaluating the rights and opportunities available in selected countries of origin and destination.

[> READ](#)


### **The Future of Diasporas**

The Future of Diasporas project was born out of the realization that reflections around diaspora engagement all too often come down to States of play and lacked much-needed forward-looking vision. This publication contains 12 thought-provoking articles written by global experts who have devoted their careers to better understanding diaspora engagement and creating conditions for transnational communities to contribute to sustainable development.

[> READ](#)


### **Contributions and Counting: Guidance on Measuring the Economic Impact of your Diaspora beyond Remittances**

This publication provides guidance for governments and national authorities looking to understand and measure the economic contributions made by their diaspora to their country of origin – that is, contributions beyond financial remittances. These economic contributions include investment, trade, tourism and philanthropy.

[> READ](#)


### **Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance**

The collaborative document is the result of three years of multi-stakeholder coordination and inputs from dozens of diaspora organizations and other institutional humanitarian actors. It serves as a suggested guide with models and tools that demonstrate and promote more streamlined coordination among diasporas and institutional humanitarian actors, for more effective humanitarian assistance to affected people and communities worldwide.

[> READ](#)


### **Empowering Global Diasporas in the Digital Era**

Diasporas are agents with the capacity to create transnational connections and initiatives to support their communities both in their countries of origin and in their countries of residence. Technology provides an invaluable tool to galvanize these diasporic efforts to tap into the unlimited potential of the digital space and collaboration. In addition, technology has allowed diasporas to communicate efficiently, reinforce existing networks, and engage with other stakeholders involved in the response to the pandemic.

[> READ](#)

