



## **POLICY BRIEF**

# **PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERACTION AND SOLIDARITY**

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**Solidarity**

**Equality**

**Sustainability**

## ORGANIZATIONS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Iefi  | ShonaquipSE   |
| Leseding Youth Development Center                               | Seth Mazibuko Foundation  |
| JovaNet (Khotatsa Youth Network)                                | Langa Foundation  |
| JovaNet   | Amaghawe Foundation   |
| Liyema  | Trans Guardians Alliance  |
| Muslim AIDS Programme   | Care Enough TDS   |
| Kgoro Organisation  | Tharika M Health Wellness Centre                                  |
| Royal Traditional Alliance group                                | Telemedicine Africa   |
| AIC Foundation  | Cosmic Harmony  |
| Hwange Development Agency                                       | The Youths Representatives  |
| Dialogues For Change  | Kuhle solutions and development services                          |
| Abongile Dumse  | Transport user group of persons with disabilities in South Africa |
| ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership                       | Tshehetsanang Support Group                                       |
| KANCO   | SAfAIDS South Africa  |
| Pan African Youth Unity Foundation                              | SBA   |
| The South African Federation for Mental Health                  | Enabled Enlightenment   |
| Malaria & NTDs Youth Corps Guinea                               | Zimbabwe Solidarity Network                                       |
| Zizamele Youth Organisation                                     | Nazareth Baptist Church (Shembe Church))                          |
| Cape Provinces Foundation NPO                                   | Ashdown community development@gmail.com                           |
| Youth federation  | Mmane Joanah humanity foundation                                  |
| Zoe-life innovative solutions                                   | Society Health And Morals Association NPC                         |
| Kgatelopele Foundation  | Building our future production                                    |
| Eqaul citizens of short stature-south africa                    | Mpumalanga Mental Health Society                                  |
| Retina South Africa   | Indigenous Churches Association                                   |
| Airflow Environmental Solutions                                 | Siphethubomi Healthcare services                                  |
| Transforming Kingdom Ministries                                 | Merafong Community TV NPC(Men's Hope Programs)                    |
| Asibavigeli   | Lifa Lesive community development agency                          |
| Are Aganeng   | Universal Accessibility Solutions                                 |
| Swazi lives matter  | Amathonga Institute   |
| Mzilikazi Royal kingdom   | Pan Africa ILGA   |
| Indoni Technology Solutions                                     | Holly Trinity Ministry LGBTQ!                                     |
| Siyasonke Youth Forum   | South African Ex-Prisoners Against Crime                          |
| China NGO Network for International Exchanges                   | Shine Bright and Woman and Youth                                  |
| IDRAN   | Itemogeng Counselling Services                                    |
| Phanandi  | Nelson Mandela Foundation   |
| South African Deaf Youth Development Organisation               | Skills development in the mining industry                         |
| UBUHLEBETHU 1203 ORG NPO  | Cheshire Homes South Africa                                       |
| Jehova Nissi  | Humana People to People in SA                                     |
| GLOBAL TB CAUCUS  | Africa Centre for Inclusive Health Management, Stellenbosch       |
| Ba-Phalaborwa Victim Empowerment Program                        | University  |
| Lesedi house of hope centre                                     | Treatment Optimization Campaign                                   |
| Khwezi Foundation   | Chahire Homes South Africa  |
| Centre for the Advancement of Mathematics in South Africa       | Daily Clean pty ltd   |
| Baithudi Mampane Foundation                                     | Why me? your story is my story                                    |
| Men of Valour Purpose and Vision (MVPV) Global Network          | Simunye community development center                              |
| South African Network of Women in Transport                     | UnitedCommuters Voice   |
| UNISA   | Dlala Ntombazana  |
| Kakarambha foundation   | Amina Marula Foundation   |
| Gosa Temo   | Botshabelo Unemployed Movem & Motheo Advancing Health             |
| FIGHTING AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT (FAU)                             | Forument  |
| Sophakama community nased develiomeng, care & support programme | Ubuhlebethu1203 NPO   |
| The Bold kind Pty Ltd   | Voice Economy   |
| Partakers love centre   | Siyaphambili Orphan Village                                       |
| Insika Yebuntfu Organisation (IYO)                              | Haut-Katanga Artisanal Miners, DRC                                |
| Gatelapele Youth Skills Development and Consultation            | Haut-Katanga Artisanal Miners Association                         |
|   | Disability Rights Matter NPC                                      |

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## INTRODUCTION

Migration and people-to-people movement are vital to global economic and social development. They facilitate the flow of skills, innovation, and capital. Unfortunately, current global systems treat mobility primarily as a security issue. This framing prioritises deterrence metrics such as apprehensions and detentions over meaningful integration outcomes such as decent work, credential recognition, and access to healthcare and education.

The consequence is exclusion of migrants and refugees from economic opportunity, perpetuating inequality and undermining their potential contributions. Host countries also lose out on the proven benefits of migration, as demonstrated by historical examples of innovation in industrialised nations in the Global North under open border policies, before the rising tensions around immigration that started to take hold in the late 2010s and early 2020s. G20 countries must shift towards a peoplecentred, dignity-based approach that recognises migration as an engine for growth, resilience, and justice. There are six key issues that have exacerbated the migration issues that are prevalent globally:

1. **Security & Migration:** Current migration frameworks are still dominated by a border-security paradigm, treating human mobility as a risk to be contained rather than a force for development, solidarity, and shared prosperity. This approach undermines global commitments to fairness, dignity, and inclusion.
2. **Unproductive KPIs:** Apprehensions, detentions, and deportations overshadow indicators of social inclusion such as employment, education, or healthcare access. Success is measured by numbers of apprehensions, detentions, and deportations, rather than by meaningful indicators of human well-being such as employment rates, school enrollment, access to healthcare, and social cohesion. This perpetuates a cycle where fear and deterrence overshadow integration and opportunity.
3. **Systemic Discrimination and racism:** Migrants, indigenous groups, Afro-descendants, LGBTQI+ people, and other marginalized groups remain excluded, facing compounded barriers across gender, class, and disability; limiting access to protection, justice, and economic participation, and deepening global inequality.
4. **Skills Mismatch and Waste:** Skilled professionals are often relegated to low-wage, informal, or unsafe work because of delayed or non-recognition of their qualifications. This undermines economic efficiency and increases social tensions as competition increases in entry level jobs. This not only wastes talent but also hampers innovation, drives inefficiency, and inflames social tensions as competition for entry-level jobs rises.

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**5. Governance Gaps:** Fragmented inter-governmental coordination, insufficient data, and slow decision-making have led to crisis-driven responses rather than proactive, sustainable migration governance. Without integrated planning across labour, health, education, and housing sectors, both migrants and host communities remain vulnerable to instability and inequality. Unintegrated systems, processes and timelines to legalise migrants create delays and misinformation that can lead to exclusion and heightened tensions of xenophobia

**6. Digital Systems:** Artificial intelligence (AI) carries significant risks when applied to migration governance without proper planning and discretion. Biometric and facial recognition systems have been shown to have higher error rates for darker skin toned people and non-European races, raising risks of misidentification, wrongful detention, and rights violations. Opaque risk scoring and automated triage tools used in visa and asylum systems have been shown to reproduce bias; for example, the UK scrapped its visa “streaming algorithm” after discrimination concerns. At the same time, border-tech expansion without safeguards (including AI for biometrics, risk assessment, and surveillance in the EU) exposes migrants to under-regulated experimentation. Poorly governed “high-risk” systems, such as automated document checks and traveller screening, can make de facto decisions without accountability, disproportionately affecting migrants who may often lack avenues to appeal. Trials of age and identity estimation technologies have shown accuracy gaps and racial disparities, posing particular risks where age determines eligibility for protection or detention.

The G20 represents 80% of global GDP and 60% of the world's population, giving it unparalleled power to shape migration, trade, and financial frameworks. Its decisions ripple across every region, meaning a people-centered shift here can redefine mobility and equity for generations. It must tackle aging populations, climate change, terrorism, wars and rumors of wars. Ageing populations across G20 economies which has brought on fears of labour shortages and a higher social burden as people live longer; migration is a proven lever to address these issues. The Global South further bears a disproportionate burden of climate-related disasters and conflict-driven displacement.

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The South African G20 presidency provides a historic opportunity to champion just, people-centered migration policies that dismantle prejudice, enhance fairness and embed solidarity in global economic governance ensuring no one is left behind. G20 leadership must ensure shared responsibility, fair financing, and anticipatory solutions, particularly from major emitters and global corporations to deliver climate justice and prevent future humanitarian crises.

Our brief is linked to the following SDGs, Human Rights Frameworks and G20 commitments: SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 16 (Inclusive Institutions). It reinforces the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers. It builds on Brazil's 2024 Presidency focus on people-centred development and India's 2023 emphasis on inclusive growth. South Africa now has the opportunity to move from commitments to delivery.

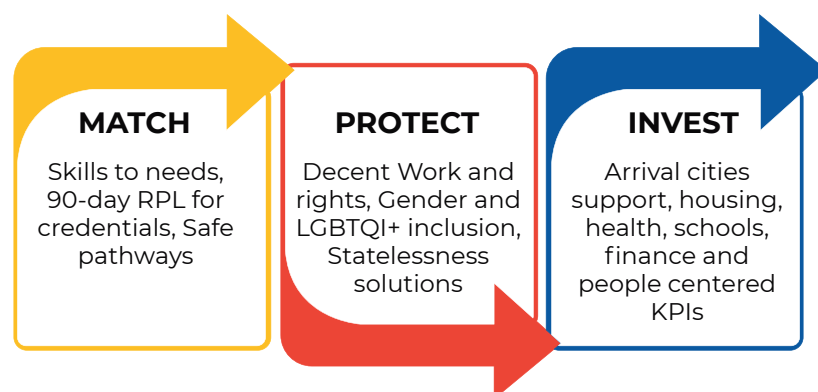
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

This brief urges G20 leaders to adopt the following framework:



**Flowchart: Match – Protect – Invest Framework**

## REFRAME MIGRATION

**Reframe migration as an opportunity rather than a crisis**, positioning it as a driver of shared prosperity and a solution to labour shortages and demographic challenges. Close gaps in protection, especially for stateless persons, women, LGBTQI+, migrants, children, and persons with disabilities, ensuring rights-based pathways and access to services.

## ARBITRARY

**Displacement Governments must prevent arbitrary displacement** driven by war, weak governance, and climate crisis, uphold international law, and provide durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs; including return, integration, or relocation). State stability and non-infringement on sovereign nations grounded in respect for international law remain the single most important interventions to curb arbitrary displacement. Furthermore a global commitment to climate accountability, where nations that have historically contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions and benefited from extractive economic activities take the lead in funding just transitions, supporting affected countries, and holding corporations accountable for climate damage.

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This is essential not only for justice but for building resilience and shared security for future generations. AI can be leveraged to implement early warning & forecasting where predictive analytics anticipate climate and conflict displacement hotspots, helping allocate resources. Establish a War and Climate Displacement Compact to ensure proportional responsibility sharing among G20 nations.

## **INCLUSIVE MICROECONOMICS & ANTI-PREJUDICE ECONOMIES**

Governments must align pathways with labour market needs to limit skills waste, accelerating credential recognition to support industrialization. Create a minimum 90-day credential recognition framework in health, engineering, and construction sectors, unlocking talent faster and preventing skills waste. Governments must expand safe, legal routes tied to actual labour market needs including childcare support and bridging assessments to ensure equity for women and primary caregivers. Share responsibilities for climate and conflict-related displacement proportionally, with major emitters and disruptors of international law with G20 economies contributing to just transitions, resilience funding, and anticipatory planning for future displacement, ensuring housing, education, and healthcare systems remain inclusive and resilient. Remove visa/KYC barriers for migrant-owned MSMEs fostering job creation, innovation, and shared prosperity. Uphold G20 commitments to  $\leq 3\%$  transfer costs enabling families to retain more income, stabilising local economies, and accelerating SDG progress. Artificial intelligence efficiencies can be leveraged to responsibly streamline skills matching, service delivery, and remittance systems, while ensuring safeguards against bias and exclusion.

## **PROTECTION OF RIGHTS**

G20 governments can prioritise the following: ensure gender-responsive and LGBTQI-inclusive pathways, safeguarding dignity and equal access at every stage of migration. Closing statelessness gaps by fast-tracking documentation and legal identity solutions for all affected persons. Training of frontline staff is key to guaranteeing ethical, lawful implementation of migration policies to actively counter misinformation. The adoption of alternatives to detention, paired with work rights and comprehensive case management to uphold human dignity will align closely with the reframing. There must be a monitoring body that can launch a Cohesion Index to measure sentiment, trust, and hate speech trends enabling evidence-based interventions.

## INTEGRATION OF AI

It is imperative that there are no AI-only decisions about rights. Mandate meaningful human review for asylum, detention, removal, and status decisions; give applicants a right to know when AI is used and to obtain explanations. (Align with EU AI Act due-diligence principles while closing migration exceptions.) Create independent bias & impact audits. This will require pre-deployment testing and regular audits (disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, nationality, age, disability), with public summaries and remediation timelines. Public contracts for border/migration technologies must include transparency clauses (model cards, data lineage, performance by subgroup), testing, and kill-switch provisions. There should be support for International Organisation for Migration-aligned digital identity standards that are voluntary, privacy-preserving, and usable across borders for 90-day credential recognition pathways in critical sectors.

Fund AI for translation, appointment triage, and case-management in arrival municipalities (health, schooling, work permits) paired with offline alternatives to avoid digital exclusion and alleviate administrative pressure at these points. Tie the G20 remittance roadmap to migrant protection and reward providers that hit cost/transfertime targets and publish inclusion metrics (e.g., availability for undocumented or recently regularized users).

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

G20 countries should implement Social Development Plans (SDPs) that provide migrants with lawful residence, documentation, and access to essential services. Embedding SDPs across national and local systems will reduce irregularity, enhance integration, and foster inclusive, resilient communities. Positive Models of Service Delivery Plans are France, UK, Türkiye, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico. They reduce irregularity through lawful residence, documentation, and work permits. There are still gaps in the USA, India, China, Japan, Germany, Canada, ROK, and South Africa. These countries lack comprehensive Service Delivery Plans leaving migrants vulnerable to irregularity and statelessness.

## THE KAMPALA CONVENTION: A FRAMEWORK FOR G20 ADOPTION

This is the first binding continent-wide treaty on internal displacement (AU, 2009). It covers displacement due to conflict, human rights violations, disasters (incl. climate change), and development projects. It's core priorities are to prevent arbitrary displacement, protect IDPs without discrimination, ensure dignity, and provide durable solutions. We recommend that the G20 adopt the Kampala Convention globally as a baseline for IDP protection.



## CONCLUSION

Migration is not a crisis, it is a cornerstone of global prosperity. By reframing mobility as an opportunity, the G20 can transform systems that currently perpetuate exclusion into engines of justice, resilience, and sustainable growth. South Africa's G20 Presidency presents a historic moment to embed people-centred migration policies into global economic governance, ensuring that dignity, fairness, and opportunity guide future mobility frameworks.

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