

IISP Model G20 Study Guide

Global Migration, Mobility and Tourism Forum

(Sherpa Track)

Agenda: How can governments ensure the safe, sustainable, and rights-respecting movement of people while reviving tourism and supporting economic recovery? Delegates will explore migration management, labor mobility, visa reforms, and tourism strategies in Mediterranean and Latin American contexts.

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Global Migration, Mobility & Tourism Forum (GMMTF) at this year's G20 simulation. This committee provides a unique platform to explore the intertwined challenges of migration, labor mobility, and tourism recovery- issues that are central to global economic stability, human rights, and regional cooperation.

The COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts, and climate-induced displacement have underscored the fragility and interdependence of migration and tourism systems. As delegates, you will grapple with questions of human protection, economic revival, labor mobility, and sustainable tourism, often in complex regional contexts such as the Mediterranean and Latin America. Balancing border management, human rights obligations, and tourism recovery requires innovative, integrated solutions and a spirit of cooperation.

Our aim for this committee is to guide delegates in producing actionable policy recommendations and frameworks that address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term sustainable development. You will have the opportunity to debate, draft resolutions, and propose policies that are practical, rights-respecting, and economically viable.

We encourage all delegates to approach discussions with research-backed insights, a collaborative mindset, and creative solutions. Your engagement and contributions will shape the outcomes of this

committee and provide valuable lessons on global mobility governance in a post-pandemic, climate-sensitive world.

We look forward to dynamic and productive sessions, and to seeing your proposals for a safe, sustainable, and inclusive global migration and tourism framework.

Sincerely,

Jehaan Agarwal & Avyaay Rathi

Executive Board

Global Migration, Mobility & Tourism Forum (GMMTF)

Purpose

The Global Migration, Mobility & Tourism Forum (GMMTF) serves as a platform within the G20 framework to address the intertwined challenges of human movement, labor mobility, and tourism recovery. Migration pressures, mobility policies, and tourism revival are interlinked—they influence labor markets, trade, and economic stability. For the G20, representing ~80% of global GDP and 75% of world trade, ensuring safe, sustainable, and inclusive mobility is critical.

Why Migration, Mobility, and Tourism Are Discussed Together

Migration, mobility, and tourism share common infrastructures such as borders, visas, and transport systems, and are influenced by crises including conflict, pandemics, and climate change. Migration tests humanitarian and human rights frameworks, while tourism drives employment and foreign exchange. Policies restricting borders to manage migration can stifle tourism, while tourism expansion without safeguards can worsen labor exploitation or environmental degradation. Integrated policymaking is essential.

Overview of Global Migration and Tourism Trends Post-COVID-19

- **Migration:** Over 281 million people lived outside their country of birth in 2020 (~3.6% of global population). Displacement continues to rise due to conflict (Sudan, Ukraine), climate change (Sahel, Caribbean), and economic instability (Venezuela, Central America). Irregular migration is increasingly visible.

- **Tourism:** International tourist arrivals fell 74% in 2020, the worst in history, recovering to ~90% of pre-pandemic levels by 2023. Small island states and fragile economies lag behind.
- **Convergence:** Migrant labor supports hospitality industries, and tourism revenues can fund migration management and humanitarian programs. The GMMTF's core task is to balance tourism recovery with responsible migration management and human rights commitments.

Agenda Breakdown

1. **Migration Flows:** Critical corridors include the Mediterranean and Central America, driven by conflict, poverty, and climate stress. Irregular migration remains a high-risk challenge.
2. **Tourism Recovery:** Tourism accounts for ~10% of global GDP and 1 in 10 jobs. Recovery is uneven post-COVID, especially in dependent economies.
3. **Human Rights Dimension:** Refugee protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention must be balanced with domestic security concerns.
4. **Policy Tensions:** Border closures curb migration but also reduce tourism; unrestricted tourism can exacerbate labor exploitation and environmental degradation.

Key Issues at Stake

1. **Irregular Migration & Refugee Flows:** High-risk migration corridors (Mediterranean, Central America), deaths, smuggling, trafficking, and balancing humanitarian and security responsibilities.
2. **Tourism Recovery & Economic Dependence:** Fragility of tourism-dependent economies; uneven recovery affects jobs, revenue, and economic resilience.
3. **Visa & Entry Reforms:** Balancing security checks with efficiency and inclusivity; digital tools like e-visas and regional mobility agreements.
4. **Human Rights vs. Security:** Security-focused migration policies may conflict with refugee protection and human rights.
5. **Sustainability in Tourism & Migrant Labor:** Tourism must align with environmental protection and labor standards; migrant workers need rights protection and fair compensation.

Interconnection: Migration and tourism policies directly impact each other; delegates must navigate trade-offs to propose practical, humane, and sustainable solutions.

Regional Context

Mediterranean Region

- **Migration Dynamics:** Major entry for migrants from North Africa and the Middle East; >250,000 irregular crossings in 2023; high mortality; conflict, poverty, and climate displacement are drivers.
- **Tourism Dynamics:** Southern Europe is heavily reliant on tourism (10–20% of GDP). COVID-19 caused >70% decline in arrivals. Recovery uneven due to visa restrictions, political instability, and labor shortages.
- **Policy Dilemma:** Balance border control, asylum obligations, and tourism recovery.

Latin America & Caribbean Region

- **Migration Dynamics:** 7.7M Venezuelans displaced; Central American migration to the U.S. ongoing (>2.5M encounters in 2022); driven by violence, economic collapse, and climate shocks.
- **Tourism Dynamics:** The Caribbean is highly dependent on tourism (up to 90% of GDP). Recovery is ongoing but fragile; tourism is tied to migrant labor.
- **Policy Dilemma:** Governments must balance migration pressures with tourism revival, labor rights, and climate resilience.

Significance: Both regions illustrate the migration-tourism nexus and the need for coordinated policy solutions.

Potential Policy Pathways

Executive Summary: Design short, medium, and long-term measures combining humanitarian safeguards, labor-market and visa measures, tourism revival, and regional cooperation.

A. Short-term (0-12 months) : Stabilize, Protect, Restart

- **Migration & Rescue Early-Warning Protocol:** Real-time coordination for maritime and land rescues (UNHCR).
- **Temporary Protection / Humanitarian Visas:** Fast-track status, basic services, and labor access.
- **Rapid E-Visa & Tourism Corridors:** Streamline entry for vetted visitors while preserving security checks (UNWTO).
- **Seasonal / Circular Worker Programs:** Harmonized seasonal visas with labor protections (Rabat Process).
- **Short-term Financing:** “Tourism-for-Resilience” fund for marketing, reopening, and worker retraining.

B. Medium-term (1-3 years) : Harmonize, Protect, Grow

- **Regional Mobility Agreements:** Working holiday, seasonal worker, and healthcare worker programs.
- **Joint Labor Protections:** Harmonized codes for wages, contracts, and rights in tourism/hospitality.
- **Sustainable Tourism Charter:** Eco-tourism, community benefit sharing, climate-resilient infrastructure.
- **Route-based Protection & Service Hubs:** Safe-route hubs with medical, legal, and reception services.
- **Digital Interoperability & Data Trusts:** Secure, privacy-preserving systems for visas, labor, and early-warning.

C. Long-term (3+ years) : Address Root Causes & Build Resilience

- **Origin-Country Resilience Investments:** Climate adaptation, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction; link to tourism revenues.
- **Regional Development + Labor Mobility Nexus:** Mobility-for-development programs with training, remittance flows, and entrepreneurship.
- **Institutionalized Burden-Sharing:** Regional relocation mechanisms and coordinated asylum/returns policies.
- **Climate-Migration Integration:** Migration-inclusive adaptation planning and funding for climate-sensitive tourism zones.

D. Financing & Implementation

- Blended finance: G20 seed grants + MDB loans + private investment.
- Conditional concessionality linked to labor and human rights safeguards.
- GMMTF Monitoring & Evaluation Unit: publishes quarterly KPIs.

E. Suggested KPIs

- Mortality/missing rates on routes
- Tourist arrivals relative to 2019
- Seasonal worker vacancy fill-rate
- Humanitarian visas issued
- Bilateral/regional labor agreements compliance

F. Sample Operative Clauses

- Establish Migration & Rescue Early-Warning Protocol
- Adopt temporary protection/humanitarian visa pathways
- Expand regulated seasonal and circular migration programs
- Establish G20-backed Tourism-for-Resilience Fund
- Adopt Sustainable Tourism Charter linking finance to compliance

G. Country/Region Implementation

- **Mediterranean:** SAR cooperation, EU burden-sharing, seasonal worker pathways
- **Latin America & Caribbean:** Regional temporary protection, labor integration, climate-resilient tourism investment

Expected Outcomes

- **Migration/Rescue Early-Warning Protocol:** Coordinated maritime/land search-and-rescue framework.
- **Refugee/Migrant Visa Screening Toolkit:** Guidelines for temporary protection, humanitarian visas, and labor entry.
- **Sustainable Tourism Recovery Charter:** Policy linking tourism recovery with sustainability, labor protection, and climate resilience.
- **Mobility Policy Guide:** Recommendations for regional mobility agreements, circular migration, and interoperable digital systems.

Key Questions for Discussion

1. How can governments design migration policies that simultaneously uphold human rights, ensure security, and support tourism sector recovery?
2. What mechanisms, such as temporary protection, humanitarian visas, or seasonal/circular work programs, best integrate migrant labor into tourism and hospitality sustainably?
3. How can digital tools (e-visas, interoperable databases, early-warning systems) be leveraged to facilitate safe mobility while preventing irregular migration and data misuse?
4. What financing models (blended finance, concessional loans, multilateral support) can accelerate climate-resilient tourism infrastructure while protecting migrant labor rights?
5. How can regional cooperation frameworks (EU, MERCOSUR, CARICOM) harmonize migration, labor mobility, and tourism policies without undermining national sovereignty?
6. What strategies can dismantle human smuggling and trafficking networks while ensuring protection and rights for migrants?
7. How should success in migration and tourism policy be measured- through reduced fatalities, increased remittances, tourism recovery, or improved human rights outcomes?
8. What short-term interventions and long-term reforms should the G20 prioritize to create a just, resilient, and sustainable global mobility and tourism system?

For Further Reading

Migration & Human Rights

- **UNHCR - Global Trends Reports**
Focus: International displacement statistics, refugee protection obligations, and irregular migration patterns.
- **IOM - World Migration Report 2024**
Focus: Migration flows, drivers of displacement, labor mobility, and policy responses.
- **UN DESA - International Migration Highlights**
Focus: Data on global migration trends, demographic shifts, and cross-border labor.
- **Amnesty International / Human Rights Watch - Pushbacks & Rights Violations**
Focus: Human rights concerns, border enforcement practices, and protection gaps.

Tourism Recovery & Economic Impacts

- **UNWTO - World Tourism Barometer & COVID-19 Impact Reports**
Focus: International arrivals, economic recovery, and tourism sector vulnerabilities.

- **WTTC - Travel & Tourism Economic Impact Reports (Global & Caribbean)**
Focus: Employment, GDP contribution, and sector-specific labor dependence.
- **IMF - Tourism Recovery & Climate-Resilient Financing**
Focus: Policy frameworks linking tourism recovery to sustainable investment.
- **Regional Development Banks (ADB, AfDB, IDB) - Tourism & Mobility Finance Reports**
Focus: Blended financing, sustainable tourism, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Labor Mobility & Policy Tools

- **Rabat Process - Circular/Seasonal Migration Best Practices**
Focus: Regional labor mobility schemes, migrant worker protections, and seasonal workforce planning.
- **ILO - Decent Work for Migrant Workers in Tourism**
Focus: Labor rights, wage standards, and safe employment practices in tourism-dependent economies.
- **European Commission - Schengen Visa Policy Updates**
Focus: Visa management, border controls, and mobility facilitation for both tourism and labor.

Regional & Security Context

- **UNHCR Mediterranean Situation Data Portal**
Focus: Irregular migration flows, maritime fatalities, and search & rescue data.
- **U.S. CBP - Southwest Border Encounters Data**
Focus: Migration trends, border enforcement, and humanitarian challenges in the Americas.
- **Frontex - Annual Risk Analysis 2023**
Focus: EU border management, irregular migration routes, and operational coordination.

Financing, Climate, & Development

- **World Bank - Migration & Development Data**
Focus: Remittance flows, migration-linked economic development, and infrastructure needs.
- **World Bank - Tourism for Development Insights**
Focus: Economic recovery, resilience-building, and labor integration strategies.
- **UNWTO / UNDP - Climate-Resilient Tourism & Migration Projects**
Focus: Sustainable tourism investment, disaster-risk management, and climate-linked migration pathways.

Academic & Scholarly Sources

- **Journal of Sustainable Tourism (Taylor & Francis Online)**
Focus: Policy innovations, sustainable tourism recovery, and socio-environmental impacts.
- **Migration Studies (Oxford Academic)**
Focus: Theoretical and practical insights into international migration, policy frameworks, and labor mobility.