



## “The Global Economic Crisis and its Impact on Migrants”

November 2009

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

i	Cover Page	1
ii	Table of Contents	2
1	Purpose	3
2	Overview of the Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights	3
3	Program	4
4	Organizing Committee Contacts	4
5	PGA Event Venue	5
6	How To Participate	6
7	Registration Process	7
8	Arrival & Entry Formalities	7
9	Accommodation	8
10	Transportation	8
11	Official Language	10
12	Medical Services	10
13	General Information	10
	13.1 Climate and Weather	10
	13.2 Local Currency	11
	13.3 Time	11
	13.4 Electricity and Water	11
	13.5 Phone services	11
	13.6 Tipping	12
	13.7 Business hours	12

## **1. PURPOSE**

This document provides instructions for logistical and general information for the Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights to be held at Technopolis in Athens, Greece on 1-5 November 2009.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF THE PGA**

Over the past three years since the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration (HLD) and Development in 2006, the CSO engagement outside the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has grown more vibrant. The first GFMD took place in Brussels, Belgium on 10-11 July 2007. The second GFMD was hosted by the Philippine government and was held in Manila from 27-30 October 2008.

Since the 2007 GFMD, there has been not much improvement in terms of the mechanism, structure and discussion around migration and development. Still, migration is being understood through the lens of economic gains, a position that is contrary to the perspectives of migrants and CSOs.

Each year as governments meet for the GFMD, hundreds of civil society representatives and members of the general public have participated in parallel events while the official civil society days were held. In 2008, the Peoples' Global Action (PGA) on Migration, Development and Human Rights, a parallel event held to the 2008 GFMD, was attended by almost 4,000 delegates for the entire week.

Among CSOs, there was an overwhelming agreement that the GFMD's "migration and development" theme was meant by governments to be synonymous with "migration *for* development" and "managed migration". CSOs felt that the GFMD mandate "migration and development" does not go far enough to affirming the human dignity of migrants and to firmly placing their rights at the center of development. Moreover, the migration-development model calls for an intensification of the segmentation of labor, particularly female labor, which continues to reinforce inequality. This year's theme is again centered on development aspects rather than human rights. Likewise, the GFMD remains a closed event with restricted participation by migrants and civil society. It is critical that an alternative event, like the PGA, is organized to enable migrants, social movements, and civil society worldwide to directly respond to current migration and development concerns.

The process has successfully fostered and broadened global networking on migration and development among those directly affected by such policies. Having begun as a forum to gather the voices of local and international organisations interested in engaging in these issues, the PGA has now developed into an international social movement.

This year, as governments meet in Athens for the 3<sup>rd</sup> GFMD, Migrants Rights International, in coordination with the Global Unions Federations (GUFS) and a broad coalition of local and international groups, is again organizing the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA), a migrant-led parallel event to the GFMD which enables civil society organizations (CSOs) create an independent space to discuss issues explored in the governmental forum and develop an agenda which is fully responsive to concerns of migrant communities and other civil society groups. The PGA brings together groups from around the world who are active in the field of migration and development issues for information sharing

and capacity building. This year's PGA will be held from 1-5 November, in conjunction with the 2009 GFMD, with a theme "***The Global Economic Crisis and its Impact on Migrants***".

Guided by the above central theme, PGA discussions will revolve on the following sub-themes:

1. Addressing Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination as Obstacles to Full Participation Integration
2. Border Policies and Transit Migration
3. Detention, deportation, and the rights of Undocumented Foreign Workers, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees
4. Advancing the Gender Debates on Migration Policy from Rights based perspective
5. Unpacking the Discourse on Migration, Development and Reintegration Programs
6. Changes in Migration Policy Environments Since the September 2008 Global Financial Crisis
7. Strengthening unities, evolving partnerships and developing a common agenda for advocacy

### **3. PROGRAM**

See **Annex A** for the tentative program.

### **4. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

The PGA is being organized by the International Working Group (IWG) together with the Athens Working Group. The IWG and the AWG are responsible for the planning, design of the program, outreach to the global community across different regions, and logistical arrangements. For further details about the PGA, visit the PGA website at [www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction](http://www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction) or you may contact the following:

#### **Asia**

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## 5. PGA EVENT VENUE

The PGA opening plenary session on 1 November will be held at **ONA Theatre Hall, (Athinodoro Street #61, Kato Petralona)**. It can be reached from the airport and areas around Athens Center either by metro or taxi.

- Take the Green Line (Line 1) which is the Electrico (train) and get off at **Petralona**.
- On the left side walk straight towards the exit and a few meters is a supermarket called Sklabenitis.
- Turn right and walk straight ahead until you reach number 61

- ONA Theatre Hall is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

From 2-5 November, the PGA will be held at the **Technopolis**, located in the old Gas factory in Athens, known as "Gazi", next to the Kerameikos close to the Acropolis. It can be reached from the airport and areas around Athens Center either by metro or taxi.

- Take the Metro Blue Line (Line 3) and get off at **Kerameikos** station.
- The Technopolis is a few minutes walk from **Kerameikos**.

The plenary sessions on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> will be held at **Building 2** or the **Amphitheater of the Technopolis Complex**.

Simultaneous workshops from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, will be held at **D6** or the **Takis Papatsonis**.

### **About the Venue**

The "Technopolis" of the City of Athens covers an area of approximately 30 acres and constitutes a live industrial museum of incomparable architecture and one of the most interesting in Europe. Its gradual transformation into a versatile cultural center, hosting various events, gives visitors the chance to wander around in a space full of works of art, knowledge, and sentiments. The charm of another era that is given off by the chimneys, the enormous cauldrons (gas containers), funnels and ovens piously "conspires" to establish the place as a "factory" of art, while in terms of etymology the word "gas" (as originating from the ancient German word "galist", later "geist") means "spirit".

It has been in operation since 1999 and is dedicated to the memory of the unforgettable composer Manos Hatzidakis.

Honouring Greek poetry, nine of the buildings that operate in the area, are named after significant poets: Andreas Empirikos (Building D1), Angelos Sikelianos (D4), Yannis Ritsos (R/S "Athens 9.84 and Amfitheatre"), Kostis Palamas (D10), Takis Papatsonis (D6), Konstantinos Kavafis (D7), Kostas Varnalis (A8) and Nikos Gatsos (D12). The symbol of Technopolis is the original sculpture "the Ball of the Millennium", a work of Nikos-Yorgos Papoutsidis, which portrays Earth being surrounded by olive branches and symbolizes the wish and the hope that peace and humanity shall prevail around the world.

## **6. HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

The PGA is open to all interested individuals, social movements and CSOs worldwide. All individuals attending the PGA are required to register. See attached **Annex B**.

To know more about the Peoples' Global Action, log on to <http://www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction/index.html>.

## 7. REGISTRATION PROCESS

To register, please go to this link: [www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction/registration.html](http://www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction/registration.html).

A nominal fee based on a scale (by region and organization type) is required for those attending discussion activities like workshops, forums, plenaries etc. The registration fee is necessary to help cover logistics requirements, materials etc.

### **Fee Scale**

#### **Delegates from USA, Europe, Australia, Canada**

Organization: 50 euros (for 1 delegate) + 20 euros for each additional delegate in excess of one  
Individual Participants: 20 euros

#### **Delegates from Africa, Latin America and Asia**

Organization: 30 euros (for 1 delegate) + 10 euros for each additional delegate in excess of one  
Individual Participants: 10 euros

#### **Local Participants (Greece)**

Non-migrant Organization: 30 euros (for 1 delegate) + 10 euros for each additional delegate in excess of one  
Migrant Organization : 10 euros (for 1 delegate) + 1 euro for each additional delegate in excess of one  
Individual non-migrant Greek: 10 euros  
Individual Migrant/Immigrant: No fee but contribution will be appreciated

### **Registration Fee Payment**

Registration fee payment will be taken in CASH (euros) only in person at the registration front desk during the PGA.

**NOTE:** Please bring the full amount in euros CASH. We will not be able to accept any other form of payment.

## 8. ARRIVAL AND ENTRY FORMALITIES

Travel expenses, i.e. airfare, visa fees, travel insurance and local transport, are to be shouldered by the participants themselves.

### **8.1. Guidelines on the Entry of Temporary Visitors to Greece**

Please visit this link to know the nationals who are required and those who are not required to obtain a visa to enter Greece:

<http://www.mfa.gr/www.mfa.gr/en-US/Services/Visas/Visas+for+Foreigners+travelling+to+Greece/Countries+requiring+or+not+requiring+a+Visa/>

Further inquiries on Visa may be addressed to:

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

106 71 Athens, Greece

Central Switchboard

Tel: +210-368-1000~4000

Fax: +210-368-1717

## 9. ACCOMMODATION

Participants are recommended to make their own arrangements for accommodations. Below is a list of suggested hotels for delegates attending the PGA. These are within walking distance and/or a short metro or taxi ride to the Technopolis. (Please note, the organizers do not have any ties or agreements with any of these hotels and this list is provided as a courtesy only, and should not be taken as an endorsement of any of these hotels.)

- Aristoteles Hotel (<http://www.aristoteleshotel.gr/>); rate 40+ euros
- Ilion Hotel ([http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g189400-d535122-Reviews-Hotel\\_Ilion-Athens\\_Attica.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g189400-d535122-Reviews-Hotel_Ilion-Athens_Attica.html)); rate 50+ euros
- Economy Hotel (<http://www.economyhotelsathens.com/>); rate 60+ euros
- Pythagorian Best Western (<http://pythagorion.athenshotels.it/>); rate 60+ euros
- Art Hotel (<http://www.arthotelathens.gr/>); rate 80+ euros
- Park Hotel (<http://www.park-hotel.gr/>); rate 100+ euros

It is also recommended to check any of the hotels around Omonia and Syntagma Squares which are 2 metro stops, or 20-30 minutes walk, or a 5-minute taxi ride away from Technopolis.

## 10. TRANSPORTATION

There will be **NO AIRPORT PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS** upon your arrival and departure. To reach hotels and other locations around the center of Athens, the most convenient way is by Metro or Taxi. Participants might also consider the Bus if arriving late at night:

**By Metro:** At the airport, look for the signs for the Metro. Take the Blue Line (Line 3) from the airport and get off at the closest station to your destination. Fare is 6 euros per person one-way, 10 euros round-trip.

Metro rail operation in a daily basis:

Airport to Monastiraki 6:30 am to 23:30 (11:30 pm)

Monastiraki to the Airport 5:40 am to 22:58 (10:58pm)

**By Bus:** At the airport, go to the curb in front of the terminal and buy a ticket for the Athens Airport bus X95 to Athens center. The Athens Airport Bus runs 24 hours a day. Fare is 3.70 euros per person, and can be used as a transfer to other public transportation within 90

minutes. X95 will go directly to Syntagma Square where passengers can take another bus or tram, the metro, or a taxi to their destination.

**By Taxi:** Cost is around 40-45 euro. The duration of the trip is approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour depending on traffic conditions. If the taxi driver asks for more money, please approach the hotel receptionist. A pre-arranged transfer will cost around 70 euro.



### Transportation around Athens

**Metro:** The Metro is recommended as one of the easiest, most efficient and cost-effective ways to get around Athens and to the PGA venues. Metro stations open at 5:00 am and close at 00:00 (12:00 midnight.) The fare per trip is 1 euro, a day ticket (multiple trips in 1 day) is 3 euros, and a week ticket (multiple trips in 7 days) is 10 euros. The week ticket is highly recommended for PGA participants – it is valid for all busses, metro lines, trams, and railway except for trips to/from the airport. See above for directions to the PGA venues and the airport, and below for metro map.



## 11. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE MEETING

English will be the official language for PGA. We are making arrangements for simultaneous interpretations in Spanish, French and Greek for the plenary sessions only. During the workshop sessions, individual volunteers are welcomed to get in touch with the organizers to conduct interpretations for the participants.

## 12. MEDICAL SERVICES

Basic first aid will be made available at the event. For those requiring medical assistance, please go to the registration front desk.

Should delegates require referral to a specialist medical doctor or hospital, the cost of this service will be borne by the person.

All delegates are strongly advised to obtain international health insurance coverage before they travel to Greece.

## 13. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 13.1 Climate and Weather

Athens enjoys a typical Mediterrean climate, with the greatest amounts of precipitation mainly occurring from mid-October to mid-April. For early November, the temperature will be between 10<sup>0</sup> C (50<sup>0</sup> F) to 21<sup>0</sup> C (70<sup>0</sup> F). As such, it is advisable to bring warm clothes especially at night when the temperature drops.

(Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athens#Climate>)

### 13.2 Local Currency

The local currency is known as Euro.

Regarding currency exchange, foreign currencies can be exchanged at banks and moneychangers at the airport. Master and Visa credit cards are also honored by some hotels and shops, please ask the hotel or shop personnel for these services before purchasing or availing services. Available ATMs include Cirrus and Maestro.

### 13.3 Time

Local Time: Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +2

### 13.4 Electricity and Water

Electricity current in Greece is 220 watts and electric outlets accommodate round European-type plugs.

It is advised to drink bottled water in Athens. Ice in drinks is generally safe in good standard hotels and restaurants, but it is best to avoid it on street stalls or in country areas.

### 13.5 Phone Services

Long distance calls can be made from hotel rooms and international public phones. Pre-paid phone cards are available at the hotel's front office and nearby shops. Local sims are also easily available at roadside kiosks. Please note that all charges for personal phone calls made in the hotel rooms are the responsible of delegates.

International Country Codes

Country/Area	INT'L CODE	COUNTRY CODE
AUSTRALIA	00	61
BRUNEI	00	673
CANADA	00	1
CHILE	00	56
CHINA	00	86
HONG KONG CHINA	00	852
INDONESIA	00	852
JAPAN	00	62
KOREA	00	81
MALAYSIA	00	82
MEXICO	00	52
NEW ZEALAND	00	64
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	00	675
PERU	00	51
PHILIPPINES	00	63

RUSSIA	00	7
SINGAPORE	00	65
CHINESE TAIPEI	00	886
THAILAND	00	66
UNITED STATES	00	1
VIETNAM	00	84

### **13.6 Tipping**

Tipping is not commonly practiced. But a 5-10% tip is ok and appreciated.

### **13.7 Business Hours**

Generally, banks open Monday to Friday from (8:30 am to 2.00 pm. Shops open Monday & Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday -Thursday and Friday from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm; and on Saturday 8:30 - 3:00 pm. Supermarkets are open Monday till Friday from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm and on Saturday from 8:00 to 6:00 pm.