Integrating a gender perspective in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Concept Note for UN Women Side Event – CSW 61
20 March 2017 | 11:30am-12:45pm | Conference Room (CR) 8

Women make up approximately half of the 244 million international migrants worldwide. Migration has the potential to positively impact equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth for countries of origin, transit and destination. When women migrants’ rights are protected, migration can be an expression of agency, positively impacting their position in their family and community. However, as stressed in the report of the Secretary-General "In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants", women face high risks of sexual and gender-based violence, psychosocial stress and trauma, health complications, physical harm, injury and exploitation. Migrant women are commonly subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, as women, migrants, and often on additional grounds such as race, ethnicity or belonging to a minority group. Such gender-based discrimination limits women’s decision-making and agency in the household and in the labour market, as well as their mobility and limits economic opportunities – within and outside their countries of origin.

The development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration presents a unique opportunity to ensure that migrant women’s human rights are promoted and protected at all stages of migration. UN Women is resolved to work towards a compact that is gender-responsive and contributes to achieving gender equality in the context of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, UN Women hosted an expert meeting on 21-22 November 2016 in Geneva to devise recommendations for addressing women’s human rights in the compact. These recommendations were developed in collaboration with experts from the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), OHCHR, ILO, UNHCR, IOM and civil society.

On 26-27 January 2017, UN Women facilitated a two-day multi-stakeholder to formulate strategies for addressing women’s human rights in the global compact. During this meeting, which brought together experts from CEDAW, CMW, CERD, CESCR, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, and civil society, participants developed a joint action plan to ensure a gender-responsive global compact.

The CSW side event is one of the key initiatives that are planned to be carried out over the course of 2017 to mobilize support for a gender-responsive global compact. The event aims to highlight the importance of addressing women’s human rights in the development and implementation of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The event will also stress the need to address and promote the rights, needs, contributions, voices, participation, and leadership of migrant women and girls. During the event, the recommendations on addressing migrant women’s human rights will be presented, and key actions will be discussed on how to ensure that the global compact effectively promotes the rights of women migrants at all stages of migration.
The side event is co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, the Permanent Mission of Germany and UN Women. Participants will include representatives of Member States, treaty body experts, UN agencies and civil society. The side event will consist of a panel discussion followed by an interactive debate with audience members.

Agenda

11:30-11:50 Opening remarks (20 min)
- H.E. Mr Horacio Sevilla Borja, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations
- Ms Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

11:50-12:10 Panel discussion (20 min)
Moderator: Meg Jones, Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women
- Ms María Landázuri De Mora, CMW (Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families)
- Ms Oby Nwankwo, CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)
- Ms Monami Maulik, WIMN (Women in Migration Network)

12:10-12:45 Interactive discussion – Q/A (35 min)
Moderator: Meg Jones, Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women