

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Secretariat  
New York, 16-17 February 2017

**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

*The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)*

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2016 TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030 AGENDA

Over the course of the year, UN Women's migration-related work supported the implementation of many of the SDG goals and targets, in particular: Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls; Goal 8 on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work, (with focus on Target 8.8 on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for workers, including migrant workers and in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment; Goal 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries, and specifically Target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration.

UN Women's activities were largely undertaken as 1) 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), and 2) through the joint European Union- UN Women project "Promoting and protecting women migrant workers' labour and human rights: Engaging with international and national human rights mechanisms to enhance accountability".

1. Chair of the GMG

UN Women served as 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), the UN's system's interagency cooperation mechanism on migration. Among other things, the GMG hosted five interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings to assist representatives from Member States, international organizations and civil society in preparation for the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The meetings focused on the following issues:

1. Understanding large movements of refugees and migrants
2. Protecting the human rights of all people in vulnerable situations within large movements
3. Strengthening responsibility sharing for refugees
4. Responding to large movements of refugees and migrants - Human rights protection, labour market options and a global compact for migration
5. Development approaches to migration and displacement – supporting national and local capacities to prepare for and respond to large movements

Following to the Summit, the GMG hosted an additional sixth and seventh meeting regarding the follow-up and implementation of the Summit's commitments as outlined in the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration)*. These meetings focused on:

6. Migration-Related Commitments in the New York Declaration: The Role of the UN System
7. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: Implementation of Commitments to Counter Xenophobia

In addition to the multi-stakeholder meetings, UN Women provided technical expertise to integrate a strong gender perspective in all relevant documents through the Steering Committee (led by the UN Deputy Secretary-General) and the Working Group (led by Office of Ms. Karen AbuZayd, Special Adviser for the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants), which were created for the Summit. UN Women also contributed to the integration of a gender perspective in the UN Secretary-General's report "In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants".

UN Women took the lead in coordinating the GMG-led drafting process for the concept notes for the six roundtables that took place at the Summit, which involved advocating for the inclusion of gender equality considerations in each of the concept notes.

At the Summit, Member States adopted the *New York Declaration*. UN Women worked determinedly and systematically – with the Permanent Representatives of Jordan and Ireland as co-facilitators for the Summit preparations – in advocating for gender-responsive language and commitments to be included in the *New York Declaration*. On the day of the Summit, UN Women’s Executive Director addressed the Opening Plenary on behalf of UN Women in its capacity as 2016 Chair of the GMG.

Throughout the year and in connection to its many activities, UN Women put forth many joint statements as Chair of the GMG. UN Women also collaborated closely with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and provided statements at the GFMD Summit, its Preparatory Meetings and the GFMD thematic workshops.

## 2. Joint EU - UN Women migration project

In 2016, UN Women continued its work on the three-year EU-funded project, "Promoting and protecting women migrant workers’ labour and human rights: Engaging with international and national human rights mechanisms to enhance accountability". Anchored in three pilot countries - Mexico, Moldova and the Philippines - this global project promoted women migrant workers’ rights and their protection against exclusion and exploitation at all stages of migration.

In this project, human rights mechanisms were strengthened to ensure accountability to women migrant workers’ rights at all stages of migration, including the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee), the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs (CESCR), and the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice (WG). The project offered technical support, including: gender-responsive language for CMW’s reporting templates; briefings to CSW members on linkages between gender and migration, enhancement of the interaction between CMW and CEDAW conventions in state party reviews; and a written submission to the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the CMW on the situation of women migrant workers in Mexico. The CMW Committee was also briefed on the submission in August 2016. This technical support directly increased the attention paid to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers in the concluding observations of two state parties.

In November 2016, UN Women hosted an expert meeting for treaty body experts, UN agencies and civil society to develop recommendations for addressing women’s human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

To build the capacity to advance women migrant workers’ rights of treaty bodies, member states, UN agencies and civil society, the project hosted side events at the 64<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session, at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, and at the 26<sup>th</sup> Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session.

The project strengthened accountability to the rights of women migrant workers through increased national legislation on migration, labour and trafficking that complies with provisions of CEDAW, strengthened the capacity of women migrant workers organizing and claiming their rights, and amplified the rights of women migrant workers in state party and shadow reporting to CMW and CEDAW. The project also strengthened the capacity of women migrant workers in organizing and advocating for their rights in global intergovernmental processes. Women migrant workers and their organizations from each of the pilot countries lobbied for the protection of their rights at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summits and Preparatory Meetings.

In order to enhance visibility and advocacy for women migrant workers, the project engaged partners advocating for increased accountability to the rights of women migrant workers. It developed a key global advocacy tool and held an e-discussion on Mainstreaming Gender in Migration and Development to coincide with UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

Lastly, the project produced three global reports and a variety of national knowledge products that provide the evidence base for advocacy campaigns and policy development, specifically: national situational analysis of women migrant workers; national CEDAW-based legal reviews; national guides on mainstreaming migration into development planning from a gender perspective; and six global policy briefs.

**B. INITIATIVES THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN DURING 2017 TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

UN Women commits to stepping up its leadership and coordination role in gender mainstreaming within the UN system's work relating to migrants and refugees. UN Women will assess Member States' actions to address the distinct needs, priorities and protection risks of refugee women and girls, and it will offer technical advice, capacity building, and support on gender equality and women and girls empowerment to requesting Member States in the formulation of gender-responsive actions, and in their efforts to develop and implement gender-responsive asylum and migration policies, programmes, laws and institutions to enhance the protection risks of women and girls. UN Women will also advocate for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls during transit and upon arrival.

UN Women will contribute to the State-led process of developing guiding principles and voluntary guidelines regarding the treatment of migrant women and girls in vulnerable situations, in particular by providing evidence, best practice models and examples of effective responses, and establishing strong partnerships with civil society organizations in these efforts.

Furthermore, UN Women will support Member States, and their private sector and civil society partners, in the collection, analysis and use of gender disaggregated statistics as they relate to migrants and refugees through UN Women's Flagship Programme Initiative "Making Every Woman and Girl Count".

UN Women will support and contribute to the negotiation process towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, in particular by providing evidence and good practices, facilitating the contribution and inputs by migrant women and girls, creating opportunities for exchange of experiences among governments and different stakeholders, and providing technical inputs on the inclusion of a gender perspective.

On the margins of the annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration, on 17 February 2017 UN Women will host a lunchtime side event entitled "Integrating a gender perspective in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration." As a continuation of this discussion, on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), UN Women will host a side event under the same name on 20 March 2017.