



**“Promoting and Protecting Women Migrant Workers’ Labour and Human Rights:
Engaging with International, National Human Rights Mechanisms to Enhance Accountability”**

**‘Protecting the labour and human rights of women migrant workers in the context of addressing
large movements of migrants:**

Event prior to HLM on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

16 September 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | New York UN Headquarters, CR6

Draft Concept Note

Women make up approximately half of the 244 million international migrants worldwide. 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 – within and outside their countries of origin.

UN Women’s project "Promoting and Protecting Women Migrant Workers’ labour and human rights: Engaging with international, national human rights mechanisms to enhance accountability" strives to promote women migrant workers’ (WMWs) rights and protect them against exclusion and exploitation at all stages of migration. This global project is funded by the European Union (EU), and aims to contribute to this overall objective by:

- a. strengthening strategic international human rights mechanisms, national oversight institutions and governments to ensure accountability to women migrant workers at all stages;
- b. strengthening women migrant workers’ organizations and their support groups to effectively engage with the above stakeholders to ensure greater accountability to them.

Since 2014, the project has been generating original research, building capacity among a variety of stakeholders, and strengthening advocacy at the national level, focusing on the promotion and protection of WMWs within the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in particular General Recommendation 26 (GR26), and the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), and the ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189)

On 19 September, the UN General Assembly will convene a high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants at which member states will adopt a political declaration to collectively respond to large movements of refugees and migrants. Given the strong attention of member states and international organisations currently on migration governance, this presents a unique opportunity to highlight the contributions of migrant women, their specific needs and vulnerabilities, and call for the protection of their human rights.



Objectives

The event will emphasize the contribution of women migrant workers (WMWs) to development; the distinct experiences and needs of WMWs in relation to the protection of their labour and human rights; and the importance of addressing these as part of a comprehensive migration response. The event also seeks to highlight innovative approaches to ensuring that the rights of WMW are realized. In particular, the event will:

1. Highlight the key priorities and needs of WMWs and the importance of the protection and promotion of their rights in the context of addressing large movements of migrants
2. Illustrate the importance of the universal periodic review (UPR), conventions and their review processes in protecting and promoting the rights of WMW, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its General Recommendation 26; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMRW) and its General Comment 1; and the ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) and its Recommendation 201.

Organizers

This side event will be co-organized by the Permanent Mission of the Philippines, the Permanent Mission of Mexico, the Permanent Mission of Moldova and UN Women, and will bring together representatives from CEDAW and CMW Committees, international organisations, and civil society.

Composition of panel/s (TBC)

- **Moderator: ILO**
- **Introductory remarks**
 - UN Women
- **Panellists**
 - Representative of the CEDAW Committee;
 - Representative of the CMW Committee;
 - Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines;
 - Representative, Permanent Mission of Moldova;
 - Representative, Permanent Mission of Mexico;
 - Representative of CSO;
 - Representative, SEWA.