



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission of Italy
to the United Nations

Side Event to the 62nd Session Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
Maximizing the contribution of rural women migrants
1.15 – 2.30 pm, 13 March, 2018 – UNHQ New York, CR 11

Each year, millions of women embark on hopeful but uncertain journeys within countries and across borders. Women are not passive actors in migration processes. They represent almost half of the world's migrants and contribute around US\$2.3 trillion to global productivity. The [World Migration Report 2018](#) highlights that, today, women migrants are more likely to move independently rather than as dependents. This means that women increasingly send remittances and support their families in countries of destination and of origin, thus altering social and familial dynamics and decision-making.

Yet women also face multiple risks and discrimination during migration. Their vulnerabilities include high exposure to sexual and gender-based violence, forced labor, human trafficking and modern slavery, inadequate access to reproductive healthcare services and structural barriers to employment. Young women migrants in particular often face triple forms of discrimination, as women, young people and migrants.

This high-level event will explore concrete ways to build a conducive environment for women to benefit from migration and maximize their contribution, ensuring that migration is a choice, not a necessity; and their rights are respected throughout their journey. Women must always be able to fulfill their labour and human rights within and across borders and have the same opportunities as men to access education, training, skills and career assistance.

The event will look, in particular, to the challenges faced by rural women in the context of migration and how to maximize their contribution to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination.

Female migration can contribute to women's empowerment, thanks to access to a wider range of employment opportunities and relaxation of the rigid gender norms of rural communities of origin. However, rural migrant workers – and especially women – often hold precarious and poorly remunerated jobs in the informal rural economy, which do not ensure migrants' rights and social security coverage and benefits. Migration of male counterparts in turn can contribute to close the gender gap in agriculture, or, on the contrary, reinforce traditional gender roles and increase the work burden for those left behind.

We are at a pivotal moment where policy perspectives and practices on empowering and protecting migrant women must be shared, articulated and strategically amplified among Member States, UN entities, and non-state actors. As Member States negotiate the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, now is the time to recognize the scale and value of the contributions of migrant women, to put in place gender-sensitive policies, actions and investments and to move women's empowerment from the margins to the centre of sustainable development.



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Key objectives:

- Share experiences and success stories on how to leverage the socio-economic potential of migrant women, especially rural women, recognizing their immense contribution to sustainable development.
- Propose paths to minimize structural barriers, vulnerabilities and risks faced by migrant women and maximize the benefits associated with their migration, including by promoting safe and regular labour migration patterns ensuring decent working conditions.
- Identify ways to integrate a gender perspective in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including the provision of alternative and sustainable livelihood options for rural women.

Agenda:

13:15 Welcome remarks

- *Ms. Carla Mucavi, Director of FAO Liaison Office in New York, on behalf of Global Migration Group (GMG)*

13:20 Panel discussion (5 – 7 mins each)

Moderator:

- *Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, IOM*

Speakers:

- *H.E. Mrs. Traoré Oumou Touré, Minister for the Advancement of Women, Children and the Family, Mali (TBC)*
- *H.E. Mrs. Vennetia R. Danes, Deputy Minister for Women's Rights Protection, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Republic of Indonesia*
- *H.E. Ms. Teresa Bellanova, Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Italy*
- *Mrs. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) on International Migration*
- *Migrant CSO representative (TBC)*

14:10 Questions and answers

14:25 Concluding remarks

The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of UN entities to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalizing upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are the Co-Chairs of GMG in 2018. More information is available at: www.globalmigrationgroup.org

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