

Commission on Population and Development 51st session
Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration
9-13 April 2018

**Statement by the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), a
Non-Governmental Organisation in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social
Council**

STATEMENT

**Gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young
people vital to sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration**

Distinguished Member State delegates and CSOs,

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) and 114 organisations from the Asia Pacific region, endorse and welcome the theme of the 51st session of the CPD. Issues of sustainable cities, rural to urban migration, human mobility and international migration are key regional mega trends that our region is currently grappling with and requires urgent policy and programme response by the Member States.

The face to this phenomenon is predominantly women and young people mostly engaged in labour migration, taking up low-skilled work. Gender and health issues permeate all aspects of migration, be it internal or international migration. SRHR of women migrant workers are subject to discriminatory and restrictive regulations by both countries of origin and destination. Women migrant workers lack access to labour and social protection, healthcare including sexual and reproductive health and social safety nets. They are vulnerable to discrimination, violence and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Restrictions also exist when it comes to women and young migrant workers accessing abortion, contraceptives, HIV and other SRH services.

Given the above context, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people will remain vital elements to sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration, and we call upon Member States to

- Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and regional and sub-regional policy frameworks on Migration and health;
- Commit to the Programme of Action of the ICPD, and the previous CPD resolutions on migration
- Forge bilateral cooperation and facilitate cooperation between countries of origin and destination, to ensure fair treatment of migrant workers in line with existing national labour regulations and human rights standards.
- Commit to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including mobile and urban populations, as well as migrants, in particular adolescents and youth, to have full control

over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence;

- Commit to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services for all migrant women, including family planning, modern contraceptives information and education including comprehensive sexuality education, HIV and other STI prevention voluntary testing and treatment and access to emergency contraception and safe abortion services;
- Review and repeal punitive policies such as compulsory testing and deportation of women migrant workers on account of pregnancy or HIV status.
- Enhance North-South, South- South and triangular cooperation in order to improve the human rights of migrants
- Commit to increase and improve data generation on SRHR issues of women, and young migrant workers.
- Ensure rights based pre-departure, post-arrival and reintegration programmes in the region that addresses SRHR of women migrant workers;
- Implement measures to prevent all forms of violence, including sexual and gender based violence, and prevent harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Combat trafficking and smuggling of migrant workers through information campaigns, better law enforcement, regional and sub regional cooperation.

This statement is endorsed by

1. Aahung – Pakistan
2. ACT12030 Philippines
3. Active Help Organization (AHO) - Pakistan
4. Afghanistan National Education Coalition (ANEC)
5. Ageing Nepal
6. Aliansi Remaja Independen - Indonesia
7. Aliansi Satu Visi - Indonesia
8. Ardhanary Institute - Indonesia
9. ARTS Foundation Pakistan
10. Arus Pelangi - Indonesia
11. ASEAN Disability Forum
12. ASEAN Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression Caucus (ASC)
13. Asia Catalyst - Thailand
14. Asia Pacific Women's Watch
15. Association of Youth Organization Nepal
16. Awaj Foundation - Bangladesh
17. Aware Girls – Pakistan
18. Bandhu - Bangladesh
19. Bangladesh Apparels Workers Foundation (BAWF) – Bangladesh
20. Bangladesh centre for Human Rights and development (BCHRD)
21. Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
22. Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
23. Bargad - Pakistan
24. Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) – Nepal
25. Blue Diamond Society - Nepal
26. Blue Veins Organization – Pakistan
27. Boys of Bangladesh
28. BRAC- Education Program - Bangladesh
29. BRAC JPG - Bangladesh
30. BRAC University - Bangladesh

31. Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA)
32. CARAM Asia
33. Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP) - Vietnam
34. Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies (Puska Genseks UI) - Indonesia
35. Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women & Adolescents - Vietnam
36. Center for Sustainable Community Development (SCODE) - Vietnam
37. Central Asia and Afghanistan Women and Water Association
38. Central Asian CSOs' Climate Coalition
39. Centre for Supporting Community and Development Initiatives - Vietnam
40. Citizen News Service (CNS)
41. Community Development Services (CDS) Sri Lanka
42. Deepti Bhuban - Bangladesh
43. Dr. Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi - Pakistan
44. Durbin Foundation - Bangladesh
45. EcoForum of Kazakhstan
46. Empower India - India
47. Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, University of Health Sciences - Laos
48. Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia (FRHAM) - Malaysia
49. Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal
50. Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWM) - Fiji
51. Films 4 Peace Foundation - Bangladesh
52. Forum for Dignity Initiatives-FDI - Pakistan
53. Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
54. Forum Populasi Kunci Usia Muda (Fokus Muda) - Indonesia
55. FPAB - Bangladesh
56. Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC)
57. Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP)
58. Huvadhoo Aid - Maldives
59. Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagah (ITA) - Pakistan
60. Independent Youth Forum Papua - Indonesia
61. Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association - Indonesia
62. Indus Resource Center (IRC) - Pakistan
63. Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), Vietnam
64. International community of women living with HIV Asia Pacific (ICWAP)
65. IRAW Asia Pacific
66. JAGO NARI - Bangladesh
67. Khpal Kore Organization - Pakistan
68. Khpal Kore Organization from Pakistan
69. Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur - India
70. Likhaan Center for Women's Health, Inc - Philippines
71. LOOM Nepal
72. MAP Foundation - Thailand
73. MONFEMNET National Network - Mongolia
74. Naripokkho - Bangladesh
75. National Center Against Violence - Mongolia
76. National Federation of Women Living with HIV and AIDS - Nepal
77. NGO Federations of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities (NGO-FONIN)
78. Nirmanee Development Foundation Sri Lanka
79. Oyu Tolgoi Watch and Rivers without Boundaries - Mongolia

80. Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN, Bangladesh
81. Perkumpulan Pamflet Generasi - Indonesia
82. QKnit - India
83. Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan
84. Ranao Women & Children Resource Center - Philippines
85. Restless Development - Nepal
86. RHAC – Cambodia
87. RHSTEP – Bangladesh
88. Russ Foundation, India
89. Rutgers Pakistan
90. Rutgers WPF Indonesia
91. RUWSEC – India
92. Sahayog – India
93. Sanggar SWARA - Indonesia
94. Sangsan Anakot Yawachon, Thailand
95. SERAC-Bangladesh
96. SERAC-Bangladesh
97. Society for the Protection of the Right of the Child (Pakistan)
98. The Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) - Mongolia
99. Timor-Leste Civil Society Education Partnership Timor-Leste (CEPTIL)
- 100.UBR Bangladesh Alliance - Bangladesh
- 101.Udyama – India
- 102.Visible Impact - Nepal
- 103.Vote For Health Campaign, Asha Parivar - India
- 104.Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP) – Indonesia
- 105.Youth Action Nepal
- 106.Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) - Pakistan
- 107.Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
- 108.Youth Development Center - Nepal
- 109.Youth Interfaith Forum on Sexuality (YiFoS) - Indonesia
- 110.Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center, Thailand
- 111.Y-PEER International Network
- 112.YUWA - Nepal
- 113.YUWA – Nepal
- 114.Yuwalaya - Nepal