



UN Women Chairmanship of the Global Migration Group January – December 2016

Concept Note

Introduction

The Global Migration Group (GMG) was established by the United Nations Secretary-General in early 2006 in response to a recommendation of the Global Commission on International Migration for the establishment of a high-level inter-institutional group of entities involved in migration-related activities. The GMG was created by building on an existing group with a more limited membership, the Geneva Migration Group, which had been established in April 2003.

The Global Migration Group is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and encourages the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. At present, the Group is comprised of 18 entities,¹ which chair the GMG on a rotating basis. UN Women is chairing the group from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Women make up approximately half the 247 million international migrants worldwide. Migration can enable them to earn an income, learn new skills, support their families and contribute to the development of sending and receiving countries. However, in increasingly complex contexts and rising South-South migration, women are using more dangerous migration routes, which exacerbate risks in transit and increase the likelihood of their insertion into precarious work in host countries, thereby increasing their vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

Despite this reality, discourse and policy making on migration continue to neglect the adoption of a gender perspective. The human rights and human development aspects of women's migration are therefore not yet adequately integrated into national, regional and international development policy and practice, such as poverty reduction, development and climate change adaptation strategies. This impedes the full recognition and maximization of contributions by migrant women to development, hinders their protection from violence, and hampers their access to assistance and justice.

During its chairmanship, UN Women will seek to elevate the focus on women in the migration debate and ensure that both men and women are impacted positively by the work of the GMG. 2016 is a strategic year for UN Women to assume the role as GMG Chair as it marks the first year of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030. Women migrants and data disaggregation by gender can be integrated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – enabling governments to monitor

¹ FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNODC, UN Regional Commissions, UNU, UN Women, World Bank, WHO

and track progress towards their full equality. As the GMG develops a new multi-year work plan, GMG members can benefit from mainstreaming gender into all areas of work under the GMG and beyond.

UN Women assumed the role as GMG chair in accordance with three objectives:

- *Objective 1:* Ensuring that both men and women are impacted positively by the work of the GMG, and elevating the focus on women in the migration debate;
- *Objective 2:* Strengthening the role of the GMG members and their partners, in particular GFMD, in the implementation and monitoring of the migration-related targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- *Objective 3:* Strengthening the GMG's effectiveness and impact, through increased coordination and cooperation.

Objective 1: Ensuring that both men and women are impacted positively by the work of the GMG and elevating the focus on women in the migration debate

UN Women will seek to elevate the focus on women in the migration debate, and highlight the importance of adopting a human-rights based, gender-sensitive and forward-looking approach to migration policy and national development strategies.

In particular, we will pursue this objective by:

- Ensuring that the GMG provides inputs to the GFMD and other relevant fora, particularly in relation to gender and migration;
- Supporting global and regional policy development and standard setting on gender equality and migrant women's rights;
- Engaging in advocacy with governments to ensure that the deliberations and outcomes of relevant global intergovernmental processes and other fora impact positively migrant men and women, including:
 - Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) meetings
 - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
 - UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD)
 - World Humanitarian Summit
 - UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants
- Supporting analytical work and policy analysis to mainstream gender more consistently throughout the GMG activities, advocacy and working groups;
- Producing a policy report on gender, remittances and financial inclusion, critically analyzing the new remittance platforms and how they can reduce transaction costs and increase financial inclusion for women migrants and their families.

Objective 2: Strengthening the role of the GMG members and their partners, in particular GFMD, in the implementation and monitoring of the migration-related targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN Women is chairing the GMG during the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2016, we will spearhead the GMG's commitments to supporting Member States, civil society and non-government partners' efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to gender and migration through, inter alia, a specific session of the GMG Strategic Retreat focusing on this issue.

In particular, we will focus on the following targets:

- 8.7: To take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms;
- 8.8: To protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment;
- 10.7: To facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies;
- 10.c: by 2030, to reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent (utilizing the new policy report);
- 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

Under this objective, UN Women will facilitate the following activities:

- Developing a plan on how the GMG will support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation and monitoring as it relates to migration;
- Discussing data capture on migration-relevant indicators within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Facilitating, as appropriate, GFMD preparatory sessions on understanding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicators;
- Facilitating, as appropriate, meetings between GMG and its partners on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objective 3: Strengthening the GMG's effectiveness and impact, through increased coordination and cooperation.

UN Women aims to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of the GMG through the following activities:

- Facilitating the development of a GMG Multi-Annual Work Plan (MAWP) 2016-2018, to be finalized during the global GMG strategic retreat;

- Facilitating at least 6 GMG Working Level Meetings (WLMs), which will be held by teleconference, with colleagues in central offices (including Geneva and New York);
- Facilitating a Principals' Meeting in the fourth quarter of 2016;
- Facilitating quarterly GMG Troika (GMG, GFMD, SRSG) meetings;
- Promoting closer coordination between GMG, GFMD, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) on International Migration, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants and the Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants;
- Continuing efforts to strengthen synergies and coherence in the work of the GMG's 5 Working Groups and Task Forces;
- Furthering ongoing deliberations within the GMG in developing coordinated and comprehensive responses to crisis-related migration, including protection at sea.

Financial support

UN Women is grateful for the financial support of USD 183,750 from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) to support the organization of the GMG strategic retreat, the production of a policy report on gender, remittances and financial inclusion as well as chairing, administration and planning functions.

UN Women is currently seeking USD 150,000 in support of three capacity building workshops on regionalizing the migration-related 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicators.