



Statement from the Women in Migration Network
4th round of negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)
United Nations – New York
18th May 2018

Thanks co-facilitators.

We welcome that the draft is gender-responsive and that the empowerment of women and girls is one of the guiding principles of the GCM; that it recognizes migrant women as leaders, moving away from the lens of victimhood; and that it mainstreams a gender perspective in 16 out of the 22 objectives.

The draft mentions gender responsiveness as a guiding principle, but it doesn't define how the empowerment and leadership of women and girls in migration will be achieved. The draft will benefit from defining what gender-responsive means in the preamble.

- On Objective 5 on pathways to regularization, it will be beneficial to add the granting of visa or residence permits to migrant women who do not fall under the Refugee Convention but who are at heightened risk of vulnerability.
- Women who migrate are often given a dependent status on the men they migrate with. This means less independence and increased risk of abuse and exploitation. Therefore, women should have independent status and the granting of an independent resident permit or visa, particularly for those who are survivors of SGBV, exploitation and other human rights violations.
- On Objectives 8 and 15, all migrant women and girls—including those of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity—should have access to justice including safe reporting and due process for all migrant women survivors of SGBV and other crimes, without fear of detention and deportation. Migrant women should also have access to complaint labour mechanisms for labour rights violations as well as labour inspection services.

- On Objective 10, the non-criminalization of victims of gender violence and human trafficking and the adoption of measures that protect them and help them to integrate.
- On labour rights, implementing minimum wage and freedom of association legislation for care, domestic and other labour sectors where there are high concentrations of migrant women workers in exploitative conditions.
- In Objective 17 on eliminating all forms of discrimination, it is also essential to mainstream gender equality and address intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination affecting women and girls in migration, including gender-based discrimination. It is also key to empower migrants, service providers and other stakeholders to prevent and safely report incidents of intolerance, xenophobia, exploitation, gender based violence and other forms of discrimination against migrants.
- On implementation, include affirmative actions and compensatory mechanisms with special attention to the needs of migrant women and women in communities. Migrant women should also be key stakeholders in all processes that affect their lives.
- Finally, in terms of follow-up and review, UN Women should be one of the relevant key stakeholders on follow up and review mechanism. A multi-agency and multi-stakeholder approach is key for the follow-up and review processes. In reference of multi-stakeholders, affirmative actions for an active role of migrant women organizations should be secured.