Remarks by the Women in Migration Network
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UN Network on Migration 'GCM Talk'
Launch of New Anti-Discrimination Advocacy Tool

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We salute the inclusion of civil society initiatives as part of the advocacy tool. It is key to include all stakeholders to promote initiatives for implementation of GCM to address intersectional and multiple discriminations.

We also salute that the advocacy tool is the outcome of collaboration of the Gender and the Racial discrimination workstreams, which enhances the use of the intersectional approach as part of the UNMN's work.

An intersectional approach needs to consider and to examine historical inequalities and structures, including social and political structures, for evidence of built-in racism and xenophobia, and not just the cumulative disadvantages or injustices.

Intersectionality extends beyond a focus merely on identity and constitutes a structural analysis. The use of intersectional approach should address global inequalities, gender inequalities, the impact of historical legacies of enslavement and colonialism and systemic racism.

During 2021 and 2022 WIMN convened several virtual spaces for dialogues to engage and explore with organizations and activists on how to practice a feminist and intersectional approach to migration. WIMN and partners organized five regional dialogues in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Europe.

The five regional dialogues convened a total of 125 organizations and activists from a broad spectrum of social movements including migrant rights, self-organized migrant women, feminist, labor, LGBTIQ+, indigenous, and anti-racist groups. The dialogues initiated a discussion process on intersectionality towards making an impact on our daily struggles.

These discussions can contribute to implement the advocacy tool by taking into account civil society stakeholders needs, demands and proposals. Some of the emerging insights of the dialogues are:

- **Intersectionality should be used as an analytical tool to understand systems and structures of oppression rather than solely focusing on specific identities.**
  In the dialogues we analyzed how multiple identities and oppressions are experienced at an individual level and connected this reflection to the wider system in which individuals and organizations operate, underlining the systemic oppressions that are the root cause of all inequalities.

- **The intersectional approach contributes to building women's leadership in different movements.** This entails sharing power and making space for all voices, thus strengthening the voices of migrant women as political agents in their fight for human rights. It is important that local feminist organizations include migrant women and LGTBIQ+ migrants on their agendas and in their organizations.

- **The intersection of gender, race and migration is key to effective organizing and alliance-building.** Working in solidarity means collaborating across issues and identities to realize specific aims within feminist movements and broader social movements.

- **Labor exploitation is gendered and racialized**. Migrant women workers experience multiple oppressions, often working in undervalued sectors such as the care sector or the garment industry.

- **We need a Global South understanding of intersectionality grounded in Global South experiences and movements**. Despite commonalities, intersectionality is context related. Multiple oppressions are experienced differently depending on how power structures operate in each region, country, and community. For this reason, we need to challenge dominant discourse on migration and decolonize the discourse on migration policies.

- **The terminology (intersectionality) is less important than how we apply this framework in practical ways in diverse contexts**. This means starting from concrete political contexts and histories. We must center those realities rather than the more abstract theory, by taking a bottom-up approach grounded in real experiences and movements.

- **Climate change, gender and migration create intersectional challenges that need to be made more visible and addressed in policy**. Strategies to address the climate crisis must acknowledge the interconnection of gender, racial and climate injustice as land and livelihoods are impacted and as people are forced to move.

These discussions complement the examples on civil society initiatives addressing discrimination by intersectional practice and organizing. The following experiences can inform GCM implementation.

Some of these initiatives include:

- Migrant women agricultural workers from Moroccan origin working in Southern Spain have self-organized to face exploitative conditions. They have a feminist and anti-racist discourse to face these demands.
- Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) and Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI) have put together a report to document racial discrimination against African migrants at Mexico's Southern border.
- Mobilizing against exploitation and wage theft of migrant women workers can unite feminists, labor rights and migrant rights groups. This is the case of the movement to abolish the Kafala sponsorship system which ties workers to their employers; limits their mobility and their capacity to claim rights and report violations; and infringes on their basic labor rights. In this case, the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), MigrantRights.org, and the Anti-Racist Movement (ARM), are among the groups that mobilize to end the Kafala system in the Gulf countries and other countries in the Middle East such as Lebanon.
- in India, informal women workers led by Self-Employment Women's Association (SEWA) have joined with other social movements, including trade unions and women's rights ' movements, to mobilize against the caste system.
- Agricultural workers have organized as a response to climate change events. For example, Honduran agricultural women workers from the banana sector affected by hurricanes have organized to avoid wage theft.

These initiatives show how an intersectional feminist approach to movement-building is critical for working across movements and for collective political action. This means breaking through the narrow confines of "silos" to identify systemic inequalities, common ground, and promote cross-sectoral alliances for movement-building and organizing against discrimination and inequalities.