



## Sixty-Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) Side Event

# Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of poverty and migration

### Concept Note

Tuesday 19 March 2023, 1.15-2:30pm  
United Nations NY, Conference Room 12

Organized by: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Co-sponsored by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Permanent Mission of Philippines to the United Nations, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN Women, Women in Migration Network and Women's World Banking.

### **Background:**

The sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2024 takes place as escalating intersecting crises exacerbate systemic inequalities both between and within nations, underscoring the need for greater international support to those disproportionately affected, including women and girls on the move, in all their diversity.

Poverty is a key driver for migration, and yet migration is also utilized by families and communities faced with limited livelihood and income generation prospects in their countries of origin, compounded by conflict, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Women, in particular, are overrepresented in informal, vulnerable and precarious employment, including care and domestic work, with limited or no labour rights protections and face gender pay gaps for work of equal value, lower lifelong earnings and income insecurity. Many migrants are also more likely to be in or at risk of poverty than non-migrants.<sup>1</sup> This situation emphasizes the need for more human rights-based and gender-responsive safe and regular migration pathways that promote and protect the human rights of all migrants irrespective of their migration status at all stages of migration.

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<sup>1</sup>Data from 36 countries around the world showed that 35 per cent of international migrants were in or at risk of poverty in 2015, compared to 23 per cent of non-migrants. Mosler Vidal, E., 2021. Leave No Migrant Behind: The 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation. International Organization for Migration (IOM). Geneva. Accessed from: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/Migrants-in-the-SDGs.pdf>

Financing plays a pivotal role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose concerns lie at the heart of many drivers of migration, including poverty, lack of social protections and climate disasters. Yet it remains one of the most significant challenges, as the world is collectively falling short of achieving the SDGs. The Global Compact for Migration called for gender-responsive programmes and instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families. The complexities surrounding access to financial services for migrants, especially women, highlight a critical gap in our global financial systems. Migrant women frequently encounter barriers in terms of access to financing such as legal restrictions, lack of financial literacy, and limited access to banking and credit facilities, compounded by gender biases and socio-cultural norms. These issues underscore the urgent need for innovative financing mechanisms that are not only accessible and inclusive but also attuned to the specific needs of migrant women and gender-diverse persons.

Remittances have specific gendered dimensions: while women typically earn less than men, the average amount of remittances that women send are the same as or even greater than those of men, underscoring the importance of eliminating barriers to women's access to formal banking and financial services and technologies. While much emphasis is placed on remittances, a human rights-based approach is critical in addressing the reasons that migrants may feel compelled to migrate, as well as promoting and protecting their rights and safety at all stages of migration.

### **Objectives:**

This high-level event will explore concrete ways on how gender-responsive and human rights-based poverty reduction strategies can address drivers of migration, while also building a conducive environment for all migrants, especially women and girls, to migrate in a safe and dignified manner with their rights being protected at all stages of migration. The panellists' intervention will focus on the following objectives:

- Identify ways on to foster collaborations and partnerships among different sectors to develop comprehensive, human rights-based, gender-responsive approaches in poverty reduction strategies, including through labour rights and social protection.
- Highlight the crucial role of gender-responsive financing at all levels, to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment in migration.
- Share examples of human rights-based and gender-responsive policies to address women's poverty in countries of origin and destination and provide actionable recommendations of policy interventions in this regard.

### **Proposed format:**

- 13:15            **Opening remarks** (4 mins each):
1. Mr. Pär Liljert, Director of IOM Office at the United Nations
  2. Ms. Sarah E. Hendriks, UN Women Director for Policy, Programme Intergovernmental Division
- 13:25            **Panel discussion** (5 – 7 mins each):

**Moderator:** Ms. Uloma Ogba, Lead Gender Specialist, Migration and Remittances, UNCDF

**Speakers:**

1. Dr. Girlie E. Amarillo, Undersecretary, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Philippines
2. Ms. Kerstin Sieverdingbeck, Counsellor Development and Economic Affairs, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nation
3. Ms. Adriana Paz, General Secretary of the International Domestic Workers Federation and member of the Women in Migration Network,
4. Ms. Angelika Mendes-Lowney, Director, Development and Strategic Partnerships, Women's World Banking
5. Ms. Anila Noor, Founder and Managing Director, New Women Connectors

14:10           **Questions and answers**

14:25           **Closing:** Moderator

**Appendix:**

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Observer paper for CSW68: [Untapped potential: Leveraging safe and orderly migration within poverty-reduction strategies to accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment](#)