



Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment
CSW Consultation
16 March 2016
GMG Statement

Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

UN Women is delighted to address the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment as Chair of the Global Migration Group in 2016. The Global Migration Group is an inter-agency group that brings together 18 UN entities to encourage coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration.

I would like to highlight three reasons why the Global Migration Group believes the situation of women migrant workers should be a subject of consideration by the Panel.

First, remittances are a powerful force for the economic empowerment of migrant women as well as of women left behind who receive remittances. In 2016, global remittances are expected to total US\$601 billion, US\$440 billion of which will be received by developing countries. This figure is three times higher than the total official development assistance worldwide. Reducing transaction costs of remittances, as agreed in paragraph 40 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and target 10.c of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will be crucial for migration to work for the economic empowerment of all women and girls.

Second, orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration can be an empowering process for women that establish a better life at their destination as well as in their community of origin, upon voluntary return with enhanced skills and financial means.

Third, gender-based discrimination in migration policies and in labor markets hinders the economic empowerment of women. For some women, migration can be significantly disempowering, especially when they end up in unregulated sectors of the economy where they are more vulnerable to discrimination, violence, sexual abuse, or even human trafficking – so much so the UN Secretary-General provides a biennial report to the UN General Assembly on Violence Against Women Migrant Workers.

Therefore, in the deliberations of the Panel, we suggest you consider key factors for the economic empowerment of migrant women, particularly as they relate to migration policy, education, opportunities for entrepreneurship, traditional labor markets and unregulated sectors.

For example, the Panel could recommend measures to capture and address the precarious circumstances sometimes faced by migrant women workers recorded in the report of the Secretary-General¹ that include:

- Women and girls who perform domestic work being particularly vulnerable to abuse;
- Care workers routinely facing serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace.

May we further suggest that the report of the Panel recommend Member States make concerted efforts to deliver on their commitment to SDG target 17.18 that calls for States to capture data disaggregated by, inter alia, gender and migratory status.

In conclusion, the Global Migration Group would like to underline the importance of collecting data and reporting the findings on the specific situation of migrant women workers under SDG indicator 5.2.2. That is, when measuring the “Proportion of women and girls (aged 15-49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15”.

Thank you very much.

¹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/205&Lang=E