



IOM Migration Dialogue – Follow-up and Review of Migration in the SDGs
29 February - 1 March 2016
GMG Statement

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a unique vehicle to fully seize the opportunities and address the challenges of international migration in a comprehensive, human rights-based and gender-sensitive way. The 2030 Agenda is an inclusive agenda that promises to leave no one behind.

UN Women is delighted to chair the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2016. We will carry out this important role in line with three objectives:

First, UN Women aims at 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. As GMG Chair in 2016, UN Women will highlight the importance of mainstreaming a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. We will engage in advocacy on gender and migration in intergovernmental processes and other key forums including the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

For example, at the upcoming 60th Commission on the Status of Women, the GMG will organize together with the Government of Bangladesh, GFMD Chair 2016, a side event entitled “Policies Empowering Migrants Women and Girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Second, under UN Women’s Chair, the GMG remains committed to strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders to support Member States in the implementation of the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To fulfill the commitment of leaving no one behind, the GMG reiterates its earlier calls for disaggregated data, particularly by sex and migration status, in order to systematically monitor progress of vulnerable groups, including migrant women and girls, to protect their human rights and guarantee access to health, education, and employment for all.

Third, in 2016 the GMG aims at fostering synergies with key stakeholders on migration, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, the Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and the 2016 Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

We would also like to share a few reflections on the role of the GMG on the implementation and monitoring of migration-relevant targets within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The GMG has actively contributed to creating robust indicators to measure progress on migration-related targets. To fulfill the commitment of leaving no one behind, there is an urgent need for dedicated capacity- building activities and technical guidance to countries on implementing and monitoring migration-related targets and indicators contained in the 2030 Agenda.

In the recent past, GMG members have conducted capacity-building workshops and produced a GMG Handbook on Migration Data for Development. At the 2016 GMG Strategic Retreat that took place on 22-24 February 2016 here in New York, GMG Members identified 22 migration-related targets and indicators that lend themselves to GMG collaboration in their implementation and monitoring. In the next few weeks, GMG Members will finalize a plan to maximize synergies in the monitoring of these indicators.

Further, at the GMG Strategic Retreat, Members agreed on the need to combat xenophobia and improve the representation of migrants. The GMG is developing a new communications strategy which focuses on the positive impact of migration, while of course not neglecting the challenges associated with large movements of refugees and migrants.

The thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals will be supported by functional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies and forums. On migration, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) as one of the functional commissions of ECOSOC and the UN Human Rights Council could play an important role in following-up and reviewing the SDG targets related to migration.

Thank you very much.