Forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission  
8 – 11 March 2016  
GMG Statement

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

UN Women is delighted to address the 47th session of the Statistical Commission as Chair of the Global Migration Group 2016. The GMG is an inter-agency group that brings together 18 entities to promote the application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration.

The GMG is pleased that migration and human mobility have been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda draws attention to the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including through their remittances. Moreover, it highlights the need to lower the costs of labour migration, and to promote and protect migrants’ human rights.

The GMG has identified at least 22 targets across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which contain a migration-related dimension. Civil society organisations have identified as many as 37 migration-related targets. Clearly, the comprehensive integration of indicators that capture the situation of migrants is required in the accountability framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The GMG therefore commends the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for including indicators on the migration-specific target 10.7, which seeks to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility, and on other migration-related targets including 3.c, 4.b, 5.2, 8.7, 8.8, 10.c, 16.2 and 16.9.
The GMG underlines the importance of target 17.18 that calls for enhancing capacity building support to developing countries to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data to be disaggregated by sex, age and migratory status, as key to delivering on the commitment in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. Only disaggregated data collection can enable the assessment of progress on the promotion and protection of human rights of vulnerable groups in all areas of the SDGs, including women migrants’ access to health, education and decent work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dedicated capacity building initiatives on the collection and use of migration data for development are indispensable to support Member States in implementing the SDGs at the national level. To support these efforts, the GMG has prepared a Handbook providing guidance for implementing the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. The GMG “Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development” will be released shortly. Several GMG entities are already providing technical expertise and support to Member States to improve migration data for development.

In addition, UN Women as Chair GMG 2016, has met with the Government of Bangladesh, in its capacity as Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2016, to cement collaboration and support to Member States in their planning and implementation of the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda.

In closing, let me highlight that under UN Women’s chairing in 2016, the GMG is committed to work with stakeholders in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it relates to migration; to advance a human-rights based and gender-sensitive approach to migration; and enhance the visibility of women in the migration debate.

Thank you.