



**GMG Statement at the Second Committee of the UN General  
Assembly**

**Item 21: Globalization and interdependence (b) International  
migration and development**

**Tuesday, 18 October 2016, 10am–1pm and 3pm–6pm**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

UN Women is honoured to address the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly as the 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group (or ‘GMG’) on behalf of its members. The GMG, an inter-agency group that brings together twenty UN entities, is the principal coordination mechanism on international migration within the UN system. The GMG is tasked with harnessing capacity across the UN system, promoting the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and encouraging a more coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach on this vital issue.

As the report of the Secretary-General indicates, the GMG has, both individually and collectively, undertaken various activities and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

The GMG believes that the High-Level Dialogue process could play a valuable role in the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We welcome Member States' expectation that the periodic High-level Dialogues should play a role reviewing relevant aspects of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which was adopted one month ago. We also welcome that a role is envisaged for the third High-level Dialogue in the elaboration of the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. In this regard, the Secretary-General's proposal to hold the third HLD prior to the 2018 intergovernmental conference deserves Member States' attention.

The GMG supports the other recommendations in the Secretary-General's report regarding the purpose, periodicity and modalities of future dialogues for Member States' consideration.

Allow me to briefly outline the GMG plans for follow-up to the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants held on 19 September 2016, in New York.

The GMG welcomes the acknowledgement in the Declaration of our work to develop principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations. The GMG Working Group on Human Rights and Gender, chaired by OHCHR in 2016, has already embarked on an expert, multi-stakeholder process of developing these principles and practical guidance, and which are derived from international human rights law and related standards. [cf. paragraph 51]

The *Declaration* provides that Member States will consider developing non-binding principles and voluntary guidelines, consistent with international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations, especially unaccompanied and separated children who do not qualify for international protection as refugees and who may need assistance. The GMG has offered to initiate an informal discussion among interested Member States and the UN system on the way forward in light of this commitment. The GMG is hosting a lunchtime event today on the role of the UN system in the follow-up to the Summit, including as it relates to paragraph [52]. I take this opportunity to invite you all to participate in these discussions at our GMG side event starting at 1.15 PM in Conference Room F.

Furthermore, Member States requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the progress made by Member States and the UN system in implementing the commitments made in the Declaration will be the subject of periodic assessments provided to the UN

General Assembly with reference, as appropriate, to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GMG agencies – including IOM, OHCHR, UN DESA and UNHCR – will incorporate reporting on progress made in implementing the commitments of the *New York Declaration* by the UN system as part of their respective institutional mandates.

The GMG also stands ready to assume a collective supportive role to Member States in meeting the migration-related reporting requirements outlined in the *Declaration*. In this regard, the GMG has initiated informal discussions on how the UN system (including UN entities that are not members of the GMG) can work together in the preparation of an informal report on progress made on the implementation of the Summit's commitments. The report could be published in autumn 2017.

Finally, the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, as called for in the *New York Declaration*, provides a critical opportunity to enhance international cooperation on migration, progress towards the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the relevant objectives of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The GMG stands ready to contribute actively to the development of the global compact, in line with paragraph 13 of Annex II of the *Declaration*.

The GMG remains committed to supporting Member States in your human rights-based, people-centred and gender-responsive implementation of the migration-related commitments.

Thank you very much.