



Global Migration Group (GMG) Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender Terms of Reference

Introduction

As stated in the Global Migration Group (GMG)'s Terms of Reference, the GMG “aims to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration and to provide leadership for the improvement of the overall effectiveness and coherence of normative and operational response by the United Nations system and the international community to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration.” The GMG has identified as key priorities, *inter alia*, “working to ensure the full respect for the human rights of international migrants so as to promote human security and development and, in particular, provide protection to vulnerable migrants”; “identifying critical issues [...] in relation to international migration and its interrelations with development”; “providing system-wide direction and leadership so as to promote interest, dialogue and debate on issues relevant for the governance of international migration”; “contributing to greater consistency in policy formulation and programme implementation”; and “agreeing on common positions, responses and actions.”¹

The emphasis on a human rights framework in the context of migration becomes ever more crucial in the context of ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development framework and the inclusion of migration into this agenda. As stressed by the UN System-wide Task Team, any future framework should rest on the core values of human rights, equality and sustainability.²

¹ Global Migration Group, Terms of Reference, available at : http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/what-is-gmg/Final%20GMG%20Terms%20of%20Reference_prioritized.pdf

² See UNTT Report to the SG, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, June 2012. Available at: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

The GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender has been established in pursuance of the GMG Principals' decision on 14 November 2012. The Working Group is co-chaired by OHCHR, UN WOMEN and UNICEF.

The GMG recognises that at the heart of the phenomenon of migration are individual human beings, many of whom move, live and work in vulnerable and precarious conditions. Addressing the varied and complex human rights protection challenges raised by international migration requires the joint efforts of GMG member agencies and entities. As human mobility becomes more complex, and traditional distinctions such as the dichotomy between voluntary and forced migration become less clear-cut, there is an increasingly compelling argument to address the human rights of all those affected by migration in countries of origin, transit and destination , regardless of their migration status, in a holistic way.

Migrant women, men, children, adolescents and youth whose rights are protected are able to live with dignity and security, and, in turn, are better able than those who are exploited, abused, discriminated and marginalized to turn their migration into a positive experience, beneficial for their own human development and wellbeing, as well as for the economic and social development of their countries of origin and destination. This is especially facilitated when national, regional and international policies promote and protect the human rights of all migrants.

The GMG through its Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender will address the issue of international migration from a human rights perspective, with a particular focus on the promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families thus supporting positive migration outcomes. The GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender has identified key objectives through which it aims at supporting the integration of a human rights based and gender sensitive approach to migration into key policy processes, including the post-2015 Development Framework, taking into account the rights of the most vulnerable and fostering the recognition and promotion of the important contributions migrants make to communities, societies, and to development more broadly. These objectives will be pursued through activities that will be integrated in the Multi-Annual Work Plan of the GMG.

Specific objectives of the working group

1. Integrate human rights standards and principles into global policy dialogues on migration including from a gender perspective, through technical assistance and support to intergovernmental processes, strategic partnership building, capacity building and communication and advocacy.

(a) Strengthen the human rights based and gender sensitive global policy dialogue on migration through strategic engagement involving advocacy with key stakeholders, follow up and technical support to key intergovernmental processes to ensure that the international human rights framework including the jurisprudence and recommendations of the human rights mechanisms as well as the gender dimensions of migration are

discussed at key global policy forums and are integrated into global norm setting and policy development.

(b) Strengthen human rights-based approaches to migration through fostering and building of strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and promoting coherence and cooperation in this regard among members of the GMG. This comprehensive approach should address the rights and needs of all migrants and their families and have a focus on the most vulnerable among them, including children, adolescents, youth and women.

(c) Enhance the understanding of the importance of applying a comprehensive human rights-based approach to migration amongst all key stakeholders such as Member States, the United Nations System and civil society through joint capacity building on human rights, gender and migration issues.

(d) Promote a human rights based approach to migration through joint communication and advocacy activities, such as the elaboration of joint communications strategies involving social media, the production of joint outputs such as statements, publications and other materials on human rights, gender and migration as well as the creation and maintenance of a dedicated GMG website workspace on “Human Rights, Gender and Migration”

2. Support the promotion, protection, respect and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants and their families at the national level by Member States and other relevant stakeholders, with a focus on the most vulnerable, through joint guidance, awareness raising and partnership building.

(a) Provide joint technical assistance, capacity-building and other support to Member States and other relevant stakeholders in order to enable them to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, including through legislative and policy reform processes and initiatives.

(b) Provide joint guidance and assistance to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), including through UNDG guidelines and post-2015 messaging, in identifying key priority human rights and gender issues which UNCTs/Resident Coordinators should consider in their CCA/UNDAF and UN cooperation strategic frameworks.

(c) Provide joint assistance, capacity-building and other support to national human rights institutions, civil society partners working at the national and grassroots level and other relevant stakeholders.

Working modalities of the Working Group

1. The WG will convene through the GMG focal points as designated by each GMG member.

2. Participation in the WG is open to all GMG members that wish to participate. The WG will facilitate work processes that promote joint approaches and common milestones.
3. The WG will develop annual work plans in coordination with the GMG Chairs, and in line with the GMG multi-annual work plan.
4. The WG will meet as necessary, but at least three times a year.
5. The Chair of the WG will rotate on an annual basis between OHCHR, UN Women and UNICEF.
6. Meetings will be convened in a way that allows GMG members in various locations to effectively participate in the meetings. Minutes will be made available to the GMG members by the co-chairs following each meeting.
7. The WG will provide regular updates on its activities at the GMG working-level meetings through the co-chairs of the WG.
8. The WG will seek to create targeted synergies with the human rights machinery of the UN system.
9. The WG will develop strategic partnerships with civil society partners and other stakeholders (including media and the private sector).
10. The WG will conduct fundraising and in this context will explore synergies with all funding sources.