



**14th Coordination Meeting on international migration and development  
25-26 February 2016  
GMG Statement**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much and thank you to DESA for organizing this 14<sup>th</sup> Coordination Meeting on International Migration.

I would also like to thank the other two panelists, the SRSG on International Migration and the Special Adviser on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, for their great contributions to this meeting.

Let me begin by saying that migration is one area, at least numerically, where there is gender parity. Women make up approximately half the 244 million international migrants worldwide. While migration has the potential to foster more equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development for both countries of origin and destination, and contribute to women's empowerment and enhanced family well-being, women experience migration differently than men. From recruitment and remittances, risk and vulnerability, gender and age factors are at play. And this must be recognized.

Despite this reality, policy making continues to neglect a gender and age differentiated approach and perspective while human rights and human development aspects of women and youth's migration are not yet adequately integrated into national, regional and international development strategies. This omission impedes the maximization of contributions by migrants to development and leaves them vulnerable to human rights violations, including trafficking and other forms of violence and exploitation.

We are delighted to chair the Global Migration Group (GMG) in this critical year, the criticality of which all of you have spoken of. We will carry out this important role in line with three objectives:

First, the GMG will ensure that both men and women are impacted positively by the work of the GMG, of the UN System, and by international cooperation on this issue, and to elevate the focus on women in the migration debate and policy making. As GMG Chair in 2016, we will highlight the importance of mainstreaming a gender sensitive and human rights-based approach to migration policy and national development strategies, as well as international cooperation policies. We will engage in advocacy on gender and migration in intergovernmental processes, normative processes, and other key fora including the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

The GMG Chair is pleased to announce that during the 60<sup>th</sup> Commission for the Status of Women which will take place on 14-24 March, we will organize together with the Government of Bangladesh and GFMD Chair, an event entitled “Policies Empowering Migrant Women and Girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The second objective that the GMG adopted is about how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be implemented for people on the move, for migrants, in the spirit of no one being left behind.

The GMG remains committed to strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders to support Member States in the implementation of the migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda.

The Agenda recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to sustainable development and promises to leave no one behind. Delivering progress will depend on a strong monitoring and accountability framework and the elaboration of sound indicators to measure progress as highlighted in the “Report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level”.

To fulfil this commitment, the GMG reiterates its earlier calls for disaggregated data, particularly by sex, age and migratory 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, decent work.

In this regard, UN Women as GMG Chair is currently seeking funds to coordinate and implement three regional workshops with GMG partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America on how the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be localized and regionalized in order to institutionalize data collection and facilitate gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation on migration. In the GMG Strategic Retreat that we had over the last three days, we have in fact identified 22 indicators that lend themselves to supporting these aspects of migration.

During our year as Chair, the GMG will produce a policy paper on gender and financial inclusion, critically analysing the new remittance platforms and examining how these networks and platforms can reduce transaction costs and increase financial inclusion for women migrants and their families. The paper will also inform discussions on target 10.c within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on reducing to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%.

Third, in 2016 the GMG aims at fostering synergies with key stakeholders, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration, 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). Meetings with the GFMD troika and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration are being held at the margins of this meeting.

The Global Migration Group aims to assist Member States in their preparations for the General Assembly Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants by organizing a minimum of four interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings with expert panels in preparation for the summit. UN Women as Chair of the GMG would like to emphasize the strong interest and commitment of the group to deliver its key messages during the Summit to inform discussions with the collective thinking of the broader UN system on migration.

Moreover, building on the past work of the GMG under the 2015 World Bank Chair, particularly the outcomes of the GMG International Conference on “Harnessing Migration, Remittances and Diaspora Contributions for Financing Sustainable Development”, the GMG remains committed to promoting the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Let me emphasize here that we often just focus on Agenda 2030 but we must bring in equal focus on following up on the migration-related provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. Both the Agenda 2030 and Financing for Development outcomes have prioritized gender equality and women’s empowerment as a key objective, enabler and beneficiary of sustainable development and financing for development efforts.

The GMG has already started off on a very strong footing this year. We adopted our work plan, and we will join Mr. Sutherland and Ms. AbuZayd in the counter narrative that we need to develop to neutralize the negative trends that you have identified including demonization of migrants, xenophobia, links with conflict, violent extremism and addressing long term root causes.

Finally, as migration policy community, we must also seek to influence the World Humanitarian Summit as well as the Habitat III Conference, and mainstream migration and development in all other key inter-governmental normative process.

Thank you.