



“Towards a Gender-responsive Global Compact for Migration”

CSW62 Side Event

Wednesday 21 March | 11:30am – 12:45pm

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 12, New York

Concept Note

Approximately half of the nearly 260 million international migrants worldwide are women, many of whom are migrating autonomously to seek protection of their human rights and respond to opportunities outside of their countries of origin and with the hope of improving their lives and those of their families. Many leave situations where they have limited options for work or face discrimination. When migration is a choice, it can be an empowering experience for women. However, women and girls in migration often experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, as women, as girls, as migrants, and often on additional grounds such as race, ethnicity, nationality, age, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, and health and pregnancy status. Such discrimination, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, limit migrant women’s decision-making power and agency in all aspects of their lives, and restrict their participation in political and economic life of countries of origin, transit, and destination. Migrant women’s employment situations tend to be precarious, as they are often concentrated in informal, low-paid and unregulated sectors, such as domestic and care work.

A human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to migration governance is critical to realize gender equality, promote the empowerment and leadership of migrant women and girls, and improve their access to public services and their rights to health, education and housing, decent work and social protection and their access to justice. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the international human rights frameworks, it is critical that migration policies protect and promote the full spectrum of labour and human rights of all migrants, ensure access to gender-responsive services, and contribute to the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence.

In line with the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, UN Women is advocating for a gender-responsive, human rights-based Global Compact for Migration. UN Women together with experts from relevant treaty bodies, UN agencies and civil society partners developed [Recommendations for Addressing Women’s Human Rights in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#), to promote a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to migration governance which respects the dignity of all migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination, and protects their rights under international law.

In his report, *Making migration work for all*, the Secretary-General calls on Member States to make a standalone commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a central element of the Global Compact, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5. The Secretary-General also urges Member States to ensure that the Global Compact for Migration recognizes the contributions of migrant women and addresses their role, needs and vulnerabilities in full (para. 6), and their leadership (para. 16). He also notes that it is crucial that policymakers dealing with migration at all levels consistently prioritize the need to work in a gender-responsive manner, and set aside sufficient resources to address gender issues (para. 57).



Organizers

UN Women, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Canada and Costa Rica, OHCHR and the Women in Migration Network will host a side event during CSW62 to highlight the need for a gender-responsive, human rights-based Global Compact for Migration.

Objectives

The purpose of the side event is to strengthen alliances among gender equality and human rights advocates and champions in support of a gender-responsive Global Compact, to identify strategic approaches for addressing women's human rights in the Global Compact.

The event will be a space to discuss ways in which the Global Compact for Migration should address and reflect the rights and needs of all women and girls in migration in countries of origin, transit and destination. It will demonstrate opportunities for gender mainstreaming and the need to ensure there is a standalone principle in the Global Compact which reaffirms the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in migration.

Specific objectives of the side event are to:

1. Discuss collaborative approaches to ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed in the Global Compact and that gender equality, human rights and the empowerment of migrant women and girls are prioritized as a standalone principle;
2. Highlight the role of different stakeholders in ensuring that the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in migration, expected to be made in the Global Compact, are effectively implemented;
3. Present the expert recommendations for addressing women's human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and their role in promoting and protecting the rights of all migrant women and girls in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Format of the Side Event

Moderator: Mr Craig Mokhiber, Director, New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Opening remarks: Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women (TBC)

Panellists:

- H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Mendoza García, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN
- H.E. Ms Louise Blais, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN
- Ms María Landázuri, Member of the Committee on Migrant Workers
- Ms Carla Mucavi, Director of FAO Liaison Office in NY
- Ms Paola Cymant, Comisión Argentina para Refugiados y Migrantes (CAREF) and Women in Migration Network (WIMN)
- Dr Jenna Hennebry, Co-founder and Senior Associate, International Migration Research Centre (IMRC)

Q&A (25 minutes)