



## **GMG Statement at the Third Meeting of the GFMD Friends of the Forum**

**Thursday 20 October 2016, 14:30 – 17:30  
La Salle II, R3, ILO Building  
Geneva, Switzerland**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

UN Women, as the 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), thanks the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for the opportunity to deliver these remarks at the final GFMD preparatory meeting in what is a very important year in migration.

The GMG is, as you know, the principle coordination mechanism on international migration within the UN system and we are growing. We are pleased to announce our newest members – United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – bringing our total number of members to twenty. We are equally pleased that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – one of the founders of the GMG, and co-chair of

four of the five GMG working groups and task forces – has officially joined the UN system as a related organization.

Members of the GMG, both individually and collectively, are committed to supporting Member States in their endeavours to fulfil the aspirations articulated in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

In this regard, the next and last GMG multi-stakeholder meeting of the year will take place here in Geneva, between 13:15-14:45 on 31 October 2016 in Room XI at Palais des Nations and I hope many of you will participate. This event will be co-organized by UNHCR and UNDP and it will discuss the implementation of the commitments taken through the New York Declaration to counter xenophobia. By the end of the year, we will publish a report on all seven GMG meetings held this year in preparation for and as a follow-up to the 19 September 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

GMG thematic working groups and task forces have developed tools and guidance on many issues specified in the New York Declaration.

These include:

1. A Guidance Note on Integrating Migration and Displacement in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs); and
2. A Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development.

In addition, as noted in paragraph [51] of the New York Declaration, the GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender has already embarked on an expert, multi-stakeholder process of developing principles and practical guidance on the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, which are derived from international human rights law and related standards.

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 migration-related commitments.

In line with paragraph [13] of Annex 2 of the New York Declaration, the GMG stands ready to support the upcoming processes leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Critically, this global compact will provide an important opportunity to enhance human rights-based and gender-responsive international cooperation on migration. The global compact on migration is also vitally interconnected to our progress towards the achievement of objectives we set in other key global processes in 2015 and 2016, namely:

- The migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the GMG has identified twenty-two;
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- The World Humanitarian Summit;
- The Paris Agreement on climate change;
- Last but absolutely not least, the New Urban Agenda. I coming to Geneva from the Habitat III Conference in Quito, and migration was one of the big issues discussed there.

Let conclude with a note on gender equality and women's empowerment. As GMG Chair in 2016, we have worked towards the integration of a strong gender perspective in all global processes on migration, including the GFMD – and I thank the GFMD Chair for the great cooperation - and the New York Declaration. Critically, the New York Declaration includes commitments to ensure that our responses to large movements of refugees and migrants mainstream a gender perspective, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and fully respect and protect the human rights of women and girls.

UN Women believes that this is the starting point for a human rights-based and gender-responsive global compact on orderly and regular migration. We will engage with all relevant partners, including the GFMD, DESA and IOM, to ensure that the voice of women and girls is heard, their leadership is recognized, and their specific role and needs are taken into account when developing the compact.

The GMG looks forward to working with you towards a successful GFMD Summit in December 2016 and beyond.

Thank you very much.