



**Third 2016 GFMD Thematic Workshop  
“Migration for Peace, Stability and Growth “  
19 July 2016  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

UN Women, as Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2016, is pleased to address this thematic workshop on migration for peace, stability and growth. The lack of those is often at the basis of migration decision for millions of women and men who leave unsustainable livelihoods in the search of a better future for themselves, their families and communities.

The overall objectives of the GMG resonate clearly with the two main objectives of this workshop:

- To shift the focus of the migration discourse from securitization and migration as a threat to addressing mobility as a key component and driver of peace and stability.
- In keeping with SDG 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies) to develop policies, norms and standards at all levels - national, bilateral, regional and inter regional; and to move towards a global governance of migration, including through a

Global Compact on Migration, that will create an enabling framework for well-managed national migration policies.

In line with the GFMD concept note prepared for this meeting, promoting and protecting the labour and human rights of all people on the move, including their right to seek and obtain asylum, should be the basis upon which migration and asylum policies are founded. The starting point for any policy discussion around migration should be Article 13 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights which states two things:

- Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his / her country.

Inequalities, including between men and women, will be an important driver of the scale and impact of migration. Among the Core International Human Rights Instruments, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a key instrument: the elimination of discrimination against women, the promotion and protection of women's rights as well as women's economic empowerment throughout the migratory process will help maximize the benefits associated to human mobility, and bridge the gender gap rather than reinforce it.

The GFMD concept note highlights few policy areas in order for migration to work for peace, stability and growth: labor migration, tourism, family reunion, student migration and promoting short-term migration for skills enhancement or training for the youth. In addition to these, the GMG would like to highlight

another key policy area: **the importance of the external dimension of citizenship laws and the political integration of migrants.**

While civil and social rights are largely attached to residence, political rights and mobility rights tend to be connected to citizenship status. The lack of political participation for immigrants, meaning lack of access to citizenship, lack of political liberties and lack of access to indirect representation (NGOs, unions, consultative bodies) creates a democratic deficit that we must address.

With regards to the second objective of this thematic workshop ((ii) to develop well-managed migration policies), in line with SDG target 10.7, the GMG underscores that a human rights-based, gender-responsive approach lies at the heart of well-managed national migration policies. Moreover, well-managed migration policies must defuse three areas of policy tension:

- Managing new flows of migrants in combination with the integration of former migrants;
- Managing long-term migration as well as short-term human mobility, including circular migration; and
- Managing long-term drivers and impacts of migration while responding to short-term crises.

The Report of the Secretary-General on “In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants” contains a set of recommendations for new global international cooperation and responsibility-sharing in the context of large movements of refugees and migrants.

The GMG fully supports the Secretary-General’s Campaign to combat xenophobia and it is working closely with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) on the campaign based on shared UN messages to praise

diversity, combat prejudice and highlight the positive economic impact of refugees and migrants.

Among other things, the report of the Secretary-General calls attention to the guidance developed recently by international organizations and entities (most of which are members of the GMG). Moreover, it urges Member States to build on the principles and practical guidance on the protection of large movements of migrants that are currently being developed by the GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender.

We are very much looking forward to working with the GFMD and all stakeholders towards a successful High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on 19 September and a successful GFMD Summit on 10-12 December.

Thank you very much.