



## STATEMENT FOR THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH THE CO-FACILITATORS DURING THE FOURTH THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

### CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANTS AND DIASPORAS TO ALL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING REMITTANCES AND PORTABILITY OF EARNED BENEFITS

#### Contribution of Migrant Girls & Women

Migrant girls and women are key development actors, but their contributions are often instrumentalized or made invisible. The development contributions of migrant women are often only viewed through an economic lens, either as a source of remittances or as cheap labor, and are therefore commodified without taking into account the migrant herself, her human and labor rights and her family relationships. In the case of irregular migrants, who make significant contributions to many economic sectors, they are particularly vulnerable to working in poor conditions, receiving low wages, and experiencing exploitation. Their political invisibility and their social and economic exclusion is a detriment to the development of participatory, empowered and integrated communities.

The contributions of migrant girls and women go far beyond the economic sphere. Their voices are vital in their homes, schools, and communities. Migrant girls and women can be visionary and organized forces for change in their destination and origin countries, leading change from their multiple identities in many public policy areas, including for human and labor rights, and against violence and xenophobia. Their participation in their communities – formally or informally – can uniquely help build social cohesion, a sense of belonging, and self-esteem in others. Communities that promote tolerance and inclusivity, and reflect norms of gender equality, are stronger and more peaceful. As mothers, caretakers, partners, teachers, farmers, businesswomen, environmental stewards and faith leaders, migrant women support families through their work in the formal and informal sectors, they preserve and share knowledge, they care for the environment, and ensure household food security, nutrition, and health.

#### Remittances & Gender

Migration contributes to the development of sending and receiving countries, but the Global Compact on Migration must ensure that migrants themselves can enjoy the benefits of development. Good Shepherd programs around the world offer skills and financial literacy training, and assist women so they can access financial services. Women's equal access to and control over economic and financial resources in countries of destination and origin is critical for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and for equitable and sustainable economic growth and development. At the global level, female migrants send approximately the same amount of remittances as male migrants, yet women tend to send a higher proportion of their smaller incomes, and they send money more regularly, thus spending more on transfer fees. To address the legal, institutional and sociocultural barriers that affect migrant women and their families, and to maximize their contributions, the Global Compact

should recommit to reducing remittance costs in line with commitments made under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and ensure that all migrants have access to gender-responsive remittance transfer systems, financial inclusion and financial literacy training regardless of migratory status or informal employment status.

### Social Protection & Migrant Women Workers

While migrant workers, including irregular migrants, contribute to social protection schemes in countries of destination, they are often excluded from receiving the basic services provided by these programs. A rights-based approach to migration and development must ensure that social protection entitlements, including social protection floors, are available to migrant workers in all stages of migration including when stranded and in transit. The right to social protection means that migrant workers are more than mere recipients or beneficiaries. Social security is a universal human right to which everyone in any society should have access, including low skilled migrant workers who face discrimination, marginalization and vulnerability. Bilateral agreements on social security between various countries in Latin America are a good practice for protecting the rights of migrants to social security, and such protections should be included and expanded in the Global Compact.

The feminization of migration is not reflected in social security debates and policies. Migrant women, heavily represented in low-skilled and precarious jobs, experience greater exclusion from social security coverage than men and receive less wages. Migrant domestic workers (primarily women) are often not eligible for social security coverage given their discriminatory exclusion from protective labor laws afforded most workers, and they are often isolated and may lack access to information or knowledge about their rights, rendering them especially vulnerable. Gender-based violence against women migrant workers abroad remains an urgent social protection issue that must be addressed. The gendered nature of poverty and vulnerability must be reflected in a systematic way in social protection policies and in the Global Compact on Migration.

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