

**UN Women's interventions at the Preparatory (stocktaking) meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
4-6 December 2017, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico**

Action Group 1: human dimensions

Migrant women represent about half of international migrants, but make up over 70% of all trafficking victims and 96% of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation. Migrant women are responsible for sending half of the global remittances.

Restrictive and discriminatory policies often lead women to use irregular migration channels and employ the services of smugglers.

- The global compact must provide access to safe migration pathways, and eliminate sex-specific bans and discriminatory restrictions on women's migration.

Too often migrant women find themselves concentrated in the informal economy, in unregulated sectors such as domestic work and care services – where they are unseen, underpaid and unprotected, and exposed to high risks of labour and human rights violations.

- The Global Compact must promote women's labour rights, access to decent work and social protection.

Member States need to develop gender-responsive and human rights-based policies and services including access to justice, education and health, in particular sexual and reproductive health care services, as well as confidential gender-based violence prevention and protection services.

Gender inequality remains the most pervasive form of inequality around the world. Persisting gender inequalities such as gender-based discrimination and violence and lack of decent work and social protection lead women and girls to migrate – often at huge risks. It is critical that the global compact addresses the gender-specific drivers of migration but does not treat women as a vulnerable population per se.

- The Global Compact must recognize the agency, contributions and leadership of migrant women. It must also promote, protect and respect women's human rights, irrespective of their migration status, throughout the migration process.