

**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 3: Local and sub-national dimensions

I would like to speak about changing the narrative on women migrants. There is a need to acknowledge that migrant women face multiple forms of discrimination: being a woman, a single woman in the country of destination, being in a low-skilled or informal job, considered as or treated as less educated, being considered as “vulnerable” and a second-class citizen in society AND being a migrant.

These perceptions and existing gender inequalities lead to their “vulnerability” although being a woman per se does not mean they are vulnerable. They are in vulnerable situations because of existing inequalities.

This misperception and/or false narratives on women being vulnerable must be rectified. This could be done most effectively at the local and sub-national levels where “migration happens”. Consequently, what needs to be done is for policies, responses and actions to consider women as agents, as key contributors to the society's development and contributors to the economy of the sending and receiving countries.

Concretely, and as an example, we heard about tapping entrepreneurship. Migrant women are good savers, this is substantiated by studies; women migrants remit more of their earnings compared to men. Women are also good business managers and managers of financial resources, given the opportunity. At the local and subnational level, migrants' earnings, including migrant women can be tapped – they can be given opportunities to be entrepreneurs even in the countries of destination. This will also contribute to their integration and to changing the negative perceptions that they are not contributing to the economy of the receiving country but drains their resources.

Finally, at the local and sub-national levels, it is important that migrant women and their families have access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, legal services, social protection services, education and gender-responsive police services and access to justice at all stages of migration, including access to legal aid.