

UNFPA's Input for inclusion in the SG report on the Global Compact on International Migration

Since the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, international migration has increasingly engaged the attention of the international community, due to the unprecedented level of human mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns, and the impact of this phenomenon on development. Migration also occurs along a continuum from forced to voluntary, and it is vital to reduce pressures that cause forced migration, as well as ensure that migration is a choice and not a necessity. Though presenting both opportunities and challenges for countries of origin, transit and destination, migration needs to be safe and orderly, in order that the benefits can be better harnessed and the challenges minimized.

As the UN commences work on the preparation of the Global Compact on Migration, and owing to UNFPA's mandate, it is important to be fully involved in the process and make substantive contributions to the outcome, which has direct implication to the achievement of the transformative 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as the global commitment to leave no one behind. It is crucial that Member States fully recognize that migrants are rights holders, and additionally face challenges, during their journey from country of origin to country of destination, such as sexual, physical and psychological abuse, violence, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery, which must be addressed by the international community.

1. Promote and protect the human rights of all migrants, in particular migrant women and girls.

Proposed language

Member States should be called upon to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability. **(Based on A/RES/70/147)**

2. The right of migrants to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health

Migrants face many challenges in accessing health services in both countries of transit and destination. This situation is even more acute for women and girls. The risks to migrant women and girls increases as access to protection and health services decline, including in countries of transit.

Proposed language

Member States should provide and enhance affordable and safe health services to all migrants, including as it concerns their sexual and reproductive health, including through access to quality family planning services, prenatal and postnatal care, and education and information on sexual and reproductive health, in countries of transit and destination, in keeping with the right of all persons to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

3. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girl migrants

Women constitute approximately half of international migrants and are major contributors to the development benefits of migration. It is critical that their rights be promoted, protected and respected, irrespective of their migration status, throughout the migration process.

Proposed language

States should ensure that their responses to large movements of 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, combat sexual and gender-based violence to the greatest extent possible, provide access to sexual and reproductive health-care service and tackle the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against migrant women and girls, while recognizing the significant contribution and leadership of women in refugee and migrant communities and working to ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities. **(Based on New York Declaration A/RES/71/1 OP31)**

4. Ending gender based violence and harmful practices against women and girls

Proposed language

a) Urge States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, especially through educational campaigns, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to hold perpetrators to account. **(Taken from A/RES/71/168)**

b) Call upon States, whether as country of origin, transit or destination, to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage, including among migrant children, and protecting those at risk, to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses and to amend relevant laws and policies to remove any provision that enables perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse or abduction to escape prosecution and punishment by marrying their victims. **(Taken from A/RES/71/175)**

5. Migration and the Demographic Dividend

As increasing numbers of the world's youth grow into adulthood in circumstances of unrest or poverty, migration becomes ever more the promising alternative. Poor economic prospects at home and the barriers and challenges experienced by youth compel them to leave their homes in search of better opportunities elsewhere. The Demographic Dividend offers a fundamental reappraisal of a youth bulge, investing in the positive linkages between rights-based human capital development, women's empowerment and SRH, economic growth and long-term sustainable development.

Proposed language

Member States are encouraged to invest in human capital development, especially as it relates to women and youth, women's empowerment and sexual and reproductive health, education and skills development; employment and entrepreneurship, health and wellbeing, as well as institutional coordination and infrastructure for the requisite health and social investment package, in order to

realize the demographic dividend and to create conditions that among others, allow communities and individuals to take advantage of opportunities at home and drive national development..

6. Cities and international migration

International migrants often move to cities in their search for education, decent work and access to services, including through social networks that allow them to find other migrants from their home countries. Refugees are also increasingly hosted in cities, outside of camp settings. While large scale population movements can pose a variety of challenges, migrants make significant contributions to urban life and city development. Local authorities and host cities play a significant role in supporting migrants and helping to realize their rights, as well as supporting the integration of migrants into host communities, and in this regard need expanded capacity and greater information on the situation and needs of migrants. The theme of the 51st Commission on Population and Development in 2018 will be “Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration” and is a key opportunity to address these issues.

Proposed language

We commit to ensure the full respect for human rights and humane treatment of refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants, regardless of migration status, and support their host cities in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances, and recognizing that, although the movement of large populations into towns and cities poses a variety of challenges, it can also bring significant social, economic, and cultural contributions to urban life. We further commit to strengthen synergies between international migration and development, at the global, regional, national, sub-national, and local levels by ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration through planned and well-managed migration policies and to support local authorities in establishing frameworks that enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities and strengthened urban-rural linkages. **(Habitat III New Urban Agenda, paragraph 28)**

7. Migration Data

Numbers matter because people matter, and currently systematic demographic data on migrant population is hard to come by. Efforts should be focused on improved data collection on issues related to migrants, disaggregated by age and sex, including their contribution to development.

Proposed language

Member states should collect reliable, accurate, disaggregated, nationally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data and indicators on international migration, including on the contributions of migrants to development in countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to facilitate the design of evidence-based policymaking and decision-making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development, and in this regard invite the entities of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions, in accordance with their mandates and as appropriate, to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this matter. **(Based on A/RES/71/237 OP40)**

States should continue to improve data collection, particularly by national authorities, and enhance international cooperation to this end, including through capacity-building, financial support and technical assistance. Such data should be disaggregated by sex and age and include information on

regular and irregular flows, the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, human trafficking, the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities and other issues. **(Based on New York Declaration A/RES/71/1 OP41)**