

## Informal Thematic Session # 2

*“Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crisis, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution”.*

### UN Women Intervention in Summary Panel, 23 May

Thank you, Chair

Well-governed, people-centred and gender-responsive migration policies are critical to the alleviation of poverty and the reduction of inequalities, and play a key role in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Poverty, climate change, crises and conflict disproportionately affect women and girls. Women often have fewer resources to protect themselves and, with children, frequently make up the majority of displaced and refugee populations. War tactics such as sexual violence specifically target them. Though women lead peace movements and drive community recovery after conflict, they are often almost completely missing from peace negotiations. Peacebuilding efforts, humanitarian action and migration governance need to promote the human rights of women and girls and ensure their equal participation and meaningful leadership.

Persisting gender inequalities such as all forms of violence and harmful practices and lack of decent work and social protection can push women and girls to migrate – often at huge risks.

It is therefore critical that the global compact on migration addresses gender-specific drivers of migration and recognizes the contributions and leadership of migrant women. All actors have a responsibility to ensure that the global compact promotes the empowerment of migrant women and girls, protects their human rights and advances gender equality.

UN Women has worked with experts from human rights treaty bodies, UN agencies and civil society and developed a comprehensive set of gender-specific recommendations for a global compact on migration that protects and promotes the human rights of women and girls. It includes the following key elements:

- **1. Develop gender-responsive, human rights-based migration policy without delay**, which elevates the agency of women in migration, and promotes their empowerment and leadership.
- **2. Recognize the positive contribution of women migrants to sustainable and inclusive development**, and acknowledge that development cannot be truly sustainable and inclusive unless it encompasses and fosters the full economic, social and political empowerment and the leadership of women and girls at all stages of migration.
- **3. Welcome and foster the important contributions of women migrants to sustainable development and social change in countries of origin, transit and destination.**
- **4. Eliminate all direct and indirect forms of discrimination against women at all stages of migration**, recognizing that different forms of discrimination may intersect.

The empowerment of all women and girls is key to achieving sustainable development that leaves no one – no woman and no girl - behind. The global compact on migration thus needs to include *all* migrants irrespective of gender or migration status.

Thank you.