

**Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 10 - 12 March 2021, Bangkok and videoconferencing**

**Agenda item 2: General Debate**

**Review of progress and challenges with regard to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific, including the implications of the coronavirus disease pandemic**

**Statement by Mr. Mohammad Naciri, Regional Director,**

**UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

Your Excellency Ms. Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for giving the floor to UN Women.

Women migrate for diverse reasons. Many women migrate for work or education opportunities with the hope for a better life for themselves and their families. For many, migration yields these benefits; for others, it carries various risks, including exploitation in the labour market, sexual and gender-based violence, and multiple intersections of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, age, migration status or other sex- or gender-associated characteristics. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these risks and its impacts have affected migrant women disproportionately, especially those working in the informal economy. Migration policies and practices are therefore crucial to recognize these risks and take steps to make the migration process safe for women.

Asian and Pacific countries have recognized the importance of addressing migration issues in the context of sustainable development. Migrant women are catalysts of change. They bring knowledge, support and skills promoting diversity within their homes and throughout their communities. Also, they are instrumental contributors to Gross domestic product (GDP) of countries of destination through their productive work whilst supporting their families in countries of origin.

Building on the gender-responsive approach outlined in the guiding principles of the Global Compact and the specific objectives, UN Women urges Member States and other stakeholders to embrace migrant women as rights holders who are essential to the region's sustainable development. In this regard, please let me highlight key areas for all stakeholders to consider for enhancing the implementation of the Global Compact to be more equal, inclusive and gender-responsive. These are:

- Empowering migrant women's economic leadership through supporting them to access skills development schemes and through financial inclusion services, which will facilitate better economic options and promote their participation in the labour market and social and economic development;
- Promoting cross-sectoral collaboration between labour and women machineries to enhance national and regional policy framework for effective protection, including ensuring access of migrant women to essential services and integrated gender-based violence support in social protection mechanism; and
- Investing in gender-disaggregated migration data collection and analysis to develop effective gender-responsive policies, laws and initiatives that address migration's unique impacts on women.

Importantly, the whole society must come together for more assertive and collective efforts to build back together more equal and inclusive. We look forward to continuing working with Member States and other stakeholders in supporting the further implementation of rights-based and gender-responsive migration governance to ensure safe migration for women and everyone.