

An IMRF side event on

From pledges to practices: 'Actioning' and sustaining gender-responsiveness before, during and beyond migration crises

Date: 19 May 2022

Time: 2:30PM to 3:30 PM

Location: Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN
466 Lexington Avenue (between E. 45 and E. 46th Sts.), 20th floor, New York

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Concept note

Gender-responsiveness

Gender-responsiveness is central to the realization of all twenty-three objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). It is for this reason that *gender-responsiveness* is one of the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the GCM:

Gender-responsive: The Global Compact ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly understood and addressed and they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood. (Article 15)

For migration to be governed in a gender-responsive way, gender differences in experiences and needs have to be recognized and responded to through policy and programming. However, this can be challenging when crises impact migratory flows. In such context, more needs to be done to ensure that gender considerations do not fall off the agenda. The pandemic has underscored the ways in which pre-existing gender inequalities have been exacerbated and have had differential impacts on women and girls, who have faced increasing unemployment, poverty, the overload of paid and unpaid care work, as well as increases in SGBV and risks of exploitation during the pandemic. As with the Covid-19 pandemic, other crises and disturbances such as instances of political instability, economic crisis or natural disaster can reveal and exacerbate gender inequality, as well as social and related racial inequities within and among countries. Strategies to address the crises must also acknowledge these inequities and their intersections, and avoid further marginalisation of women, girls, LGBTQ+ and racialised migrants. So as not to lose ground on the 2030 Agenda, converting commitments into concrete action is needed. It is imperative that response and recovery efforts be calibrated around gender equality goals, in order to recognize and strengthen the leadership and agency of migrant women and girls, and ensure the protection of human rights of all migrants, including women, girls and LGBTQ+ and members of other marginalized communities.

GCM and the IMRF

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the UN Network on Migration, together provide a framework and a collaborative platform for governments and civil society to respond to some of the most pressing contemporary global migration challenges – such as those related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as its associated economic impacts. As Member States and stakeholders come together at the inaugural International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), operationalizing the guiding principles in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, while addressing the challenges of pandemic recovery, will be a top priority.

Side event on gender-responsiveness

This side event, co-sponsored by the governments of Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, and the Philippines, in partnership with the Women in Migration Network and the Gender + Migration Hub, brings together stakeholders around the goal of building capacity for the operationalization and implementation of the guiding principle of *gender-responsiveness* in times of stability *and* crisis.

Panelists, including representatives from civil society, international agencies, and governments, will share their examples of gender-responsive practices, resources for capacity building, and ideas for pledges, including announcing their commitments, as appropriate.

Participants, in the room and online, will be encouraged to **share ideas for pledges and concrete actions** towards the further implementation of a gender-responsive approach to migration beyond the IMRF. Particular areas of focus addressed in this side event include: 1) building capacities towards the gender-responsive implementation of the GCM; 2) sharing pledges, tools, practices and strategies towards ensuring gender equality outcomes of pandemic recovery; and, 3) responding to the gendered drivers and outcomes of migration in relation to crises and disturbances (e.g. pandemic, political instability, conflict, etc.).

This event directly supports the United Nations Network on Migration [pledging initiative](#) by offering a platform to share and highlight ideas and pledges related to gender-responsiveness, which can help inspire others to develop their own pledges.

Objectives

- **Share and compile gender-responsive practices, pledges and lessons learned** in support of gender-responsive migration governance that can help react, respond and recover from/to both acute crises and long-term challenges, such as pandemics or political instability, so that gender equality goals do not fall off the agenda.
- Moving forward from the IMRF, this event will serve as a **catalyst for continued capacity building** for the gender-responsive implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in a changing political economy and environment.

Outcomes

- Share **capacity-building resources** and **videos from women migrants** during the event and on the Gender+Migration Hub (<https://gendermigrationhub.org/resources/>)
- Enable participants to share and highlight **gender-responsive practices** and **highlight gender-responsive pledges** through an online form (<https://gendermigrationhub.org/share/>) where participants can share before and after the event.
- Compile and share these practices and pledges on the Gender+Migration Hub to contribute to **the development of a “one-stop shop” to support states and stakeholders** in the gender-responsive implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

AGENDA

Moderators: Jenna Hennebry, Founder, Gender+Migration Hub and Stephanie Leung, Director of International Migration Policy, Government of Canada

- I. Opening (5 min):**
 - Introductory remarks by Minister Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Government of Canada
- II. Identifying Challenges & Mobilizing Knowledge (15 min)**
 - Inkeri Von Hase, UN Women, Global Coordinator, Making Migration Safe for Women
 - Eva Åkerman Börje, IOM, Director of the Department of Policy and Research
 - Cathi Tactaquin, Women in Migration Network
 - Yubari Valero, Country Director, AVSI Ecuador
- III. Migrant Voices (5 min)**
 - Videos with migrant women testimonies
- IV. Converting Commitments to Actions – An Interactive Session to highlight pledges and practices (30 min)**
 - Jenna Hennebry, Founder, Gender+Migration Hub, International Migration Research Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University
 - Assistant Secretary Alice Q. Visperas, Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Philippines
 - Ambassador Silvia Yolanda Espindola Arellano, Vice Minister of Human Mobility of Ecuador, Government of Ecuador
 - Ms. Flor de Lis Vásquez Muñoz, Counsellor, Gender Equality Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN in New York
 - Interventions from the floor
- V. Concluding Remarks (5 min):** Government of Canada

Register to attend in person: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/from-pledges-to-practices-gender-responsiveness-in-migration-crises-tickets-339337787457>

Register to attend virtually: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/from-pledges-to-practices-gender-responsiveness-in-migration-crises-tickets-338422118667>