



## **Ensuring Social Protection for Women and Girls on the Move**

**CSW63 Side Event, Conference Room 2, 18 March 2019, 10:00 - 11:15**

### **Concept Note**

#### **Organizers**

The Permanent Missions of Germany, Mexico and Uganda to the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO) (TBC) and UN Women.

#### **Background**

Women and girls migrate, or are forced to flee, for complex and varied reasons. When migration is a choice, it can be a positive and empowering experience for many women and girls. Migration may also be a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development for countries of origin, transit and destination. Migrant women workers are responsible for approximately half of the USD601 billion sent in global remittances. They tend to remit at a higher frequency and for longer periods of time than men, and commonly use these remittances to support their families and communities in countries of origin.

Migrant women and girls have little or no access to social protection mechanisms and essential services which may have been available in their countries of origin. In general, they often have more difficulties than men in accessing social protection owing to eligibility requirements, limitations in portability and transferability of benefits, and a lack of information of social protection measures. This is exacerbated by the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they face, based on their gender and other grounds including migratory status, income, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, health status, HIV status, and pregnancy. Without access to social protection, women and girls face an increased risk of poverty, exploitation and social exclusion.

Ensuring access to social protection systems for women and girls on the move is critical to (re)build their resilience as well as their participation in economic and social life. Access to social protection for all is therefore crucial to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 5 on achieving gender equality, and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities, and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

#### **Objectives:**

This side event highlights the importance of access to social protection for all women and girls on the move and the portability of social security entitlements. Panellists will discuss gender-responsive social protection mechanisms that are vital to promote and protect the rights of women and girls in countries of origin, transit and destination. They will also explore the role of inclusive social protection as a means to promote safe migration and to reduce adverse drivers.

#### **Content**

Panellists are invited to address the following key issues/topics:

- 1) Measures to expand access to gender-responsive social protection for all women and girls on the move in line with the GCM
- 2) Practical steps to address the discrimination faced by women and girls on the move in accessing social protection
- 3) Examples of good practices and policy recommendations for better access to social protection for women and girls on the move

**Format of the side event:**

- Opening remarks
- Moderated panel discussion
- Q&A with audience

**Opening remarks:**

- Ms. Nadine Gasman Zylbermann, President of the National Institute for Women, Mexico
- Hon. Janat Mukwaya, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda
- Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

**Panellists:**

- Ms. Bandana Rana, Vice-Chair of CEDAW
- Mr. Ashraf El Nour, Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office to the United Nations in New York
- ILO (TBC)
- Ms. Paola Cyment, Women in Migration Network

**The event will be moderated by Christine Loew, Director of UN Women Liaison Office, Geneva**