



**GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP:**  
QUESTIONS AND ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE  
INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Female migrants constitute nearly half of the approximately 200 million migrants worldwide. Moreover, more and more women are migrating as independent actors or as heads of household. International migration is not a "gender-neutral" phenomenon: men and women display differences in their migratory behaviour and decision-making shaped, in great part, not only by migration opportunities but also by gender relations and the status of women in the societies of origin. Furthermore, men and women face different risks and challenges when they engage in international migration. Although there has been increasing interest and attention given to the migration of women over the last decade or so, gender issues are still not generally part of the mainstream in understanding the migration process or discussing their implications for migration policy. Consequently, there continues to be a need to explore ways to incorporate a gender perspective in the formulation of migration policy, the development of legislation and to discuss the gender implications of migration-related policies, laws and programmes. There is also a need to analyze current migration challenges and opportunities from a gender perspective.

We present below a series of questions or issues that could be explored to elucidate the interlinkages between international migration, gender and development in relation to the topics addressed by the Round Tables that will be part of the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD):

- 1. Round Table 1: Human capital development and labour mobility: maximising opportunities and minimizing risks**
  - 1.1. How do gender roles, relations and inequalities including in the enjoyment of human rights, in countries of origin and destination influence who migrates, for how long, to which destinations and how they decide to migrate?
  - 1.2. Do gender aspects of migration and their impacts vary among regions? If yes, what are the regional specificities of gender and migration nexus and their social and economic effects?
  - 1.3. How do the barriers to mobility and freedom of movement (both nationally and internationally) differ for men and women (e.g. restrictions on migration for women with small children, mandatory pregnancy tests for female migrants)? What implications do such barriers have for the effective respect of the human rights of migrants and migrant women in particular?
  - 1.4. In what ways should gender be given special consideration when analysing the international labour market? To what extent are labour markets in countries of origin or in those of destination segregated by gender? How does this segregation influence the types of employment opportunities for migrant women and men? How do the impacts of labour market gender segregation differ in higher and lower-skilled segments of the labour market?
  - 1.5. How does the labour market gender segmentation influence the challenges and opportunities for migrant women and men, respectively, in accessing the labour market and in the conditions of employment? What are the human rights implications and particular challenges in this context (e.g. respect for the

principles of equality and non-discrimination in relation to employment, freedom of movement, welfare and access to justice)?

- 1.6. Does migration of women affect gender equality in labour market sectors dominated by women in countries of destination?
- 1.7. Do the labour market gender segmentation and/or other gender-specific characteristics affect the respective propensity of men and women to engage in circular and temporary migration schemes? What, if any, implications does the sex-composition of migration flows have on overstaying of work visas? Are there strong patterns of sex-segregated flows under bilateral or unilateral schemes?
- 1.8. Do the opportunities and challenges of temporary migration and circular migration differ for men and women? How, if at all, does access to economic, social and cultural rights differ for female and male temporary and circular migrants (e.g. transferability of benefits, portability of pensions)?
- 1.9. Does gender affect migrants' return and reintegration into the home society and reinsertion into the labour force of the country of origin? If yes, how and what implications does it have for the impact of migration on development? Is there a need for a gender-specific approach to reintegration?
- 1.10. What implications do the gender-composition of migration flows and other relevant gender-specific characteristics have on brain drain and brain waste?
- 1.11. What are the reasons for and implications of the feminization of migration where it exists?
- 1.12. What are the gender implications, if any, of current demographic trends and related structural changes in the labour markets of industrialized countries (e.g. rising demand for health and care services)? In the context of the labour market gender segmentation, will these trends have an effect on the feminization of migration?
- 1.13. Does the migration of women affect social structures and family relationships in countries of origin differently from the migration of men? Does the impact of migration on family members, especially children, remaining in the country of origin depend on the migrant's gender? On the gender of the remaining family members? If yes, how?
- 1.14. What are the effects of international migration on gender relations, particularly the role of women and men in households and communities in countries of origin? How does the climate of gender relations in countries of destination affect attitudes in countries of origin?
- 1.15. What impact does international migration have on gender equality and the empowerment of women? How can the positive link between international migration and gender equality and the empowerment of women be reinforced?

- 1.16. Are men and women subject to different types of vulnerability, especially in relation to the type of migration or employment they engage in?
- 1.17. Is there a need for a more gender-balanced approach to combating trafficking in human beings, given the increasing recognition that men as well as women are victims of trafficking?
- 2. Round table 2: Remittances and other diaspora resources: increasing their net volume and development value**
- 2.1. In what way, if any, do the contributions to the development of their countries of origin differ between migrant men and women? To what extent do the types of employment migrant women find in countries of destination affect their ability to provide for families remaining in the country of origin?
- 2.2. What are the differences, if any, in remitting behaviour between men and women (e.g. frequency and amount of remittances sent)? What are the differences, if any, in expenditure patterns between male and female remittance receivers? What are the implications of these variations for the assessment of gender-related differences in the effect that international migration may have at the household-level in the country of origin?
- 2.3. Are there differences in transaction costs paid by male and female remitters and in their respective propensity to use formal channels of transfer?
- 2.4. What measures need to be put in place to increase migrant women's access to formal channels of transfer and reduce transaction costs? Is there a special need for financial literacy programmes targeting female migrants to make use of lower-cost remittance channels? What other measures can be put in place to enhance the development potential of remittances originating from women (e.g. business development services, entrepreneurship training)?
- 2.5. Is there a special need for financial literacy programmes targeting women in remittance-receiving areas in order to maximize their access to remittances and hence magnify the poverty-reducing impact of remittances at the household level?
- 2.6. Does the willingness to participate in diaspora activities differ systematically between male and female migrants? Do male and female migrants differ in terms of types of diaspora activities they engage in? Is there a need to factor gender into incentives designed to mobilize diasporas for the development of the country of origin?

### 3. Round Table 3: Enhancing Institutional and Policy coherence and promoting partnerships

- 3.1. How can multi-stakeholder partnerships assist in promoting the mainstreaming of gender considerations in the formulation of migration policy, the drafting of legislation and the implementation of migration programmes? What are the key stakeholders in this context?
- 3.2. How to capture the gender dimension in migration research, including in data collection? How to mainstream gender considerations into migration policy, legislation and programming?
- 3.3. How can migration law better reflect the realities of international migration by women? What issues should be taken into consideration by States when developing national migration law (including laws on labour migration, prevention of irregular migration, integration and assistance to migrants)? What are the obstacles, including human rights challenges, to having such an approach and strategy implemented?
- 3.4. What instruments are in place at the regional and global levels to protect female migrants in particular? Has the implementation of these instruments been effective and, if so, has it encouraged the migration by women?
- 3.5. What strategies can be used to ensure that the human rights of female migrants are enforced and protected in all circumstances?
- 3.6. Which practices at the national, regional and multilateral levels can be identified to facilitate the mobility of female migrants?
- 3.7. How should gender impact on the definition and implementation of protection policies and humanitarian responses in the area of forced migration and mixed flows of people?
- 3.8. Are women at a disadvantage in seeking asylum when they have left their countries of origin for reasons that do not involve individual persecution?