GCM Objective 2

Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

Issues

For migration to be a choice and not a necessity, it is critical to reduce the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, including economic, environmental and social crises, armed conflict, poverty and forms of unsustainable development that displace communities and people.

Deeply entrenched gender inequalities—such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including female genital mutilation, and harmful practices such as forced and early marriage, unequal access to capital, land and other resources and lack of education, decent work and social protection as well as restrictive gender roles—can influence the decision of women and girls to migrate. They are often excluded from decision-13 making processes and shoulder the majority of unpaid care work, which reduces their ability to engage in paid employment.

The disproportionate impact of climate change on women, as well as the impact of extractive industries, may compel them to migrate in search of livelihoods elsewhere. Discrimination based on gender, race and ethnicity creates both economic and security risks for some women and may lead them to migration. Women human rights defenders and community activists may also have to flee when they are targeted for retaliation.

Measures

- Equality before the law, equal protection of the law and equal access to justice

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- The elimination of gender-based discrimination in education, employment, political participation, health care and socioeconomic and cultural life
- Recognition of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 as a critical priority in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and development and implementation of laws and policies in line with SDG 5
- Recognition of the specificities of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and migration status when developing and implementing gender-responsive legislation
- National laws, policies and action plans that prevent and address all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, and access to essential services for survivors of SGBV independent of migration status
- Strategies and policies that promote the recognition, remuneration and redistribution of unpaid domestic and care work.
- Elimination of laws and practices, inclusive of customary laws, that criminalize women and children who are survivors of SGBV
- Policies and laws that prohibit child, early and forced marriage
- National laws, policies and action plans that ensure equal, free and inclusive access to primary and secondary education for all children
- Equal and inclusive access to gender-responsive vocational training, skills recognition and development programmes
- Employment laws and policies that promote decent work, equality of opportunity and treatment in the labour market, linked with opportunities for training and further learning, including for women migrant workers in the informal economy
- Policies and laws guaranteeing equal access for women and men to natural and economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, productive assets, financial services, bank accounts, insurance and inheritance
- Policies and laws that facilitate women's equal representation in decision-making in the world of work, politics, media, law enforcement, climate change and peace processes
- Gender-responsive protection mechanisms to facilitate the work and safety of women human rights defenders and community activists
- Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and climate resilience strategies that reduce the disproportionate impact of natural disasters, climate change and environmental

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degradation on women and girls
- COVID-19: Inclusion of migrant women in national and local COVID-19 crisis response and recovery plans across all sectors of work, including domestic work and informal work

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Checklist

Question	Yes	Not yet
Does your State give sufficient priority to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality in the implementation of the GCM?	○	○
Does your State guarantee gender equality under the law?	○	○
• If yes, is discrimination against women in education, employment, political participation, health care, economic life and access to land and property proscribed?	○	○
Does your State provide legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men?	○	○
Does your State provide equal access to justice for women and men, including migrants?	○	○
Does your State promote equality of opportunity and treatment in employment and work at the national level?	○	○
Does your State ensure equal participation and representation in decision-making processes in the workplace?	○	○
Does your State have laws in place that ensure equal pay for equal work? If yes, does this include migrants?	○	○

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Question	Yes	Not yet
If yes, does this include migrants?	○	○
Does your State have policies recognizing, remunerating and redistributing unpaid care work?	○	○
• If yes, does this include migrants?	○	○
Does your State ensure equal, free and inclusive access to primary and secondary education for girls and boys?	○	○
• If yes, does this include migrants, irrespective of migration status?	○	○
Does your State prevent and address all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women in a coordinated and comprehensive manner?	○	○
Does your State provide access to essential services for survivors of SGBV, irrespective of migration status?	○	○
Does your State have national laws in place that prohibit child marriage and other practices similar to slavery?	○	○
Does your State have laws in place that prohibit female genital mutilation?	○	○
Has your State eliminated discriminatory laws and practices that penalize survivors of SGBV?	○	○

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Question	Yes	Not yet
Does your State guarantee the protection of women human rights defenders and community activists?	○	○
Does your State have a climate change mitigation and response plan in place that recognizes and addresses the specific needs and contributions of women and girls?	○	○
• If yes, does this include migrant women and girls?	○	○
Does your State have policies in place that support women migrant workers in the informal economy?	○	○
Does your State consider the specificities of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and migration status in the development and implementation of gender-responsive legislation?	○	○
Does your State have a disaster risk reduction plan in place that recognizes and addresses the specific needs and contributions of women and girls?	○	○
COVID-19: Does your State afford migrant women and girls the same treatment as nationals in national and local COVID-19 crisis response and recovery plans across all sectors of work, including domestic work and other sectors in the informal economy?	○	○

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