



CONCEPT NOTE

Women and Global Migration: Root Causes and innovative Solutions

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Today we are faced with a daunting situation that strains our social fabric and influences global security. Global displacement is currently estimated at over 244 million people. The migratory flows of those who flee their countries in desperation and hope of a better life are rife with unnecessary and tragic deaths and countless other deplorable human rights violations. Yet there is another, less reported side, the one that reminds us of our common humanity through the empathy and welcome shown to weary travel-worn arrivals or in the evidence of mutual benefit to communities when integration is successful. While problems related to migration are daunting, the creative solutions emerging from the United Nations inter-agency work on the issue (IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, UN Women..), governments, institutions and countless facets of civil society throughout the world are equally astonishing –and need to be communicated and replicated.

This Forum was conceived as an opportunity to bring governments, experts and practitioners together to debate; compare knowledge, evidence and good practices. Differences in regional dynamics and growing complexities make this forum more urgent than ever. Debates will touch different thematic areas, including; the causes of displacement, the relationship between migration and the labor market, remedies for better integration in the host countries, and the influences of radicalization. All will be examined as they cross-cut with migrant women. Recommendations will be compiled and disseminated toward greater clarity, solidarity and commitment to action.

Decisions to leave everything behind and seek a new start in an unknown and foreign state have been precipitated by many circumstances and emotions. While a few of the most dramatic and tragic migrant stories have surfaced in the international media, each personal story is unique and probably unimaginable to someone not having experienced it. To be able to respond effectively in policy at any level, it is necessary to be aware of all the harsh and favorable factors that drive an individual away from his/her country and family. According to IOM, some of the most prevalent factors attributed to this phenomenon are work, violence, religion/culture, hunger and increasingly, climate change.

Such migratory flows inevitably affect the labor market both in the abandoned state and in the newly settled state as the workforce shifts. It is important to analyze this relationship.



Some countries have excess workforce while others are characterized by a demand for workers. Can we find solutions to achieve greater balance, perhaps affecting the current migration paradigm?

Specifically, a foreign workforce may be an opportunity or a burden to the recipient state depending on whether or not it is able to exploit the potential that the subjects entering the country offer. What are the unique challenges and opportunities to women in migration? It is increasingly crucial that instruments, regulations and measures be introduced to promote the recognition of the qualifications specificities and competences, which are now often ignored or neglected.

The terrorist phenomenon, a topic of great relevance today, is oftentimes a phenomenon connected with the shifts which specifically characterize the Middle East, North Africa. In addition to being one of the causes of migration, terrorism and religious extremism are at the same time one of the reasons or justifications behind the reluctance that some states show in welcoming and opening their borders to foreigners. When it comes to migration flows it is therefore also fundamental continue to analyze the solutions to eliminating terrorism and increasing global security.

The final and essential step for all those who change their country is the hope for integration into the country of destination. Effective integration is still far from being achieved while there are good practices models that can be learned. It is therefore vital to highlight the essential factors for integration, adaptation and assimilation in the social system of the country of destination. But even before that, and for integration to be really implemented, attention must be paid to xenophobia and related episodes, which are also present in the most advanced societies.

Opportunities for remedy exist, as never before. World governments and a growing part of civil society have already committed to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, a well-thought out roadmap that holds tangible potential to ending forced migration and increasing prospects for cohesive communities, creating dignified livelihoods and engaging youth for its continuation. This forum is an opportunity to strengthen and broaden this commitment. It is essential that the international community come together to help heal this wound and pledge to defend the human rights and dignity of this very vulnerable and underestimated segment of humanity.