“Leaving No-One Behind: Addressing Vulnerability and Realising the Human Rights of all Migrants through the Global Compact”

Side Event on the Margins of the Fifth Round of Negotiations
Wednesday 6 June, 1.15pm-2.30pm
UN HQ, Conference Room 11

Draft Concept Note

Background:

The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (‘Global Compact’) is an important opportunity for States to build upon the commitments contained within the New York Declaration including to respond to migrants in vulnerable situations and to reaffirm the pledge in the 2030 Agenda to leave no-one behind.

The aspiration to ‘leave no-one behind’ and to reach the furthest behind first cannot be met without understanding who faces the greatest inequalities and risks to their human rights, and therefore who is most likely to be systematically disadvantaged at the various stages of mobility. It means recognising that each of the estimated 258 million migrants worldwide brings their own unique experiences and resources while at the same time facing their own individual set of circumstances and vulnerabilities, which must be comprehensively addressed in the Global Compact.

To truly leave no-one behind in the Global Compact, States must ensure it recognises the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people on the move and upholds the obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil these rights, especially for migrants in vulnerable situations who are at a heightened risk of human rights violations and abuse during their migration. As the Global Migration Group has highlighted, some migrants may be at a heightened risk of human rights violations due to the situation in their country of origin such as the adverse effects of sudden or slow-onset climate change; the situations they face in transit, at international borders, or in their country of destination; or due to personal circumstances such as sexual orientation or gender identity, age, social and economic position or indigenous status or health or disability status, or indeed a combination of these factors. At the same time, we must also consider how women’s and girls’ gender intersects with other identities and how these intersections contribute to the unique and pervasive experiences of discrimination women and girls often face, and focus on specific actions that can bring the principle of the best interests of the child to practice under each of the Global Compact’s objectives.

All migrants have the potential to make positive and profound contributions to economic and social developments in countries of origin, transit and destination. Leaving no-one behind means ensuring that all migrants can enjoy all human rights and fulfil their potential as members of society. In line with commitments made in the New York Declaration and 2030 Agenda, this event aims to demonstrate how the Global Compact can contribute to upholding the dignity and human rights of all migrants, with a particular focus on those in vulnerable situations.

Objectives:

The purpose of the side event is to promote the importance of a human rights-based, gender-responsive and child-sensitive Global Compact, which fully realises the human rights of all migrants and ensures that no-one is left behind, in accordance with the New York Declaration and 2030 Agenda.
for Sustainable Development. The event will introduce the Global Migration Group (GMG) *Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations*, and offer these *Principles and Guidelines* as a principled and practical tool to assist States in closing protection gaps, particularly for those migrants who may be excluded or marginalised.

Specific objectives of the side event are to:

1. Discuss innovative and collaborative approaches to ensure that the human rights of *all* migrants are realised through the Global Compact for Migration.
2. Introduce the GMG *Principles and Guidelines* to Member State delegations in New York as a principled and practical tool that can be effectively employed by Member States to ensure that no migrant is left-behind.

**Organizers:**

This GMG side event is co-organised by OHCHR, UN Women and UNICEF as Co-Chairs of the GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender, together with UNFPA.