Draft Concept Note
“Promoting Gender-Responsive Migration Governance
Through the Global Compact for Migration”
28 September 2018, 9:30-11:00
UN HQ, Conference Room 1

Organizer(s):

Background
The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (‘Global Compact for Migration’) is the first global framework for cooperation on international migration that addresses migration in all its dimensions. Rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Global Compact for Migration enshrines gender-responsive, human rights and child sensitive approaches as cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles.

To ensure that the Global Compact for Migration responds to the lived realities of the more than 120 million migrant women and girls around the world, Member States must ensure that the implementation of the Global Compact is gender-responsive. This requires that national migration governance responds to and addresses the specific needs, challenges and situations of vulnerability of all migrant women and girls.

It is vital that the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration fully promotes and protects the rights of migrant women and girls to accelerate progress towards the achievement of SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. To ensure that migrant women’s and girls’ human rights are realized through the Global Compact for Migration, gender equality considerations need to be mainstreamed into all policies, programmes and services pertaining to the Global Compact for Migration.

Speakers in this high-level event will discuss innovative ways in which national migration governance, in implementing the Global Compact for Migration, can address and respond to the specific needs, challenges and vulnerabilities of all migrant women and girls. It will be an opportunity for panellists to showcase examples of best practices – including legal reforms and institutional arrangements – which have led to more gender-responsive migration governance at a national level.
Objectives:

The purpose of the side event is to mobilize support from Member States for the gender-responsive implementation of Global Compact for Migration that will contribute to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all migrant women and girls. In particular, speakers will:

1. Discuss innovative and collaborative approaches to ensure that national migration governance addresses and responds to the specific needs, challenges and situations of vulnerability of migrant women and girls.
2. Highlight and share specific examples of best practices of gender-responsive migration governance to support the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.
3. Share UN Women’s expert recommendations on addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Migration, and the GCMGender guidance notes produced by the Expert Working Group on addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Migration.

Envisioned Format of the Side Event:

Key Note Address: Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative for International Migration

Moderated Panel Discussion:

- Representatives of Member States (Mexico, Bangladesh TBC, Germany TBC)
- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women
- Ms. Acosta Vargas, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Director of New York Office, OHCHR
- Lucila Granada, Director of the Latin American Women’s Rights Service (LAWRS) and member of the Women in Migration Network (WIMN)

Closing Remarks: H.E. Aurelia Frick, Foreign Minister, Liechtenstein

Outcome:

- Greater commitment from Member States and other stakeholders to the gender-responsive implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, contributing to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.