United Nations E/CN.6/2027/NGO/XX

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
December 2026

Original: Language

**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Seventy-first session**
8-19 March 2027
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

## Statement submitted by Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore; Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice; Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Congregations of St. Joseph; Dominican Leadership Conference; International Association of Schools of Social Work; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; Loretto Community; Lutheran World Federation; Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers; Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.; Passionists International; Poverty Elimination and Community Education Foundation; Presbyterian Church (USA); Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary; Salesian Missions, Inc.; The Salvation Army; Scalabrini International Migration Network, Inc.; School Sisters of Notre Dame; Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; TruMerit; World Evangelical Alliance, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

**Statement**

This joint statement has been prepared through the NGO Committee on Migration, a coalition advancing the human rights and dignity of migrants through rights-based governance, meaningful participation, and international cooperation.

The NGO Committee on Migration calls upon Member States to ensure that girls and women in migration contexts are included in efforts to accelerate gender equality and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Migrant rights are human rights, regardless of migration status. Governments must translate international commitments into concrete improvements in safety, family unity, decent work, access to services, and participation.

Girls and women migrate for work, education, family reunification, opportunity and safety, or are compelled to move by conflict, violence, poverty, disasters and environmental degradation. Their experiences differ according to age and circumstances. Discrimination based on migration status, gender, race, disability, or other characteristics can compound barriers to protection and opportunity. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the 2026 International Migration Review Forum provide a framework for implementation and accountability.

PROTECT GIRLS ON THE MOVE AND END CHILD IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Girls on the move must be recognized first and foremost as children and as rights holders. Their best interests must be a primary consideration in all decisions affecting them. Girls face specific risks of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, child marriage,

exploitation, interrupted education, and inadequate access to child-sensitive protection and support. Member States must end immigration detention of children, including detention arising from their parents' migration status, and provide rights-based, community-based alternatives. They must preserve family unity, facilitate reunification and ensure access to education, health care, child protection, and other essential services without discrimination.

## UPHOLD RIGHTS, SAFETY, AND ACCESS TO PROTECTION

Girls and women move under diverse circumstances, including in search of international protection, work, education, and family opportunities. Migration status must never diminish their human rights or dignity. Limited access to safe and regular pathways can increase exposure to trafficking in persons, violence, exploitation, and abuse. Member States should expand accessible regular migration pathways, strengthen cross-border protection and referral mechanisms, and guarantee confidential reporting, legal assistance, essential services, and effective remedies. Border and migration procedures must safeguard access to protection and respond appropriately to the distinct needs of girls and adult women, including survivors of violence.

## COUNTER XENOPHOBIA, RACISM, AND DISCRIMINATION

Xenophobia, racism, stigmatization, gender-based discrimination, and harmful misinformation undermine inclusion and access to rights. Member States should prevent and respond to hate crimes, discriminatory treatment and violence; strengthen accountability and redress; and support evidence-based public discourse. Public officials and service providers

should receive training to recognize and address discrimination and the different protection needs of people on the move. Migrant-led and community-led initiatives can foster dignity, belonging, and social cohesion. The rights of girls and women do not depend on their migration status, circumstances, or economic contribution.

## RESPOND TO CLIMATE-RELATED HUMAN MOBILITY

Climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation affect girls and women differently, including through lost livelihoods, interrupted education, increased unpaid care responsibilities, and heightened exposure to exploitation. Those who remain and those who move both require protection. Member States should integrate rights-based, gender-responsive measures into climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and mobility policies; invest in sustainable adaptation so communities have a meaningful choice to remain; and provide safe, regular pathways when movement becomes necessary. Affected girls and women must participate in decisions about planned relocation and measures addressing economic and non-economic loss and damage, including impacts on housing, health, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and community ties.

## ADVANCE ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND DECENT WORK

Women who migrate have the right to decent work, equal treatment, fair and ethical recruitment, freedom of association, social protection, and effective remedies. Many work in low-paid or insufficiently protected sectors, particularly domestic and care work. Member States should ensure migrant domestic workers are fully covered by national labour laws,

including minimum-wage protections, regulated working hours, paid leave, occupational safety and health protections, and effective enforcement. They should prohibit recruitment fees charged to workers and eliminate employer-tied sponsorship arrangements that prevent workers from changing employers or seeking other lawful work without jeopardizing their residence or visa status. Governments should ensure equal pay for work of equal value, portable social protection, and accessible justice.

Economic justice also requires recognition of migrant women's skills, qualifications and prior learning, without discriminatory barriers. Member States should expand equitable access to professional development, digital tools, financial services, entrepreneurship and professional networks, supporting economic independence and equal opportunity.

## ENSURE PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNABILITY

People with lived experience of migration are experts in their own lives. Girls and women affected by migration policies must have meaningful opportunities to shape, implement, monitor, and evaluate those policies. Their participation must be safe, accessible, and appropriate to their age and circumstances. Migrant-led, grassroots, workers' and civil society organizations must be able to participate beyond one-time consultations. Member States should protect civic space and establish transparent mechanisms for monitoring implementation of migration and gender-equality commitments.

## CALL TO ACTION

We call upon Member States to:

1. End child immigration detention, protect family unity and guarantee child-sensitive services and safeguards.

2. Expand safe and regular migration pathways while ensuring protection, justice, and remedies regardless of migration status.

3. Prevent and respond to trafficking, exploitation, gender-based violence, xenophobia, racism, and discrimination.

4. Integrate rights-based and gender-responsive approaches into climate mobility and disaster risk reduction, with meaningful participation by affected communities.

5. Guarantee migrant workers' labour rights, including domestic workers' protections, fair recruitment, social protection, and freedom from employer-dependent exploitation.

6. Recognize migrant women's skills and expand access to decent work, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity.

7. Include girls and women with lived experience of migration, alongside migrant-led and civil society organizations, in decisions and accountability processes.

Progress must be measured not only by commitments but by whether girls and women can live safely with their families, access essential services and protection, work with dignity, participate in their communities, and influence decisions affecting their lives. Girls and women who migrate are rights holders with agency, knowledge, and lived experience. Migrant rights are human rights. Gender equality must include every girl and woman, regardless of where she was born, why she moved, or how her migration status is defined.