



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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139th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 14-18.10.2018

Forum of Women Parliamentarians
Item 3

FEM/28/3-Inf.1
3 October 2018

Contributing to the work of the 139th Assembly from a gender perspective

Sunday, 14 October 2018
11.15 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Information note

I. Arrangements for the debate

Participants will be invited to discuss the draft resolution on the agenda of the 139th Assembly entitled: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.

They will discuss the topic from a gender perspective and will issue recommendations on the amendments to be submitted by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

To that end, following a short presentation on the draft resolution, the Forum will split into two discussion groups from 11.30 a.m. until 1 p.m. each covering one topic as follows:

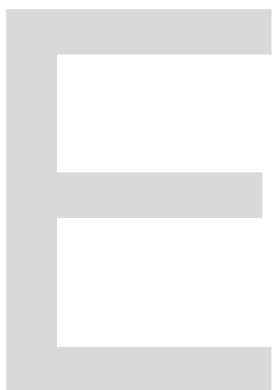
Group 1 – Women on the move: Protection from trafficking and all forms of violence	<i>Room 2, level 0</i>
Group 2 – Migrant women: Inclusion, work and rights in the host countries	<i>Rooms 3&4, level 0</i>

On the recommendation of its Bureau, the Forum will designate a chair and a rapporteur for each group.

At the end of the discussion, each working group will agree on the key ideas that its respective rapporteur will present at the afternoon plenary sitting of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

II. Focus of the debate

The draft resolution focuses on migration governance and inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration. Particular emphasis is placed on the ongoing process leading to the planned adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018. A separate global compact for refugees will focus on specific refugee-related aspects that are not covered by this draft resolution.



#IPU139

Group 1 – Women on the move: Protection from trafficking and all forms of violence

Although women migrate as much as men, they face particular challenges while on the move owing to the lack of safe and regular migratory channels. Women are significantly at risk of falling victim to trafficking or experiencing sexual abuse as they migrate. Yet, they often face difficulties in accessing support and redress upon arrival in their country of destination. Migrant women rarely report the violence they experience due to a fear of retaliation or rejection, fear of being repatriated, lack of information, language barriers, distrust or shame.

Participants in Group 1 are therefore invited to discuss the following main issues:

- *How can countries of origin, transit and destination better detect and address the risk of violence and trafficking facing women on the move?*
- *How can such risks be best mitigated and prevented through bilateral, intraregional and interregional cooperation?*
- *What best practices exist in ensuring that migrant women victims of trafficking and abuse are considered first and foremost as survivors of violence in need of assistance and protection?*

Group 2 – Migrant women: Inclusion, work and rights in the host countries

Migrant women contribute substantially to the social and economic welfare of both their host countries and countries of origin. Women migrant workers not only provide much-needed income for their families and communities in their countries of origin, but also much-needed labour in host countries, especially in the domestic work and care sectors. However, migrant women face many obstacles ranging from the difficulty of obtaining official recognition of their foreign diplomas to the lack of protection under the host country's labour laws.

Participants in Group 2 are therefore invited to discuss the following main issues:

- *How can migration laws and international agreements better provide for legal channels of migration for women migrants, be it as workers or family members?*
- *What best practices exist to guarantee that labour laws effectively protect women migrant workers, particularly migrant domestic workers?*
- *How can host countries better respond to the needs of migrant women in areas such as education, family reunification and social integration?*
- *What steps should countries of origin take to ensure the protection of their women citizens abroad?*