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Advancement of women: advancement of women

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2021

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/76/455](#), para. 21)]

76/141. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and also recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,² the International Conference on Population and Development,³ the Fourth World Conference on Women⁴ and the World Summit for Social Development⁵ and their reviews,

Reaffirming also the provisions concerning women migrants contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,⁶ and calling upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migratory status, especially those of women and children, and to encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

¹ Resolution [48/104](#).

² [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

³ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁵ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.



Reaffirming further that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁷ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁸ and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁹ as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda covers the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in informal employment, and also acknowledging the need, *inter alia*, to end all violence and discrimination against them,

Reaffirming the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹¹ that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to the achievement of sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity,

Recalling the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,¹²

Recalling also the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018,

Recalling further that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach,

Acknowledging the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), including in supporting national efforts, to increase women's access to economic opportunities, including for women migrant workers, and to end violence against them, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan 2022–2025,¹³

Acknowledging also the need to facilitate opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration in order to promote a safe environment for migrant workers in all sectors, including women migrant workers in informal employment,

Emphasizing that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

¹⁰ Resolution [70/1](#).

¹¹ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

¹² Resolution [71/1](#).

¹³ [UNW/2021/6](#).

Stressing that laws addressing violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, are often of limited scope, that those addressing sexual harassment do not cover many workplaces, such as those of domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, and that gaps need to be addressed,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹⁴ and their reviews,

Taking note of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fifth session,¹⁵ on the priority theme, “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,” particularly the paragraphs relevant to migrant women and girls,

Taking note with appreciation of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session,¹⁶ and taking note, in particular, of the commitment, as appropriate, to further adopt and implement measures to ensure the social and legal inclusion and protection of women migrants, including women migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination, promote and protect the full realization of their human rights and their protection against violence and exploitation, implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers and provide safe and legal channels that recognize their skills and education, provide fair labour conditions and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment and decent work as well as their integration into the labour force,

Underlining the importance of taking into account the root causes and consequences of migration, and acknowledging that poverty, in particular the feminization of poverty, underdevelopment, lack of opportunity, poor governance and environmental factors are among the drivers of migration,

Recalling the establishment of the International Migration Review Forum as an intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

Recalling also that the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of 2013¹⁷ recognized that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level and the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, *inter alia*, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasized in this regard the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in care and domestic work,

Taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),¹⁸ the Domestic Workers Recommendation, 2011 (No. 201) and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms

¹⁴ Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 7 (E/2021/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁶ *Ibid., 2013, Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁷ Resolution [68/4](#).

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2955, No. 51379.

of Discrimination against Women to take note of and consider general recommendation No. 26 (2008) on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,¹⁹ and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families²⁰ to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,²¹ acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, particularly of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of Recommendation No. 203 on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour, of the International Labour Organization,

Recognizing also the increasing participation of women of all skill levels in international migration, driven in large part by socioeconomic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Recognizing further that the demand for migrant care work appears to be rising, where the failure to resolve care deficits and secure public provision of care has increased the demand for care work, particularly in the private sphere, and that some migrant workers engaged in informal care work, particularly women, face serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace, while many benefit from the economic opportunities offered by care work,

Recognizing the roles and responsibilities of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, workers' and employers' organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing also that the positive contribution of women migrant workers has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of their labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, and encouraging efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration,

Recognizing further the contribution of women migrant workers to the development of their families, *inter alia*, through the delivery of remittances,

Recognizing the valuable contributions of migrant women on the front lines of the responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including women migrant workers, and stressing the need to integrate migrant workers into national COVID-19 prevention and response plans and policies, as well as the importance of ensuring that all migrant women and girls have access to essential public services, regardless of migration status, during the pandemic,

¹⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/64/38)*, part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

²⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

²¹ *CMW/C/GC/1*.

Recognizing also that migrant workers, including women migrant workers, are among those who are in situations of vulnerability owing to the negative effects of the pandemic, making up a disproportionate share of the workforce in sectors that have remained open throughout the health emergency, and are also overrepresented in sectors hardest hit by the pandemic,

Recognizing further the particular vulnerability and needs of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence, gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide, racist and xenophobic acts and expressions, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and trafficking in persons, including forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, while taking into account the particular difficulties in accessing justice that may be faced by women migrant workers,

Recognizing that one of the key causes of the labour exploitation suffered by migrants, including women migrant workers, is linked to the unscrupulous practices of some recruitment agencies and informal brokers that charge high recruitment costs and related fees, and noting with concern the reports of abuse committed by some recruitment agencies and employers,

Recognizing also that violence against women and girls, in particular migrant women, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between women and men, which further reinforces gender stereotypes and barriers to the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights,

Recognizing further that the intersection of, inter alia, age, class, race, disability and gender-based and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

Reaffirming the commitment to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²² to the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Stressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that may be faced by indigenous migrant women, who suffer at a disproportionately high rate from domestic violence and sexual abuse, and as victims of trafficking in persons,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 12 June 2015, at its 104th session, of Recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy,

²² Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

Concerned also that migrant women in informal employment may benefit from only limited legal protection of their labour rights, increasing the risk of exploitation,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse and to provide appropriate care, assistance and services for trafficking victims, regardless of migratory status,

Recognizing also that the vulnerabilities documented for women migrant workers highlight increasingly complex migration contexts and channels, where migrant workers may find themselves in life-threatening situations when entering other countries,

Highlighting measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, including through the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for women migrant workers, by facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings and by promoting actions to protect migrant women who are victims of violence,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and of the relevant special procedures, as well as of the supervisory mechanisms of the International Labour Organization, in monitoring the implementation of international labour standards, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;²³*

2. *Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,²⁴ which highlights, inter alia, that overall progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action has been particularly slow for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that marginalized groups of women, including migrant women, are at particular risk of discrimination and violence;*

3. *Invites Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),²⁵ the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),²⁶ the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997*

²³ A/76/245.

²⁴ E/CN.6/2020/3.

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 120, No. 1616.

²⁶ Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.

(No. 181)²⁷ and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁸ the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁹ the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons³⁰ and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,³¹ as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, calls upon States parties to comply with their relevant obligations under international law, and encourages Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;³²

4. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants submitted to the Council at its forty-fourth³³ and forty-seventh³⁴ sessions and to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth³⁵ and seventy-sixth³⁶ sessions;

5. *Recalls* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,³⁷ in which Member States committed to recognizing the contribution of the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women migrant workers, to the urban economies;

6. *Encourages* all United Nations agencies and special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandates relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, including in supply chains, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the agencies and special rapporteurs in this regard;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-responsive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, trafficking in persons, exploitation and abuse, to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes, and to take into account the need for effective and meaningful participation of women migrant workers and relevant civil society organizations, as appropriate, in the formulation of such policies and programmes;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, regardless of their migratory status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and

²⁷ Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.

²⁸ Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁹ Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

³⁰ Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

³¹ Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

³² Resolution [64/293](#).

³³ [A/HRC/44/42](#).

³⁴ [A/HRC/47/30](#).

³⁵ [A/75/183](#).

³⁶ [A/76/257](#).

³⁷ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration in order to deter irregular migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence, trafficking in persons or other forms of exploitation or abuse to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses, and to eliminate abusive sponsorship systems;

9. *Encourages* Governments to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration;

10. *Encourages* Governments engaged in the International Migration Review Forum to ensure that the implementation, review and follow-up of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration³⁸ take into account relevant provisions regarding women migrant workers;

11. *Encourages* Governments to consider adopting measures to reduce the cost of labour migration and promote ethical recruitment policies and practices between sending and receiving countries;

12. *Urges* States to adopt or develop and implement legislation and policies, in accordance with their commitments and obligations under international law, to prevent and respond to gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide, while taking into account the particular difficulties faced by women migrant workers in accessing justice;

13. *Encourages* Governments to seek to address the push and pull factors surrounding women's irregular migration, including the need to resolve care deficits in labour-importing countries and to regulate, formalize, professionalize and protect the terms and conditions of employment in care work, in line with national law and applicable obligations under international law;

14. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers by promoting decent work, by, *inter alia*, adopting minimum wage policies and employment contracts in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support, exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

15. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to respect, promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, especially girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their migratory status, so as to prevent trafficking in persons, labour and economic

³⁸ Resolution 73/195, annex.

exploitation, discrimination, all forms of sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse of migrant children, including in online and digital contexts;

16. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights and, where applicable, labour rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

17. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

18. *Encourages* States to consider designing and implementing financial literacy training programmes for women migrant workers and, where appropriate, their families, and other programmes that may contribute to the full development impact of migration;

19. *Encourages* Governments to consider increasing the labour participation of and employment opportunities for women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, through the recognition of their skills, qualifications and competences, which will enhance their ability to transition from one job or employer to another, and, where appropriate, in order to facilitate their entry into the formal sector;

20. *Calls upon* States to address the structural and underlying causes of all forms of violence against women migrant workers, including through education and the dissemination of information and by raising awareness of gender equality issues, promoting their economic empowerment and access to decent work and, where relevant, their integration into the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and promoting their participation in public life, as appropriate;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to promote access to adequate, quality and affordable health-care services and quality education for women migrant workers and their accompanying children;

22. *Also calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers and their accompanying children, regardless of their migratory status, to have access without discrimination to emergency health care, including in times of humanitarian crises, natural disasters, pandemics and other emergency situations, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

23. *Calls upon* Member States to take all the measures necessary to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant workers and to continue to support them and their families in response to the economic and social challenges

they face, such as, *inter alia*, facilitating access to decent work and social protection measures;

24. *Urges* Member States to establish an inclusive and gender-responsive public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic that addresses the specific needs of migrant women and provides equitable access to comprehensive health-care services for women migrant workers, including mental health and psychosocial support, palliative care and access to safe, quality, effective and affordable vaccination;

25. *Encourages* Governments to ensure the appropriate use of voluntary and confidential HIV testing and pregnancy testing to prevent unwarranted barriers prior to and during migration;

26. *Encourages* States to protect women migrant workers, including domestic workers, from becoming victims of trafficking in persons, through the implementation of programmes and policies that prevent victimization and through the provision of protection and access to justice, as well as medical and psychological assistance, where appropriate;

27. *Urges* States to recognize the significant contributions and leadership of women in migrant communities and to take appropriate steps to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities, and to recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers in all sectors, including those in informal employment, including through fair and ethical recruitment and the prevention of exploitation, and to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, as well as labour mobility;

28. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant workers, including those in domestic work, to include therein, and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures, in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments to ensure compliance with international obligations and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against recruitment agencies and employers, including terminating their contracts in the event of labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

29. *Encourages* States to consider ensuring that all women migrant workers, regardless of their migration status, can exercise their human rights through safe access to basic services, notwithstanding that nationals and regular migrants may be entitled to more comprehensive service provision, while ensuring that any differential treatment must be based on law, be proportionate and pursue a legitimate aim, in accordance with international human rights law;

30. *Urges* Governments to support enhanced reception and reintegration assistance for those who return, with particular attention to the needs of victims of trafficking in persons and of migrants in vulnerable situations, *inter alia*, children, older women and women with disabilities;

31. *Urges* States to adopt national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, in line with relevant obligations under international law, to protect the human rights of all migrant women and girls, regardless of migration status; recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers to promote their economic empowerment in all sectors and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive

employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology; recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers and those in precarious employment, including preventing and addressing abuse and exploitation, protecting women migrant workers in all sectors and promoting labour mobility; provide newly arrived migrant women with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as access to basic services; encourage cooperation among various stakeholders, including countries of origin, transit and destination, in ensuring that migrant women and girls have adequate identification and the provision of relevant documents to facilitate access to social protection mechanisms; and facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrant women and girls by providing them with equal access to social protection and services;

32. *Encourages* States to review existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, to enhance the abilities of labour inspectors and other authorities to better monitor recruiters, employers and service providers in all sectors and to protect all migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse in order to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination;

33. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their migratory status, in line with domestic legislation, access to the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, with gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, which includes the provision of information on the rights of women migrant workers, hotlines, dispute resolution mechanisms, legal aid, victim advocacy, services for children, safety planning, psychological support and trauma counselling, social services, women-only spaces and access to women's shelters, where these exist, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

34. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to address practical barriers, including language barriers, that women migrant workers may encounter in countries of destination, and provide them with adequate information about their rights, including to consular assistance, prior to their departure from their countries of origin;

35. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that legislative provisions and judicial processes are in place to provide women migrant workers access to justice, to enhance, develop or maintain legal frameworks and specific gender-responsive policies to explicitly meet their needs and rights and, where necessary, to take appropriate steps to reform existing legislation and policies to capture their needs and protect their rights;

36. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions, in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

37. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

38. *Encourages* Governments to formulate, implement and refine training programmes for their law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, judiciary, prosecutors, public sector medical staff and other service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions, including for those in detention facilities;

39. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-responsive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process and to enhance efforts and increase action to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

40. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,³⁹ to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality and, in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

41. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, *inter alia*, gender-responsive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

42. *Encourages* Governments, in accordance with their applicable legal obligations, to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis, in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that this process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

43. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization and the

³⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, on violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and:

- (a) To further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;
- (b) To analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;
- (c) To further assess and measure recruitment costs and fees through the provision of appropriate sex-disaggregated data and analysis, where available;
- (d) To support the improvement of macrodata on migration costs and on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

44. *Encourages* the United Nations system and related entities to continue and step up their efforts and promote partnerships with all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and to coordinate their work in support, as appropriate, of effective implementation of relevant international and regional instruments in order to enhance their impact through concrete positive outcomes for the advancement of the rights of women migrant workers;

45. *Invites* Member States engaged in the International Migration Review Forum to take into consideration all relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, in their discussions for the Progress Declaration;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, including domestic and care workers, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations.

53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021