

## **A CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Rights**

**25-26 September 2008  
Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, Philippines**

#### **Introduction**

Globalization, demographic shifts and the shortage of skills and labour in many countries has resulted in the increasing migration of workers and their families. However, as noted by Ambassador Regine de Clerq in the First Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels in 2007, migration is the most complex issue related to globalization yet it is the least addressed.

A notable trend in recent times is the growing number of women migrants. Today they make up nearly half of the global migrant population. This is often referred to as the "feminization of migration". Women migrate for various reasons including for reunification with their families and for marriage. Increasingly, migration represents for women the opportunity to find a better job, or just a job. Their work and income contributes to the well-being of themselves and their families and to the development of both sending and destination countries. For some women migration leads to career enhancement. For others, it can lead to de-skilling as they accept lower skilled jobs for higher pay. The critical role their contribution to development plays deserves more recognition. Applying a gender lens to migration patterns can contribute to identifying ways to enhance the positive aspects of migration and to mitigate the negative effects, as well as promote greater gender equality in both sending and receiving countries.

Labour migration of women for some categories of work such as domestic work and care giving can result in high levels of exploitation and abuse. Women may also find themselves in situations of being trafficked for sexual exploitation, or in organized migration for marriage. Much of trafficking actually occurs in the context of migration as women, vulnerable outside their usual environment, are taken advantage of. Pervasive gender inequalities also contribute to this vulnerability. Women can end up trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation even when they avail of legal migration channels. Internal migration patterns are also routes to exploitive work and trafficking across borders.

Such conditions exist despite countries' endorsement of regional and international human rights instruments such as the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and the Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the ILO Migration for Employment Convention, the ILO Migrant Workers Convention and other state obligations on migrant workers.

This underscores the need to mainstream human rights in general and women's rights in particular into the discourse and practice on migration and development. Promoting the human rights of migrants, particularly women migrants, is critical in and of itself as women are human beings with human rights. Protecting migrant women's human rights

promotes development and good governance. This requires multi stakeholder collaboration - government, civil society, private sector – both within and between countries of origin and employment.

Against this background, the international conference seeks to provide a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum to explore, highlight and propose actions and partnerships to address the issues arising from the gender, migration and development nexus.

In light of this international event, we invite you to submit papers for presentation in line with the conference objectives.

### **Conference Objectives**

1. To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in promoting opportunities and gender equality for women migrants, enhancing their contribution to development and upholding their rights and those of their families;
2. To infuse a gender perspective and rights-based approach to policies, programs, and services on migration;
3. To contribute to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the deliberations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum of Migration and Development to be held in Manila on 27-30 October 2008.

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. Global and multi-sectoral partnerships and networks (government, civil society organizations, academe and private sector) forged and strengthened on approaches to enhancing opportunities for migrant women and upholding and protecting their rights and those of their families;
2. A Call to Action to effectively address issues, challenges and opportunities for migrant women and their families.

### **Proposed Programme**

The programme is organized along three major themes. Under each of theme, six parallel breakout sessions can be held with 3 presenters and with about 50 participants per session. Although the following themes have been suggested, you are free to suggest other parallel session themes.

**A. “The gender dimension of the social costs and benefits of migration: Issues, challenges and the way forward”**

1. Gender issues and the contribution of migrant workers to national development in sending and receiving countries
2. Gender impact of migration on children and families of migrant workers
3. Gender issues and lessons learned in addressing trafficking in persons
4. Combating violence against women migrants and their families
5. Improving health services and social protection for women migrant workers
6. Open for suggestions

**B. “Upholding rights of women migrant workers”**

1. Improving rights, working conditions, contractual status and psycho-social support services for women migrant workers
2. Legal status and welfare services for domestic and household workers
3. Gender issues in formal and informal recruitment processes
4. Gender responsive action for migrants caught in crisis and conflict situations
5. Social and economic re-integration of women migrants through entrepreneurship and financial literacy
6. Open for suggestions

**C. “Seizing opportunities for enhanced gender equality and benefits of migration for women and their families”**

1. Capacity building and skills enhancement for women migrant workers
2. Role of the private sector and corporate social responsibility in upholding rights and opportunities for women migrant workers
3. Role of associations, trade unions and networks in upholding rights and opportunities for women migrant workers

4. Open for suggestions
5. Open for suggestions
6. Open for Suggestions

### **Submission Dates**

Abstracts and papers will be reviewed and selected by the Programme Committee. Please take note of the following deadlines:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 15 June 2008     | deadline for submission of abstract                              |
| 30 July 2008     | deadline for submission of full papers                           |
| 8 September 2008 | deadline for submission of power point/multi media presentations |

### **Important Reminders for Submission of Session Document**

All session papers for submission will be written in the English language. Although all final papers will be translated to major languages such as French, Chinese, Spanish and Arabic. If your paper is written in any of the four major languages mentioned, kindly send us a copy also aside from the English version.

Submit all documents in soft copy using Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, font 12, in rich-text format.

Please do not password-protect your files as the Documentation Center will need to insert the standard cover page into each document.

Indicate clearly, in the email subject field, the name of the session for which the papers are being submitted. (*Please see **Annex A** for Abstract submission format*).

Use separate emails to submit papers for different sessions. But in the interest of wide participation across regions and groups, only one paper will be accepted for presentation.

You shall be notified on or before 30 June 2008 if your abstract is selected for full paper submission.

## Annex A

### Format for Paper Abstract

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Title</b>                                      |             |
| <b>Content</b>                                    | (300 words) |
| <b>Personal Information</b>                       |             |
| <i>Name</i>                                       |             |
| <i>Address</i>                                    |             |
| <i>E-mail</i>                                     |             |
| <i>Telephone, with country code</i>               |             |
| <i>Fax</i>  |             |
| <i>Mobile</i>                                     |             |
| <i>Sex</i>  |             |
| <i>Language/s Spoken &amp; written</i>            |             |
| <b>Organization Information</b>                   |             |
| <i>Name of Organization</i>                       |             |
| <i>Address</i>                                    |             |
| <i>E-mail</i>                                     |             |
| <i>Telephone, with country code</i>               |             |
| <i>Mobile</i>                                     |             |
| <i>Website or Provide Organization Background</i> | (150 words) |