

The UN Global Compact on Migration Adoption Conference



Kenia Guimaeres (AAWE Paris - R) and Diala Nasser (AIWA Marrakesh - L)

On December 10 and 11, 2018, we had the privilege and great opportunity to represent FAWCO at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Morocco.

During the opening plenary, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres highlighted the importance of this global event, the fact that migration has always been a part of human history and most importantly, he urged the international community, all member states and other stakeholders to collaborate as we face this global challenge.

In the plenary, several head of state representatives concurred with the goal of the GCM and shared the realities of their countries related to migration and how they intend to work towards achieving its objectives.

The Dialogue Room, where several member states, UN agencies and NGOs/Civil Society representatives reported about their role and experiences on migration issues and emphasized the significance of the Compact. Furthermore, participants discussed the need to work strategically and pragmatically using the GCM as a framework, and to join efforts in its implementation process. While all participants agreed to adopt the Compact, many emphasized migrants' contributions to a country's economic growth.

Human trafficking, labor laws, and gender inequality were major concerns that require the establishing of laws and regulations that can educate key players and hold those who violate these laws responsible. Many interventions expressed that it is crucial to develop integration policies, which will provide and guarantee dignity and a more humane treatment towards migrants.

There was a general consensus that two of the leading causes forcing many to be displaced are global poverty and climate change, which are fundamental elements of the Sustainable Development Goals. Continuous efforts need to be made towards ending xenophobic behavior and the criminalization of migrants.

Human rights policies were at the core to address irregular migration from country of origin, transit and destination, especially protecting women and children as a vulnerable group. It was stressed that "Diversity increases prosperity", and that is crucial to create

integration policies in host countries, learning from best practices and positive results achieved.

In conclusion, we believe that the key factor to achieve the goals of the GCM is the political will and the coherence of member states that endorsed the GCM and their commitment to fulfill it. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Conference is not the end of the journey, but it is the beginning for all partners to work together towards achieving its goals.