The SDGs recognize that protecting migrant women’s rights will enhance their potential to become agents of development.

However, migrant women often face discrimination and special attention should be paid to their particular challenges. For instance, some women may feel more pressured than men to send money back home and therefore may be willing to take risks and enter the informal sector.

By doing so, migrant women are often more vulnerable than men to exploitation, modern forms of slavery, and other forms of gender-based violence.

The SDGs put in place a set of policy recommendations to make sure that the positive aspects of migration are enhanced and the negative ones reduced for all migrants including migrant women.

Studies have shown that migrant women remit a higher proportion of their salary than migrant men.

An increasing proportion of women are labour migrants.

Remittances sent by women go more often towards education, health, and community development.

Migrant women are disproportionately unemployed compared to migrant men or native women.

In high-income countries, more migrant women face deskilling challenges compared to migrant men.

A reduced family network often results in an increased double-burden for women in terms of reproductive and productive roles.

It is estimated that 98% of trafficking victims for sexual exploitation are women.

There are an estimated 4.5 million victims of sexual exploitation worldwide.

The majority of victims of forced labour are women.

Data on the political and economic empowerment of migrant women are scarce.

Disaggregation of data by both gender and migration status is lacking and would be a powerful tool for policy development.

As of September 2015, 22 countries have ratified the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.

* Facts on remittances stem from UN-Women’s background paper for the 2015 GFMD third thematic meeting on migrant women.
All facts on deskilling and labour migration stem from IOM’s publication « Crushed hopes: Underemployment and deskilling among skilled migrant women » (2012).
All facts about trafficking stem from ILO’s publication « ILO global estimate of forced labour 2012, results and methodology » (2012).