



International Organization for Migration

COUNCIL 111th Session, November 2020.

Statement by Ms. Monica Ferro, Director of the Geneva Office

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you President.

Please allow me to congratulate you for your election and wish you a very fruitful and productive mandate. UNFPA is very honored to participate in this session of the Council of OIM and we are committed to working with all members of the UN family, Member States and partners to ensure coordination and impact, including in supporting the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Dear Chair, on this I would like to make four specific comments:

1. We have just started the 16-day campaign of activism on ending violence against women and we are shouting out that enough is enough. So we couldn't agree more with the DG and his concerns about the rise of cases of Violence Against Women and Girls during the pandemic, and the need for better tailored responses that address the specific asks of migrant women as part of the covid-response. And, as you know, UNFPA leads the GBV Area of Responsibility under the Protection Cluster, and we are very encouraged by our field work examples on GVB among migrant women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and we would be happy to discuss them further.



2. We are also proud to collaborate with IOM in securing access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all migrants, particularly women and girls across the migration cycle and we celebrate the actions described in the Director General's 2019 Annual Report, on combating Sexual Violence in Conflict, preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage, facilitating access to SRHR services and information, and the increase in the share of migration health projects that include a SRH component.
3. Numbers matter because people matter. Our work promotes the role of the population and housing census as the backbone of national statistical systems. We can share that all censuses conducted in the current 2020 round that started in 2015, which received support by UNFPA, include the core questions related to international migration.
4. Despite of all progress made, the implications of COVID-19 are severe. 59 countries have already postponed holding their census. The 2020 census round is the only one that takes place fully before 2030, and we depend on it for monitoring, planning and achieving sustainable development, and leaving no one behind. And cannot do that without giving due visibility to the challenges and opportunities faced by migrant people. We call on all to redouble efforts as we move towards the end of this pandemic.

And let me finish with a quote from my ED, Natalia Kanem, “UNFPA remains committed to being at the forefront of efforts to protect the rights of migrants, and all people, and to ensure that they have access to the sexual and reproductive health services they need and can live in dignity and safety, free from violence and discrimination.”

Thank you.