



against women migrant workers. With loss of jobs, remittances are often declining and women in the countries of origin have to work harder or seek additional paid work to earn a living.

With economies dependent on export of goods, services and migrant labour, a global economic downturn may cause reduction in money allocated for development, education, health and other social services. Such cuts in public spending and in wages impact women more adversely as they will have less access to education and health services. Paid health care and education is often reserved for male members in the family.

An economic slowdown in certain sectors and industries in many countries such as



discussions also highlighted the use of CEDAW principles in framing development plans for women migrants.

UNIFEM has generated the following information and knowledge products, some of which are forthcoming:

- Gender, migration and development – Emerging trends and issues in East and South East Asia
- An in-depth study on the realities and concerns of Nepalese domestic workers in Hong Kong
- Legal protection of domestic workers
- Gender dimensions of remittances: a study of Indonesian domestic workers in East and Southeast Asia
- Claim and celebrate women migrant workers’ human rights through CEDAW
- Empowering women migrant workers in Asia: a briefing kit
- Good practices to protect women migrant workers

UNIFEM is planning to formulate a global programme on gender and migration as a development intervention. It will focus on global policy advocacy, capacity development and knowledge management. UNIFEM is also planning to launch the third phase of the regional programme to empower women migrant workers in Asia. The focus is on more explicit synergies and linkages of safe migration with the broader developmental agendas focusing on achieving gender equality such as pursuing the recognition of women’s contribution to the economies of countries of origin and destination, women’s representation in decision-making processes about social and economic development, and gender responsive budgeting. UNIFEM will continue to advocate for the use of CEDAW general recommendation 26 that affirms “that migrant women, like all women, should not be discriminated against in any sphere of their life” (United Nations, 2009).

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the declaration, see <http://www.aseansec.org/19264.htm> (accessed 24 June 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For the full text of the Manila Call to Action, see [http://icgmd.info/docs/icgmd\\_manila\\_call\\_to\\_action.pdf](http://icgmd.info/docs/icgmd_manila_call_to_action.pdf) (accessed 29 April 2010).

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#### REFERENCES

International Organization for Migration (2009). *The impact of the global financial crisis*. IOM Policy Brief, March 2009. Geneva: International Organization for Migration.

United Nations, Executive Board of the Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund (2007). *UNIFEM Strategic Plan, 2008-2011*. DP 2007/45.