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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:

MIGRANT WORKERS

**Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All
Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and efforts made by the
Secretariat to promote the Convention**

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 14 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/56.
2. By its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and called upon Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.
3. The Convention entered into force on 1 July 2003 following the twentieth instrument of ratification of the treaty on 14 March 2003.
4. In its resolution 2004/56, the Commission, after having acknowledged with appreciation the entry into force of the Convention on 1 July 2003, welcomed the signing or ratification of or accession to the Convention since then by other States and again called upon all States that had not yet done so to consider urgently signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention.

5. The importance of ratifying the Convention has also been stressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/262, whereby it welcomed the increasing number of signatures, ratifications or accessions to the Convention, called upon States parties to undertake the necessary measures for the implementation of the Convention and all Member States that have not yet done so to consider urgently signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention, with the aim of achieving a broader participation by Member States. The General Assembly further welcomed the increasing activities undertaken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate information on and promote understanding of the importance of the Convention, and invited them to intensify further their efforts in this regard.

6. As at 15 December 2005, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 34 States. Since the previous Secretary-General's report on the status of the Convention (E/CN.4/2004/73) 10 more States ratified or acceded to the Convention: Algeria, Chile, Honduras, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste and Turkey. In addition, eight more States have signed the Convention. Further details on the signatures and ratifications or accessions to the Convention may be found in the web site of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs: <http://untreaty.un.org>.

7. Promotion of the international human rights treaties, including the Convention, is an ongoing priority of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In this connection, on 18 December 2004, International Migrants Day, the Secretary-General called upon Member States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and also encouraged States parties to recognize the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals subject to their jurisdiction who claim that their rights under the Convention have been violated. The Secretary-General reiterated his call on the occasion of International Migrants Day 2005.

8. Furthermore, the International Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrants, which was established in March 1998 for the purpose of building and popularizing a global campaign to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Convention, continued its activities. The Office of the High Commissioner continued to actively participate in and support the initiative.

9. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants continued to promote adherence to the Convention within the framework of the mandate established by the Commission on Human Rights. In 2005, the Special Rapporteur participated in several conferences, seminars and other events and delivered speeches and lectures reiterating the importance of the ratification of the Convention for the full and effective protection of the human rights of migrants. In a joint statement with the Chairperson of the Committee on Migrant Workers on the occasion of International Migrants Day 2005, the Special Rapporteur called upon all States to ratify or accede to the Convention.

10. Through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, efforts have been pursued by the Secretariat to establish a dialogue with States that have not adhered to international human rights treaties, including the Convention. Workshops on ratification and reporting to human rights treaty bodies organized by OHCHR in 2004 and 2005 have continued to cover the importance of ratifying the Convention.

11. The Committee on Migrant Workers held its second session from 25 to 29 April 2005 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At that session, the Committee considered its methods of work in relation to the consideration of initial reports submitted by States parties. It held consultations with States parties on 26 April 2005.

12. The Committee held its third session from 12 to 16 December 2005 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. During that session, the Committee adopted a list of issues concerning an initial report submitted under the Convention. It also held a day of general discussion on "Protecting the human rights of all migrant workers as a tool to enhance development" on 15 December 2005. Together with the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrants, it held celebrations for International Migrants Day on 16 December 2005.

13. The fourth session of the Committee on Migrant Workers will be held from 24 to 28 April 2006 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

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