



# **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**

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## **Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Sixteenth session**

### **Summary record of the second part (public)\* \*\* 203rd meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 27 April 2012, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Mr. El Jamri

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- \* No summary record was prepared for the first part (closed) of the meeting.
  - \*\* No summary records were prepared for the 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st or 202nd meetings.

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*The public part of the meeting was called to order at 12.30 p.m.*

### **Organizational matters**

1. **The Chairperson** welcomed the fact that the Committee had achieved the objectives it had set for its sixteenth session as it had adopted its concluding observations on the initial reports of Paraguay and Tajikistan, and the lists of issues relating to the initial report of Rwanda, and the second periodic reports of Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bolivia and Colombia. In line with its new working methods, the Committee had also adopted lists of issues prior to submission of the second periodic reports of El Salvador, Mali and the Philippines. In addition, it had amended its provisional rules of procedure (HRI/GEN/3/Rev.1/Add.1) to allow it to review the situation in a State party in the absence of a report.

2. The Committee had adopted the outline of draft general comment No. 2 on the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families, which it planned to adopt at its seventeenth session, so that it could be examined within the framework of the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, which would be held during the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 (<https://www.un.org/president/65/initiatives/migration.html>). In addition, it had devoted a number of meetings to the question of strengthening the treaty bodies, during which it had met with Ms. Wan-Hea Lee, Chief of the Groups in Focus Section of the Human Rights Treaties Division (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), and Mr. Salama, Director of the Division, and to the meeting of chairpersons of the treaty bodies, which would be held in Addis Ababa in June 2012. He recalled that the Committee had expressed support for the adoption of a global calendar to avoid delays in the consideration of State party reports.

3. The Committee had informed those collaborating with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants of its forthcoming activities and work on irregular migrant workers, an important issue in the study on detention conducted by the Special Rapporteur. The Committee had also met with representatives of United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions and NGOs to discuss the situation in the countries under consideration or countries for which the Committee had to draw up a list of issues. The Committee had met representatives of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with the aim of strengthening cooperation. Finally, it had adopted its annual report, which would be submitted to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in October 2012.

4. The seventeenth session of the Committee would take place from 10 to 14 September 2012. It would be devoted to consideration of the initial report of Rwanda (CMW/C/RWA/1) and the second periodic report of Bosnia-Herzegovina (CMW/C/BIH/2). The Committee intended to meet the States parties to the Convention in order to exchange information and inform them of its new working methods, and to remind them of their role in promoting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

5. **Ms. Jourdan** (Association of World Citizens) asked the Committee to include certain points in its discussions, including statistics on suicide rates among asylum seekers and foreigners. There were now hardly any United Nations bodies — with the exception of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery — with which civil society could cooperate on such issues. She criticized the widespread dismantling of the rights of all foreigners, including asylum seekers, particularly in Europe, and also the increasingly common imposition of serious measures, particularly the expulsion of foreigners — including for minor offences, irrespective of their status or the length of time they had spent

in the receiving country. Such treatment of all foreigners represented a new attack on equality before the law.

6. She advocated strengthening protection against discrimination, the adoption of and specific measures to foster integration, abandoning language requirements as a prerequisite for family reunification, removing obstacles to the integration of migrants in the field of employment, the use of the expression “subsidiary protection” instead of “provisional admission” and the implementation of special integration measures for asylum seekers.

#### **Closure of session**

7. After the customary exchange of courtesies and thanks, **the Chairperson** declared the sixteenth session of the Committee closed.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 pm.*