



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

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**Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families  
Eighth meeting**

**Summary record of the 8th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 28 June 2017, at 10 a.m.

*Temporary Chair:* Ms. Hui Lu ..... (Representative of the Secretary-General)

*Chair:* Mr. Ten-Pow ..... (Guyana)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.*

### **Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General**

1. **The Temporary Chair**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that States Members of the United Nations were being urged to implement the commitments in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants as well as all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Looking towards 2030, the large-scale movements of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees triggered by conflicts, disasters and other push factors added to the challenges that Member States of the United Nations were facing in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. At such times, respect for the principles underlying the international human rights treaty framework, including the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, became more important than ever, in particular because at least 10 of the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals included references to international migration and migrant workers.

2. Ahead of the Summit for Refugees and Migrants, an open letter had been circulated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to permanent missions in New York and Geneva. The letter had urged Member States to address human rights protection gaps for migrants, challenged the criminalization of migrants, and pushed for an end to immigration detention by ending the detention of children, combating xenophobia against migrants and refugees, and initiating a paradigm shift in the governance of migration. During the opening of the Summit, the High Commissioner had said that migrants and refugees deserved better than lives marked by cradle-to-grave indignity and desperation. World leaders should change that narrative collectively, thereby ensuring respect, safety and dignity for all. Following the Summit, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had been actively involved in the development of the modalities of the resolution, which had since been finalized.

3. That process had included the negotiation of a global compact to be adopted in 2018, and a follow-up during the 2019 high-level dialogue. The global compact would be developed in three phases involving consultations, stock-taking and intergovernmental negotiations on the draft text. The Committee and all relevant treaty bodies should be included in that process. Ratification of core human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their

Families, should also be promoted in the global compact.

4. Since the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Congo had ratified the Convention, which now had 51 States Parties, far short of universal ratification. The limited number of States having ratified or acceded to the Convention remained the most significant challenge faced by the Committee in ensuring the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. The Office of the High Commissioner had continued to promote the ratification of the Convention by communicating with signatory States, liaising with civil society and international trade unions, and following up on the recommendations of the universal periodic review mechanism.

5. Since the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties, the Committee had considered 15 reports of States parties, adopting conclusions and recommendations in each case aimed at the effective implementation of the Convention at the national level. The Committee had also adopted two lists of issues based on reports submitted to it, as well as 10 lists of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure.

6. The Committee was currently elaborating a joint general comment with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the human rights of children in the context of international migration. Consultations including at the regional level had taken place in Geneva, Madrid, Bangkok and Berlin, and another was under way in Mexico City. Other consultations were being explored for Beirut and sub-Saharan Africa.

7. The Committee had held a successful anniversary event in September 2015, attended by the High Commissioner and some 200 participants, including representatives of missions in Geneva, civil society and academia. The panellists had provided different perspectives on the complex phenomena of mixed migration flows, such as the specific situation of unaccompanied migrant children and the labour exploitation of migrant workers.

8. The Committee had also held a meeting with States to discuss reporting, advocacy activities, treaty body strengthening, general comments, cooperation with partners, and challenges. Regarding its working methods, the Committee had incorporated into its rules of procedure the Addis Ababa guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies and the San José guidelines against intimidation or reprisals.

9. Furthermore, the Committee had agreed to limit the length of concluding observations and strengthen the role of country rapporteurs. Therefore, the nomination and election of members of treaty bodies was a determinant factor for the expertise and efficiency of each treaty body, and for the credibility of the entire system.

#### Election of the Chair

10. **Ms. Flores** (Honduras) nominated Mr. Ten-Pow (Guyana) for the office of Chair of the Meeting. The nomination was endorsed by the group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

11. *Mr. Ten-Pow (Guyana) was elected Chair by acclamation.*

12. *Mr. Ten-Pow took the Chair.*

#### Adoption of the agenda (CMW/SP/16)

13. *The agenda was adopted.*

14. **The Chair** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CMW/SP/3). Rule 2 provided that the credentials of representatives and the names of members of delegations should be submitted to the Secretary-General not less than one week before the date of the opening of the Meeting, and that such credentials should be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In his note verbale of 12 May 2017, the Secretary-General had invited the States parties to be represented at the Meeting and to forward to him the credentials of their representatives. The Secretary-General was required under Rule 2 to report to the Meeting on the credentials of the representatives. As the Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from some of the States parties represented at the Meeting, the Chair suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States parties should be permitted to participate in the Meeting provisionally and urged them to submit their credentials as soon as possible.

15. *It was so decided.*

#### Election of other officers of the Meeting

16. *Ms. Grgić-Stojanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.*

#### Election of seven members of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW/SP/17)

17. **The Chair** invited the States parties to elect, in accordance with article 72 of the Convention, seven members of the Committee to replace those whose terms of office would expire on 31 December 2017. The biographical data of the 11 candidates nominated by States parties could be found in document CMW/SP/17.

18. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Fernández Rivera (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Mr. Muhamedjanov (Tajikistan) and Mr. Gatse (Congo) acted as tellers.*

19. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	51
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	51
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	51
<i>Required majority:</i>	26
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Haque (Bangladesh)	46
Mr. Frasheri (Albania)	43
Mr. Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka)	41
Mr. Botero Navarro (Colombia)	31
Mr. Taghi-Zada (Azerbaijan)	31
Mr. Tall (Senegal)	29
Ms. Dicko (Mali)	24
Mr. Oumaria (Niger)	23
Mr. Brillantes (Philippines)	22
Mr. Agusti (Argentina)	21
Mr. Pimé (Burkina Faso)	20

20. *Having obtained the required majority after the first ballot, Mr. Botero Navarro (Colombia), Mr. Frasheri (Albania), Mr. Haque (Bangladesh), Mr. Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka), Mr. Taghi-Zada (Azerbaijan) and Mr. Ahmadou Tall (Senegal) were elected members of the Committee for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.*

21. *No other candidate having received the required majority, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	51
<i>Number of invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	50
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	49
<i>Required majority:</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Ms. Dicko (Mali)	23
Mr. Oumaria (Niger)	26

22. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Oumaria (Niger) was elected as a member of the Committee for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.*

**Closure of the meeting**

23. **The Chair** declared closed the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*