



**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**

**Second periodic report submitted by Honduras
under article 73 of the Convention, due in 2021***

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (the Convention), the State of Honduras hereby presents its second periodic report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (the Committee). The report has been prepared in accordance with article 73 (1) (b) of the Convention, the guidelines for the periodic reports to be submitted by States parties, the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties and the concluding observations (recommendations 65 and 66).¹

2. This report was prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights with the support of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up on International Recommendations, which is made up of all the institutions belonging to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, along with other independent institutions such as the Public Prosecution Service. The first step in the preparation of the report was taken in 2016, when the institutions making up the Special Human Rights Response Group distributed responsibility among themselves for acting on the relevant recommendations listed in the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMOREH).² Those institutions subsequently provided information regarding the fulfilment of the country's obligations under the Convention for inclusion in this report.

3. The report summarizes the main measures taken by the State between 2017 and 2021 to implement the Convention and the Committee's recommendations. It also details the challenges encountered in this connection, such as those posed by the increase in human mobility at the global level.

4. Honduras reaffirms that it stands ready to fulfil its international commitments and to maintain its transparency and its accountability to the population of Honduras and to international human rights institutions while recognizing the persistence of major challenges in dealing with migration and its structural causes, which is a priority of the State.

II. General information

A. Applicable regulatory framework and governance mechanisms

5. During the reporting period (2017–2021), the State adopted a series of structural measures to improve the human rights situation of all persons under its jurisdiction. These measures ranged from the ratification of international instruments to the adoption of policies and regulations by the executive branch and have enabled Honduras to lay the foundations for a sustainable form of development in which the individual and collective guarantees enjoyed by the persons under its jurisdiction are protected, respected and safeguarded.

6. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the creation of the National Commission on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the National Policy on Cooperation for Sustainable Development,³ the Environmental Agenda for Honduras⁴ and the National Reconstruction and Sustainable Development Plan, the State of Honduras has established a public policy framework that will guide the central government towards sustainability and respect for the human rights of all people under its jurisdiction. Regulations were also approved at the municipal level to guide the formulation and certification of municipal development plans.

¹ CMW/C/1; HRI/GEN/2/Rev6, chap. I; and CMW/C/HND/CO/1, adopted at the 339th meeting of the Committee on 7 September 2016.

² Executive Decree No. PCM-028-2017, Gazette 34,410.

³ Executive Decree No. PCM-080-2018, Gazette 34,842.

⁴ Available at: <https://bit.ly/3mc4XWK> (accessed on 9 September 2021).

7. In order to protect the rights of migrant workers in Honduras, in the past five years the Labour Inspection Act⁵ and its implementing regulations,⁶ which upgrade the labour inspection services provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, were adopted. Penalties for employers who violate workers' rights were also increased. Other standards introduced for the protection of workers, especially child workers, include the National Employment Policy 2017–2028,⁷ the Regulation on Protected Adolescent Labour in Honduras,⁸ the Road Map for the Elimination of All Forms of Child Labour 2021–2025⁹ and the Protocol for the Referral of Children Engaged in Child Labour to State Social Programmes.¹⁰ These instruments supplement existing child protection regulations, establish a progressive framework for the protection of rights and strengthen governance in this area.

8. The protection of workers has also been heightened with the adoption of the new Criminal Code and its amendments.¹¹ The new Code covers the offences of workplace harassment, discrimination and trafficking in persons. It also defines labour exploitation and servitude as specific offences and establishes the criminal liability of legal persons. The protection of Honduran migrants has been reinforced by the adoption of the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families and its implementing regulations.¹²

9. During the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the State passed the Special Act on Economic Stimulus and Social Protection to Address the Impact of COVID-19¹³ and amendments thereto,¹⁴ which protect employees, regardless of their migration status, who had to stop working as a consequence of the health crisis.

10. In response to the recommendation in paragraph 17, the State of Honduras has numerous governance mechanisms in the areas of labour and migration that are designed to protect workers in Honduras and Honduran nationals outside its borders, respectively. The State is aware that structural, systematic responses are required in order to address structural issues in areas such as migration.

11. At the political level, Honduras has a national system for the protection of migrants. Migration governance is coordinated by the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, which comprises representatives of 26 State institutions, civil society organizations and private enterprises, and by the Migrant Support Task Force. The Council was established pursuant to the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families as a consultative and advisory body on migration issues. The Task Force is a high-level policymaking body responsible for coordinating a systematic response to migration-related situations. It is headed by the Office of the First Lady and comprises officials from the Ministry of Human Rights; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the National Migration Institute; the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAF); the National Registry Office; the Ministry of Social Development and Inclusion; the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization; and the Ministry of Security. The Council has thus been strengthened by the Migrant Support Task Force. In practice, once the Task Force has established a course of action, it is submitted to the Council for approval.

12. These governance bodies (the Council and the Task Force) include officials from government institutions with some share of responsibility for the protection of Honduran migrants.

⁵ Legislative Decree No. 178-2016, Gazette 34,290.

⁶ Agreement No. STSS-350-2019, Gazette 35,183

⁷ Executive Decree No. PCM-029-2017, Gazette 34,333.

⁸ Executive Agreement No. STSS-578-2020, Gazette 35,459.

⁹ Available at: <https://dinaf.gob.hn/2021/09/04/aprueban-hoja-de-ruta-para-la-eliminacion-del-trabajo-infantil-2021-2025-en-honduras/> (accessed 6 October 2021).

¹⁰ Agreement No. STSS-389-2019, Gazette 35,113.

¹¹ Legislative Decree No. 130-2017, Gazette 34,940; Legislative Decree No. 119-2019, Gazette 35,247; Decree No. 46-2020, Gazette 35,092 and Decree No. 93-2021, Gazette 35,760.

¹² Executive Agreement No. 01-SG-2020, Gazette 35,182.

¹³ Legislative Decree No. 31-2020, Gazette 35,199.

¹⁴ Legislative Decree No. 74-2020, Gazette 35,300.

13. To further strengthen the protection of children and adolescents, in 2019 the executive branch created the Comprehensive System for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras,¹⁵ a high-level mechanism for coordinating measures for the protection of children and adolescents in Honduras. The System comprises officials from the Office of the President, the Ministry of Human Rights, DINAF, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Ministry of Education, among others. The System assists the migration-related institutions – the Task Force and the Council – with the protection of children and adolescents on the migration route, returnee children, children who are in the country when one or both parents have migrated and children who work in Honduras.

14. In other words, the System is a specialized mechanism for the protection of children and adolescents that complements the above-mentioned migration governance bodies. In the space of two years, it helped to arrange for the establishment of 164 of 298 municipal committees tasked with upholding the rights of children and adolescents.¹⁶ Through these bodies, decentralized follow-up is provided at the local level for returnee children and adolescents in communities that do not have a municipal returnee support unit. The System is coordinated by DINAF, whose average budget allocation in 2018/2021 for migration-related matters amounted to 140,742,272.50 lempiras (L).¹⁷

15. At the operational level, each institution is responsible for taking action within its remit to assist Honduran migrants throughout their journey, starting from when they are preparing to migrate and continuing on until and including they return and reintegrate into their communities of origin. Awareness campaigns are carried out to discourage irregular migration, and the country has a vast consular network in Mexico and the United States of America to assist migrants in regular and irregular situations. Honduras has established protocols and guidelines for services for migrants at all stages of migration. The guidelines cover topics such as the search for missing migrants, care for detained migrants, specialized protection for children and adolescents, and return, repatriation and reintegration.

16. The most important bodies for the protection of Hondurans abroad fall under the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In 2015, the Office of the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs was set up to coordinate, promote, harmonize and disseminate the policies established under consular and migration laws. The Directorate General of Consular Affairs and the Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants¹⁸ report to this Office.

17. The Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants¹⁹ has 38 public officials, distributed across the Office for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, the Office for Assistance to Returned Migrants and the municipal returnee support units. The 38 officials include 9 protection officers, 8 assistance officers, 15 officers assigned to the municipal returnee support units, 2 assistants, 2 social workers and 2 managers. The budget allocated to the Honduran migrant protection programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for 2020 was L 5,276,529.00,²⁰ an increase of 20.78 per cent compared to the 2017 budget of L 4,179,758.00. In addition to domestic human and financial resources, the Ministry has 32 consulates worldwide, of which 11 are in the United States of America and one is in Mexico.²¹ A total of 196 consular employees are responsible for providing all services in an effective and efficient manner.

¹⁵ Executive Decree No. PCM-020-2019, Gazette 34,983, amended by Executive Decree No. PCM-038-2019, Gazette 35,006, and ratified by Legislative Decree No. 34-2021.

¹⁶ Accessed on 8 January 2022, available at: <https://sigadenah.gob.hn/>.

¹⁷ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: https://www.sefin.gob.hn/download_file.php?download_file=/wp-content/uploads/Presupuesto/2020/proyecto/Descentralizadas/R00822147_242.pdf.

¹⁸ Executive Decree No. PCM-038-2015, Gazette 33,801.

¹⁹ Agreement No. 001-DGACPM-2015.

²⁰ Accessed on 15 November 2021, available at: <https://www.sefin.gob.hn/liquidacion-presupuestaria/>.

²¹ Canada, the United States of America, Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Cuba, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Republic of Korea, Israel, India, Japan, Taiwan Province of China, Kuwait, China, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, England, Spain and the Russian Federation.

18. Between 2017 and 2021, the consular network in the United States of America was expanded with the addition of six new consulates. During the same period, the Consular Centre for the Protection of Honduran Migrants in Houston, Texas, and the Integrated Centre for the Protection of Honduran Migrants in Mexico were also established.

19. The measures and projects implemented pursuant to the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families are financed by the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants, which amounts to US\$ 5 million per year or approximately L 25 million, as well as by funding from the public treasury.

20. Regarding the financial resources of other key institutions dealing with migration, the budget allocated by the National Congress to the National Migration Institute increased by 21.33 per cent between 2017 and 2021, from L 408,826,216 in 2017 to L 519,715,217²² in 2021. The budget allocated to the centres for irregular migrants²³ run by the Institute increased by 15.27 per cent between 2017 and 2020. They received L 5,475,135 in 2020. The Institute also uses financing from the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants to cover the cost of measures and projects related to the care and protection of migrants.

21. The Socioeconomic Council of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security serves as a consultative and advisory body on labour and socioeconomic matters. The Council offers advice on the protection of workers at the domestic level. At the operational level, the Ministry is the main institution for the protection of workers and coordinates with the National Migration Institute to protect migrant workers in the country. In the judicial branch, the labour courts protect workers regardless of their immigration status.

22. With respect to the recommendations in paragraphs 15 and 53, the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization began developing a comprehensive, sustainable and humane public policy for Honduras in February 2020, given the fluidity and dynamism of migration conditions, which vary according to region, population group, climate impacts and socioeconomic conditions. The first stage of this effort involved identifying the institutional services available and the public policies and regulations in place in order to assess the situation. This assessment was circulated to the executive branch, the National Congress, the judiciary and other independent entities such as the Counsel General's Office, municipalities and civil society organizations.

23. In the second stage, these stakeholders actively participated in the preparation of problem and objective trees to identify the causes and consequences of Honduran migration and possible solutions. At the end of this stage, a strategic framework and a plan of action and follow-up were developed which include 77 outcomes and 115 process indicators formulated through intergovernmental dialogue with 22 State institutions. The policy objectives are aligned with international human rights standards on migration and are based on a gender and human rights perspective.

24. The policy is still under development, with technical assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In accordance with the national plans established under the National Vision Act, the policy should run from 2022 to 2034. At present, the plan covers eight areas:

- (a) Data;
- (b) Capacities and coordination;
- (c) Integrated border management;
- (d) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;
- (e) Financial resources;
- (f) Labour regularization;
- (g) A mechanism for the protection of migrants' rights and the safety of migrant children and adolescents;

²² Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://www.sefin.gob.hn/formulacion-y-aprobacion/>.

²³ These centres provide services for migrants in an irregular situation in Honduras.

(h) Measures to address entry barriers for residency status, including socioeconomic factors.

25. The policy was developed with the participation of 32 agencies in the executive branch; the National Congress; the judiciary; the Higher Court of Audit; the Counsel General's Office; the mayor's offices of Omoa, Ocotepeque, San Pedro Sula and the Central District; 7 private sector entities, including the Honduran Private Enterprise Council, the Honduran Tourist Board and the Cortés and Tegucigalpa chambers of commerce and industry; 18 international cooperation bodies, including United Nations agencies, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); 14 civil society organizations, including Pastoral Social-Caritas, committees of family members of disappeared migrants, Amor y Fe, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender association Arcoíris, the Network of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Women, the Marcovia Women's Network and the National Committee for the Support of Returned Migrants with Disabilities; 23 Honduran diaspora networks, including the Honduran Network of Friends in Spain and the 15 September Foundation; and 2 academic institutions, namely the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Honduras and the Central American University of Technology.

26. While progress has been made in formulating this public policy, it continues to be a living and flexible instrument that can be modified and adjusted as necessary. Completing the migration policy development process will therefore be a challenge for the new Administration.

B. Statistics

27. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 19, the first Migration Profile of the Republic of Honduras was drawn up with IOM support in 2019. This migration profile affords a comprehensive view of Honduran migration, providing official, transparent, verifiable inputs for more effective strategies and policies extending over the entire migration cycle.²⁴ The profile shows that there are between 424,000 and 695,800 Honduran migrants abroad, the vast majority of them in the United States of America.²⁵ The data gap in this case lies between the administrative records of the destination countries, which register almost 700,000 Hondurans, and the outdated Population and Housing Census (2013).

28. Honduran migrant workers have a positive impact on the economic status of their families and communities of origin. Census data show that households that reported having a family member abroad have a lower percentage of people living in poverty or extreme poverty than those that do not have a family member abroad. In other words, based on census quintiles, families with one migrant worker are better off than families in their communities with no migrant worker.

²⁴ Accessed 8 January 2022, available at: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mp-_honduras-2019-es.pdf.

²⁵ Migration Profile of the Republic of Honduras, accessed 11 January 2022, available at: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mp-_honduras-2019-es.pdf pp. 24 and 131.

Figure 1
Honduran migrants residing in another country²⁶

Country	Decade			Decade		
	2000			2010		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
United States	142 969	144 501	287 470	329 670	298 130	627 800
Mexico	1 453	2 117	3 570	4 587	5 384	9 971
Panama	379	444	823	534	606	1 140
	2002			2018		
Guatemala	3 389	2 102	5 491	3 995	6 996	10 991
	2007					
El Salvador	4 224	6 163	10 387	ND	ND	ND
	2005					
Nicaragua	5 189	5 556	10 745	ND	ND	ND
	2000			2011		
Costa Rica	848	1 104	1 952	1 586	2 192	3 778
				2016		
Canada	ND	ND	5 165	5 235	5 415	10 650
	2001			2011		
Spain	829	1 578	2 407	8 200	21 690	29 889
	2001			2011		
Italy	159	504	663	436	1 236	1 672

Source: Based on the databases of the Latin American International Migration Project (IMILA) for Panama and Mexico; National Statistics and Census Institute, Costa Rica, 2000 and 2010; National Institute of Statistics, Guatemala, 2018; Directorate General of Statistics and Censuses, El Salvador, 2007; National Development Information Institute, Nicaragua, 2005; National Institute of Statistics, Spain, 2001 and 2011; Eurostat (Italy); United States Census, 2000 (5 per cent), 2010 (10 per cent); Statistics Canada (2016). Flores Fonseca (2012) was also used as a source for the data for Canada, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Note: The data indicated in the source were taken from tables or statistics on nationals in the countries concerned. The remainder were compiled from the IMILA research database, which contains data on emigration in Latin America. In Nicaragua and El Salvador, for example, there is no up-to-date census.

NA: Not available.

29. According to the latest population and housing census, conducted in 2013, the cumulative data on immigrants showed that there were 37,912 foreign nationals residing in the country (see figure 2). Only 17,074 were long-term migrants. According to the migration profile, more than half of the immigrants have a skilled occupation (see figure 3). With respect to regular migration, the National Migration Institute reported that 3,468 special residence permits were issued for the period 2019–2021. Given the fluid and dynamic patterns of irregular migration flows, in conjunction with the geographical position of the country, irregular migration in Honduras is mainly in-transit migration, which makes it difficult to collect data on these migrant workers in the country. It remains a challenge, therefore, to obtain entirely accurate information on the number of Hondurans abroad – including irregular migrants – and to keep the data on migrants in the country up to date.

²⁶ Ibid., p. 24.

Figure 2
Foreign nationals resident in Honduras²⁷

<i>Country of birth</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cuba	330	1.7	150	0.8	480
United States	4 449	23.1	3 983	21.3	8 432
Mexico	797	4.1	844	4.5	1 641
Costa Rica	315	1.6	340	1.8	655
El Salvador	3 338	17.4	4 097	21.9	7 435
Guatemala	2 401	12.5	2 494	13.4	4 895
Nicaragua	3 385	17.6	3 525	18.9	6 910
Colombia	429	2.2	359	1.9	788
Spain	329	1.7	276	1.5	605
China	258	1.3	160	0.9	418
Other	3 203	16.7	2 450	13.1	5 653
Total	19 234	100	18 678	100	37 912
Percent of total population	8 303 771				0.46

Source: Based on National Institute of Statistics, Population and Housing Census, 2013.

Note: The 10 largest nationality groups of foreign residents are shown. The remainder are placed under "Other". Figures were processed using the census databases available on the National Institute of Statistics website.

Figure 3
Foreign nationals in Honduras, by occupation and sex

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Directors and managers	1 328	15.6	581	17.33	17.3	16.06
Scientific and intellectual professionals	1 194	14.0	641	19.12	19.1	15.43
Technicians and mid-level professionals	732	8.6	458	13.66	13.7	10.01
Administrative support staff	135	1.6	100	2.98	3.0	1.98
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	1 067	12.5	761	22.70	22.7	15.37
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1 704	20.0	73	2.18	2.2	14.95
Craft and related trades workers	1 054	12.3	160	4.77	4.8	10.21
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	330	3.9	39	1.16	1.2	3.10
Low-skill occupations	587	6.9	303	9.04	9.0	7.49
Military occupations	13	0.2	0	0.00	0.0	0.11
Undeclared	394	4.6	236	7.04	7.0	5.30
Total	8 538	100.00	3 352	100.00	11 890	100.00

Source: Based on National Institute of Statistics, Population and Housing Census, 2013.

Note: The main occupational groups shown are based on the National Institute of Statistics classification. Figures were processed using the census databases available on the National Institute of Statistics website.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 17.

30. However, Honduras has made progress in the compilation of data from administrative records. At the consular level, the Honduran Observatory on Consular Issues and Migration, attached to the Office of the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs, generates statistics and monitors consular issues and migration. It also carries out analyses to enhance decision-making and to contribute to the evaluation of strategic plans.²⁸ The Observatory compiles statistics on the services provided by the Alho Voz call centre to Hondurans abroad;²⁹ consular registration certificates applied for and obtained; consular services provided; comparative data on Honduran returnees disaggregated by year, sex, age, air or land route, and the country of origin, disaggregated by sex and age; comparative data on repatriation of deceased Hondurans, disaggregated by gender, place of death and age; assistance provided; procedural support; and amount of financial assistance provided; among others.

31. Data collected by the Observatory indicates that a total of 1,756,378 services were provided between 2017 and September 2021 by Honduran consulates.³⁰ Services were provided to 134,145 Hondurans, between 2017 and October 2021 who requested consular registration (41 per cent women and 59 per cent men), and assistance was given to the families of 1,532 Hondurans (320 women and 1,212 men) who died abroad. Total financial support and aid amounted to L 74,873,735.82; while more than 2 million telephone calls were handled by the Alho Voz centre between 2015 and 30 September 2021. With respect to the recommendation in paragraph 41 (e), the consular registers provide verifiable records of the services provided to children and adolescents abroad. Steps are currently being taken to arrange for database hosting in the Integrated Consular Management System platform, which will strengthen the quantitative analysis of migration issues.

32. It is also important to mention that, between 2017 and 14 November 2021, 315,414 people returned and were registered in the centres for migrant returnees: 40,125 were adults (5,168 women and 34,957 men) and 6,215 children and adolescents (2,223 girls and 3,992 boys). Internally, each returning migrant fills out a form with his or her information, and this is used in designing interventions in their communities and ensuring coverage by the State's social services.

C. Harmonization of regulations and individual complaint procedure

33. In response to the recommendations in paragraphs 11 and 13, the Committee's attention is drawn to the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families and its implementing regulations. The objective of the Act is the protection of Hondurans outside the national territory who meet one of the definitions under article 2 of the Convention. The protection of migrant workers and members of their families inside the country is addressed in various national regulations. These include the Labour Code, the Labour Inspection Act, the Migration and Aliens Act and the Criminal Code. However, the State of Honduras is open to reform proposals that seek to increase the protection provided for human rights.

34. In order to assist the legislature and implement the Public Policy and National Plan of Action on Human Rights, the Ministry of Human Rights, created in 2017, has a Directorate for Monitoring the Compatibility of National Law with International Treaties, which analyses the alignment of legislation with the main binding human rights instruments.

35. In respect of the declarations provided for under articles 76 and 77 of the Convention, the State is constantly reviewing and evaluating international instruments. However, it has not yet taken a decision on those declarations. It is noted that victims of alleged human rights violations may submit their complaints to the inter-American human rights system or to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, once domestic remedies have been exhausted.

²⁸ Accessed 11 January 2021, available at: <https://conmigho.hn/>.

²⁹ Accessed 11 January 2021, available at: <https://conmigho.hn/numeros-telefonicos-alho-voz/>.

³⁰ Accessed 1 November 2021, available at: <https://conmigho.hn/cantidad-de-atenciones/>.

D. The ombudsman, civil society participation and protection of human rights defenders

36. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 21 (a), the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) received notice of its international accreditation and elevation to A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in December 2019. In the last 6 years, CONADEH has been financially strengthened by a 14 per cent increase in its budget allocation from the public treasury between 2016 and 2021.³¹ Regarding paragraph 21 (b), the Committee reiterates that CONADEH, in addition to having constitutional rank, is also independent and autonomous; it is governed by a special Organic Act and has a legal personality in its own right, internal regulations and operational and budgetary autonomy to determine its priorities, activities and expenditures within the budget allocated annually by Congress.

37. Regarding paragraph 21 (c), CONADEH and the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment³² have a mandate and full power to make unannounced visits to all places of detention where persons deprived of their liberty may be being held, including migration detention centres and police stations. Both bodies can verify the treatment and conditions of detained migrants and the differentiated treatment of vulnerable populations (such as women or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons), verify that decisions relating to the residence and deportation of migrants comply with national and international law and ensure that their rights are respected. CONADEH carries out monitoring on an ongoing basis to check on the situation of migrants in transit, especially in border areas, by inspecting centres for returning migrants and support centres for migrants in an irregular situation.

38. Between 2017 and 2021 the Office received 56 complaints relating to abuses of the rights of Honduran migrants who were outside the country, deprived of their liberty, detained in migration centres, suffering from health problems or victims of trafficking, or who had died or disappeared along migration routes.

39. In relation to paragraph 21 (d), the CONADEH is empowered to open, ex officio or on request, an investigation into any incidents involving illegitimate, arbitrary, abusive, defective, negligent or discriminatory action by the government service or by private entities that provide public services, including administrative decisions relating to migration and cases where migrants have been returned or deported without due process. Essentially, it can intervene in any alleged human rights violation. The investigation concludes with a report in which recommendations are made to the authorities. CONADEH also supports migrants and their families during judicial proceedings to ensure the protection of their human rights, especially their judicial guarantees, due process, presumption of innocence and the right to justice and truth, without distinction.

40. CONADEH is also a signatory to the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen Protocol on the protection of the human rights of persons in the context of migration, a regional instrument providing for support for migrants and for an ongoing dialogue with the Ombudspersons of Guatemala and Mexico to exchange information on Honduran migrants and their needs and to request humanitarian aid in moments of crisis.

41. Regarding the recommendation made in paragraph 25 and civil society participation in connection with issues relating to the Convention, civil society participates freely in such forums as the consultative bodies and agencies responsible for migration and labour policies, including the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and the Economic and Social Council.³³ In the case of the National Council for the Protection of Honduran

³¹ Legislative Decree No. 168-2015, Gazette 33,912, and Legislative Decree No. 182-2020, Gazette 35,468.

³² The National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment was established in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

³³ The National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants brings together the National Forum on Migration in Honduras, the Mennonite Commission for Social Action, the Honduran Private Enterprise Council and the Confederation of Honduran Workers.

Migrants, civil society representatives also participate in project formulation, execution and oversight. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation also works closely with civil society, which has become a strategic ally of the Government of Honduras. For example, within the framework of the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, the Office of the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs signed a technical cooperation agreement with the German Agency for International Cooperation aimed at improving assistance for returned migrants, especially children and women. Other areas where civil society actively participates alongside other stakeholders include the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, the operation of the Honduran Forensic Databank on Missing Migrants and the bureau that works on tracing missing migrants.³⁴

42. For its part, the Ministry of Human Rights, through the Special Human Rights Response Group and in coordination with 10 public round tables organized under the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMOREH), facilitates the participation of civil society representatives together with government bodies. SIMOREH makes the recommendations of all treaty bodies available online for specialized searches by committee, population group, year, theme and the human right concerned. This provides a way of using the available resources more efficiently and enabling everyone, both inside and outside the country, to track the recommendations and the progress being made on their implementation.

43. With regard to the second part of the recommendation in paragraph 25 (b) (protection of human rights defenders), the Ministry of Human Rights, through the General Directorate of the Protection System and with the assistance of the European Union and USAID, have reinforced the Case Registration and Rapid Response Unit, the Risk Analysis Unit and the Implementation and Monitoring Unit. In 2018, the Prevention and Contextual Analysis Unit was set up to identify risk scenarios and patterns. Between 2018 and 2020, the Ministry of Human Rights held 64 meetings to follow up on cases in which protection measures were implemented in order to determine the effectiveness of those measures and, from 2019 to September 2021, it prepared 351 risk analyses, which fed into the protection plans agreed upon with persons covered by the Act on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Officials. By October 2021, 15 prevention plans had been developed with input from civil society organizations and communities. After a five-year implementation period and with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Ministry is to prepare an analysis and a plan to improve the National Protection System. It remains a challenge to establish sustainable and lasting protection measures that not only reduce the risk to defenders, but also ensure that their work is respected by public and private actors.

44. In order to operationalize the General Directorate of the Protection System and provide comprehensive, differentiated support to the beneficiaries of the National Protection System for Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Officials, the following instruments were developed, in addition to the implementing regulations for the Act:

(a) Two protocols, one for the implementation and monitoring of temporary relocations and the other for the comprehensive processing of requests for protection measures, both of which address the specific requirements associated with a pandemic or similar situation, together with appropriate guidelines;

(b) A methodology for analysing risk situations and formulating prevention and early-warning plans to identify potential risk scenarios and patterns relating to the work of human rights defenders;

³⁴ The members are: National Tourist Board; Foro Nacional de Convergencia (National Forum for Coordination); Asociación Nacional de Convergencia (National Coordination Association); Casa Alianza de Honduras; National Forum on Migration in Honduras; Save the Children Honduras; International Children's Rights Office; Lawyers Without Borders Canada; Coordinadora de Instituciones Privadas Pro las Niñas, Niños, Jóvenes, Adolescentes y sus Derechos (Coordinating Committee of Private Institutions for Children, Youth, Adolescents and their Rights); Association of Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians.

(c) A manual on the application of gender-sensitive and intersectional approaches. In 2021, with the support of OHCHR, the staff of the Directorate were trained in its use.

45. In addition to these structural measures, the budget approved for the Directorate was increased by 355 per cent from L 4,979,350.00 in 2016 to L 22,699,725.00 in 2020. The purpose of these funds is to give effect to the Act and to disseminate the mechanisms for invoking it.

46. Regarding the implementation of the Act, as of 30 November 2021, 636 requests for protection measures had been registered, of which 433 had been admitted. Of those, 126 cases remain open: 67 individual cases (48 men, 18 women and 1 transgender woman) and 59 collective cases. Of the active cases, 96 relate to human rights defenders, including defenders of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans, environmentalists and defenders of sexual diversity; 14 relate to social communicators; 9 to journalists; and 7 to justice officials. In addition, 32 relate to precautionary measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, while 2 relate to collective provisional measures ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

47. The dissemination of the Act is also the responsibility of the Ministry. The Committee's attention is drawn to the information and training provided in 2019, in conjunction with the Honduran Association of Journalists and the Honduran Press Association, to 190 journalists and social communicators, including camera operators and photographers from the departments of Copán, Comayagua, Atlántida, Cortés, Intibucá and El Paraíso, on the procedure for making use of protection measures if their life or physical integrity is at risk.³⁵ A virtual training workshop for the Santa Barbara Network of Journalists and Social Communicators was organized in July 2020 with the support of the Asociación por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos de Honduras (Honduran Association for Democracy and Human Rights). The workshop covered the Act on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, elements of a contextual analysis, risk scenarios and proposals for a prevention plan for journalists and social communicators. A course on the protection of human rights defenders was given by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in August 2021.³⁶

48. With the support of Freedom House and the European Union, in 2016–2018 48 information and training sessions were organized on the protection mechanism, for a total of 610 persons. On its own account, the Ministry trained 1,059 persons, including human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and public officials, between 2019 and 2021.

49. The Ministry can take action ranging from the installation of security cameras, provision of emergency telephones, police liaison, public appeals and investigations to more comprehensive measures such as prevention plans. A basic element of the protection of defenders is the investigation of any threats or risk factors relating to their work.

50. Accordingly, in March 2018, the Public Prosecution Service established the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Officials, with responsibility for investigating and prosecuting attacks on human rights defenders and organizations in connection with their advocacy work. The Service also prepared manuals to reinforce the application of procedures for the investigation of offences against freedom of expression. Between 2018 and 2021, the Office of the Special Prosecutor registered 126 complaints of threats. Of those, 40 related to threats against human rights defenders, 47 to threats to journalists and social communicators, 35 related to justice operators and 4 to environmentalists. In the case of offences against life (homicide and murder), the Special Unit for Vulnerable Groups, which is attached to the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Life, conducts differentiated investigations into the deaths of women human rights defenders. Between 2017 and 2021 the Unit recorded 100 violent deaths: 31 of the victims were lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender

³⁵ Accessed 15 October 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/515-en-jornadas-de-socializacion-periodistas-de-distintas-zonas-del-pais-han-conocido-la-ley-de-proteccion>.

³⁶ Accessed 15 October 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/737-profesionales-de-la-comunicacion-del-departamento-de-santa-barbara-conocen-a-cerca-de-la-naturaleza-y-objetivo-de-la-ley-de-proteccion-a-periodistas-y-comunicadores-sociales>.

or intersex persons, 19 were human rights defenders, 15 were social communicators, 10 were Indigenous persons, 9 journalists, 9 justice officials, 5 environmentalists and 2 trade unionists.

51. On its own account, and in order to reinforce the investigation of human rights violations, the Prosecution Service ran two training sessions in 2018 for members of the Technical Criminal Investigation Agency³⁷ in the cities of Santa Rosa de Copán and San Pedro Sula. Similarly, through the Orlan Arturo Chávez Training Academy, which is run by the Prosecution Service, and in coordination with OHCHR, in 2019 30 prosecutors took the Specialized Course on International Standards and Investigation of Human Rights Violations, taught by experts from Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras. The course comprised six modules and lasted three months. Training was also provided to 286 justice officials, including prosecutors, judges, police officers and officials from other sectors, on freedom of expression and of association and human rights, in various seminars and workshops.

52. As part of its work to promote human rights, in 2019 the Prosecution Service ran a course on protecting defenders of justice and human rights that was attended by 173 persons. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Officials trained around 1,000 people (defenders, members of law enforcement bodies and justice officials) in 29 workshops between 2018 and 2021, and the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights trained 2,254 justice officials in human rights.

E. Training on and dissemination of information about the Convention

53. With regard to education and training on the content of the Convention (recommendation in paragraph 23), within their own spheres of competence, several of the agencies responsible for migration governance have run training courses on the rights of migrants, migration protection, human rights and the Convention. The purpose of these courses is to establish a closer connection between the provisions of the Convention and the realities on the ground and to facilitate compliance with international obligations. For example, in 2017, the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Migration Institute ran five workshops on human rights and prevention of discrimination for 164 Institute officials. Between 2020 and 2021, through the Ministry's Human Rights Virtual Education Platform, 28 Institute officials took part in the online training course for institutional trainers on human rights and the culture of peace. In August 2021, in coordination with the Martin Luther King Foundation, the Ministry organized a workshop on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Honduran Migrants, for officials of the Directorate for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans, the National Migration Institute, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons. It was attended by Honduran migrants in various countries, who had the opportunity to explain to the authorities the obstacles they face.³⁸

54. In October 2021, with IOM support and in the framework of the Regional Programme on Migration funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States Department of State, 39 public officials attended a diploma course on migration and development designed to strengthen the technical capacities of the government agencies that make up the Inter-Institutional Committee on Labour Migration.³⁹ The National Migration Institute, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM, distributed 600 compendiums of the Migration and Aliens

³⁷ The Technical Criminal Investigation Agency is composed of crime investigation professionals and is the specialized unit of the Public Prosecution Service for the investigation of certain high-impact crimes.

³⁸ Accessed 29 December 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/1080-sedh-y-fundacion-martin-luther-king-analizan-las-causas-estructurales-del-desplazamiento-y-migracion-en-los-pueblos-indigenas-y-afro-hondurenos>.

³⁹ Accessed 13 December 2021, available at: <https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/es/Honduras-culmina-diplomado-migracion-desarrollo>.

Act and various international conventions, including the Convention on Migrant Workers, at support centres for migrants in an irregular situation around the country.

55. For its part, between 2019 and 2021, CONADEH trained 571 people (migration agents, teachers, police and members of community forces) through courses offered by its national network of offices covering basic concepts in relation to the rights of migrants, refugee status and the risks of irregular migration. CONADEH courses are not only a forum for the exchange of knowledge; they also provide an opportunity to gain an understanding of the problems and solutions that reflect the reality of each municipality.

56. As to ensuring access to information for both regular and irregular migrant workers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National Migration Institute, in cooperation with other State institutions, organize events around the prevention of irregular migration, such as meetings, workshops, institutional fairs, campaigns and the creation of murals, to publicize the Government's services and the rights of migrants. Some of the fairs organized to raise awareness of the risks of irregular migration were entitled "Mi Norte Está Aquí" (My North is Here) and took place in the country's main cities.

57. To provide information to Hondurans living abroad, there is a guide for migrants that contains a directory of Honduran embassies and consulates, as well as contact information for shelters and helplines in Mexico, the United States and Honduras. During the time that the migrant caravans were taking place, CONADEH personnel were also present at the borders to provide information and guidance. They also furnished addresses and toll-free numbers to persons in need of advisory assistance in dealing with arbitrary acts by the authorities or other human rights abuses being committed both within and outside the national territory.

58. Regarding the request made in paragraph 60 for information on the measures adopted to implement the recommendations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National Migration Institute, through the governance and coordination mechanisms described above, coordinate with State institutions on action to comply with the recommendations, including improving services to Hondurans abroad and the prevention of irregular migration. The dissemination and follow-up of recommendations (recommendation 63) is the responsibility of the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMOREH), which, in 2017, set up a round table of persons living in poverty and migrants and distributed responsibility among the competent implementing institutions for acting on the various recommendations. The participants then met to monitor the recommendations in 2018, 2019 and 2021. Civil society is an active and permanent participant in the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons; however, despite the fact that SIMOREH allows for civil society participation in principle, it has not been possible to find a place for civil society organizations in the round table of persons living in poverty and migrants,⁴⁰ and this has hindered the consolidation of this mechanism.

III. General principles

A. Non-discrimination

59. With respect to the recommendation in paragraph 27 and in the framework of national law and international conventions, the State adopts policies and programmes to guarantee the intrinsic rights of all Hondurans and foreign nationals. Migrant workers may turn to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in the event of any violation of their labour rights or to the National Migration Institute for matters relating to their work permit or residence in the country, and they will be assisted without discrimination as to nationality.

⁴⁰ Accessed 22 December 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/1086-estado-de-honduras-se-prepara-para-sustentar-su-segundo-examen-periodico-ante-el-comite-de-proteccion-de-todos-los-trabajadores-migratorios-y-de-sus-familiares>.

60. The Public Policy and National Plan of Action on Human Rights takes the principle of non-discrimination as a cross-cutting theme. As part of the implementation of the National Plan of Action, the Ministry of Human Rights carried out the “More unity, less discrimination” (+Unión-discriminación) campaign with the support of the European Union. In addition, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry ran a campaign against the stigmatization of people suffering from COVID-19, including migrants in transit and Honduran returnees. Through its Human Rights Virtual Education Platform,⁴¹ the Ministry has run other online courses for members of 11 target groups on topics such as: migration; the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans; prevention of mass atrocities associated with conflicts; the right to peace; the prevention of discrimination; international treaty compliance; and transitional justice. Between 2018 and 2021, through the Virtual Education Platform and in-person courses, the Ministry trained 25,021 people in human rights and non-discrimination, including 19,213 law enforcement officials, 4,024 public officials, 701 members of the public, 500 persons deprived of their liberty, 240 teachers, 100 young students, 47 parents, 16 persons with disabilities and 13 members of private companies.

61. With respect to the explicit prohibition of discrimination, applying the principle of *ultima ratio*, the new Criminal Code criminalizes discrimination on the grounds of ideology, religion, belief, language, ethnicity or race, national origin, membership of an Indigenous People or Afro-descendent group, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, gender, civil status, family or economic situation, age, illness or disability. The Criminal Code also defines the offence of incitement to labour discrimination and exploitation, workplace harassment and labour discrimination.⁴²

62. With respect to Hondurans abroad, Honduras has strengthened its consular network by opening 6 permanent consulates and 107 mobile consulates to offer better protection to migrants in transit and destination countries, as detailed below.

B. Right to an effective remedy

63. In relation to the recommendations in paragraphs 29 and 43, workers subject to the jurisdiction of the State may apply to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in order to assert their labour rights. As appropriate, the Ministry may open a conciliation procedure with the employer and/or carry out an inspection of the workplace under the new Labour Inspection Act and its regulations. The Ministry, through the Directorate General of Labour Inspections, is responsible for monitoring the working conditions of all workers in all workplaces throughout the country, or anywhere else that an employer-employee relationship exists. In the case of domestic workers, the employer’s consent must be sought if the workplace to be inspected is the employer’s home (inviolability of domicile). Once the administrative procedure has been exhausted, the employee may apply to the labour court and sue the employer to assert his or her rights.

64. From 2017 to August 2021, the Ministry conducted 89,672 workplace inspections, benefiting 1,215,835 workers, 517,274 of them women. From 2016 to August 2021, it conducted 1,970 inspections in the maquila sector, one of the largest productive sectors in the country (see table 1). However, no disaggregated statistics on the number of migrant workers who have requested or benefited from inspections are available. Obtaining this information, disaggregated by workers’ migration status, remains a challenge.

⁴¹ Accessed 11 January 2022, available at: <https://pavdh.sedh.gob.hn/>.

⁴² *Supra* note 11, arts. 211–213 and 291–296.

Table 1
Inspections carried out annually

<i>Inspections carried out by the Directorate General of Labour Inspections annually</i>						
<i>Year</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>Total</i>
Inspections carried out	25 614	25 545	21 400	8 267	8 846	89 672
Workers benefiting	257 097	428 532	259 912	173 183	97 111	1 215 835
Women benefiting	111 276	182 344	106 385	75 971	41 298	517 274

65. As further protection for migrant workers having a regular migration status, the Ministry issues them a work permit. The work permit supplements the residence permit issued by the National Migration Institute. However, whatever their migration status, all migrants have free access to all Ministry services.

66. The services available to Hondurans abroad vary from State to State; however, through the consular network and in application of the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families, legal advice and consular assistance are offered, as well as monitoring and follow-up services in respect of Hondurans who have disappeared or been detained.⁴³ One of the most important services is registration with the consulate, which allows Hondurans abroad to be identified and facilitates access to banking and insurance services and to documents such as driving licences. Between 2017 and 2021, 137,760 consular registration certificates were issued.

IV. Information relating to the articles of the Convention

A. Human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families

Border management and migrants in transit

67. As a member of the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework for the Americas, the National Migration Institute implements and monitors action under the national plan for the framework. As part of this plan and pursuant to the Migration and Aliens Act, the Institute provides specialized services for refugees and asylum-seekers through the country's four support centres for migrants in an irregular situation. These centres verify the migration status of irregular migrants and assess their needs for international protection, medical care and humanitarian assistance. Migrants at the centres are free to leave as they choose. The centres have thus been established to protect migrants in transit, uphold their rights and ensure that they receive dignified treatment. In addition, the Refugee Commission was created as a multisectoral body for the assessment and resolution of cases to protect migrants in transit and asylum-seekers. Pursuant to the same Act, the Institute authorized 3,468 special residence permits in 2019–2021.

68. The increase in migration flows from countries such as Haiti and from the African continent has stretched migrant services to the limit. Together with the COVID-19 pandemic, this poses a challenge in terms of the delivery of comprehensive services to the migrants who transit through the national territory on a daily basis en route to the United States of America.

Right to life, integrity and repatriation

69. In response to the recommendation in paragraph 31, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has adopted protocols for searching for Hondurans nationals detained for migration offences and other crimes and for Honduran nationals missing in Mexico and protocols for interviewing Honduran nationals in immigration detention, for ensuring the immediate protection, repatriation, reception and monitoring of migrant children, and for providing assistance to Honduran nationals with the repatriation of their family

⁴³ For full details on consular services, see the response to the recommendation in paragraph 37.

members. It has also introduced an interview matrix for issuing safe conduct passes.⁴⁴ The legal process for claiming reparations and damages for the families of migrant victims is handled through the Honduran embassies abroad. In the case of Mexico, the Executive Commission for Victim Support manages the process.

70. The Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, the municipal returnee support units, the centres that provide services to returned migrants and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, together with strategic partners, provide training to strengthen the capacities of Honduran consular staff abroad. These courses have included:

(a) Training courses on dealing with the trafficking and smuggling of migrants offered by the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons and IOM between 2017 and 2019;

(b) Workshops on migration and health offered as part of the Regional Conference on Migration between 2017 and 2019;

(c) The Inter-American Course on International Migration offered by IOM in 2018;

(d) A consular training course offered by the Inter-American Development Bank in 2019;

(e) A diploma course on labour migration offered by the Specialized Higher Education Institute for Diplomatic Training of El Salvador between 2019 and 2020;

(f) A course on international protection and internal displacement offered with the support of UNHCR between 2020 and 2021;

(g) A series of virtual conferences on changes in the general immigration policy of the United States of America and Mexico, international migration and the formulation of public policies in favour of migrant women and human development, offered with the support of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Honduras, the International Migration Observatory of Honduras and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation in 2020.⁴⁵

71. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 33 (a), the Integrated Centre for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and the Consular Centre for the Protection of Honduran Migrants offer special services for children and adolescents, assistance with the repatriation of deceased Hondurans and voluntary returns, consular assistance in migration detention centres and help with the repatriation of ill and/or vulnerable persons. In 2017, a cooperation agreement was concluded for information exchanges between the Honduran forensic databank and the Mechanism for Mexican Support Abroad in Search and Investigation Activities.

72. Regarding the recommendations in paragraph 33 (b) and (d), the Council on Disappeared Migrants is coordinated by ICRC and comprises officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the National Migration Institute, the National Registry Office, the Public Prosecution Service, the Police Investigation Directorate, CONADEH, the National Forum on Migration in Honduras, the Pastoral de Movilidad Humana (religious ministry for the pastoral care of migrants), committees of family members of disappeared migrants, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team and the Mexican Consulate in Honduras. The Council coordinates the search for missing or disappeared migrants along the migration route who are presumed to be alive. The Council's Forensic Databank on Missing Migrants is a key tool for locating such persons.

73. The Council has developed a strategy for locating Honduran migrants along the route from El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico to the United States. The search begins when a family member of a missing Honduran national initiates the process at the Ministry of Foreign

⁴⁴ 2019 report on the achievements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

⁴⁵ Accessed on 13 December 2021, available at: <http://www.aecid.hn/sitio/index.php/menu-noticias-externo/732-ciclo-de-conferencias-en-el-marco-de-la-semana-del-migrante>.

Affairs and International Cooperation or through the consular network. Family members play an active role, and the committees of family members of disappeared migrants are key actors in the search process. They not only provide evidence or information to clarify the situation, but they also have the right to know their relatives' whereabouts.

74. Together with the family and these committees, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation compiles detailed case files to ensure an efficient search effort based on the road map that has been developed for searching for disappeared migrants and the relevant search protocol. A standardized form developed by all the countries of the region is used to compile data on missing Honduran migrants. The notification of family members of missing migrants who are determined to have been murdered or otherwise deceased is conducted in accordance with a guide that provides certain information and guarantees to the relatives of the missing migrants. The guide was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the National Police, the National Registry Office, CONADEH, the Honduran Red Cross, OHCHR, civil society organizations and ICRC and was introduced in February 2020. When a missing person has been identified and repatriation is requested, the costs are covered on a means-tested basis for low-income families.

75. In addition to the aforementioned joint work with civil society organizations, and with reference to the recommendation contained in paragraph 33 (c) of the concluding observations, missing migrant committees and organizations that assist migrants receive funding from the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants. Entrepreneurship is promoted through a strategy for strengthening and improving quality of life that focuses on the families of missing migrants, single mothers and young returning migrants to facilitate their reintegration into society and the labour market.

76. As part of its maintenance of good relations with civil society and in order to help build local capacity for the search for migrants, the Directorate General for Forensic Medicine, which reports to the Public Prosecution Service, has provided training in forensic disciplines such as basic principles of ante-mortem interviews, the difference between recognition and identification, dental records, anthropology, archaeology and forensic genetics to members of various organizations of relatives of missing migrants (Amor y Fe, the Guadalupe Cedros Committee of Relatives of Migrants, the Committee of Relatives of Missing Migrants of Honduras and the Central Honduras Committee of Relatives of Migrants, which belong to the Honduran Association of Committees of Relatives of Missing Migrants).⁴⁶ CONADEH also provides training to committees of relatives of missing migrants on how to lodge complaints and their rights and responsibilities in cases of human rights violations.

77. Regarding paragraph 33 (e), the Honduran consulates in southern Mexico have set up reconciliation committees composed of officials from the Office of the Attorney General of Mexico, human rights experts and members of civil society to address issues linked to detained and missing migrants. These committees constitute a good bilateral practice in assisting migrants that could be worth replicating in other Mexican states.

78. With regard to the establishment of a regional database for use in searching for missing or disappeared migrants (paragraph 33 (f)), the Honduran Forensic Databank on Missing Migrants is maintained by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Human Rights, the Centre for Research and Promotion of Human Rights, the National Forum on Migration in Honduras, the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team and the various committees of families of missing migrants. It is used to compile, coordinate, evaluate and consolidate data on migrants who have gone missing or have disappeared along the migration route; agreements have been signed and protocols drafted to facilitate the cross-referencing of information and the improvement of forensic practices in the region.⁴⁷

79. A protocol for the search for Honduran nationals missing in Mexico facilitates the collection of ante-mortem information and its entry into the forensic databank to assist in the search for migrants who have gone missing along the migration route. The protocol covers

⁴⁶ Accessed on 26 May 2021, available at: <https://bit.ly/3htU3KT>.

⁴⁷ Accessed on 13 December 2021, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hrmtsX>.

searches for both living and deceased persons. Between 2011 and 5 August 2020, 556 cases of missing migrants who had not been located were recorded in the forensic databank. In that connection, 1,276 genetic profiles from 519 families have been entered into the database. The remains of just 51 of those Honduran nationals have been identified. Of those, 22 were found in the United States (17 in Arizona and 5 in Texas), and the remaining 29 were found in Mexico (12 in Tamaulipas, 10 in Nuevo León, 3 in Coahuila, 2 in Baja California, 1 in Quintana Roo and 1 in Sinaloa).

80. According to information in the forensic databank, the departments with the highest number of migrants unaccounted for are Yoro (155 cases), Francisco Morazán (137 cases) and Cortés (99 cases). Of the total number of missing persons recorded in the databank, 18 relate to cases that occurred before 1989, 30 to cases that occurred between 1989 and 1994, 258 to cases that occurred between 1995 and 2009, 164 to cases that occurred between 2010 and 2014 and 74 to cases that occurred between 2015 and 2019.⁴⁸ As such, strengthening the search for migrants who have gone missing along the migration route and increasing coordination between countries of transit continue to pose pressing challenges.

81. The National Registry Office, with ICRC support, has assisted in the dissemination of documents that could help facilitate the creation of databases for the collection of information on missing or disappeared migrants which could be fed into a single register of information in a unified format and could contribute to the development of information exchange mechanisms. The National Registry Office also held a meeting with the information technology and programming team from the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Police Forensics Division in El Salvador to share experiences and learn about the design of the Multibiometric Information System, the best practices of the National Registry of Natural Persons in El Salvador and fingerprint techniques for the identification of deceased undocumented persons.

82. In 2019 the Ministry of Human Rights participated in the first exchange of experiences in registering cases of disappeared persons,⁴⁹ which took place in the Central American region in Antigua, Guatemala. During that event, ground-breaking advances in the field were presented. The purpose of the meeting was to jointly devise measures to strengthen related public policies and to publicize international standards on the management of information on cases of disappeared persons while discussing the impact, limitations and challenges encountered in the registration of such persons. It also provided an opportunity to showcase the progress made by Honduras in the area of disappeared persons at the regional level and to identify opportunities and challenges at the national, regional and international levels with a view to enhancing the search for disappeared persons.

83. Regarding paragraph 33 (g), on specific measures to ensure the comprehensive protection of the rights of children of migrant workers who have disappeared or been murdered on the migration route, the Council on Disappeared Migrants, in coordination with DINAF, works to search for and identify migrant children and adolescents who have gone missing along the migration route, in migrant holding stations, protection centres and hospitals, as well as in border areas, in an effort to safeguard the best interests of the child.

84. The State's efforts to date notwithstanding, challenges remain in achieving closer cooperation with the authorities in countries of transit and destination, gathering uniform data to facilitate investigations, providing feedback on cases and ensuring the continuity of institutional capacity-building activities.

Labour exploitation and other forms of ill-treatment

85. In response to the recommendations in paragraphs 35 and 37 on measures to protect migrant workers in countries of destination, the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families⁵⁰ guarantees protection for the rights of Honduran migrant workers and their families, including through the regulation of temporary and permanent employment programmes for Hondurans abroad. The Directorate General for the Protection

⁴⁸ Accessed on 3 May 2021, available at: <https://bit.ly/3r0jlhb>.

⁴⁹ Accessed on 13 December 2021, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hWf8fl>.

⁵⁰ Legislative Decree No. 106-2013, Gazette 33,356, article 18, paragraphs 4 and 5.

of Honduran Migrants and the consular network provide specialized attention and a range of protection services to Honduran migrants abroad, including:

- (a) Free legal assistance;
- (b) Assistance for Honduran adults, children and adolescents subject to expulsion;
- (c) Assistance for Hondurans sentenced to life imprisonment;
- (d) Follow-up of cases of violations of Honduran migrants' human rights;
- (e) Follow-up of cases of missing Honduran migrants;
- (f) Follow-up of cases of Hondurans subject to criminal proceedings or sentenced for having committed crimes;
- (g) Assistance for Hondurans deprived of liberty abroad;
- (h) Visits to detention centres and prisons abroad;
- (i) Visits to shelters for children and adolescents abroad;
- (j) Support for Honduran victims of trafficking and smuggling of persons;
- (k) Location of missing Hondurans;
- (l) Repatriation of deceased, sick and amputee Hondurans;
- (m) Assistance for migrant children, such as the issuance of identity documents (birth certificates and passports), registration with the National Registry Office and consular protection;
- (n) Economic assistance for Honduran migrants in situations of vulnerability or domestic difficulty;
- (o) Representations before foreign government agencies by Honduran consulates.⁵¹

86. Additionally, the Alho Voz call centre provides consular and protection services to Honduran migrants living abroad.

87. Owing to the scale of migration in Honduras, the country has assumed an active role in the multilateral arena. In September 2020, the State hosted the Second International Conference on Migration, a forum for dialogue that led to the identification of strategies and proposals for coordination during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference was attended by representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, the Alliance of Spouses of Heads of State and Representatives, and other international organizations.

88. In August 2021, Honduras hosted the first Regional Discussion on Migration. The Discussion provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions on complementarity with a view to promoting national, regional and supraregional efforts and solutions based on a comprehensive, coherent approach to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. National and international leaders from the Central American countries, Belize, Mexico and Panama, the United Nations office in Honduras, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and IOM participated in the Discussion, which focused on finding ways of achieving safe, orderly and regular migration that works for all, leaving no one behind. The Twenty-sixth Regional Conference on Migration was held on 2 and 3 December 2021.

89. The State of Honduras firmly believes that orderly migration mechanisms are necessary tools for protecting migrant workers in countries of destination. For example, through a temporary migrant worker programme in Quebec, Canada, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Embassy of Honduras in Canada follow up on the more than 200 workers hired in 2018 who are working legally in 38 Canadian companies. In that connection, investigations are undertaken into the hiring companies' legality, any complaints

⁵¹ Accessed on 1 November 2021, available at: <https://conmigho.hn/servicios-de-proteccion/>.

against them linked to the violation of workers' rights and any information that could help determine whether migrant workers enjoy dignified, stable and legal employment. In 2019, the programme reported that 54 workers were employed in Canada, 28 were awaiting visas, 26 were awaiting airline tickets and 1 was awaiting a contract.⁵² In 2019 Honduras signed an agreement with Mexico granting more than 20,000 Hondurans access to the "Sembrando Vida" (Sowing Life) and "Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro" (Young Persons Building the Future) programmes.⁵³

90. Under a bilateral cooperation agreement signed with the United States in September 2019, temporary work visas are granted to Hondurans in the United States, paving the way for the creation of a temporary work programme headed up by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security with the assistance of the United States Consulate in Honduras. The agreement provides skilled labour to interested companies. Of the 1,824 candidates interviewed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 1,112 were pre-selected for the programme in six of the country's departments (Intibucá, Copán, Choluteca, Santa Bárbara, Gracias and Cortés).⁵⁴

91. These multilateral and bilateral agreements, as well as legal instruments such as the Road Map for the Elimination of All Forms of Child Labour 2021–2025 and the Protocol for the Referral of Children Engaged in Child Labour to State Social Programmes, align with target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

92. Regarding bilateral initiatives and dialogues with major countries of transit and destination for Hondurans, the bilateral dialogue with the United States led to the establishment of a round table on migration on 9 April 2021. The round table is expected to address and follow up on both countries' migration policies and ensure that Honduran migrants' human rights are guaranteed and respected.⁵⁵

93. The aforementioned bilateral programmes are integrated into the Temporary Work Abroad Programme of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.⁵⁶ They offer regular migration channels and enhanced guarantees to Hondurans who are selected to work abroad. These mechanisms address not only the recommendations contained in paragraphs 35 and 37 of the concluding observations, but also the recommendation set out in paragraph 43.

Expulsion and consular assistance

94. With regard to the recommendation made in paragraph 39, one of the greatest challenges facing the State continues to be curbing, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, arbitrary deportations and repatriations, particularly in cases in which family units are separated as a result.

95. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 41, between 2017 and 2021 six new consulates were opened: in Seattle, Boston, San Francisco and Charlotte, United States of America; Tijuana, Mexico; and Valencia, Spain. Mobile consulates were also established to make consular services more accessible for Hondurans abroad. In all, 18 mobile consulates were operational in 2017, 12 in 2018, 10 in 2019, 9 in 2020 and 58 in 2021. In addition to the officials listed in paragraphs 16 to 18 of this report, consular offices each have a protection officer tasked specifically with assisting vulnerable Honduran migrants. As mentioned in paragraphs 49, 50 and 66 of this report, the State provides periodic training to consular officials and the staff of the Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants (paragraph 41 (a) and (d)). The wide range of consular services that are offered are detailed

⁵² Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: https://portalunico.iaip.gob.hn/portal/ver_documento.php?uid=NjgzNjcwODkzNDc2MzQ4NzEyNDYxOTg3MjM0Mg==.

⁵³ Revista de Logros 2020.

⁵⁴ See p. 14 of the document cited in footnote 52 above.

⁵⁵ Accessed on 14 December 2021, available at: Delegaciones de Honduras y Estados Unidos desarrollan dialogo bilateral | Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional (sreci.hn).

⁵⁶ Accessed on 1 November 2021, available at: <http://www.trabajo.gob.hn/pte/trabajadores/>.

in the response to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 35 and 37 of the concluding observations.

96. In terms of the recruitment of consular staff on the basis of merit (paragraph 41 (c)), in accordance with the Diplomatic and Consular Service Act,⁵⁷ foreign service officials are trained to provide suitable consular representation and services. Ambassadors and consuls general are appointed on the basis of merit and are also required:

- (a) To be Honduran by birth;
- (b) To be aged over 25;
- (c) To be in full enjoyment of their civil and political rights;
- (d) To hold a university qualification from a duly accredited academic institution;
- (e) Not to have a criminal or police record;
- (f) Not to be subject to pending legal proceedings;
- (g) To submit a medical certificate issued by a professional or institution designated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- (h) Not to be a resident or citizen of the State in which they will serve.

97. To select officials for the diplomatic and consular service – who perform specialized professional functions within a hierarchized, disciplined and merit-based organizational structure – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has established a Diplomatic and Consular Ranking Committee which, in accordance with the applicable regulations, is responsible for considering and proposing candidates, evaluating them on an annual basis and making determinations regarding their registration, rank, merit, seniority and other matters relating to entry into, and promotion within, the diplomatic and consular service.

Rights of children of migrant workers

98. Regarding the recommendations in paragraph 55 (a), (d) and (e) of the concluding observations, the protection of children and adolescents is coordinated through the Comprehensive System for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras and, at the operational level, by DINAF and other relevant institutions. The Ministry of Education, for example, coordinates school enrolment, while the National Registry Office oversees the registration of children and adolescents. In the context of migration, the Migrant Support Task Force is headed by the First Lady and includes the heads of various State institutions. The Task Force works to expedite assistance and repatriation procedures for migrant children and adolescents and conducts visits to shelters and migrant detention centres in the southern border area of the United States in order to ensure that the human rights of children and their parents are being respected. Migrant children and adolescents receive care under the Protocol for the Protection, Repatriation, Reception and Follow-up of Migrant Children, which is applied at the national level both to returning Honduran children and to foreign children and adolescents with an irregular migration status, as well as the Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Migrant Children, which addresses the needs of children and adolescents throughout the migration cycle, including children affected by internal displacement or children who are requesting international protection. The first protocol was updated in 2019; and the second was amended in 2020 and is now being socialized.

99. A consular protection plan for separated families in the context of the zero-tolerance policy of the United States Government has been launched as an enhanced protection measure for children and adolescents abroad. The programme has identified 1,011 children and adolescents who had been separated from their families and has reunited 883 of them. According to information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Protection, the process varies from country to country but, in general, after analysing each case and determining that a migrant child or adolescent has a family member in the country

⁵⁷ Decree No. 80-2013, Gazette 33,144.

of destination with a proven degree of blood relationship, the programme makes use of the most suitable mechanism for facilitating the family's reunification. Depending on the family's situation – which is determined by means of a socioeconomic study of the child's family members in Honduras – reunification may take place in the country of origin or destination.

100. Consulates also provide guidance to Honduran parents on the necessary legal procedures for family reunification. In order to help to prevent family separation in the case of Honduran migrants with an irregular migration status who have children who were born in the United States, the Protection Unit has the support of lawyers who are able to offer expert advice on individual cases on a pro bono basis.

101. With regard to paragraph 55 (b), in addition to the relevant international instruments for guaranteeing the rights of migrant children and adolescents, the necessary tools for protecting children and adolescents, without discrimination, are provided by the Migration and Aliens Act, a regional manual on migration procedures, the Children and Adolescents Code and the Family Code.

102. Regarding inter-agency coordination to ensure the effective reintegration of returning children and adolescents, the Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and the Honduran consular network provide assistance to ensure family reunification in Honduras or in countries of destination and to ensure a dignified return. The process of reuniting returned children and adolescents with their families is undertaken in conjunction with DINAF, which searches for their families and monitors the reunification process. Relevant data are shared in the response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 51 of the concluding observations.

103. In conjunction with DINAF, and in coordination with the consular network, the Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants oversees the process of returning migrant children and adolescents, guaranteeing respect for their human rights, ensuring fair proceedings for this vulnerable population group and, above all, guaranteeing family reunification.

104. In 2020, within the framework of the Comprehensive System for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras, the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Families conducted 44 training courses on protecting children's rights for members of municipal children's rights councils. It also launched the Children's Rights Observatory, drew up 25 action plans and held 10 workshops to disseminate the draft national policy on the rights of children and adolescents in Honduras. In 2021, the Directorate drafted and submitted the National Policy to Guarantee the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras and the First Action Plan 2021–2030, which are pending adoption.

105. The northern part of Honduras, specifically the Corinto and Agua Caliente border areas, is the region with the highest number of migrant children. These border crossings are permanently staffed by DINAF Child Protection Officers, who are responsible for the safe return of children and adolescents and for preventing the departure of minors who may be victims of human trafficking.

106. In 2019, the Ministry of Education and the National Centre for Information on the Social Sector provided training to the Ministry's departmental migration liaison officers regarding recent changes to the Comprehensive Service System for Returned Migrants to facilitate the reintegration of minors into the national education system.⁵⁸ Through the National Education System Referral Module, an enrolment record is generated for children and adolescents who have never been enrolled in the education system, and a re-enrolment record is generated for previously enrolled children. In 2020, IOM began efforts to build the capacities of teachers in southern Honduras (Choluteca and Valle) and instruct them how to apply the methodology of the Migration Education Kit in order to organize educational campaigns and activities on the subject of migration.

⁵⁸ Accessed on 13 December 2021, available at: <https://www.ceniss.gob.hn/actualidad/capseducsiamir.html>.

107. As stated above, the indicators mentioned in paragraph 55 (c) of the concluding observations are being incorporated into the public migration policy that is currently under development. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, working through the Honduran Observatory on Consular Issues and Migration, and DINAF keep administrative records on migrant children and adolescents. The information in those records is disaggregated by country, return status and family reunification, among other indicators.

Right to transfer earnings and savings and to be informed about the Convention

108. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 45, remittances from Hondurans residing abroad are one of the largest sources of income in the country.⁵⁹ In 2017, family remittances accounted for 18.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in current terms, which is one of the primary reasons why gross national savings represented 20.8 per cent of GDP.⁶⁰ In 2020, owing to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, family remittances accounted for 23.4 per cent of GDP and 28.6 per cent of household final consumption expenditure.

109. Between 2017 and 2020, the number of remittances received increased substantially (see table 2).⁶¹ As at December 2020, the number of remittances received amounted to 4,255,890, up by 16,520 over the figure for 2019.⁶² As of the end of 2020, 52.5 per cent of remittances had been sent by men and 47.5 per cent by women.

Table 2
Remittance indicators disaggregated by year

<i>Year</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
Annual remittances in millions of US\$	4 305.3	4 759.9	5 384.5	5 573.1
Annual remittances as a percentage of GDP	18.9%	20.0%	21.6%	23.4%
Annual growth rate of remittances, by volume	11.9%	10.6%	13.1%	9.35%

Source: National Institute of Statistics.

110. Nine departments received 83.4 per cent of total remittances in 2020. A total of L 20,579.5 million in remittances was sent to Honduran families and their communities. Remittances are mainly used to pay for food, health care, education and home improvements and to finance investments in family businesses.

111. In August 2021, the Central Bank of Honduras and the Alho Voz call centre conducted a consultation on remittances by telephone and in airports. The survey shows that 81.3 per cent of migrants send an average of US\$ 425.20 in cash remittances to Honduras every month; of those migrants, 54 per cent are women. In all, 95.3 per cent of the migrants surveyed reside in the United States of America; of that total, 53.3 per cent are women and 46.7 per cent are men. The remainder reside in Spain, Canada, Mexico and Guatemala. According to the survey, the communities receiving remittances are mainly located in the departments of Cortés (24.1 per cent), Francisco Morazán (13.2 per cent), Yoro (9.5 per cent), Atlántida (8.3 per cent) and Olancho (7.8 per cent).

112. Regarding the regulation and full implementation of the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants, the State has adopted Administrative Contract No. 24-2015, in force as of 31 December 2018, and Contract No. 009-2019 of 6 March 2019, which is valid until 31 December 2021. These contracts cover the management of resources intended exclusively

⁵⁹ Accessed on 1 November 2021, available at: <https://publicaciones.cnbs.gob.hn/boletines/Boletines%20de%20Inclusi%20Financiera/Reporte%20de%20Inclusi%C3%B3n%20Financiera%202021.pdf>.

⁶⁰ Central Bank of Honduras, annual report for 2017, available at: <https://www.bch.hn/estadisticos/GIE/LIBMemoria/Memoria%20Anual%202017.pdf>.

⁶¹ Accessed on 16 November 2021, available at: <https://www.ine.gob.hn/V3/cifras-de-pais/>.

⁶² National Banking and Insurance Commission, financial inclusion report for 2021, available at: <https://publicaciones.cnbs.gob.hn/boletines/Boletines%20de%20Inclusi%20Financiera/Reporte%20de%20Inclusi%C3%B3n%20Financiera%202021.pdf>.

for assisting Honduran migrants, returned migrants and their families in need of protection.⁶³ Many of the programmes and projects described below, under the subheading “Orderly return and reintegration of migrant workers and their families”, are financed through the Fund.

B. Promotion of sound, equitable, humane and lawful conditions in connection with international migration of workers and members of their families

Establishment of adequate migration services

113. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 49, in addition to the bilateral programmes with Canada, the United States and Mexico described in paragraphs 83–87 of the present report, the State has actively participated in various bilateral and regional dialogues related to the rights set out in the Convention. These include a regional conference on follow-up to the New York Declaration, held as part of the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework. The conference was held in San Pedro Sula in October 2017 and was organized jointly by Honduras, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). North and Central American countries, regional and international organizations (including a number of humanitarian and development agencies), civil society organizations, private enterprises and academics participated in the conference, whose main objective was to consolidate and promote regional alliances with a view to developing a comprehensive and coordinated response to the cycle of forced displacement in the region and strengthening the protection of the persons affected by it. On 15 October 2021, Honduras and Belize established a mechanism to regulate the conditions applicable to Hondurans working temporarily in Belize.⁶⁴ Honduras will assume the pro tempore chairmanship of the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework.

114. Regarding efforts to adopt a framework on labour migration within the wider context of the Central American Integration System, in 2018 Honduras began to actively participate in the development of a comprehensive action plan to address human mobility in the Central American region. That plan was approved in 2019 by the Office of the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs, public institutions, municipal authorities and civil society organizations. The Action Plan includes labour migration as one of its strategic themes. Work is under way on the medium-term implementation of the Plan at both the national and regional levels.

Orderly return and reintegration of migrant workers and members of their families

115. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 51, several reintegration projects were made available during the reporting period to returned migrants and their families. Those initiatives dealt with such areas as entrepreneurship, capacity-building, delivery of seed capital, protection, psychological support and access to employment. The consular network coordinates the return of migrants from foreign countries, mainly the United States and Mexico. Once migrants enter the country, they are referred to centres for returned migrants, where they receive help in meeting their basic needs. Between 2017 and 30 September 2021, centres for returned migrants created 314,977 biometric records; provided 350,060 meals, 124,636 medical services and 52,386 psychological services; bought 237,510 transportation tickets to returned migrants’ places of origin; made 120,649 telephone calls; delivered 228,749 hygiene kits and 73,932 clothing and footwear kits; housed 19,756 people; provided protection to 6,408 persons; and collected data in 316,917 cases to complete their comprehensive records on returned migrants.

116. Comprehensive records on returned migrant are a key part of the Comprehensive System for Returned Migrants and make it possible to identify the needs of Honduran returnees. They give a clearer picture of the Honduran returnee population, which makes it possible to tailor the social services on offer according to the returnees’ actual needs. More

⁶³ Accessed on 4 November 2021, available at: <https://www.bch.hn/acerca-del-bch/fideicomiso>.

⁶⁴ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://1drv.ms/w/s!AgOlo0tGMcbyhBbSb7FB2EosEcZf>.

than 250 family guides have been trained in the use and management of the Comprehensive System for Returned Migrants.⁶⁵

117. To ensure the technical and financial sustainability of the centres for returned migrants, in the period 2017–2020 those centres were allocated a total budget of L 152,939,364.93. The centres also receive funds from the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants.

118. To provide specialized support for children and adolescents, in coordination with DINAF, the centres for returned migrants and the Belén Child and Family Migrant Support Centre apply a protocol for the immediate protection, repatriation, reception and monitoring of child migrants, providing support and welcome and assistance services to ensure the safe return of Hondurans to their communities. In 2016–2020, the Belén Child and Family Migrant Support Centre provided services to 13,110 families. DINAF provides support for the monitoring and reintegration of child and adolescent migrants, managing 2,181 cases in 2019 and 1,091 cases as at October 2020. Since the start of the COVID-19 health crisis, 1,937 child and adolescent migrants have received assistance, of whom 1,182 were unaccompanied and 753 were traveling with parents and relatives. These children had travelled by land from Mexico (56 per cent), the United States (39 per cent) and Guatemala (47 per cent).

119. To meet the needs of returned migrants once they have settled in their communities, the State is implementing the following projects:

(a) Support Programme for Returned Migrant Successful Entrepreneurs, implemented in northern Honduras by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Mennonite Commission for Social Action, under which 30 entrepreneurship programmes for migrants have been set up;

(b) Strategy to improve the quality of life of members of the relatives of missing migrants through entrepreneurship, in cooperation with the National Forum on Migration in Honduras and benefitting 18 families in Cedros, Francisco Morazán;

(c) Strategy to support single mothers and young returned migrants through social and labour-market reintegration initiatives, in cooperation with the National Forum on Migration in Honduras and benefitting 100 returned migrants from Francisco Morazán and northern Honduras;

(d) Joint housing project implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Techo Honduras, which has provided 25 homes in Francisco Morazán and San Pedro Sula;

(e) Training for returned migrants in financial services and in how to set up a new business, along with guidance and advice on savings habits, provided by the National Service for Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses, the Presidential Solidarity Credit Programme and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, benefitting 70 returned Honduran migrants;⁶⁶

(f) Physical and psychological health care for disabled returned migrants in cooperation with the National Committee for the Support of Returned Migrants with Disabilities, with 30 migrants having received health care and 9 migrants having received entrepreneurship support;

(g) Project to improve the quality of life of returned migrants with disabilities, under which 26 persons have received support, with 16 having received urgent health care for various injuries or disabilities and 5 having undergone surgical procedures in 2018;

(h) Programme on Knowledge and Experience in Humanitarian Assistance for Returned Migrants in Need of Protection in the Context of Forced Migration, implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Human Rights, under which 73 people have received assistance, with an investment of L 823,461.29.

⁶⁵ Accessed on 14 December 2021, available at:

<https://www.ceniss.gob.hn/actualidad/guiasfrontera.html>.

⁶⁶ Accessed on 14 December 2021, available at: <https://sreci.hn/Capacitan-en-temas-financieros-a-migrantes-hondurenos>.

The Programme was used as a basis for the development of a guide on the application of differentiated care criteria based on a psychosocial approach;

(i) Project to improve quality of life through entrepreneurship, under which 80 returned migrants and their families have received assistance.

120. In addition to these projects and as mentioned elsewhere in the report, the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants Situations finances the following projects:

(a) “My Local Business” (*Yo emprendo en mi tierra*) project, implemented by the National Service for Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses, which has directly benefited 500 returned migrants. The project seeks to encourage and support the appropriate social and labour reintegration of returned migrants;

(b) Pilot project for the implementation of the National System for the Reintegration of Returned Migrants, managed by the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization, which is expected to directly benefit 150 returned migrants. The project seeks to enhance coordination around national, municipal and international efforts to provide comprehensive services for migrants;

(c) Humanitarian Assistance and Protection Project for Returned Migrants in Need of Protection, managed by the Ministry of Human Rights. This project lays the groundwork for the development of a national programme of assistance, protection and sustainable solutions for people affected by forced human mobility, with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

121. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security provides support and vocational training to young returned migrants to facilitate their reintegration. The results of that effort are as follows:⁶⁷

(a) 1,000 young people benefited from measures to improve their chances of finding decent employment, either as self-employed workers or employees;

(b) 1,600 young people received assistance through the local system of comprehensive services for returned migrant children and adolescents;

(c) 11,500 young people received support from the Networked System of Information, Guidance and Counselling for Preventing Migration and Assisting Returned Migrants;

(d) 1,300 young people received educational and job skills training in Comayagua;

(e) 400 young people received support from a public-private partnership for improving employability and from the Innovation Centre.

122. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the National Centre for Information on the Social Sector, UNHCR and IOM have developed a comprehensive strategic policy on irregular migration and returning migration flows that places priority on municipalities with large numbers of returned migrants and families in situations of poverty and vulnerability. This is a multifunctional strategy in that it also seeks to curb irregular migration and provide support to children and adolescents who are in a vulnerable situation because of their status as returnees or because their parents are migrants. Many of the aforementioned projects are monitored by municipal returnee support units that provide assistance to returned migrants.

Illegal or clandestine movements and employment of migrant workers in an irregular situation

123. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 57 (a), under the Trafficking in Persons Act and the Strategic Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons in Honduras 2016–2022, the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents, in coordination with State institutions and civil society organizations, carries out measures to

⁶⁷ See footnote 52, p. 22, above.

prevent and combat trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation in its various forms and provide protection and comprehensive care for the victims of these offences. In accordance with its strategic plan, the Commission works in the following areas:

- (a) Prevention and awareness-raising;
- (b) Investigation, prosecution and punishment of offences;
- (c) Identification of victims, victim services and comprehensive protection for victims;
- (d) Coordination;
- (e) Cooperation.

124. To combat trafficking offences, provide support to trafficking victims and prosecute human traffickers, as of 2021 the Commission has set up 24 local committees – at least one in each department of the country – and has adopted a road map for identifying, assisting and protecting victims of human trafficking in Honduras (procedures and resources for the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Choloma, Puerto Cortés and Omoa). It has also drawn up a standard operating procedure for the prevention of human trafficking and the specialized care of victims. The sustainability of the Commission’s work has been ensured through an increase in its budget. In 2020, the Commission was allocated a budget of L 8,928,698.00, representing an increase of 48.81 per cent with respect to the 2017 budget of L 6,000,000.00.⁶⁸

125. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 57 (b), on the ongoing training of public servants, especially police officers, officials of the National Migration Institute, judges, prosecutors, labour inspectors, academics, health-care professionals and representatives and officials of Honduran embassies and consulates, from 2017 to 2020, 172,718 people underwent training. The breakdown of persons trained by year is as follows: in 2017, 48,885;⁶⁹ in 2018, 17,681;⁷⁰ in 2019, around 50,000;⁷¹ and in 2020, 56,152.⁷² Training courses conducted during the reporting period include:

- (a) Training in 2018 for officials of the National Migration Institute in the use of tools for identifying possible victims of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling;⁷³
- (b) Webinar on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on investigations into trafficking in persons and the provision of support to victims. At the webinar, the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, the Public Prosecution Service and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided training to around 1,000 members of State institutions, police officers and representatives of civil society organizations;
- (c) Online seminar on the offences of sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons as outlined in the new Criminal Code. The seminar was held for public officials, police officers, prosecutors and representatives of civil society organizations;
- (d) Training on gender issues, approaches for dealing with incidents of sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence against women and girls, for investigating sexual

⁶⁸ Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents, annual reports, available at: <https://cicesct.gob.hn/informes-anuales/>.

⁶⁹ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://cicesct.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Informe-Nacional-de-Acciones-2017.pdf>, p. 79.

⁷⁰ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://cicesct.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Informe-Nacional-de-Acciones-2018.pdf>, p. 25.

⁷¹ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://cicesct.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Informe-Nacional-de-Acciones-2019.pdf>, p. 10.

⁷² National Report on Preventing, Assisting the Victims and Prosecuting the Perpetrators of Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation in Honduras, available at: https://portalunico.iaip.gob.hn/portal/ver_documento.php?uid=MTEyMDA2MDg5MzQ3NjM0ODcxMjQ2MTk4NzIzNDI=.

⁷³ Accessed on 29 October 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/69-cicesct-instruye-funcionarios-del-inm-para-identificar-victimas-de-trata-de-personas>.

offences and protecting victims, and for working within the international regulatory framework and coping with crises and risk factors. These training opportunities targeted members of the institutions that make up the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, including the Ministry of Human Rights, DINAF, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Security, the Honduran Tourism Institute, the National Migration Institute, the National Institute for Women, the Solidarity Credit Programme, local governments and the Honduran Tourist Board;

(e) Basic induction course on dealing with domestic violence, which also covered the issue of human trafficking, for 315 detectives from the National Police and officials of the Public Prosecution Service;

(f) Training for 152 police officers in matters relating to human trafficking, people smuggling and related offences provided by the Ministry of Security and training for 500 police officers by the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons;

(g) Training in 2020 in the use of tools for investigating and addressing cybercrimes for staff of the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children;

(h) Training on local measures for tackling trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, organized by the National Migration Institute and IOM in 2020. The course was attended by 120 officials from support centres for irregular migrants, border ports, airports, seaports and the central office. It was designed to raise awareness of the difference between trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling and to help officials to recognize the special protection needs of vulnerable migrant populations and to apply specialized approaches;

(i) Training for 227 members of local committees of the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents in the 18 departments of the country on the characteristics of human trafficking, ways of identifying it and the methods used to recruit victims, the relationship between this offence and migrant smuggling and the importance of identifying and safely referring potential victims to protection services. This training course was conducted in cooperation with IOM in 2020;⁷⁴

(j) Training for judges, clerks and marshals of the Supreme Court of Justice on the web portal for migration alerts for the Honduran court system in 2021;

(k) Training for officials of the Ministry of Human Rights on sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence against women and girls in 2021.⁷⁵

126. In 2018, the National Institute for Women trained 240 police officers on the critical pathway for reporting domestic violence and, in 2019, ran a diploma course on women's human rights, gender-based violence and trafficking in persons for justice officials. In 2018, the Public Prosecution Service's Unit for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and People Smuggling in San Pedro Sula, the Specialized Comprehensive Support Unit and the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Protection of Children provided training for 60 persons, including teachers and members of the general public of Puerto Cortés, on child protection, trafficking in persons and people smuggling, harassment, sexual offences and violations of the rights of vulnerable people.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ Accessed on 13 December 2021, available at:

<https://www.programamesoamerica.iom.int/es/noticia/la-oim-capacita-mas-de-200-funcionarios-de-comites-locales-contra-la-trata-de-personas-en>.

⁷⁵ Accessed on 29 September 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/875-personal-tecnico-de-la-sedh-son-capacitados-en-el-tema-explotacion-sexual-trata-y-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas>.

⁷⁶ Accessed on 29 September 2021, available at: <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/fiscalia-regional-del-norte-capacita-a-maestros-de-puerto-cortes-en-proteccion-a-menores/>.

127. In June 2021, the Public Prosecution Service training academy and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided training to prosecutors and detectives throughout the country on the topic of cybercrimes involving child victims.⁷⁷ In October 2021, the Public Prosecution Service training academy, the Unit for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and People Smuggling and UNODC began work on a framework for specialized training and mentoring programmes on human trafficking called MENTHOR and STARSOM. These programmes promise to be important forums for cooperation and for building the skills and knowledge of prosecutors, police investigators and public officials involved in the investigation of these offences.⁷⁸

128. On the systematic collection of disaggregated data with a view to combating trafficking in persons more effectively (paragraph 57 (c)), in its annual reports, the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons provides statistical data on trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation.⁷⁹ In the period 2017–2020, the Commission identified 407 trafficking victims, 90 per cent of whom were women, children or adolescents, and provided follow-up, care and comprehensive protection to 605 direct and indirect victims.

129. Regarding the adoption of measures to ensure that the perpetrators of trafficking in persons are tried and appropriately punished (paragraph 57 (d)), amendments to the new Criminal Code entered into force in November 2021,⁸⁰ including amendments to the definition of the offence of trafficking in persons, which now reads as follows:

“Article 219. A person shall be guilty of the offence of human trafficking and shall incur a penalty of 10 to 15 years’ imprisonment if that person facilitates, promotes or carries out the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, whether inside or outside the national territory, for the purposes of subjecting them to or forcing them into any form exploitation, including:

- (1) Exploitation in conditions of slavery, servitude, forced service or labour, including begging and forced participation in criminal activities, as well as any other equivalent or similar practice;
- (2) Forced or commercial sexual exploitation;
- (3) Servile or forced marriage or de facto union;
- (4) Forced pregnancy;
- (5) Removal of bodily organs, tissues or parts thereof;
- (6) Testing of medicines, drugs, substances and clinical techniques; or
- (7) Any other purpose referred to in the Trafficking in Persons Act.”

130. In addition, the Criminal Code provides for a one-third increase in the penalty in the event of aggravating circumstances such as:

- (a) The use of violence, intimidation or deceit, or abuse of a position of power or a need of the victim;
- (b) The giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over the victim;
- (c) If the victim is under 18 years of age.

131. The current Criminal Code increases the penalty from 5 to 8 years’ imprisonment to 10 and 15 years’ imprisonment.⁸¹

⁷⁷ Accessed on 29 September 2021, available at: <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/fiscales-e-investigadores-se-capacitan-en-torno-al-ciberdelito-contra-la-infancia/>.

⁷⁸ Accessed on 29 October 2021, available at: <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/ministerio-publico-y-naciones-unidas-coordinan-trabajo-para-fortalecer-la-investigacion-en-delitos-de-trata-de-personas/>.

⁷⁹ Accessed on 22 December 2021, available at: <https://cicesct.gob.hn/informes-anuales/>.

⁸⁰ See footnote 11 above.

⁸¹ See footnote 11 above, art. 219.

132. The Criminal Code also establishes that the victim's consent is irrelevant if any of the above forms of exploitation has been used or if the victim is under 18 years of age. Article 220 provides for a one-third increase in the penalty in the event that the life, physical or psychological integrity or health of the victim is endangered; if the victim is vulnerable owing to his or her age, illness or disability or is a pregnant woman; or if the perpetrator is a public official or employee. In addition to the penalties described, general disqualification from office is imposed for twice the term of the prison sentence.

133. The Criminal Code also establishes penalties for legal entities responsible for the aforementioned offences, such as the dissolution of the legal entity or a fine of 1,000 to 2,000 days of minimum wage; it also establishes labour exploitation and servitude as autonomous offences and makes it an offence to construct or facilitate the construction of airstrips to be used in offences such as trafficking in persons.

134. Since 2017, the Public Prosecution Service's Unit for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and People Smuggling,⁸² the Technical Criminal Investigation Agency, the Transnational Criminal Investigation Unit, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Cybercrime Unit of the Police Investigation Directorate and the Police Intelligence Directorate have been carrying out investigations into trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and people smuggling. The participation of different investigative agencies ensures the rigorous and professional investigation of human trafficking offences. Depending on the facts of each case, different agencies may be involved in the investigative process.

135. These structural measures have led to the prosecution of perpetrators in 212 cases and the issuance of 87 sentences. Details in this regard, disaggregated by year, are shown in table 3 below.

Table 3

Number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions in cases of human trafficking

<i>Year</i>	<i>Complaints</i>	<i>Cases brought to trial</i>	<i>Sentences</i>
2017	109	90	17
2018	122	32	17
2019	187	78	38
2020	82	12	15

Source: Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Person, annual reports, 2017–2020.

136. Regarding the intensification of campaigns for the prevention of trafficking in persons (paragraph 57 (e)), the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Person is carrying out the following campaigns:

- (a) The Blue Heart Campaign;
- (b) The "I am a woman and living without violence is my right" (*Soy mujer y vivir sin violencia, es mi derecho*) campaign to prevent trafficking in persons, domestic and intra-family violence and femicide;
- (c) In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, dissemination on social networks of material on the prevention of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation offences to 61,368 people, including information on the prevention of cybercrimes linked to trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation, such as online seduction, sexual messages, sexual blackmail, cyberbullying, the use of malware and identity theft;
- (d) A campaign to prevent child pornography;
- (e) The "Online Crime is Real Crime" crime prevention campaign spearheaded by INTERPOL.

⁸² Agreement No. FGR-013-2017, Gazette 34,477.

137. Regarding the establishment of effective mechanisms to identify and protect trafficking victims (paragraph 57 (f)), between 2017 and 2020, as part of the Strategic Plan 2016–2022 of the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents, with the support of civil society organizations and in application of the protocol for the rapid response team tasked with providing support to victims of trafficking in persons and the road map for Honduras, the Commission provided and coordinated more than 500,000 comprehensive primary and secondary assistance services for victims of trafficking in persons and their families. These services encompassed: protection; support; shelter; food; clothing; psychological, social, legal and medical assistance; housing, education; vocational training; documentation; asylum; transportation; employment; family assistance; treatment for addiction; financial loans; entrepreneurial guidance; repatriation; follow-up; family visits; recreation; and therapeutic and self-help groups.

138. After the entry into force of the Labour Inspection Act in 2017, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has been providing training for labour inspectors nationwide on the application of the Act, the ban on child labour and the obligation of labour inspectors to prevent children and adolescents from performing hazardous work and to identify any children or adolescents performing such work.

139. Regarding paragraphs 57 (g) and (h), Honduras has strengthened coordination and developed synergies with United Nations and OAS agencies in order to provide comprehensive assistance to the victims of crime. Due to the importance of this issue in the national agenda, Honduras actively participates in international forums that promote cooperation in the prevention of crime, the prosecution of offenders and provision of assistance to and protection of victims, such as:

(a) The Commission of Police Chiefs and Directors of Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean and Colombia, a forum for coordination between police officers and public prosecutors on regional operations and joint investigations;

(b) The Regional Prosecutors Network;

(c) The Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

140. Coordination and joint actions among Northern Triangle countries were strengthened to prevent and combat trafficking operations linked to the smuggling of migrants and irregular migration. Honduras continuously coordinates with Belize on operations and rescues.

141. With the technical and financial assistance of international partners, technical tools were developed to guide efforts to combat trafficking, with an emphasis on assisting victims. Prevention materials were adapted to the needs of persons with visual and hearing impairments, and agreements were signed with the following organizations:

(a) The Project for Strengthening All Aspects of Children’s Rights of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights, under which, over a period of seven years, volunteers from different areas will be able to join the Inter-Agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents;

(b) The International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children;

(c) The Office of the Deputy Minister for Prevention at the Ministry of Security in relation to inter-institutional coordination and financial cooperation.

142. Since November 2021, Honduran and Colombian prosecutors have been developing an agenda for the coordination of efforts to combat organized crime, drug trafficking and migrant smuggling, the establishment of a binational agenda and the exchange of information on the investigation of these offences.⁸³

⁸³ Accessed on 29 December 2021, available at: <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/fiscales-generales-de-honduras-y-colombia-se-reunen-en-tegucigalpa-para-estrechar-lazos-de-cooperacion-y-asistencia/>.

V. Other issues

A. Prevention of irregular migration

143. Regarding the recommendations in paragraphs 53 and 59, the Alliance for Prosperity Plan, under which US\$ 778 million have been invested in inclusive economic development, jobs creation, social stability and security in Honduras, is one of the main investment mechanisms for the prevention of migration.⁸⁴ At the multilateral level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has participated in regional forums sponsored by the Central American Integration System, the Regional Conference on Migration, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework to strengthen protection and assistance mechanisms for the benefit of migrants.

144. One of the main measures taken at the regional level is the formulation of the Comprehensive Development Plan for the Countries of the Central American Northern Triangle and Mexico, which aims to address the structural causes of migration by getting to the root of the problem through initiatives that generate development in the region. In April 2021, a meeting was organized between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prioritize the projects under the Plan that would have the greatest impact in the short term on the reduction of irregular migration. In addition, in 2019, Honduras and Mexico agreed on two projects under the Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico on the reintegration of returned Honduran migrants and the prevention of irregular migration.

145. At the domestic level, the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence is implementing three response plans to address displacement in three prioritized municipalities, with a focus on durable solutions.

B. Technical assistance with report writing

146. Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 64, the monitoring of the follow-up given to recommendations is carried out through the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMOREH), which was developed in cooperation with Paraguay and OHCHR. Since its establishment in 2016, the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up of the Ministry of Human Rights has been substantially strengthened. Between 2018 and 2019, pursuant to a letter of understanding between the Ministry of Human Rights and OHCHR, a specialized course on human rights for civil servants was held through which 35 liaison officers from the Special Human Rights Response Group and the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System received certification. The course, which was taught by national and international experts in the field, covered topics such as civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, vulnerable groups, women, children and adolescents, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans, and public policies with a human rights approach.⁸⁵

147. The Ministry of Human Rights has also participated in five regional meetings where good practices in State reporting were shared: a reporting workshop held in Panama in 2017; an exchange of experiences on national mechanisms for reporting on and follow-up to human rights recommendations at the regional level,⁸⁶ held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2018 – these two meetings were organized with the support of OHCHR; a regional consultation for Latin American countries on the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council and good practices, follow-up mechanisms and synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

⁸⁴ Accessed on 18 January 2022, available at:

<https://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=EZSHARE-1427999280-390>, p. 5.

⁸⁵ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/217-sedh-continua-impartiendo-curso-especializado-en-derechos-humanos-para-servidoras-y-servidores-estatales>.

⁸⁶ Accessed on 6 December 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/178-la-secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-comparte-sus-experiencias-a-nivel-regional>.

Development, held in Panama in 2019;⁸⁷ an exchange of experiences on national mechanisms for reporting on and follow-up to the international recommendations received by Honduras and Paraguay in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the participation of the Special Human Rights Response Group, held in August 2020; and a virtual regional consultation on national implementation, reporting and follow-up mechanisms for the Americas and the Caribbean, held in December 2021.

148. To harmonize the human rights and development agendas, the international recommendations of all treaty bodies and recommendations received in the context of the universal periodic review were linked to public policies and the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, which is available from the Human Rights Observatory of the Ministry of Human Rights.⁸⁸ The challenges for the Human Rights Observatory are to improve the methodology for monitoring respect for human rights in Honduras, strengthen the technical tools for data collection using a mobile application for prioritized institutions, complete a study on racial discrimination in conjunction with civil society organizations and carry out a study on the perception of the services provided by the Ministry of Human Rights.

⁸⁷ Accessed on 6 December 2021, available at: <https://www.sedh.gob.hn/noticias3/529-honduras-comparte-buenas-practicas-de-simoreh-durante-consulta-regional-para-paises-de-america-latina>.

⁸⁸ Accessed on 11 January 2022, available at: <https://odh.sedh.gob.hn/all>.