



**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**

Forty-first session

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**Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties
under article 73 of the Convention**

**Replies of Honduras to the list of issues in relation
to its second periodic report***

[Date received: 5 March 2025]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. The Government of Honduras hereby submits its replies to the list of issues in relation to its second periodic report¹ to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, submitted pursuant to article 73 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, document [CMW/C/HND/Q/2](#)² and the guidelines for the preparation of reports.
2. The report was prepared by the Ministry of Human Rights in a process coordinated through the Honduran Recommendations Monitoring System,³ made up of institutions of the three branches of government and deconcentrated entities with competence in the implementation of the Convention and the recommendations issued by the Committee in 2016.
3. The report provides updated information on the measures taken, the progress made and the challenges encountered by the Solidarity Government of President Xiomara Castro in the period 2022–2024 under the Government Plan for Rebuilding Honduras 2022–2026⁴ and the provisions of the Convention.

II. Replies to the list of issues ([CMW/C/HND/Q/2](#))

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 1

4. Regarding the amendment of the Migration and Aliens Act to bring it into line with the Convention, the National Congress reports that no bill to amend the Act has been introduced to date.
5. The National Migration Institute has drafted a new Migration and Aliens Act that is consistent with the Convention and other international treaties. It will be introduced in 2025.⁵
6. Decree No. 54-2024 amended article 29 of the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families⁶ regarding the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants, to strengthen protection and assistance to Honduran migrants who live abroad or have returned to the country, in line with international commitments such as the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.⁷
7. Regarding the adoption of legislation to ensure the safe transit of migrants and the protection of their human rights, the National Congress has granted immigration amnesties to migrants who entered Honduras in an irregular manner. The amnesty, approved by Decree No. 42-2022,⁸ provides for exemption from the administrative penalty laid down in the Migration and Aliens Act, equivalent to US\$ 236. This benefit has been extended several times.
8. By Executive Decision No. 77-2023, the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization adopted regulations on the special regime for authorizing visa-free entry.⁹ The regulations establish the relevant procedure and requirements and spell out the functions and responsibilities of the entities involved in the application, authorization and approval processes for entry to the national territory for a maximum period of 90 days, extendable for

¹ [CMW/C/HND/2](#).

² [CMW/C/HND/Q/2](#), adopted by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session.

³ Executive Decree No. PCM-028-2017, Official Gazette No. 34,410.

⁴ Libre political party. Government Plan for Rebuilding Honduras, 2022–2026. <https://n9.cl/w1lhy1>.

⁵ Accessed on 10 January 2025. <https://tnh.gob.hn/nacional/honduras-prepara-una-nueva-ley-de-migracion-y-extranjeria-para-2025-anuncia-wilson-paz/>.

⁶ Decree No. 106-2013, Official Gazette (*La Gaceta*) No. 33,356.

⁷ Decree No. 24-2024, Official Gazette No. 363,593.

⁸ Official Gazette No. 35,989.

⁹ Decision No. 77-2023, Official Gazette No. 36,271.

an additional 30 days in the case of citizens in the “B” and “C” migration categories, for official missions, humanitarian reasons and/or work.

9. Regarding the rights of Honduran migrants residing abroad, amendments have been made to the legal framework for their care and protection, such as:

(a) Decision No. 85-2021¹⁰ amending article 98-A of the implementing regulations of the Migration and Aliens Act on exceptional cases in which a passport can be obtained abroad, in cases of disaster or force majeure;

(b) Decree No. 34-2022,¹¹ which provides for an eight-month extension of the validity of the identity card for Hondurans abroad for purposes of consular or immigration procedures, as part of the project to modernize identity documents in Honduras (the “Identify Yourself” project) of the National Registry Office, involving the roll-out of a new national identity document;

(c) Decree No. 54-2024 amending article 29 of the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families, regarding the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants.

10. Another noteworthy legislative measure was the adoption of the Act for the Prevention of Internal Displacement and the Protection and Care of Internally Displaced Persons.¹² The purpose of the Act is to prevent internal displacement and to provide care, protection and humanitarian assistance to persons or groups that have been forcibly displaced by violence but have not crossed an international border. It also establishes conditions and means for their voluntary, safe and dignified return to their usual place of residence or their voluntary resettlement in another part of the country.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 2

11. The information below concerns the institutionalization of the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and its coordination with other public institutions. In accordance with the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants, the Council provides services and assistance and takes measures to protect Honduran migrants.

12. The Council is working through the new Diaspora Unit to expand services to Honduran nationals abroad.¹³

13. Regarding coordination, more than 20 State institutions and civil society organizations participate in regular meetings of the Council and the Migrant Support Task Force to report on progress in the implementation of the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants.

14. The Council also addresses issues such as the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants, which is administered by the Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Fund is used to provide assistance to Honduran migrants abroad and to returnees, who are received at centres for returned migrants. To this end, the Directorate General annually submits a detailed report to the Council as a means of ensuring transparency and efficiency in the management of the resources allocated to the Fund, corresponding to an annual allocation of US\$ 10 million. This amount is included in its annual budget.¹⁴

¹⁰ Official Gazette No. 35,645.

¹¹ Official Gazette No. 35,923.

¹² Decree No. 154-2022, Official Gazette No. 36,184.

¹³ Accessed on 6 January 2025. <https://tnh.gob.hn/nacional/desarrollan-ii-reunion-del-conaprohm-en-torno-a-temas-migratorios/>.

¹⁴ Decree No. 154-2022, Official Gazette No. 36,184.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 3

15. Measures to encourage communication and coordination with civil society organizations, migrant workers' associations and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and of migration and labour policies include the following:

(a) Development of the Comprehensive Humane Migration Policy with the participation of civil society organizations and migrant workers' associations;

(b) Design of the National Reintegration Plan 2024–2025, developed with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to assist returned migrants by promoting their economic and social reintegration;

(c) Working groups and interactive consultations as forums for dialogue with migrant workers' associations and other key stakeholders to ensure their participation in the implementation of migration policies, with support from IOM and other international agencies.

16. For the participation of civil society organizations in the creation of new legal frameworks, in 2022 the National Congress established the Special Committee on Migration to address social problems relating to migration issues, human rights and social development. The Special Committee promotes participation and consultation with the population.

17. In the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, efforts will be made to involve civil society organizations and other migration-related social sectors in a more coordinated manner, using a people-centred approach.¹⁵

18. With regard to cooperation with specialized international agencies, Honduras has worked closely with IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to strengthen migration governance and ensure the protection of migrant workers' rights.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 4

19. Regarding the ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and other international instruments, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security reports that:

(a) In accordance with the recommendations of the Standards Review Mechanism working group, steps have been taken towards the ratification of the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), in the light of two key considerations: (1) the inclusion of both instruments among the 10 fundamental Conventions pursuant to the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; and (2) the health priorities identified in the Government Plan 2022–2026. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has referred the instruments to the competent authority and has prepared two legal opinions for their ratification;

(b) Honduras is making progress in the discussion of ILO Conventions Nos. 189 and 190, which are at the stage of tripartite dialogue and the drafting of opinions by the Economic and Social Council of Honduras.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 5

20. Regarding steps to provide the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights with full autonomy and independence and to allocate adequate resources, in December 2019 the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions accredited the Office with category A status in view of the efforts made to comply with the principles relating to the

¹⁵ National voluntary report of Honduras, 2022. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

21. In 2023 the Government approved a substantial increase to the Office's budget, which rose by 33.48 per cent in comparison with the 2022 budget.

Budget of the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
L 83 975 158	L 83 469 126	L 83 469 126	L 111 415 781	L 115 415 781

Source: Ministry of Finance.

22. Through the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Mobility, the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights addresses complaints and provides support to migrants in transit, returnees, migrants in need of protection, persons internally displaced by violence, asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants abroad, persons who have been deprived of liberty or disappeared, and victims of exploitation and trafficking in persons.

23. In 2023 the complaints system registered 26 complaints filed by relatives of persons in situations of human mobility and by irregular migrants in Honduran territory. The main types of complaints registered are the following:

Type of complaint	Number	Percentage
Access to justice and due process	4	23.5%
Abuse of authority	3	17.6%
Undue delay in processing and responding to a petition	3	17.6%
Death threats	2	11.8%
Restrictions or hindrances to the right to freedom of movement	2	11.8%
Unwarranted abuse during a body search	1	5.9%
Unlawful detention and incommunicado detention	1	5.9%
Sexual harassment or abuse in the private sector	1	5.9%

Source: Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights, 2023 annual report.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 6

24. Regarding steps to inform migrant workers and members of their families of the judicial and administrative remedies available to them in the event that their rights are violated, they can file complaints or report violations directly to the authorities of the National Migration Institute, who have set up an email address for complaints: denuncias@inm.gob.hn.

25. The Institute's internal legal unit receives complaints, provides legal guidance and, when necessary, files complaints with the Public Prosecution Service, following up on cases to ensure that they are investigated and that those responsible are punished.

26. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has strengthened the regional and local offices of the Directorate General of Labour Inspection to improve the handling of labour complaints, especially in border areas and areas with a high concentration of migrant workers. To this end, staffing has been increased through the addition of new inspectors in three cities: two inspectors in Santa Rosa de Copán, three in Danlí and six in Choluteca.

27. The Directorate General of Labour Inspection offers free advisory services to all workers, thereby facilitating the effective filing of complaints and ensuring that their labour rights are protected.

28. Irregular migrants whose rights have been violated and who request services from the Directorate General of Labour of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security receive guidance, advice and support following analysis of their complaint or request, without distinction.

29. In 2023 the Directorate General of Employment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security delivered 540 legal work permits to foreign and Honduran migrant workers. The Directorate General of Labour Inspection carried out 4,622 inspections to verify working conditions, with an assigned budget of 86,914,824 lempiras (L).¹⁶ In the first quarter of 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security delivered 3,877 inspection reports to verify compliance with labour regulations.¹⁷

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 7 (a)

30. Regarding the number of complaints filed with administrative bodies authorized to consider complaints from migrant workers, the Directorate General of Labour Inspection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security registered two complaints in the period 1 January–12 December 2024.

31. This unit has a general system for recording services that does not classify complaints according to the immigration status (regular or irregular) of the person/user/citizen to whom services are provided.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 8

32. Regarding the implementation of the gender perspective and the removal of discriminatory provisions from migration and labour regulations, the draft new Migration and Aliens Act incorporates the gender and non-discrimination approach.

33. The National Migration Institute is developing a humane migration policy that reflects a human rights, gender and non-discrimination approach to guarantee safe, orderly and regular migration, without discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic origin, disability, nationality, immigration status or socioeconomic situation.

34. The Institute's services are gender- and diversity-sensitive and are provided to different population groups in accordance with a differentiated and intersectional perspective.

35. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the bill on work permits for foreigners in Honduras was drafted with a focus on gender and on improving protection for migrant workers.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 9

36. To address cases in which migrant workers have been subjected to abusive employment conditions, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has mechanisms to receive and address complaints, either upon request or ex officio, from migrants with either regular or irregular status, giving priority to children and adolescents.

37. Since 2022, comprehensive labour inspections focused on protecting migrant workers have been carried out, prioritizing sectors such as agriculture, the fishing industry and commerce.

38. To strengthen inspections by the Directorate General of Labour Inspection, workers have been trained and technological infrastructure has been modernized, pursuant to article 5 of the Labour Inspection Act.

¹⁶ Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Follow-up report on physical and financial performance, fourth quarter of 2023.

¹⁷ Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Follow-up report on physical and financial performance, first quarter of 2024.

39. By Decision No. 625-2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security created the Honduran Labour Cases System to optimize services for interlinkage, registration and electronic documentation in the Simplified National Registry of Employers.¹⁸

40. The Labour Inspection Act mandates the creation of the Simplified National Registry of Employers.¹⁹ The regulations pertaining to the Act establish that the purpose of the registry is to create a database of all natural and legal persons maintaining an employment relationship in their capacity as employers, with the exception of natural persons who hire people to perform household chores.

41. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has designed continuous training programmes to strengthen the capacities and skills of inspection personnel. Such training has included the following:

<i>Training provided to labour inspectors in 2023</i>			
<i>Topics</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Participating inspectors</i>
Training on the Labour Code, the Labour Inspection Act and benefit calculations	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	2 months	21
Workplace health and safety essentials	ILO/Honduran Private Enterprise Council	6 weeks	1
Maritime safety certification to perform inspections on the high seas	Merchant Navy	1 week	8
Assessment of compliance with treaties and its relationship with international human rights protection systems	Ministry of Human Rights	1 day	16
Workshop on improving compliance with labour law in the Americas	Inter-American Network for Labor Administration/ Organization of American States	2 days	1
Monitoring and outreach workshop	World Vision	3 days	70
National Labour Inspection Strategy workshop		3 days	28
Number of inspectors trained			145
<i>Training provided to labour inspectors in 2024</i>			
<i>Topics</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Participating inspectors</i>
Certification in labour legislation		5 months	60
Certification in labour migration	IOM/Central American Technological University	2 months	4
Training on:			
Child labour		1 month	154
Emotional intelligence		1 week	5
Microsoft function		1 week	3
Microsoft Excel pivot tables		2 days	2
Number of inspectors trained			228

¹⁸ Decision No. 625-2023, Official Gazette No. 36,438. https://www.trabajo.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ACUERDO_SETRASS_No._625_2023-1.pdf.

¹⁹ Decree No. 178-2016, art. 4.

Training provided to workers and employers, 2022–2024

<i>Training topics</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of workshops</i>	<i>Staff benefited</i>	<i>Institution trained</i>
Compliance with labour, health and safety regulations at work	2022	116	1 733	Various companies nationwide
	2023	164	4 089	
	2024	67	1 676	
Honduran Labour Cases System and Simplified National Registry of Employers	2024	19	1 411	Tegucigalpa Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Exploring Safety and Innovation	2024	1	57	National Autonomous University of Honduras, Central American Technological University, Catholic University of Honduras
Total trained			8 966	

Source: Information from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

42. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security ensures that all persons, including migrant workers, have access to means of filing complaints against employers. Administrative safeguards are in place, ranging from complaints to possible sanctions provided for in the Labour Code.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 10

43. Measures have been implemented to protect the rights of migrant children and adolescents, in particular those who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents, in an irregular situation or in transit. At the national level, the National Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Children in Migration Situations was adopted to ensure the protection of the rights of migrant children and adolescents through a comprehensive and differentiated approach.

44. At the regional level, Honduras and Guatemala concluded the Binational Protocol for the Protection and Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents, which establishes cooperation mechanisms for the protection, assistance and family reunification of children who have migrated between the two countries.

45. For the period from 2022 to 27 January 2025, the Support System for Returned Migrants of the Social Development Observatory, attached to the Ministry of Social Development, recorded 21,354 returned migrant children and adolescents and 578 returned migrants with disabilities.²⁰

Returned migrant children, by year and age group

<i>Age group</i>	<i>0–3</i>	<i>4–6</i>	<i>7–12</i>	<i>13–15</i>	<i>16–17</i>	<i>Total</i>
2022	4 290	3 339	2 425	1 394	2 714	14 162
2023	2 930	2 368	3 167	1 425	1 766	11 656
2024	1 613	1 603	2 340	1 051	1 379	7 986
January 2025	54	60	99	41	42	296
Total	8 887	7 360	8 031	3 911	5 901	21 354

Source: Support System for Returned Migrants of the Ministry of Social Development.

Data: 2022 to 27 January 2025.

²⁰ Accessed on 21 February 2025 at <http://redatam.ods.sedesol.gob.hn/redbin/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=SIAMIR&lang=esp>.

46. Regarding the labour inspection system, for the implementation of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), the Ministry of Labour and Social Security reports the following measures:

- (a) The Seal of Compliance with Child Labour Regulations;²¹
- (b) The Working Conditions Monitoring and Oversight Programme, with a particular focus on the prevention and eradication of child labour;
- (c) The National Labour Inspection Strategy, which introduced “three-in-one” inspections allowing inspectors to conduct reviews of general working conditions, the minimum wage and child labour in a single visit;
- (d) The Directorate General of Social Welfare has provided guidance on preventive and protective measures for children and adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17 in the procedure for the authorization of protected adolescent work;
- (e) In conjunction with the Public Prosecution Service, continuous operations are carried out in the tobacco, melon, coffee, transport and bakery sectors, among others, to identify possible cases of child labour;
- (f) The Comprehensive Care Programme for Workers’ Children, which provides comprehensive care services for 12 or 13 hours a day. Under this programme, the children of working parents receive four meals a day with snacks, early stimulation, nutritional monitoring and educational development. Other services include parenting school, recreation and healthcare. This helps to prevent child labour in early childhood and promotes equal opportunities between men and women in the productive sector and household income.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 11

47. To protect migrants in transit from violence, gender-based violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation, support centres for irregular migrants and the Francisco Paz support centre for irregular migrants, located in Danlí, El Paraíso, provide humanitarian assistance, legal referrals, psychosocial support and medical assistance, giving priority to vulnerable groups. In 2022 and 2023 these centres provided services on 79,644 occasions, including medical, legal and psychological assistance, food, clothing and hygiene and biosafety kits.²²

48. The Humanitarian Network, State institutions, civil society organizations, UNHCR and IOM coordinate joint efforts to provide shelter, food and protection.

49. The National Migration Institute, together with international agencies, has strengthened its capacity to manage mixed migration flows through humanitarian assistance programmes, training of officials and specialized protocols, thus ensuring the protection of migrants in transit.

50. Officials of the Institute were trained to identify signs of trafficking during migration searches and to assist migrant victims of trafficking and gender-based violence by referring them to agencies such as the National Police and the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Honduras.

51. The Institute has more than 40 human rights officers deployed in the internal control offices in Trojes and Danlí (El Pescadero) and at the support centre for irregular migrants in Choluteca, the Francisco Paz support centre and the Lomas de Toncontín support centre in Tegucigalpa.

52. The Institute implements a strategy for the management of irregular migration at the border, comprising six components with a comprehensive and human rights-based approach.

53. The Institute’s Human Rights and Migrant Services Department referred 104 migrants to public hospitals nationwide and referred cases of unaccompanied children and adolescents

²¹ Decision No. STSS-317-2022.

²² National Migration Institute. 2022-2023 report.
https://portalunico.iaip.gob.hn/ver_archivo/MjIwMzc5OA==

to the Ministry for Children, Adolescents and the Family, formerly the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family.²³

54. In 2022 and 2023 it provided assistance and protection to 733,901 migrants in transit, of whom 666,549 benefited from the immigration amnesty.²⁴

55. Regarding asylum-seekers, in 2022 and 2023 the National Migration Institute received 258 asylum applications. The following services were provided:

Asylum applications and services provided in 2022 and 2023

	2022	2023
Asylum applications	154	104
Services provided		
- Medical and psychological	71	62
- Hygiene kits	155	101
- Clothing and biosafety kits	96	97

Source: National Migration Institute, 2022–2023 report.

56. To assist Honduran migrant returnees with protection needs, a protocol for assistance to returnees with protection needs was drawn up and is in the process of being approved. It was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in collaboration with the National Migration Institute, the Ministry for Children, Adolescents and the Family, the Social Development Observatory of the Ministry of Social Development, the centres for returned migrants, UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Honduran Red Cross.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 12

57. Regarding Honduran migrants detained abroad, the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families provides that consulates must provide such persons with assistance and guidance on their rights. For this purpose, the Office of the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs coordinates assistance to migrants abroad, ensuring that consulates provide support to detainees in countries such as Mexico and the United States of America and to their families.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 13

58. The measures adopted in terms of bilateral agreements and consular protection to safeguard the rights of Honduran migrant workers and their families, regardless of their immigration status, include the following:

- (a) 2016 memorandum with the United States for the protection of migrants against employment discrimination;
- (b) 2021 agreement with Spain to regulate labour migration flows;
- (c) At the bilateral level, accession in 2024 to the Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security, which guarantees economic benefits and social security;
- (d) Measures to strengthen the consular network, which offers free legal assistance, legal referrals and mediation in cases of detention;
- (e) Assisted return programmes and counselling on labour rights, implemented jointly with international agencies.

²³ Executive Decree No. PCM-041-2023, Official Gazette No. 36,357.

²⁴ National Migration Institute, 2022–2023 report.

59. The National Emergency Strategy for the Protection of Honduran Migrants²⁵ was adopted in February 2025 in response to the migration crisis generated by the tightening of United States immigration policies and mass deportations of Hondurans. It provides for the signing of bilateral or multilateral agreements on migration issues to coordinate actions to protect the rights of Hondurans residing in the United States. It also provides that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will enter into agreements with non-profit organizations or hire legal firms in the United States to ensure legal assistance and comprehensive protection of Honduran migrants in an irregular situation.

60. Local authorities and National Migration Institute officials have met with Mexican migration authorities and other stakeholders to address migration issues, the coordination of migrant returns and the strengthening of assistance and support programmes within the framework of the Strategy.²⁶

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 14

61. With regard to the penalties that migrant workers face for failing to comply with migration laws or regulations, the Migration and Aliens Act sets out administrative penalties, consisting mainly of fines, for those who enter the country in an irregular manner.

62. Beginning in 2022, the National Congress approved a series of immigration amnesties to exempt foreign migrants in an irregular situation from the payment of penalties, thus far benefiting more than 980,000 migrants in transit.²⁷ The decrees approving and extending the amnesty are:

(a) Decree No. 42-2022, which grants an immigration amnesty to migrants who entered Honduran territory in an irregular manner;

(b) Decree No. 79-2022²⁸ amending article 1 of Decree No. 42-2022 by adding articles 1-A on the suspension of the administrative penalty; 1-B on the benefit for migrants, establishing that the suspension of the penalty does not entail regularization of immigration status and indicating that a special permit must be requested from the National Migration Institute; 1-C on the application of the amnesty to migrants who entered without passing through immigration control; 1-D establishing that the National Migration Institute will guarantee and prioritize administrative procedures for the regularization of migrants; and 1-E on appearance at an internal control immigration office or support centre for irregular migrants to obtain the benefit of the amnesty;

(c) Decree No. 137-2022,²⁹ which benefits migrants who entered the territory in an irregular manner before 1 June 2023;

(d) Decree No. 39-2023,³⁰ which benefits migrants in mixed migration flows who are in a state of vulnerability and who entered before 1 January 2024;

(e) Decree No. 6-2024,³¹ which benefits both migrants and other persons in mixed migration flows who entered before 31 December 2024.

63. The National Migration Institute has improved reception and transit conditions for migrants by setting up checkpoints, temporary residence permits and humanitarian assistance, in collaboration with international organizations such as IOM.

64. In 2023 the Institute's Aliens Department opened offices in Santa Rosa de Copán and Comayagua, which offer extension of stay, registration and identity card renewal services for resident aliens or aliens with residence permits.

²⁵ Executive Decree No. PCM-08-2025, Official Gazette No. 36,761.

²⁶ Accessed on 20 February 2025 at <https://tnh.gob.hn/nacional/director-del-inm-se-reunira-con-autoridades-mexicanas-para-fortalecer-proteccion-a-migrantes/>.

²⁷ Accessed on 20 February 2025 at <https://sreci.gob.hn/node/2026>.

²⁸ Official Gazette No. 35,993.

²⁹ Official Gazette No. 36,088.

³⁰ Official Gazette No. 36,243.

³¹ Official Gazette No. 36,460.

65. An exemption permit module was developed to grant temporary authorization to foreign migrants in an irregular situation who enter the country and go through biometric immigration control, enabling them to transit through the country for five days.

66. The National Migration Institute issues identity cards to foreigners who meet the requirements laid down by law. It issued 1,768 cards in 2022 and 2,178 cards in 2023.³²

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 15

67. Regarding the strengthening of the system of consular protection, especially in Mexico and the United States, the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families establishes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, through the Office for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and the Office of the Deputy Minister for Consular and Migration Affairs, is to provide consular assistance, legal referrals and support in cases of vulnerability.

68. All Honduran nationals abroad and members of their families residing in Honduras have access to protection services. This includes Hondurans detained or deprived of liberty abroad and migrant children and adolescents, among others. In 2024, the help desk of the Office for the Protection of Honduran Migrants dealt with approximately 1,950 cases.

69. Through the National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and with international cooperation, mobile consulates were set up in various United States cities.

70. In 2023, when mobile consulates were installed in the United States through coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the National Migration Institute and the National Registry Office, 14,086 passports were issued to Honduran migrants residing in Tampa, San Antonio, Nashville, Kansas City, Lake City, Jacksonville, Raleigh and Philadelphia. In 2024 a total of 24 events were held and, following the adoption of the National Emergency Strategy for the Protection of Honduran Migrants in 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the National Migration Institute and the National Registry Office launched the third phase of the mobile consulates initiative in eight United States cities.

71. Officials of the Honduran consulates in Mexico and the United States make occasional visits to Honduran migrant workers to verify working conditions in situ.

72. The consular network, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National Registry Office have carried out registration processes to issue the new national identity document free of charge to Hondurans living abroad.³³

73. In 2023 IOM and government entities from Honduras and Mexico held a National Identity Fair in the Mexican city of Monterrey. The purpose was to facilitate the issuance of the national identity document and passports to Hondurans in Mexico. The fair involved the provision of services such as registration for the national identity document, electronic passports, birth certificates, legal advice and advice on regularization, among others. More than 1,400 procedures were carried out.³⁴

74. To improve the service provided to Honduran nationals residing in Mexico, the Integrated Migration System was implemented in the Honduran Consular Section in Mexico City to manage the production of passports for Honduran applicants at that location. This consular office serves as a production centre for the offices that issue current passports at the consulates in Mexico City, San Luis Potosí, Tapachula, Tijuana and Veracruz. Previously, the process was carried out in Honduras. In 2023 the new electronic passport was launched; it includes more than 65 security measures.

75. The National Council for the Protection of Honduran Migrants provides protection to Honduran migrants who have returned to Honduras. To this end, improvements have been

³² National Migration Institute, 2022–2023 report.

³³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, 2023 annual report, p. 21.

³⁴ Accessed on 10 January 2025 at <https://n9.cl/00e6p>.

made in services at centres for returned migrants and in the Comprehensive Support System for Honduran Migrants, centralizing assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations.

76. For the protection of foreign migrants in Honduras, the State facilitates access to consular protection from their countries of origin, ensuring respect for their rights in coordination with foreign diplomatic offices and in accordance with international agreements.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 16

77. Regarding measures to ensure that migrant workers, in particular women, enjoy the right to equal treatment, including the right to receive the minimum wage and benefit from social welfare and social security, and the right to decent work, the Labour Code guarantees the minimum wage to all workers. The minimum wage is determined by a tripartite commission composed of workers, employers and the State. It also guarantees decent working conditions and registration with the Honduran Social Security Institute for social welfare and pensions.

78. Article 2 of the Labour Code establishes that its provisions are a matter of public law and apply to all persons, without distinction. Article 12 prohibits discrimination in the workplace; it also establishes the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

79. In addition, there is a preliminary bill on work permits for foreigners in Honduras, which reflects a focus on gender and on improving protection for cross-border migrant workers.

80. Regarding mechanisms for effectively monitoring working conditions with a view to legal and labour protection, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, through the Directorate General of Labour Inspection, coordinates periodic routine inspections to verify that employers are complying with requirements concerning payment of the minimum wage and provision of adequate working conditions. To this end, the Directorate General of Labour Inspection is a member of the Minimum Wage Commission for the Maquiladora Textile Sector approved by Decision No. SETRASS-196-2023.

81. To promote equality and prevent discriminatory practices in the workplace, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security implements a labour inspection protocol on gender discrimination in employment and occupation, established by Decision No. SETRASS-160-2024.

82. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security leads the Temporary Work Abroad Programme, which implements a monitoring mechanism to protect the human rights of workers in the destination countries. The Governments of the destination countries require companies that hire temporary foreign workers to provide a series of benefits and facilities for the workers. To this end, the Temporary Work Abroad Programme has entered a partnership with Justice In Motion, a law firm that provides legal advice and support when a foreign worker's rights are violated.

83. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security is working on a follow-up mechanism for ongoing communication with workers and companies through digital media. When there is a violation of workers' rights, all possible means are exhausted to provide a solution.

84. The United States Department of Labor requires and ensures that companies provide the following to their workers:

- (a) Payment for work visas;
- (b) Payment of round-trip airfare;
- (c) Decent housing;
- (d) Transportation and meals (optional);
- (e) Remuneration commensurate with the work performed.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 17

85. To promote access to social security and the registration of migrant workers, particularly women, with the social protection system, the Directorate General of Labour Inspection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security leads the periodic supervision of routine inspections, ensuring that employers meet their obligation to enrol workers in the social security system.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 18

86. Regarding equality of protection and treatment between migrant workers and nationals, the Constitution of Honduras and criminal law prohibit all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on origin, nationality or ethnicity.

87. To ensure that migrant workers enjoy equal rights, working conditions and protection against dismissal and workplace abuses, the Directorate General of Labour Inspection conducts extraordinary inspections upon request.

88. Regarding public work schemes to combat unemployment, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security implements various programmes such as the Comprehensive Care Programme for Workers' Children. The Child Protection Department administers, monitors, follows up and supervises the nine childcare centres nationwide, which provide care services to children under 6 years of age whose parents work in the formal or informal sector of the economy.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 19

89. In relation to the access of migrant workers' children to the education system, the National Education Programme for Returning Migrant Children and Adolescents ensures access to the education system.

90. The Honduran education system allows enrolment by migrants who are in the process of regularizing their status in the national territory. Educational institutions nationwide have procedures for the enrolment of students of foreign origin.

91. At the higher education level, there are agreements with the National Autonomous University of Honduras to admit migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

92. For the reintegration of refugees in the education system, the National Migration Institute carries out initiatives to promote refugees' access to education on an inclusive and equitable footing. These include the recognition of previous studies in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, accelerated education programmes in conjunction with UNHCR and access to scholarships and financial aid.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 20

93. To ensure that migrant workers enjoy the right to form associations and trade unions, the Labour Code recognizes the right of all workers, including migrant workers, to form and join trade unions and to participate in trade union activities. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, by means of inspections, guarantees this right through the application of the protocol on freedom of association and collective bargaining adopted by Decision No. STSS-002-2022.

94. Concerning migrants with regular immigration status who have obtained work permits, the Department of Social Organizations, attached to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, carries out exhaustive analyses and maintains a register of social organizations and their affiliates, while respecting national laws and conventions regarding freedom of association and refraining from any intervention.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 21

95. Regarding the legal framework to facilitate migrant workers' exercise of the right to vote, to participate in public affairs and to be elected to public office, the National Congress has adopted the following decrees on electoral matters:

(a) Decree No. 35-2021 containing the Electoral Act of Honduras, which includes provisions on gender parity, alternation and equality. It ensures that men and women participate under conditions affording equal opportunities, based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination;

(b) Decree No. 34-2022 authorizing the continued validity of the identity card for Honduran citizens residing abroad, in the light of the National Registry Office's "Identify Yourself" project;

(c) Decree No. 85-2024 containing the Electoral Procedure Act, which regulates the specific competencies, organization and operation of the Electoral Court, establishing procedures to be followed in proceedings and appeals under its jurisdiction.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 22

96. Regarding measures to deal with the situation of migrant workers in street situations, shelters offering basic services and a safe place to stay have been established, such as those in Danlí and Trojes, which have the highest levels of irregular migration.

97. To prevent deported Hondurans from falling into destitution upon their return to the country, the Act on the Protection of Honduran Migrants and Members of Their Families promotes reintegration policies and facilitates access to social benefits. Initiatives such as Hondureños y Hondureñas Conectados have also been implemented to involve the diaspora in support of vulnerable communities.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 23

98. Regarding measures to protect the unity of migrant workers' families and facilitate reunification, Honduras has concluded cooperation agreements with the United States, implemented through the United States embassy in Honduras, to facilitate family reunification processes for Hondurans who have settled in that country.

99. Regarding the number of foreign migrants who have applied for reunification, the National Migration Institute collects and systematizes information to ensure adequate follow-up of cases.

100. The Institute grants residence and special residence permits to foreign migrants. Between 2022 and February 2025, 2,082 residence permits were granted (1,134 to men, 813 to women, 70 to boys and 65 to girls).³⁵

101. The nationalities of those granted residence permits are as follows: 725 permits were granted to United States nationals, 168 to Nicaraguans, 154 to Salvadorans, 146 to Colombians, 118 to Canadians, 103 to Guatemalans, 92 to Mexicans, 58 to Cubans and 105 to Chinese nationals.

102. The main categories of residence permits granted are as follows: 421 by reason of family ties, 184 by reason of marital ties, 143 for pensioners, 105 for immigrants, 93 for rentiers, 22 for investors, 2 for entrepreneurs, 1 by reason of a contract with a private company, 1 for a migrant worker and 934 authorized by the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization under article 21 (8) of the Migration and Aliens Act.

³⁵ Accessed on 19 February 2025 at <https://inm.gob.hn/residencias-estadisticas.html>.

103. In the period from 2022 to February 2025, the National Migration Institute granted 2,514 special residence permits³⁶ (1,021 to men, 768 to women, 428 to boys and 297 to girls). The ages of those granted residence permits are as follows: 725 are children, adolescents or young people between the ages of 0 and 20, 578 are young people between the ages of 21 and 30, 1,068 are adults between the ages of 31 and 60 and 143 are adults aged 61 or older.

104. The nationalities of those granted special residence permits are as follows: 421 permits were granted to United States nationals, 312 to Guatemalans, 265 to Salvadorans, 217 to Nicaraguans, 210 to Colombians, 149 to Mexicans and 124 to Ecuadorians.

105. The main categories of special residence permits granted are as follows: 491 for students, 360 for economic dependants, 279 for persons hired by private companies, 106 for persons hired by international organizations, 66 for entrepreneurs, 61 for persons hired by foreign Governments, 59 for humanitarian reasons, 43 for persons hired by State institutions, 26 for managerial personnel, 26 for migrant workers, 25 for persons hired by legal entities, 24 for persons hired by individuals and 14 for private companies.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 24

106. Regarding the participation of migrant workers in the development of support and reintegration programmes, the State carries out inclusive processes for the development and design of laws, plans and programmes, such as the National Reintegration Plan 2024–2025, developed with technical support from IOM through inclusive processes involving representatives of civil society. The Plan reflects a rights- and gender-based approach and the principle of non-discrimination.

107. Another example concerns the implementing regulations of the Act for the Prevention of Internal Displacement and the Protection and Care of Internally Displaced Persons, which were developed in consultation processes.

108. To coordinate the drafting of the regulations, a subcommittee on regulations was established, composed of six State institutions, one civil society organization and four international organizations. During the process, five days of consultations were held with displaced persons nationwide,³⁷ in regions with the largest displaced population. A total of 170 displaced persons participated. In addition, six days of consultations were held with the 25 public institutions that make up the Inter-Agency Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons.

109. The adoption of the regulations will provide for the administration and operation of the Fund for the Protection and Care of Displaced Persons, to which an amount of L 150 billion will be allocated for the provision of protection measures, humanitarian assistance and durable solutions to persons internally displaced by violence.³⁸ Applications for humanitarian assistance will be addressed in coordination with the National Response System, ensuring protection and assistance in individual and collective cases of displacement.

110. The Act for the Prevention of Internal Displacement and the Protection and Care of Internally Displaced Persons reflects a holistic approach that allows for the coordination and strengthening of the State response.

111. Under the Act, the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization prepared municipal guidelines in inclusive processes and shared them with the institutions of the National Response System.³⁹

³⁶ Accessed on 20 February 2025 at <https://inm.gob.hn/permisos-especiales-permanencia-estadisticas.html>.

³⁷ The consultation sessions, entitled “Voices of forced displacement in Honduras”, were held in the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca, La Esperanza and La Ceiba.

³⁸ Information provided by the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced as a Result of Violence.

³⁹ The National Response System consists of 28 institutions (State and municipal) and 2 civil society organizations.

112. These guidelines are intended to operationalize the Act at the municipal level and are implemented by the Municipal Units for the Protection and Care of Forcibly Displaced Persons, with ongoing support from the Ministry of Human Rights through the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced as a Result of Violence.

113. Among the measures adopted by the Government of President Xiomara Castro to address the mass expulsions of Hondurans from the United States as a result of the tightening of that country's immigration policies, Executive Decree No. PCM-08-2025 was adopted to declare a state of immigration emergency at the national level for six months and to adopt the National Emergency Strategy for the Protection of Honduran Migrants to provide a comprehensive, inter-agency approach to Honduran returnees.

114. In accordance with the Strategy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the consular network will promote the participation of Hondurans in the United States through ongoing dialogue to monitor the human rights situation of Honduran migrants and to identify their demands, needs, proposals and initiatives, which will be referred to the Migration Governance Council for its consideration.⁴⁰ The Council will conduct a large-scale information campaign on migrants' rights.

115. The Strategy includes the provision of legal, psychosocial and medical assistance through the migrant hotline of the 911 National Emergency System, the 911 Conecta application and instant messaging on WhatsApp, and action programmes for Hondurans with irregular immigration status in the United States, migrants in transit and returned migrants.

116. It also establishes the "Sister, Brother, Come Home" programme for the economic and social reintegration of Honduran returnees through support and incentives to facilitate their reintegration. The programme includes:

- (a) Strengthening of the services provided by the centres for returned migrants;
- (b) Establishment of temporary shelters;
- (c) The "You're Home" cash transfer, a one-time cash transfer equivalent to US\$ 100, paid from the Social Benefit Fund to each returning migrant who goes to a centre for returned migrants;
- (d) A food voucher in the amount of L 4,000;
- (e) Seed capital in an amount equivalent to US\$ 1,000, channelled through the National Service for Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses to promote entrepreneurship;
- (f) Facilitation of credit through the National Bank for Agricultural Development and the Honduran Bank for Production and Housing, and inclusion in the community programmes for rural and urban financial cooperatives;
- (g) Priority consideration of returned migrants for employment through the Integrated Employment System of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. This includes vocational guidance and business management. In the public sector, the supply of jobs in infrastructure, security and the environment will be expanded, including through the Andrés Tamayo reforestation programme and the Zero Deforestation 2030 Plan.

117. In 2024, more than 3,000 Honduran families benefited from support and assistance measures for migrants, with economic support and psychosocial assistance for their reintegration.

118. The Ministry of Social Development, through the Solidarity Action Programme, implements the "Return with Opportunities" project to provide assistance to returned migrants.

119. Under the project, training is provided to migrants on human mobility and the associated risks, social cohesion and sustainable reintegration. Efforts are also made to inform migrants and to generate opportunities for those who have been displaced by violence, extortion, death threats, climate change, unemployment and lack of opportunities, within the framework of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

⁴⁰ Art. 4 (c) of Executive Decree No. PCM-08-2024, Official Gazette No. 36,761.

120. In 2024, soft skills workshops were provided under the Solidarity Action Programme to returned migrants in the cities of Tegucigalpa and Olancho. Returned migrant women were given mental health support and psychosocial assistance. These actions benefited 200 returned migrants.

121. In 2023 the Integrated Employment System provided the following services to help Honduran migrant returnees enter the labour market: 21 people were hired, 355 benefited from job placement services and 73 received vocational guidance. In 2024, 10 people were hired, 216 people benefited from job placement services and 58 received vocational guidance. These services were provided in the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, La Ceiba, Danlí, Catacamas, Choloma, Choluteca, Comayagua, Juticalpa, Gracias and Roatán.

122. To compile statistics on Honduran migrants who have been returned or repatriated, the Ministry of Social Development implements the Support System for Returned Migrants,⁴¹ a subsystem of the Honduran Beneficiary Registration System. This system uses the Returned Migrants Registration Form, applied in the centres for returned migrants.⁴²

123. The form captures a number of variables, including territorial disaggregation by neighbourhood or village, identification of the municipalities from which most people have migrated, reasons for migration, country of return, date of return, migration flows per month and information by life cycle, gender, economic situation, health, education, housing and personal and family information.

124. The Support System for Returned Migrants facilitates the targeting of State programmes and projects and the interoperability of systems, with data cross-checked against those of the National Registry Office and the Managed System of Educational Centres for the reintegration of children and adolescents into the education system.

125. According to the records of the Honduran Observatory on Consular Issues and Migration,⁴³ the profile of Honduran returnees in recent years is as follows:

Honduran returnees, disaggregated by sex and year

<i>Year</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Total</i>
2023	11 333	4 794	36 727	5 905	58 759
2024	8 592	3 376	29 299	4 090	45 357
Total	19 925	8 170	66 026	9 995	104 116
	28 095		76 021		

Source: Honduran Observatory on Consular Issues and Migration.

Honduran returnees, by centre for returned migrants, 2023–2024

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children/adolescents</i>	<i>Total</i>
San Pedro Sula centre	58 621	48	58 669
Belén centre	13 534	18 111	31 645
Omoa centre	13 796	4	13 800
Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family – Guasaule border crossing	-	2	2
Total	85 951	18 165	104 116

Source: Honduran Observatory on Consular Issues and Migration.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Ministry of Social Development, Support System for Returned Migrants.

<https://ods.sedesol.gob.hn/siamir/>.

⁴² Belén Child and Family Migrant Support Centre, Villeda Morales Centre for Returned Migrants and Omoa Centre for Returned Migrants.

⁴³ Accessed on 12 February 2025 at <https://conmigho.sreci.gob.hn/retornados-23-25/>.

⁴⁴ Accessed on 20 February 2025 at <https://conmigho.sreci.gob.hn/retornados-23-25/>.

126. Most Honduran migrants are returned from the United States and Mexico. In 2023 and 2024 the centres for returned migrants served 77,946 Honduran returnees from the United States, 25,535 from Mexico, 544 from Guatemala, 50 from Belize, 33 from Spain, 5 from El Salvador, 1 from Ecuador and 2 children from Nicaragua, who received services from the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family.

127. According to data from the Central Bank of Honduras, in 2022 family remittances amounted to US\$ 8,686.2 million, representing 27.0 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). In 2023 they amounted to US\$ 9,177.5 million, representing 25.9 per cent of GDP. The number of family remittance recipients was 2,635,974 in 2022 and 2,753,000 in 2023.⁴⁵

128. Regarding information on family remittances, in 2023 some 98.35 per cent came from the United States. Almost 50 per cent of remittances are sent to the Department of Francisco Morazán and 18.6 per cent to the Department of Cortés. About 85.8 per cent of remittances are used for basic household expenses, medical treatment and education.⁴⁶

129. Through the emergency humanitarian assistance mechanism, the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced as a Result of Violence provides protection and humanitarian assistance in the form of transport, emergency relocation, temporary housing, household supplies, monetary rental assistance for relocation, food, early childhood kits, personal hygiene and cleaning supplies, clothing and emergency transfers to people internally displaced by violence or at risk of displacement and to returned migrants in need of protection.

130. In 2024 it dealt with 97 cases of persons who were internally displaced or at risk of displacement and returned migrants in need of protection. Assistance and protection were provided to 337 people (110 women, 88 men, 82 girls and 57 boys) through 785 measures involving humanitarian assistance components. Seed capital was provided in 15 cases, benefiting 40 people (17 women, 5 girls, 9 men and 9 boys).

131. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Pro-Migrant Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation developed an action protocol for municipal units and offices for assistance to returned migrants.

132. Under the EUROLABOR programme, implemented as part of the Youth Employment Programme to Prevent Migration carried out in cooperation with the European Union and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, more than 700 young people were trained in youth entrepreneurship, 1,200 young people were enrolled in technical training for employment, a job placement office was established at the Comayagua teaching workshop, an investment fund to promote entrepreneurship was created and more than 800 young returnees received support for starting their own businesses.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25

133. Regarding the enactment of a comprehensive law on trafficking in persons, in accordance with the protocols to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Honduras has adopted the Trafficking in Persons Act,⁴⁷ and the new Criminal Code⁴⁸ includes provisions on the offence of trafficking and other degrading forms of human exploitation.

134. In November 2021, by Decree No. 93-2021,⁴⁹ article 219 on the offence of trafficking was amended because the new Criminal Code had reduced the penalties and repealed provisions on certain forms of the offence.

⁴⁵ Central Bank of Honduras, *Honduras en Cifras 2020–2023* (Honduras in Figures 2020–2023). <https://www.bch.hn/estadisticas-y-publicaciones-economicas/boletin-estadistico-memoria-anual-y-otras-publicaciones/honduras-en-cifras>.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Decree No. 59-2012.

⁴⁸ Decree No. 130-2017, Official Gazette No. 34,940.

⁴⁹ Decree No. 93-2021, Official Gazette No. 35,760. https://www.tsc.gob.hn/web/leyes/Decreto_93-2021.pdf.

135. The amended text increases the penalties under both the Criminal Code and the Trafficking in Persons Act, establishing penalties of 10 to 15 years' imprisonment and expanding the definition of the offence of trafficking to include sexual exploitation and other forms such as exploitation in conditions of slavery or forced labour, begging, recruitment, forced sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, organ extraction, experimentation and other forms of conduct defined in the Trafficking in Persons Act. It also establishes as aggravating factors, resulting in a one-third increase in the penalty, the use of violence, deception or intimidation or the payment of a third party who has control over the victim, or the perpetration of the offence against a child or adolescent, among other factors.

136. To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, the authorities have increased the budget of the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking by 400 per cent and have strengthened its staffing.⁵⁰

137. In 2022 the Commission's budget was L 7,131,063. It was increased with the allocation of an additional sum of L 1,000,000 in the second half of 2022. For 2023, the Commission's budget was increased to L 30,307,772, with a budget execution rate of 81.19 per cent. In 2024 the budget was L 40,307,772,⁵¹ and an increase of L 10,000,000 was approved to strengthen services for victims and to hire personnel.

138. With respect to staffing, in 2021 the Commission had 12 people to carry out its functions. In 2023, 56 people were hired.

139. To improve care for direct and indirect victims of trafficking, the Commission's rapid response team was strengthened through the hiring of specialized professionals. There are now 19 staff members: four psychologists, four social workers, five legal officers, one doctor, one nurse, one educator, one assistant, one assistant coordinator and one coordinator.

140. Offices have been opened in five tourist and border departments where the most victims have been identified, and 12 people have been hired to provide immediate care and to support awareness-raising activities. In addition, six people were hired for the prevention unit, six for the communications unit and three for the National Information System.

141. The Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking, which reports to the Ministry of Human Rights, is responsible for promoting, coordinating and monitoring actions to prevent and combat the offences of sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (a)

142. Regarding cases of servitude, trafficking and exploitation, in 2022 the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking recorded two cases involving two people, of Colombian and United States nationality, who had been exploited in the form of servitude.

143. Between 2020 and 2023 the Commission's rapid response team identified and assisted 120 girls and 90 boys who were victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons, and assisted 1,406 girls and 1,005 boys who were indirect victims.

Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (c)

144. To strengthen the capacity to identify victims and traffickers, the National Migration Institute provides awareness-raising and training to its personnel. In addition, the Institute and the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking have opened regional offices in tourist and border areas and within the Francisco

⁵⁰ Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking, 2022 report, p. 2. <https://cicesct.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Informe-Nacional-Contra-la-Trata-2022-Honduras.pdf>.

⁵¹ Decree No. 62-2023, Official Gazette No. 36,437. <https://www.tsc.gob.hn/web/leyes/Decreto-62-2023.pdf>.

Paz support centre for irregular migrants, located in Danlí, to identify potential cases of trafficking.

145. The Commission has local committees throughout the country. They carry out activities to prevent trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and to raise awareness of these offences, and also refer possible cases to the central offices. In coordination with the 17 local committees, action plans have been drawn up for the identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in persons, including a plan in the Miskito language for the Miskito community of Puerto Lempira, in the Department of Gracias a Dios.

146. Regarding mechanisms for detecting and identifying cases of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation, local instruments for the identification of such cases have been developed by municipalities, stakeholders from different institutions and national and international organizations.

147. With the support of the National Telecommunications Commission, the 145 hotline was set up for the prompt and confidential reporting of trafficking cases. The personnel answering the hotline have been trained to deal with such calls and to transmit the information to the appropriate authority.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (d)

148. For the investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for trafficking offences, the Public Prosecution Service has established the Unit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and People Smuggling. In 2022 the Unit obtained the following results with regard to the prosecution of offences of sexual exploitation and trafficking, child pornography and people smuggling:

- (a) Reported 101 cases involving 120 accused persons;
- (b) Obtained 31 judgments, with convictions for 36 persons responsible for such offences; and
- (c) Brought 22 cases involving 30 persons to trial;
- (d) In 2023, obtained 21 judgments, with the conviction of 18 persons.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (e)

149. With respect to shelters and victim protection programmes, the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking has outsourced such services to two civil society organizations, which have set up specialized protection centres to provide care and protection to children and women who are victims of exploitation and trafficking. They provide safe accommodation, food, lodging, medical and psychological care and entrepreneurship training, among other services.

150. In 2023 the Support Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons⁵² was established to assist victims by providing support in the areas of education, entrepreneurship, specialized medical care, rental payments, home improvements, lodging, clothing, food and legal procedures.

151. For the protection of women victims of any form of violence, the Act on Shelters for Women Victims and Survivors of Violence in Honduras was adopted in 2024.⁵³ The Act is intended to facilitate the establishment, recognition, financial sustainability and operation of shelters that provide comprehensive care to women victims and survivors of violence or women who are at risk owing to a special situation of vulnerability (women who are migrants, returned migrants, refugees, displaced persons or victims of trafficking or who are in other similar circumstances).

⁵² Decision No. 001-CICESCT-2023.

⁵³ Decree No. 28-2024, Official Gazette No. 36,521.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (f)

152. To provide training and awareness-raising to public servants, staff of non-governmental organizations, parents, children and teachers at different educational centres nationwide, persons with disabilities and the LGBTIQ+ population, the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking established a unit responsible for carrying out educational processes such as training sessions, workshops, forums, awareness-raising events, symposiums, diploma courses, film forums, information fairs and television and radio programmes to disseminate information about the offence of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Between 2022 and 2024 it trained 356,725 people.

153. The Commission, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, trained and certified 126 people as mentors, including judges, prosecutors, investigators, civil society organizations and government officials, in the areas of identification, assistance, investigation, prosecution and punishment of trafficking and sexual exploitation offences. Foreign service personnel at the national and international levels were also trained to identify cases of trafficking and the procedures to be followed.

154. The National Migration Institute carried out 59 training processes between 2024 and January 2025, training 1,080 people on protection and human rights in the context of migration, human rights of persons in situations of human mobility, international protection, care for people in need of international protection, awareness-raising against xenophobia and discrimination, use of tools such as Refworld for refugee status, reintegration and care of returned migrants, and the protocol for the educational reintegration of child, adolescent and young adult migrants.

155. The Public Prosecution Service, through the Unit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Commercial Sexual Exploitation and People Smuggling, carries out prevention and awareness-raising activities for key actors in the investigation, punishment and prosecution of trafficking and sexual exploitation offences.

156. The Criminal Investigation Academy, the Technical Police Institute and the Centre for Specialized Police Training Academies of the Ministry of Security also provide training on these offences to police trainees, classes, police officers and non-commissioned officers.

157. The Ministry of Human Rights, through the Directorate for Education and the Culture of Peace, carries out education and training processes on human rights, the protection and promotion of rights and the preventive approach to human rights violations, thus strengthening State institutional capacities.

158. Between 2022 and 2024 it trained 31,220 people (7,785 public servants, 19,693 law enforcement officers and 3,742 members of the public). The training included content on human rights, gender, prevention of discrimination, the culture of peace, prevention of sexual harassment, prevention of violence against women, trafficking in persons, human rights of groups in vulnerable situations, women's rights, education for gender equality and equity and the rights of migrants, linked to the international recommendations received and commitments made by the State.

159. In coordination with the Training Academy of the Public Order Unit of the Military Police, ongoing training is provided to trainees through the human rights module of the basic course for officers of the Public Order Unit, with content on human trafficking and people smuggling, prevention of violence such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, child abuse, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and human rights procedures followed by the Unit.

Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (g)

160. Regarding the annual budget for efforts to detect and eliminate trafficking offences and to protect the victims, budget information for the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking is reported in paragraphs 135 and 136 above.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (h)

161. For the collection of disaggregated data, the Commission created the Unit on the National Information System on Trafficking in Persons, which is responsible for collecting and processing statistical data and timely and secure information on cases and the receipt and referral of complaints. Through this system, information has been collected to improve victim protection and provide adequate follow-up.

Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (i)

162. To ensure that victims of trafficking and smuggling can obtain a temporary residence permit, the Trafficking in Persons Act provides for the protection of migrants, including the right to remain in Honduras and to receive documentation attesting to this circumstance, measures to facilitate voluntary repatriation to the migrant's place of residence and to facilitate resettlement and, where necessary, relocation to a third country.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (j)

163. Regarding the dissemination of information on human trafficking and smuggling, the Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking conducts information and awareness-raising campaigns to prevent exploitation and trafficking, in particular the Blue Heart Campaign, the "five stars against human trafficking" campaign and the message that human beings are not for sale, to raise awareness among the university population on the prevention of these offences.⁵⁴

Reply to the question raised in paragraph 25 (k)

164. The Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking has incorporated cooperation with other countries to prevent and combat human trafficking and people smuggling into its areas of work under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. To this end, the Commission has signed cooperation agreements with international organizations for the prevention of trafficking offences. The plenary membership of the Commission includes international organizations and observer organizations with which it has signed memorandums of understanding and agreements to prevent trafficking offences and assist victims.

165. The Commission represents Honduras in the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, which consists of nine countries committed to joining forces to combat the trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Reply to the questions raised in paragraph 25 (l)

166. To ensure the conduct of search and tracing operations for Honduran migrants who have gone missing on migration routes and for foreign migrants who have gone missing within Honduras, and to strengthen mechanisms for prevention, investigation and reparation in these cases, the following measures have been implemented:

(a) A protocol on the search for missing Honduran migrants has been adopted to guide efforts to search for Hondurans who have gone missing on migration routes. It is implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, through the Directorate General for the Protection of Honduran Migrants and the Honduran consulates, in coordination with other institutions such as the Public Prosecution Service, the Ministry for Children, Adolescents and the Family, the Ministry of Human Rights, the National Registry Office and the National Police, among others;

⁵⁴ Inter-Agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking, 2022 report, p. 19.

(b) In 2024 a protocol was introduced for the tracing of missing migrants. It establishes a comprehensive framework for searching for and identifying missing migrants, including the use of forensic information, exhumation and identification of mortal remains and collaboration with families and international organizations. This protocol is implemented with technical support from ICRC and gives priority to transnational cooperation with countries such as Mexico and Guatemala to address cases of disappearance along migration routes;

(c) The Project for the Identification of Human Remains through Fingerprints is implemented in collaboration with the National Registry Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. In a number of cases, it has resulted in the identification and repatriation of remains and their return to the families;

(d) A bill has been drafted on the legal protection of missing persons and members of their families. It was designed in close collaboration with relatives of missing persons and is currently under review by the National Congress;

(e) The Act on the National DNA Database System has been adopted to create a genetic database for humanitarian purposes, which will contain the DNA records of relatives of missing migrants for comparison with unidentified human remains.

167. The Act on the National DNA Database System⁵⁵ was adopted by the National Congress in 2023. It is administered by the Public Prosecution Service through the Directorate General of Forensic Medicine. Its purpose is to establish a system for obtaining and storing the results of DNA analyses obtained from samples in the context of expert analyses for criminal, civil and humanitarian identification purposes. Genetic information is compared with DNA profiles in the databases to generate possible matches.

168. The Act is intended to support the competent authorities in the investigation of cases of missing persons, identification of human remains in the context of large-scale disasters, migrations or trafficking in persons, and clarification of facts in the context of criminal investigations. The Act provides that the DNA databases will consist of the criminal justice database, the civil and humanitarian database and the quality control database. These databases will contain records of genetic profiles of volunteers for population and medical studies; records of serology and genetics laboratory analysts to monitor cross-contamination; records of the population of convicted prisoners; and records of members of the public security forces and investigators.

169. These measures represent a comprehensive effort by the State to address disappearances of migrants and ensure the protection of their rights and access to justice for their relatives.

⁵⁵ Decree No. 57-2023, Official Gazette No. 36,322.