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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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Item 14(a) of the provisional agenda

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS:  
MIGRANT WORKERS

Written statement\* submitted by Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 January 2003]

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\*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

1. We welcome Resolution 2001/52 and the other 2002 Resolutions (2002/58, 2002/59, 2002/62) of the Commission on Human Rights which seek to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and other relevant human rights instrument, norms and standards. These resolutions further underscore the need to promote and protect the rights of migrants especially those of women and children, and for States to formulate migration policies consistent with international human rights instruments and standards. We recognize, however, that for these international standards to have meaning in the lives of migrant workers, State parties must take concrete measures towards their implementation.
2. For the past five years, the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF) has been active in the development and delivery of human rights education programs aimed at the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrant workers. These workshops and training programs – addressed to the specific needs of both Government officials and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – have confirmed the importance of international human rights standards in safeguarding the rights of migrant workers. Looking forward, we see a continued need to raise the human rights and gender awareness of Government officials working with migrants. The CHRF also recognizes the need for continued support to develop the capacity of NGOs to effectively monitor human rights violations committed against migrant workers and advocate for legislation and policies that promote and protect their rights.
3. We welcome East Timor's ratification and the imminent entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (MWC). In the current global climate, migrant workers and their families have an even greater need for the protections the Migrant Workers Convention can provide when it comes into force. We urge those Member States which have not ratified the Convention to do so.
4. We urge Member States who ratified the MWC to begin a process of bringing their national legislation and public policies pertaining to migrants into congruence with the Convention. We urge those Member States who are not parties to the MWC to ensure that their national legislation and public policies conform with the human rights protections afforded migrants by the international instruments to which they are a party which may include the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC, ICERD, and CAT. The goal of all these efforts should be the development of a human rights approach to protecting and safeguarding the rights, interests and welfare of migrant workers.

5. We urge the UN and other international agencies to provide adequate technical assistance to governments in their efforts to improve their migration management systems as well as their legislation and policies that address migrants. These efforts must go beyond efforts to control migration flows to incorporate meaningful measures to protect the human rights of all migrant workers and their families.
6. Given the fact that States have assigned officials in their embassies to safeguard of their migrant workers, we encourage all States to provide these officials with adequate training on human rights, gender awareness, and other courses that will enhance their capacity to protect migrant workers from discrimination.
7. We urge the OHCHR to cooperate with member States and other international bodies in the development of capacity-building programs for Government Officials in order to ensure that they are able to implement the Migrant Workers Convention and other relevant human rights instruments.
8. Acknowledging the contribution of NGOs in the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, we urge Member States to work closely with civil society, particularly organizations representing migrant workers.
9. Recognizing the vulnerability of migrants and the abuses they are subjected to when they fall victims to trafficking, we urge Member States to ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.
10. We urge Member States who have ratified the above Convention and Protocol to adopt all legislative and regulatory instruments and put in place and adequately fund all administrative mechanisms necessary for the proper identification and protection of migrants who were victims of trafficking and exploitation.

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