



**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**
Twelfth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 135th meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 30 April 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. El Jamri

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

** No summary records were prepared for the 130th to 134th meetings.

This record is subject to correction.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Promotion of the Convention

1. **The Chairperson** invited representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to describe their plans for marking the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention by the General Assembly.
2. **Mr. Plaetevoet** (December 18) said that the steering committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrants was organizing a letter-writing campaign to encourage several countries, including Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Costa Rica, Indonesia, South Africa and Spain, to make progress in 2010 towards ratification of the Convention.
3. In addition, each member of the steering committee was planning its own activities. December 18, given that it was based in Brussels, would call on the member States of the European Union (EU) to ratify the Convention. It was difficult to understand why EU countries, which upheld important human rights principles, were reticent to ratify a fundamental instrument. A six-month petition campaign would therefore be launched on 18 June, and on 18 December 2010, the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, the signed petitions urging EU member States to ratify the Convention would be delivered to the Governments of Belgium, which would then hold the European Presidency, and Hungary, which would succeed Belgium.
4. December 18 also planned to raise the profile of Radio 1812, a worldwide radio marathon that had been produced for several years on 18 December, also International Migrants' Day. The focus in 2010 would be on the twentieth anniversary of the Convention and the work of the Committee. His organization hoped to interview some Committee members for programmes to be broadcast in the days leading up to 18 December 2010.
5. Lastly, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Brussels, his organization was planning a public event in the second half of the year in Brussels to raise awareness among EU member States of the Convention and ways to achieve its ratification in the EU.
6. **The Chairperson** welcomed the initiatives and assured December 18 of the Committee's support. The Committee was planning to hold a twentieth-anniversary event at the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Mexico. In addition, it was working with OHCHR to organize a joint event to celebrate the anniversary, possibly to round off the Office's ratification campaign. At its thirteenth session, in November 2010, the Committee planned to hold a meeting at which States parties could share their achievements since ratifying the Convention.
7. **Mr. Bingham** (International NGO Platform on the Migrant Workers' Convention) said that his organization was urging the organizers of the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development to include a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention as one of the main events on the agenda. If that proved impossible, an event in the parallel sessions would definitely be organized. Members of the International NGO Platform would participate in the 2010 Global Forum and continue to emphasize the importance of the Convention as the single global standard on the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

Issues pertaining to the Convention

8. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee had agreed to make a preliminary draft of its general comment on migrant domestic workers available to NGOs and other partners such as the International Labour Organization (ILO). The draft would be discussed and

improved at the International Labour Conference in June 2010. The Committee would adopt the finalized document at its thirteenth session, in the light of those discussions.

9. **Mr. Bingham** (International NGO Platform on the Migrant Workers Convention) welcomed the plan to issue the draft general comment. The general comment should offer practical guidelines, applying the Convention rights to the existing situation of migrant domestic workers, not just describing that situation or repeating the rights. The Committee had always distinguished itself by focusing not only on the reality of the situation on the ground, but on concrete approaches, including the practical cooperation among States that was called for in the Convention. In particular, the general comment should incorporate the practical recommendations that had been submitted by participants at the day of general discussion in October 2009, and since then by NGOs. Recent reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which had produced high-quality analyses of the protection of migrant domestic workers in Asia and the Middle East, demonstrated the timeliness of the Committee's initiative.

10. Given the emphasis in the Convention on shared responsibilities and cooperation, the general comment would be of great value to countries of employment of migrant domestic workers and countries of origin alike. It would enhance the Committee's interaction with States parties and indeed the interactions of all who worked with the Committee and with States to protect migrant domestic workers, including NGOs, other civil society actors, other treaty bodies and international organizations such as ILO.

11. The general comment would be, first and foremost, a tool of the Committee for the purposes of implementing the Convention. It would also provide input to other work on migration and labour, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the groundbreaking work being done by ILO on an international convention covering all domestic workers.

12. The members of his organization would continue working with the Committee on the draft and would hold consultations with other NGOs and other bodies working to support migrants' rights around the world. They would also continue to raise awareness of the Committee's work on the general comment at the International Labour Conference, in the Human Rights Council and at the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

13. **The Chairperson** said that the general comment should constitute both an interpretation of the rights of migrant domestic workers and a call for action from States parties to uphold the rights of those migrants in particular, as they were so often violated. The ultimate aim was to achieve better implementation of the Convention by States parties and in countries that used the Convention as a yardstick even though they had not ratified it.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.40 a.m.