

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights



The International Convention on Migrant Workers and its Committee

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NOTE

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“[I]t is time to take a more comprehensive look at the various dimensions of the migration issue, which now involves hundreds of millions of people and affects countries of origin, transit and destination. We need to understand better the causes of international flows of people and their complex interrelationship with development” (Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, Report of the Secretary-General, A/57/387, para. 39)

Introduction

On 1 July 2003, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families entered into force. By 1 October 2005, 33 States had ratified it or acceded to it.¹

The Convention is a comprehensive international treaty focusing on the protection of migrant workers' rights. It emphasizes the link between migration and human rights—a policy topic that is drawing increasing attention worldwide.

The Convention opens a new chapter in the history of determining the rights of migrant workers and ensuring that those rights are protected and respected. It incorporates the results of over 30 years of discussion, including United Nations human rights studies, conclusions and recommendations of meetings of experts, and debates and resolutions in the United Nations on migrant workers.

Like all other international human rights instruments, the Convention sets standards for the laws and the judicial and administrative procedures of individual States. Governments of States that ratify or accede to the Convention undertake to apply its provisions by adopting the necessary measures. They also undertake to ensure that migrant workers whose rights have been violated may seek an effective remedy.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- The drafting history of the Convention
- Its structure and main features and provisions
- The Committee established to monitor its application
- How the Convention relates to other international instruments
- Recent developments and initiatives to promote and defend the rights of migrant workers

¹ Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda and Uruguay (see annex II).

I. DRAFTING HISTORY OF THE CONVENTION

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is the culmination of many years of discussions, reports and recommendations on the subject of migrants' rights. The United Nations first voiced concern about the rights of migrant workers in 1972, when the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1706 (LIII), expressed alarm at the illegal transportation of labour to some European countries and at the exploitation of workers from some African countries "in conditions akin to slavery and forced labour." In the same year, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2920 (XXVII), condemned discrimination against foreign workers and called upon Governments to end such practices and to improve reception arrangements for migrant workers.

Following a request from the Economic and Social Council in 1973, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted a report on the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking in 1976. The report, drafted by its Special Rapporteur, Mrs. Halima Warzazi, recognized that there were two aspects to the problem, namely illicit and clandestine operations, on the one hand, and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers in host States, on the other, and recommended the drawing-up of a United Nations convention on the rights of migrant workers. This recommendation was echoed at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination² in Geneva in 1978 and in General Assembly resolution 33/163 on measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers.

Following the adoption of resolution 34/172 of 17 December 1979 by the General Assembly, a working group open to all Member States was established in 1980 to draw up a convention, and the international organs and organizations concerned—the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization—were invited to contribute to the task. Reconstituted at successive annual sessions of the General Assembly, the working group finished drafting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990.

On 18 December 1990 the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was adopted by the General Assembly without a vote and opened for signature by all Member States of the United Nations.

² See *Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.79.XIV.2).

Migrants' Rights are Human Rights: The Global Campaign for Ratification of the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was first convened in 1998. It is a unique alliance involving the United Nations Secretariat, intergovernmental agencies and leading international human rights, church, labour, migrant and women's organizations.*

The Steering Committee has coordinated international and national activities to publicize the Convention and raise awareness about it through its Global Campaign. Its main purpose is to promote the ratification of, or accession to, the Convention by a large number of States, and the incorporation of the Convention's standards into national laws and practices.

Its work has led to a sharp increase in the number of ratifications and signatures. For example, before 1998 only 9 States had ratified the Convention, while from 1998 to 2004 another 18 did.

Campaigning for ratification goes hand in hand with raising awareness of the situation of migrants in society and the often sensitive political issues involved. The Global Campaign strives to achieve endorsement of the Convention from a broad cross-section of society, including public officials, political parties, trade unions, religious groups, women's organizations and so on. Only through the work of hundreds of organizations and people at the local level is the Global Campaign able to achieve such success.

* Its members are: December 18, Human Rights Watch, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Labour Office, International Organization for Migration, Migrant Forum in Asia, Migrants Rights International, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Public Services International, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and World Council of Churches.

II. STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION

The entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families reinforces and complements a series of other provisions under the main United Nations human rights treaties (see chap. IV below).

The Convention seeks to establish minimum standards that States parties should apply to migrant workers and members of their families, irrespective of their migratory status. The rationale behind the recognition of rights of undocumented migrant workers is also reaffirmed in the preamble, in which the States parties consider, *inter alia*, that irregular migrants are frequently exploited and face serious human rights violations and that appropriate action should be encouraged to prevent and eliminate clandestine movements and trafficking in migrant workers while at the same time ensuring the protection of their human rights.

The International Convention consists of nine parts:

- Scope and definitions
- Non-discrimination with respect to rights
- Human rights of all migrants
- Other rights of migrants who are documented or in a regular situation
- Provisions applicable to particular categories of migrants
- The promotion of sound, equitable, humane and lawful conditions in connection with international migration
- Application of the Convention
- General provisions
- Final provisions

A. Scope and definitions

Part I of the Convention contains the most comprehensive definition of migrant workers found in any international instrument concerned with migrants. Article 2 (1) defines a migrant worker as “a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.”³

³ Article 3 lists the persons excluded from this definition, namely employees of international organizations, Government officials, persons sent or employed by a State or on its behalf outside its territory who participate in development programmes and other cooperation programmes, investors, refugees and stateless persons, students and trainees, non-national non-resident seafarers and workers on an offshore installation.

Article 4 defines which persons constitute the members of the migrant worker's family as "persons married to migrant workers or having with them a relationship that, according to applicable law, produces effects equivalent to marriage, as well as their dependent children and other dependent persons who are recognized as members of the family by applicable legislation or applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements between the States concerned."

Furthermore, article 5 specifies that migrant workers are considered to be documented or in a regular situation "if they are authorized to enter, to stay and to engage in a remunerated activity in the State of employment pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party". Otherwise, they are considered to be non-documented or in an irregular situation.

Finally, in part V, the Convention innovates by defining the rights which apply to certain categories of migrant workers and their families, including frontier workers, seasonal workers, itinerant workers, migrants employed for a specific project and self-employed workers.

B. The principle of non-discrimination

Article 7 of the Convention provides that States parties should respect and ensure the rights contained in the Convention without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status. Article 1 also states that the Convention applies to all migrant workers and members of their families without distinction of any kind. Although the enumeration of the prohibited grounds of distinction is illustrative and not exhaustive, it is worth noting that the list in the Convention is broader than those found in other human rights conventions, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

C. Human rights of all migrants

Part III of the Convention (arts. 8 to 35) grants a fairly broad series of rights to all migrant workers and members of their families, irrespective of their migratory status. Many of these articles specify the application to migrant workers of rights spelled out in the International Covenants on

Civil and Political Rights⁴ and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁵ and the other core human rights treaties. The Convention also includes a number of rights addressing specific protection needs and providing additional guarantees in the light of the particular vulnerability of migrant workers and members of their families. This section focuses on these provisions.

Article 15, for instance, protects migrant workers from the arbitrary deprivation of property, while article 21 contains safeguards against confiscation, destruction or attempts to destroy identity documents, documents authorizing entry to or stay, residence or establishment in the national territory or work permits and prohibits the destruction of the passport or equivalent document of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family.

Also specific to the particular situation of migrant workers is article 22, which provides, *inter alia*, that migrant workers and members of their families shall not be subject to measures of collective expulsion and that they may be expelled from the territory of a State party only in pursuance of a decision taken by the competent authority in accordance with the law. Furthermore, article 20 (2) provides that no migrant worker or member of his/her family shall be expelled or deprived of his authorization of residence or work permit merely on the ground of failure to fulfil an obligation arising out of a work contract unless fulfilment of that obligation constitutes a condition for such authorization or permit.

Article 23 spells out the right of migrant workers and members of their families to have recourse to the protection and assistance of the consular or diplomatic authorities of their State of origin whenever the rights recognized under the Convention are impaired. Similarly, article 16 (7) gives arrested or detained migrant workers and members of their families the right to communicate with the consular or diplomatic authorities of their State of origin.

Migrant workers are frequently excluded from the scope of regulations covering working conditions and often denied the right to take part in trade union activities. Article 25 of the Convention establishes that migrant workers shall enjoy treatment not less favourable than that which applies

⁴ See, for instance, the Convention's provisions on the right to life (art. 9), the prohibition of torture (art. 10), the prohibition of slavery and forced labour (art. 11), the right to liberty and security of person and to procedural guarantees (arts. 16–19 and 24), the right to freedom of opinion, expression, thought, conscience and religion (arts. 12–13), prohibition of arbitrary interference with privacy, home correspondence and other communications and prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of property (arts. 14–15).

⁵ For instance, the right to just and favourable conditions of work and to rest and leisure (art. 25), the right to social security (art. 27) and the right to education (art. 30).

to nationals of the State of employment in respect of remuneration and other conditions of work and terms of employment. Article 26 recognizes the right to take part in meetings and activities of trade unions and freely join them.

The living conditions of migrant workers are also often unsatisfactory. They face serious housing problems and, although they contribute to social security schemes, they and their families do not always enjoy the same benefits and access to social services as nationals of the host State. Article 27 of the Convention stipulates that, with respect to social security, migrant workers and members of their families shall enjoy the same treatment granted to nationals in so far as they fulfil the requirements provided for by the applicable legislation of that State and the applicable bilateral and multilateral treaties.

Article 28 grants migrant workers and members of their families the right to receive any medical care that is urgently required for the preservation of their life or avoidance of irreparable harm to their health on the basis of equality of treatment with nationals of the State concerned. It is important to stress that such emergency medical care shall not be refused by reason of any irregularity with regard to their stay or employment.

Article 30 establishes that each child of a migrant worker shall have the basic right of access to education on the basis of equality of treatment with nationals of the State concerned. Furthermore, access to public preschool educational institutions or schools shall not be refused or limited by reason of the irregular situation with respect to stay or employment of either parent or by reason of the irregularity of the child's stay in the State of employment.

Article 31 of the Convention requests States parties to ensure respect for the cultural identity of migrant workers and members of their families and not to prevent them from maintaining their cultural links with their State of origin.

Article 32 provides that, upon termination of their stay in the State of employment, migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to transfer their earnings and savings as well as their personal effects and belongings.

Finally, according to article 33, migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to be informed of their rights arising out of the Convention as well as of the conditions of their admission and their rights and obligations under the law and practice of the State concerned. These obligations are placed on the State of origin, the State of employment or the State of transit as the case may be. State parties shall take appropriate measures to disseminate the said information, which shall be provided

free of charge and, as far as possible, in a language that the migrants and their families are able to understand.

The last article of this section, article 35, deserves particular mention. It states that “nothing in the present part of the Convention shall be interpreted as implying the regularization of the situation of migrant workers or members of their families who are non-documented or in an irregular situation or any right to such regularization of their situation, nor shall it prejudice the measures intended to ensure sound and equitable conditions for international migration as provided in part VI of the present Convention.” The box at the end of this chapter looks at this question in more detail.

D. Other rights of migrant workers and members of their families who are documented or in a regular situation

The Convention assigns additional rights to migrant workers and members of their families who are documented or in a regular situation.

These rights include the right to be fully informed by their States of origin and employment about conditions applicable to their admission and concerning their stay and the remunerated activities they may engage in (art. 37), the right to freely move in the territory of the State of employment and freely choose their residence there (art. 39), the right to form associations and trade unions (art. 40),⁶ and to participate in public affairs of their State of origin, including voting and election (art. 41).

Furthermore, documented migrant workers and members of their families enjoy the same opportunities and treatment as nationals in relation to various economic and social services (arts. 43 and 45), in the exercise of their remunerated activity (art. 55), in the choice of their remunerated activity (subject to some restrictions and conditions) (art. 52) and in respect of protection against dismissal and the enjoyment of unemployment benefits (art. 54).

An important guarantee for regular or documented migrant workers is contained in article 49. It stipulates that, where separate authorizations to reside and to engage in employment are required by national legislation, the States of employment shall issue to migrant workers authorization of residence for at least the same period of time as their authorization to engage in remunerated activity. Moreover, article 51 says that migrant

⁶ Under the Convention, undocumented migrant workers may join existing trade unions and take part in their meetings and activities (art. 26).

workers who are not permitted freely to choose their remunerated activity shall neither be regarded as in an irregular situation nor shall they lose their authorization of residence by the mere fact of the termination of their remunerated activity prior to the expiration of their work permit, except where the authorization of residence is expressly dependent upon the specific remunerated activity for which they were admitted.

Migrant workers and members of their families in a regular status also enjoy exemption from import and export taxes on their household and personal effects (art. 46) and shall not be liable to more onerous taxation than nationals in similar circumstances (art. 48). Article 47 provides that migrant workers shall have the right to transfer their earnings and savings, in particular those funds necessary for the support of their families, from the State of employment to their State of origin or any other State.

While the Convention does not expressly speak of a *right* to family reunification, States parties are encouraged to facilitate family reunification and to protect the unity of the family (art. 44). Article 50 provides that, in the case of death of a migrant worker or dissolution of marriage, the State of employment shall favourably consider granting family members of that migrant worker residing in that State on the basis of family reunion an authorization to stay, taking into due account the length of time they have already resided in that State. Finally, documented migrant workers and members of their families enjoy additional guarantees against expulsion (art. 56).

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

One of the most interesting features of the Convention is that, besides establishing the obligation of States parties with respect to migrant workers as individuals, it also provides a framework, in part VI, for sound, equitable and humane conditions for international migration.

Thus, States parties shall maintain appropriate services to deal with questions about international migration of workers and members of their families and formulate and implement policies on migration, exchange information with other States parties, provide information to employers and workers on policies, laws and regulations, and provide information and appropriate assistance to migrant workers and members of their families (art. 65).

To protect migrants from abuse, article 66 restricts the recruitment operations of workers for employment in another State to public services, State bodies or authorized private agencies. Article 67 provides that States parties should cooperate as appropriate in the adoption of measures for the orderly return of migrant workers to their State of origin.

Article 68 is particularly relevant for the prevention and elimination of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In fact, article 68 invites States parties to collaborate with a view to preventing and eliminating illegal or clandestine movements and employment of migrant workers in an irregular situation. The measures States parties should take include: (a) measures against the dissemination of misleading information relating to emigration and immigration; (b) measures to detect and eradicate illegal or clandestine movements of migrant workers and members of their families and to impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities that organize, operate and assist in organizing or operating such movements; (c) measures to impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities that use violence, threats or intimidation against migrant workers or members of their families in an irregular situation.

The second paragraph of article 68 provides that States of employment shall take all adequate measures to eliminate employment of migrant workers in an irregular situation, including, whenever appropriate, sanctions on employers of such workers. This provision shall be read in conjunction with the provisions contained in article 35 (see p. XXX) and article 69 (1), which provides that "States parties shall, when

there are migrant workers and members of their families within their territory in an irregular situation, take appropriate measures to ensure that such a situation does not persist.” Article 69 (2) further stipulates that “whenever States parties concerned consider the possibility of regularizing the situation of such persons in accordance with applicable national legislation and bilateral or multilateral agreements, appropriate account shall be taken of the circumstances of their entry, the duration of their stay in the States of employment and other relevant considerations, in particular those relating to their family situation.”

III. THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS

The implementation of the Convention rests with its States parties. Article 72 provides that this process is monitored by a committee—the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families—consisting of 10 experts to be elected by the States parties and serving in their personal capacity, the number rising to 14 when 41 States will have become parties to the Convention.

Members of the Committee are elected by States parties by secret ballot, with due regard to fair geographical distribution, including both States of origin and States of employment of migrant workers, and to representation of the world's main legal systems. Members serve in their personal capacity for a term of four years.⁷

States parties accept the obligation under article 73 to report on the steps they have taken to implement the Convention within one year of its entry into force for the State concerned, and thereafter every five years. The reports also are expected to indicate problems encountered in implementing the Convention, and to provide information on migration flows. After examining the reports, the Committee will transmit such comments as it may consider appropriate to the State party concerned.

Close cooperation between the Committee and international agencies, in particular the International Labour Office, is foreseen in the Convention (art. 74 (2) and (5)). For instance, the Committee shall invite the Office

⁷ Current membership: Mr. Francisco Alba (Mexico); Mr. José Serrano Brillantes (Philippines); Mr. Francisco Carrión-Mena (Ecuador); Ms. Ana Elizabeth Cubias Medina (El Salvador); Ms. Anamaría Dieguez (Guatemala); Mr. Ahmed Hassan El-Borai (Egypt); Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri (Morocco); Mr. Arthur Shatto Gakwandi (Uganda); Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka); Mr. Azad Taghizade (Azerbaijan). Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam was elected Chairman of the Committee at its first session in March 2004. The terms of five of these members expire on 31 December 2005. The States parties will meet on 8 December 2005 to elect candidates to fill these vacancies.

to appoint representatives to participate, in a consultative capacity, in its meetings, and shall consider in its deliberations such comments and materials as the Office may provide.

Under article 77, a State party may make a declaration recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals within that State's jurisdiction who claim that their rights under the Convention have been violated. Such communications may be received only if they concern a State party which has so recognized the competence of the Committee. If the Committee is satisfied that the matter has not been, and is not being, examined by another procedure of international investigation or settlement, and that all domestic remedies have been exhausted, it may request written explanations and express its views after having considered all the available information. The individual communication procedure requires 10 declarations by States parties to enter into force. By 1 October 2005, no declaration of acceptance of article 77 had been made.⁸

In March 2004, the Committee on Migrant Workers held its inaugural session, during which it adopted its provisional rules of procedure. In October 2004, the Committee held informal meetings to develop guidelines for the preparation of States parties' initial reports. It formally adopted these guidelines at its second session, in April 2005. At this session, the Committee also discussed its working methods for the examination of States parties' reports.

The human rights treaty-body system and proposals for its reform

The seven core human rights instruments (see chap. IV below) all establish reporting obligations for States parties.* This entails a sometimes heavy reporting burden on States that are a party to all or most instruments. In 2002, the Secretary-General called for reform of the treaty-body system. As a result, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has held consultations with treaty bodies, with States parties and with other stakeholders to chart a path towards a more efficient and effective treaty-body system.

In June 2004, the inter-committee meeting and the meeting of chairpersons approved further consultations to encourage the use of

⁸ Article 76 of the Convention also provides for an inter-State communication procedure according to which a State party to the Convention may at any time declare that "it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention". No declarations under this article have been received as yet.

an expanded core document by States parties with information on the legal framework within the State as well as on the implementation of substantive human rights provisions which are congruent between two or more treaties. This expanded core document would then be complemented with concise reports focusing on treaty-specific issues. It was agreed that States wishing to use such an approach in their reporting to treaty bodies could do so. Further improvements to the methods of work and practices of all treaty bodies can be expected in the coming years.

In her plan of action,⁹ the High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated that some means must be found to consolidate the work of the seven treaty bodies and to create a unified standing treaty body. She intended to submit options for treaty body reform at an intergovernmental meeting in 2006.

The Committee on Migrant Workers is closely following developments in this respect and encourages the facilitation of reporting and the harmonization of treaty-body working methods. Its reporting guidelines refer to the possibility of using an expanded core document and treaty-specific report.

* For general information about the United Nations human rights treaty system, see Fact Sheet No. 30.

IV. THE CONVENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is the most comprehensive international treaty dealing with the rights of migrant workers. Other international instruments, however, also impact on the rights of migrant workers or deal with issues that are especially important to them.¹⁰

The Convention is the latest of the seven so-called core international human rights treaties, which together form the United Nations human rights treaty system. The other six are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All

⁹ A/59/2005/Add.3, para. 99.

¹⁰ OHCHR has dedicated a web page to migration and human rights: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/migration/taskforce/index.htm>.

Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Most of the rights contained in these treaties also apply to non-citizens and thus provide a basic protection of migrant workers and their families against discrimination and other violations of their fundamental human rights. For more information about the specific treaties, see the relevant fact sheets (all the fact sheets published by OHCHR are listed on p. XXX).

During the examination of reports from States parties, members of treaty-monitoring bodies regularly raise concerns about issues related to migrant workers that fall within the framework of their specific treaty.¹¹ The treaty bodies have raised the issue of migrant workers also in their general comments on thematic issues. Of particular relevance is general comment No. 15 of the Human Rights Committee (“The position of aliens under the Covenant”), adopted in April 1986, in which the Committee makes clear that there shall be no discrimination between aliens and citizens in the application of the human rights contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In August 2004, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted its general recommendation No. 30 (“Discrimination against non-citizens”), in which it makes specific recommendations to States parties in order to eliminate discrimination against non-citizens. It recommends inter alia that States should adopt measures to ensure “that public educational institutions are open to non-citizens and children of undocumented immigrants residing in the territory of a State party”, to “eliminate discrimination against non-citizens in relation to working conditions and work requirements” and to “prevent and redress the serious problems commonly faced by non-citizen workers, in particular by non-citizen domestic workers, including debt bondage, passport retention, illegal confinement, rape and physical assault”. The Committee further clarifies that “all individuals are entitled to the enjoyment of labour and employment rights, including the freedom of assembly and association, once an employment relationship has been initiated until it is terminated”.

In addition, the International Labour Organization’s conventions set internationally recognized labour standards and are thus of importance to all workers, including migrants. Two are particularly relevant to migrant workers: the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), which is based on the principle of equal treatment of nationals

¹¹ See the study by December 18 and the International Catholic Migration Commission: *The UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies and Migrant Workers: a Samizdat*, November 2004, <http://www.december18.net/web/docpapers/doc1940.doc>.

and regular migrant workers in labour-related areas; and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), which aims to eliminate illegal migration and illegal employment and sets requirements for the respect of rights of migrants with an irregular status, while providing for measures to end clandestine trafficking and to penalize employers of irregular migrants.

Other international instruments of direct importance to migrants are the Palermo Protocols.¹² They require States parties to criminalize acts of trafficking and smuggling, and establish a framework for international cooperation.

Besides general international conventions, regional conventions, which apply only to States in certain regions of the world, can also be relevant to migrant workers. Regional human rights instruments, such as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, all contain rights which are beneficial to migrant workers in countries which have accepted to respect these rights.¹³

An important development in this respect is the advisory opinion that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued at the request of Mexico on the legal status and rights of undocumented migrants.¹⁴ In its opinion, the Court states that the fundamental principle of equality and non-discrimination is of a peremptory nature and binds all States regardless of any circumstance or consideration such as the migratory status of a person. The Court concludes that the State thus has the obligation to respect and guarantee the labour human rights of all workers, including those of undocumented migrant workers. The Court clarifies that "the migratory status of a person cannot constitute a justification to deprive him of the enjoyment and exercise of human rights, including those of a labour-related nature" and that "States may not subordinate or condition observance of the principle of equality before the law and non-discrimination to achieving their public policy goals, whatever these may be, including those of a migratory character".

¹² Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.

¹³ See also the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, which applies however only to the citizens of the eight States parties.

¹⁴ Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Advisory Opinion OC-18/03 on the juridical condition and rights of undocumented migrants, 17 September 2003.

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants was created in 1999 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (resolution 1999/44).

The Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to “examine ways and means to overcome the obstacles existing to the full and effective protection of the human rights of [migrants], including obstacles and difficulties for the return of migrants who are non-documented or in an irregular situation”. On 6 August 1999, Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Pizarro (Costa Rica) was appointed as Special Rapporteur. The Commission on Human Rights extended her mandate for a further three years in 2002 (resolution 2000/62).

The Special Rapporteur requests and receives information from migrants and members of their families on violations of their human rights; issues recommendations to prevent and correct such violations; promotes the effective application of relevant international legal instruments; recommends policies applicable at the national, regional and international levels to eliminate human rights violations of migrants; and records and recommends measures to stop multiple discrimination and violence against migrant women.

Every year the Special Rapporteur reports to the Commission on Human Rights about the global state of protection of migrants’ human rights, her main concerns and the good practices she has observed. In her report the Special Rapporteur informs the Commission of all the communications she has sent and the replies received from Governments. At the request of the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur may also present reports to the General Assembly.

Some important issues treated by the Special Rapporteur in her reports have been: the situation of women migrant workers and violence against them, unaccompanied minors and irregular migration (E/CN.4/2002/94), the deprivation of liberty in the context of migration management (E/CN.4/2003/85), the human rights of migrant domestic workers (E/CN.4/2004/76), and racism and discrimination against migrants (E/CN.4/2005/85).

The Special Rapporteur conducts country visits at the invitation of the Government to examine the state of protection of the human rights of migrants in the given country. The following reports on country visits containing the Special Rapporteur’s findings, conclusions and recommendations are available:

Canada (E/CN.4/2001/83/Add.1), Ecuador (E/CN.4/2002/94/Add.1), Philippines (E/CN.4/2003/85/Add.4), Mexico (E/CN.4/2003/85/Add.2), the border between Mexico and the United States of America (E/CN.4/2003/85/Add.3), Spain (E/CN.4/2004/76/Add.2), Morocco (E/CN.4/2004/76/Add.3), Islamic Republic of Iran (E/CN.4/2005/85/Add.2), Italy (E/CN.4/2005/85/Add.3) and Peru (E/CN.4/2005/85/Add.4).

In 2005 the Commission again extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur (resolution 2005/47), which Mr. Jorge A. Bustamante (Mexico) has held since August 2005.

For more information, see also: www.ohchr.org/english/issues/migration/rapporteur.

V. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

International migration is by its nature a phenomenon that is always changing, always adapting to the economic and social realities. Managing this migration in full respect of migrants' rights is challenging. Several initiatives have been developed to assist States and international organizations in this task and the growing interest of the international community is reflected in an increasing number of activities and events.

International migration is a priority issue for the United Nations, as the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has emphasized.¹⁵ To provide a framework for the formulation of a coherent, comprehensive and global response to migration issues, the Global Commission on International Migration, the first-ever global panel addressing international migration, was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and a number of Governments on 9 December 2003 in Geneva. Its mandate is, on the one hand, to place international migration on the global agenda and analyse deficiencies in current policy approaches to it and, on the other, to present recommendations to the United Nations Secretary-General and other stakeholders on how to strengthen national, regional and global governance of international migration. Thus, the final report from its independent commissioners is likely to put forward a series of strategic options together with a set of possible steps for consideration by the Secretary-General and other stakeholders. The Commission also publishes research papers, background studies and other relevant materials.

¹⁵ See his report on the strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change (A/57/387).

Its report will likely have an impact on the high-level dialogue on international migration and development which the United Nations General Assembly will hold during its session in 2006.¹⁶ The purpose of this dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The dialogue will have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals. In this context, the General Assembly has noted that the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy have contributed to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration. The General Assembly, therefore, considers that there is a need to strengthen international cooperation on migration and to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families, in particular of women migrant workers, are respected and protected.

Heads of State and Government gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005 for the 2005 World Summit. At the end of the World Summit, the General Assembly adopted a resolution in which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed, among other things, their "resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families."

Another important development took place at the 92nd session of the International Labour Conference in June 2004, during which it adopted a plan of action for migrant workers that calls inter alia for the development of a non-binding multilateral framework for a rights-based approach to labour migration.¹⁷ The plan of action is designed to ensure that migrant workers are covered by the provisions of international labour standards, while benefiting from applicable national labour and social laws.

Furthermore, a number of regional intergovernmental forums have been established to discuss migration-related issues and promote cooperation.¹⁸

¹⁶ See its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003 on international migration and development.

¹⁷ See its resolution concerning a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy.

¹⁸ For instance, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa; the Migration Dialogue for West Africa; the Regional Conference on Migration or Puebla Process; the South American Conference on Migration or Lima Process; the Budapest Group and the Conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States; the 5 + 5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean; the Manila Process; the Inter-Governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants; the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime or Bali Process; and the Inter-Governmental Consultation on Asylum, Refugee, and Migration Policies in Europe, North America, and Australia.

At the global level, the Berne Initiative constitutes a forum for intergovernmental cooperation in migration management. Its International Agenda for Migration Management is meant to give guidance to States in managing migration in full compliance with international standards, including those of human rights.¹⁹ It represents the views of States throughout the world and offers a reference system for dialogue, cooperation and capacity-building at the national, regional and global level.

Finally, it is important to stress the pivotal role that civil society plays in drawing attention to the rights of migrant workers and their families. The International NGO Platform for the Migrant Workers' Convention coordinates NGO initiatives to raise awareness of the rights of migrants and to facilitate the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

¹⁹ See the website of the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, www.asyl.admin.ch.

Useful addresses

Global Commission on International Migration, Rue Richard Wagner 1,
CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Website: **<http://gcim.org>**.

International Labour Organization, Route des Morillons 4, CH-1211
Geneva 22, Switzerland

Website: **<http://ilo.org>**.

International Organization for Migration, Route de Morillons 17, CH-1211
Geneva 19, Switzerland

Website: **<http://iom.int>**.

International Platform on the Migrant Workers' Convention, PO Box 22,
B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Website: **<http://december18.net>**.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Palais des Nations,
Av. de la Paix 8-14, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Website: **<http://unctad.org>**.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7 Place
de Fontenoy, F-75352 Paris 07 SP, France

Website: **<http://unesco.org>**.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, PO Box 2500, CH-1211
Geneva 2, Switzerland

Website: **<http://unhcr.ch>**.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna International Centre,
PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Website: **<http://unodc.org>**.

ANNEX I

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

Adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990

PREAMBLE

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Taking into account the principles embodied in the basic instruments of the United Nations concerning human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Taking into account also the principles and standards set forth in the relevant instruments elaborated within the framework of the International Labour Organisation, especially the Convention concerning Migration for Employment (No. 97), the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (No.143), the Recommendation concerning Migration for Employment (No. 86), the Recommendation concerning Migrant Workers (No.151), the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (No. 29) and the Convention concerning Abolition of Forced Labour (No. 105),

Reaffirming the importance of the principles contained in the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recalling the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Declaration of the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and the Slavery Conventions,

Recalling that one of the objectives of the International Labour Organisation, as stated in its Constitution, is the protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own, and bearing in mind the expertise and experience of that organization in matters related to migrant workers and members of their families,

Recognizing the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in various organs of the United Nations, in particular in the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development, and in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, as well as in other international organizations,

Recognizing also the progress made by certain States on a regional or bilateral basis towards the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, as well as the importance and usefulness of bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field,

Realizing the importance and extent of the migration phenomenon, which involves millions of people and affects a large number of States in the international community,

Aware of the impact of the flows of migrant workers on States and people concerned, and desiring to establish norms which may contribute to the harmonization of the attitudes of States through the acceptance of basic principles concerning the treatment of migrant workers and members of their families,

Considering the situation of vulnerability in which migrant workers and members of their families frequently find themselves owing, among other things, to their absence from their State of origin and to the difficulties they may encounter arising from their presence in the State of employment,

Convinced that the rights of migrant workers and members of their families have not been sufficiently recognized everywhere and therefore require appropriate international protection,

Taking into account the fact that migration is often the cause of serious problems for the members of the families of migrant workers as well as for the workers themselves, in particular because of the scattering of the family,

Bearing in mind that the human problems involved in migration are even more serious in the case of irregular migration and convinced therefore that appropriate action should be encouraged in order to prevent and eliminate clandestine movements and trafficking in migrant workers, while at the same time assuring the protection of their fundamental human rights,

Considering that workers who are non-documented or in an irregular situation are frequently employed under less favourable conditions of work than other workers and that certain employers find this an inducement to seek such labour in order to reap the benefits of unfair competition,

Considering also that recourse to the employment of migrant workers who are in an irregular situation will be discouraged if the fundamental human rights of all migrant workers are more widely recognized and, moreover, that granting certain additional rights to migrant workers and members of their families in a regular situation will encourage all migrants and employers to respect and comply with the laws and procedures established by the States concerned,

Convinced, therefore, of the need to bring about the international protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families, reaffirming and establishing basic norms in a comprehensive convention which could be applied universally,

Have agreed as follows:

PART I

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Article 1

1. The present Convention is applicable, except as otherwise provided hereafter, to all migrant workers and members of their families without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status.

2. The present Convention shall apply during the entire migration process of migrant workers and members of their families, which comprises preparation for migration, departure, transit and the entire period of stay and remunerated activity in the State of employment as well as return to the State of origin or the State of habitual residence.

Article 2

For the purposes of the present Convention:

1. The term "migrant worker" refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.

2. (a) The term "frontier worker" refers to a migrant worker who retains his or her habitual residence in a neighbouring State to which he or she normally returns every day or at least once a week;

(b) The term "seasonal worker" refers to a migrant worker whose work by its character is dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year;

(c) The term "seafarer", which includes a fisherman, refers to a migrant worker employed on board a vessel registered in a State of which he or she is not a national;

(d) The term "worker on an offshore installation" refers to a migrant worker employed on an offshore installation that is under the jurisdiction of a State of which he or she is not a national;

(e) The term "itinerant worker" refers to a migrant worker who, having his or her habitual residence in one State, has to travel to another State or States for short periods, owing to the nature of his or her occupation;

(f) The term "project-tied worker" refers to a migrant worker admitted to a State of employment for a defined period to work solely on a specific project being carried out in that State by his or her employer;

(g) The term "specified-employment worker" refers to a migrant worker:

- (i) Who has been sent by his or her employer for a restricted and defined period of time to a State of employment to undertake a specific assignment or duty; or

- (ii) Who engages for a restricted and defined period of time in work that requires professional, commercial, technical or other highly specialized skill; or
- (iii) Who, upon the request of his or her employer in the State of employment, engages for a restricted and defined period of time in work whose nature is transitory or brief;

and who is required to depart from the State of employment either at the expiration of his or her authorized period of stay, or earlier if he or she no longer undertakes that specific assignment or duty or engages in that work;

(h) The term "self-employed worker" refers to a migrant worker who is engaged in a remunerated activity otherwise than under a contract of employment and who earns his or her living through this activity normally working alone or together with members of his or her family, and to any other migrant worker recognized as self-employed by applicable legislation of the State of employment or bilateral or multilateral agreements.

Article 3

The present Convention shall not apply to:

- (a) Persons sent or employed by international organizations and agencies or persons sent or employed by a State outside its territory to perform official functions, whose admission and status are regulated by general international law or by specific international agreements or conventions;
- (b) Persons sent or employed by a State or on its behalf outside its territory who participate in development programmes and other co-operation programmes, whose admission and status are regulated by agreement with the State of employment and who, in accordance with that agreement, are not considered migrant workers;
- (c) Persons taking up residence in a State different from their State of origin as investors;
- (d) Refugees and stateless persons, unless such application is provided for in the relevant national legislation of, or international instruments in force for, the State Party concerned;
- (e) Students and trainees;

(f) Seafarers and workers on an offshore installation who have not been admitted to take up residence and engage in a remunerated activity in the State of employment.

Article 4

For the purposes of the present Convention the term "members of the family" refers to persons married to migrant workers or having with them a relationship that, according to applicable law, produces effects equivalent to marriage, as well as their dependent children and other dependent persons who are recognized as members of the family by applicable legislation or applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements between the States concerned.

Article 5

For the purposes of the present Convention, migrant workers and members of their families:

(a) Are considered as documented or in a regular situation if they are authorized to enter, to stay and to engage in a remunerated activity in the State of employment pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party;

(b) Are considered as non-documented or in an irregular situation if they do not comply with the conditions provided for in subparagraph (a) of the present article.

Article 6

For the purposes of the present Convention:

(a) The term "State of origin" means the State of which the person concerned is a national;

(b) The term "State of employment" means a State where the migrant worker is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity, as the case may be;

(c) The term "State of transit," means any State through which the person concerned passes on any journey to the State of employment or from the State of employment to the State of origin or the State of habitual residence.

PART II

NON-DISCRIMINATION WITH RESPECT TO RIGHTS

Article 7

States Parties undertake, in accordance with the international instruments concerning human rights, to respect and to ensure to all migrant workers and members of their families within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction the rights provided for in the present Convention without distinction of any kind such as to sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status.

PART III

HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

Article 8

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall be free to leave any State, including their State of origin. This right shall not be subject to any restrictions except those that are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present part of the Convention.

2. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right at any time to enter and remain in their State of origin.

Article 9

The right to life of migrant workers and members of their families shall be protected by law.

Article 10

No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 11

1. No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be held in slavery or servitude.

2. No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

3. Paragraph 2 of the present article shall not be held to preclude, in States where imprisonment with hard labour may be imposed as a punishment for a crime, the performance of hard labour in pursuance of a sentence to such punishment by a competent court.

4. For the purpose of the present article the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include:

(a) Any work or service not referred to in paragraph 3 of the present article normally required of a person who is under detention in consequence of a lawful order of a court or of a person during conditional release from such detention;

(b) Any service exacted in cases of emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;

(c) Any work or service that forms part of normal civil obligations so far as it is imposed also on citizens of the State concerned.

Article 12

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of their choice and freedom either individually or in community with others and in public or private to manifest their religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

2. Migrant workers and members of their families shall not be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of their choice.

3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or belief may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

4. States Parties to the present Convention undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents, at least one of whom is a migrant worker, and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

Article 13

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

2. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art or through any other media of their choice.

3. The exercise of the right provided for in paragraph 2 of the present article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:

(a) For respect of the rights or reputation of others;

(b) For the protection of the national security of the States concerned or of public order (*ordre public*) or of public health or morals;

(c) For the purpose of preventing any propaganda for war;

(d) For the purpose of preventing any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

Article 14

No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home, correspondence or other communications, or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Each migrant worker and member of his or her family shall have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 15

No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be arbitrarily deprived of property, whether owned individually or in association with others. Where, under the legislation in force in the State of employment, the assets of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family are expropriated in whole or in part, the person concerned shall have the right to fair and adequate compensation.

Article 16

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to liberty and security of person.

2. Migrant workers and members of their families shall be entitled to effective protection by the State against violence, physical injury, threats and intimidation, whether by public officials or by private individuals, groups or institutions.

3. Any verification by law enforcement officials of the identity of migrant workers or members of their families shall be carried out in accordance with procedure established by law.

4. Migrant workers and members of their families shall not be subjected individually or collectively to arbitrary arrest or detention; they shall not be deprived of their liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law.

5. Migrant workers and members of their families who are arrested shall be informed at the time of arrest as far as possible in a language they understand of the reasons for their arrest and they shall be promptly informed in a language they understand of any charges against them.

6. Migrant workers and members of their families who are arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that while awaiting trial they shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings and, should the occasion arise, for the execution of the judgement.

7. When a migrant worker or a member of his or her family is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial or is detained in any other manner:

(a) The consular or diplomatic authorities of his or her State of origin or of a State representing the interests of that State shall, if he or she so requests, be informed without delay of his or her arrest or detention and of the reasons therefor;

(b) The person concerned shall have the right to communicate with the said authorities. Any communication by the person concerned to the said authorities shall be forwarded without delay, and he or she shall also have the right to receive communications sent by the said authorities without delay;

(c) The person concerned shall be informed without delay of this right and of rights deriving from relevant treaties, if any, applicable between the States concerned, to correspond and to meet with representatives of the said authorities and to make arrangements with them for his or her legal representation.

8. Migrant workers and members of their families who are deprived of their liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of their detention and order their release if the detention is not lawful. When they attend such proceedings, they shall have the assistance, if necessary without cost to them, of an interpreter, if they cannot understand or speak the language used.

9. Migrant workers and members of their families who have been victims of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

Article 17

1. Migrant workers and members of their families who are deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and for their cultural identity.

2. Accused migrant workers and members of their families shall, save in exceptional circumstances, be separated from convicted persons and shall be subject to separate treatment appropriate to their status as unconvicted persons. Accused juvenile persons shall be separated from adults and brought as speedily as possible for adjudication.

3. Any migrant worker or member of his or her family who is detained in a State of transit or in a State of employment for violation of provisions relating to migration shall be held, in so far as practicable, separately from convicted persons or persons detained pending trial.

4. During any period of imprisonment in pursuance of a sentence imposed by a court of law, the essential aim of the treatment of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family shall be his or her reformation and social rehabilitation. Juvenile offenders shall be separated from adults and be accorded treatment appropriate to their age and legal status.

5. During detention or imprisonment, migrant workers and members of their families shall enjoy the same rights as nationals to visits by members of their families.

6. Whenever a migrant worker is deprived of his or her liberty, the competent authorities of the State concerned shall pay attention to the problems that may be posed for members of his or her family, in particular for spouses and minor children.

7. Migrant workers and members of their families who are subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment in accordance with the law in force in the State of employment or in the State of transit shall enjoy the same rights as nationals of those States who are in the same situation.

8. If a migrant worker or a member of his or her family is detained for the purpose of verifying any infraction of provisions related to migration, he or she shall not bear any costs arising therefrom.

Article 18

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to equality with nationals of the State concerned before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against them or of their rights and obligations in a suit of law, they shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law.

2. Migrant workers and members of their families who are charged with a criminal offence shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law.

3. In the determination of any criminal charge against them, migrant workers and members of their families shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees:

(a) To be informed promptly and in detail in a language they understand of the nature and cause of the charge against them;

(b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of their defence and to communicate with counsel of their own choosing;

(c) To be tried without undue delay;

(d) To be tried in their presence and to defend themselves in person or through legal assistance of their own choosing; to be informed, if they do not have legal assistance, of this right; and to have legal assistance assigned to them, in any case where the interests of justice so require and without payment by them in any such case if they do not have sufficient means to pay;

(e) To examine or have examined the witnesses against them and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on their behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against them;

(f) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if they cannot understand or speak the language used in court;

(g) Not to be compelled to testify against themselves or to confess guilt.

4. In the case of juvenile persons, the procedure shall be such as will take account of their age and the desirability of promoting their rehabilitation.

5. Migrant workers and members of their families convicted of a crime shall have the right to their conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal according to law.

6. When a migrant worker or a member of his or her family has, by a final decision, been convicted of a criminal offence and when subsequently his or her conviction has been reversed or he or she has been pardoned on the ground that a new or newly discovered fact shows conclusively that there has been a miscarriage of justice, the person who has suffered punishment as a result of such conviction shall be compensated according to law, unless it is proved that the non-disclosure of the unknown fact in time is wholly or partly attributable to that person.

7. No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he or she has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of the State concerned.

Article 19

1. No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission that did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when the criminal offence was committed, nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time when it was committed. If, subsequent to the commission of the offence, provision is made by law for the imposition of a lighter penalty, he or she shall benefit thereby.

2. Humanitarian considerations related to the status of a migrant worker, in particular with respect to his or her right of residence or work, should be taken into account in imposing a sentence for a criminal offence committed by a migrant worker or a member of his or her family.

Article 20

1. No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be imprisoned merely on the ground of failure to fulfil a contractual obligation.

2. No migrant worker or member of his or her family shall be deprived of his or her authorization of residence or work permit or expelled merely on the ground of failure to fulfil an obligation arising out of a work contract unless fulfilment of that obligation constitutes a condition for such authorization or permit.

Article 21

It shall be unlawful for anyone, other than a public official duly authorized by law, to confiscate, destroy or attempt to destroy identity documents, documents authorizing entry to or stay, residence or establishment in the national territory or work permits. No authorized confiscation of such documents shall take place without delivery of a detailed receipt. In no case shall it be permitted to destroy the passport or equivalent document of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family.

Article 22

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall not be subject to measures of collective expulsion. Each case of expulsion shall be examined and decided individually.
2. Migrant workers and members of their families may be expelled from the territory of a State Party only in pursuance of a decision taken by the competent authority in accordance with law.
3. The decision shall be communicated to them in a language they understand. Upon their request where not otherwise mandatory, the decision shall be communicated to them in writing and, save in exceptional circumstances on account of national security, the reasons for the decision likewise stated. The persons concerned shall be informed of these rights before or at the latest at the time the decision is rendered.
4. Except where a final decision is pronounced by a judicial authority, the person concerned shall have the right to submit the reason he or she should not be expelled and to have his or her case reviewed by the competent authority, unless compelling reasons of national security require otherwise. Pending such review, the person concerned shall have the right to seek a stay of the decision of expulsion.
5. If a decision of expulsion that has already been executed is subsequently annulled, the person concerned shall have the right to seek compensation according to law and the earlier decision shall not be used to prevent him or her from re-entering the State concerned.
6. In case of expulsion, the person concerned shall have a reasonable opportunity before or after departure to settle any claims for wages and other entitlements due to him or her and any pending liabilities.
7. Without prejudice to the execution of a decision of expulsion, a migrant worker or a member of his or her family who is subject to such a decision may seek entry into a State other than his or her State of origin.
8. In case of expulsion of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family the costs of expulsion shall not be borne by him or her. The person concerned may be required to pay his or her own travel costs.
9. Expulsion from the State of employment shall not in itself prejudice any rights of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family acquired

in accordance with the law of that State, including the right to receive wages and other entitlements due to him or her.

Article 23

Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to have recourse to the protection and assistance of the consular or diplomatic authorities of their State of origin or of a State representing the interests of that State whenever the rights recognized in the present Convention are impaired. In particular, in case of expulsion, the person concerned shall be informed of this right without delay and the authorities of the expelling State shall facilitate the exercise of such right.

Article 24

Every migrant worker and every member of his or her family shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 25

1. Migrant workers shall enjoy treatment not less favourable than that which applies to nationals of the State of employment in respect of remuneration and:

(a) Other conditions of work, that is to say, overtime, hours of work, weekly rest, holidays with pay, safety, health, termination of the employment relationship and any other conditions of work which, according to national law and practice, are covered by these terms;

(b) Other terms of employment, that is to say, minimum age of employment, restriction on home work and any other matters which, according to national law and practice, are considered a term of employment.

2. It shall not be lawful to derogate in private contracts of employment from the principle of equality of treatment referred to in paragraph 1 of the present article.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that migrant workers are not deprived of any rights derived from this principle by reason of any irregularity in their stay or employment. In particular, employers shall not be relieved of any legal or contractual obligations, nor shall their obligations be limited in any manner by reason of such irregularity.

Article 26

1. States Parties recognize the right of migrant workers and members of their families:

(a) To take part in meetings and activities of trade unions and of any other associations established in accordance with law, with a view to protecting their economic, social, cultural and other interests, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned;

(b) To join freely any trade union and any such association as aforesaid, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned;

(c) To seek the aid and assistance of any trade union and of any such association as aforesaid.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those that are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public order (ordre public) or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 27

1. With respect to social security, migrant workers and members of their families shall enjoy in the State of employment the same treatment granted to nationals in so far as they fulfil the requirements provided for by the applicable legislation of that State and the applicable bilateral and multilateral treaties. The competent authorities of the State of origin and the State of employment can at any time establish the necessary arrangements to determine the modalities of application of this norm.

2. Where the applicable legislation does not allow migrant workers and members of their families a benefit, the States concerned shall examine the possibility of reimbursing interested persons the amount of contributions made by them with respect to that benefit on the basis of the treatment granted to nationals who are in similar circumstances.

Article 28

Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to receive any medical care that is urgently required for the preservation of their life or the avoidance of irreparable harm to their health on the basis of equality of treatment with nationals of the State concerned. Such emergency medical care shall not be refused them by reason of any irregularity with regard to stay or employment.

Article 29

Each child of a migrant worker shall have the right to a name, to registration of birth and to a nationality.

Article 30

Each child of a migrant worker shall have the basic right of access to education on the basis of equality of treatment with nationals of the State concerned. Access to public pre-school educational institutions or schools shall not be refused or limited by reason of the irregular situation with respect to stay or employment of either parent or by reason of the irregularity of the child's stay in the State of employment.

Article 31

1. States Parties shall ensure respect for the cultural identity of migrant workers and members of their families and shall not prevent them from maintaining their cultural links with their State of origin. 2. States Parties may take appropriate measures to assist and encourage efforts in this respect.

Article 32

Upon the termination of their stay in the State of employment, migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to transfer their earnings and savings and, in accordance with the applicable legislation of the States concerned, their personal effects and belongings.

Article 33

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to be informed by the State of origin, the State of employment or the State of transit as the case may be concerning:

(a) Their rights arising out of the present Convention;

(b) The conditions of their admission, their rights and obligations under the law and practice of the State concerned and such other matters as will enable them to comply with administrative or other formalities in that State. 2. States Parties shall take all measures they deem appropriate to disseminate the said information or to ensure that it is provided by employers, trade unions or other appropriate bodies or institutions. As appropriate, they shall co-operate with other States concerned.

3. Such adequate information shall be provided upon request to migrant workers and members of their families, free of charge, and, as far as possible, in a language they are able to understand.

Article 34

Nothing in the present part of the Convention shall have the effect of relieving migrant workers and the members of their families from either the obligation to comply with the laws and regulations of any State of transit and the State of employment or the obligation to respect the cultural identity of the inhabitants of such States.

Article 35

Nothing in the present part of the Convention shall be interpreted as implying the regularization of the situation of migrant workers or members of their families who are non-documented or in an irregular situation or any right to such regularization of their situation, nor shall it prejudice the measures intended to ensure sound and equitable-conditions for international migration as provided in part VI of the present Convention.

PART IV

OTHER RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE DOCUMENTED OR IN A REGULAR SITUATION

Article 36

Migrant workers and members of their families who are documented or in a regular situation in the State of employment shall enjoy the rights set forth in the present part of the Convention in addition to those set forth in part III.

Article 37

Before their departure, or at the latest at the time of their admission to the State of employment, migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to be fully informed by the State of origin

or the State of employment, as appropriate, of all conditions applicable to their admission and particularly those concerning their stay and the remunerated activities in which they may engage as well as of the requirements they must satisfy in the State of employment and the authority to which they must address themselves for any modification of those conditions.

Article 38

1. States of employment shall make every effort to authorize migrant workers and members of the families to be temporarily absent without effect upon their authorization to stay or to work, as the case may be. In doing so, States of employment shall take into account the special needs and obligations of migrant workers and members of their families, in particular in their States of origin.

2. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to be fully informed of the terms on which such temporary absences are authorized.

Article 39

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to liberty of movement in the territory of the State of employment and freedom to choose their residence there.

2. The rights mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present article shall not be subject to any restrictions except those that are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 40

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to form associations and trade unions in the State of employment for the promotion and protection of their economic, social, cultural and other interests.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those that are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public order (ordre public) or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

Article 41

1. Migrant workers and members of their families shall have the right to participate in public affairs of their State of origin and to vote and to be elected at elections of that State, in accordance with its legislation.
2. The States concerned shall, as appropriate and in accordance with their legislation, facilitate the exercise of these rights.

Article 42

1. States Parties shall consider the establishment of procedures or institutions through which account may be taken, both in States of origin and in States of employment, of special needs, aspirations and obligations of migrant workers and members of their families and shall envisage, as appropriate, the possibility for migrant workers and members of their families to have their freely chosen representatives in those institutions.
2. States of employment shall facilitate, in accordance with their national legislation, the consultation or participation of migrant workers and members of their families in decisions concerning the life and administration of local communities.
3. Migrant workers may enjoy political rights in the State of employment if that State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, grants them such rights.

Article 43

1. Migrant workers shall enjoy equality of treatment with nationals of the State of employment in relation to:
 - (a) Access to educational institutions and services subject to the admission requirements and other regulations of the institutions and services concerned;
 - (b) Access to vocational guidance and placement services;
 - (c) Access to vocational training and retraining facilities and institutions;
 - (d) Access to housing, including social housing schemes, and protection against exploitation in respect of rents;
 - (e) Access to social and health services, provided that the requirements for participation in the respective schemes are met;

(f) Access to co-operatives and self-managed enterprises, which shall not imply a change of their migration status and shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the bodies concerned;

(g) Access to and participation in cultural life.

2. States Parties shall promote conditions to ensure effective equality of treatment to enable migrant workers to enjoy the rights mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present article whenever the terms of their stay, as authorized by the State of employment, meet the appropriate requirements.

3. States of employment shall not prevent an employer of migrant workers from establishing housing or social or cultural facilities for them. Subject to article 70 of the present Convention, a State of employment may make the establishment of such facilities subject to the requirements generally applied in that State concerning their installation.

Article 44

1. States Parties, recognizing that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, shall take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of migrant workers.

2. States Parties shall take measures that they deem appropriate and that fall within their competence to facilitate the reunification of migrant workers with their spouses or persons who have with the migrant worker a relationship that, according to applicable law, produces effects equivalent to marriage, as well as with their minor dependent unmarried children.

3. States of employment, on humanitarian grounds, shall favourably consider granting equal treatment, as set forth in paragraph 2 of the present article, to other family members of migrant workers.

Article 45

1. Members of the families of migrant workers shall, in the State of employment, enjoy equality of treatment with nationals of that State in relation to:

(a) Access to educational institutions and services, subject to the admission requirements and other regulations of the institutions and services concerned;

(b) Access to vocational guidance and training institutions and services, provided that requirements for participation are met;

(c) Access to social and health services, provided that requirements for participation in the respective schemes are met;

(d) Access to and participation in cultural life.

2. States of employment shall pursue a policy, where appropriate in collaboration with the States of origin, aimed at facilitating the integration of children of migrant workers in the local school system, particularly in respect of teaching them the local language.

3. States of employment shall endeavour to facilitate for the children of migrant workers the teaching of their mother tongue and culture and, in this regard, States of origin shall collaborate whenever appropriate.

4. States of employment may provide special schemes of education in the mother tongue of children of migrant workers, if necessary in collaboration with the States of origin.

Article 46

Migrant workers and members of their families shall, subject to the applicable legislation of the States concerned, as well as relevant international agreements and the obligations of the States concerned arising out of their participation in customs unions, enjoy exemption from import and export duties and taxes in respect of their personal and household effects as well as the equipment necessary to engage in the remunerated activity for which they were admitted to the State of employment:

(a) Upon departure from the State of origin or State of habitual residence;

(b) Upon initial admission to the State of employment;

(c) Upon final departure from the State of employment;

(d) Upon final return to the State of origin or State of habitual residence.

Article 47

1. Migrant workers shall have the right to transfer their earnings and savings, in particular those funds necessary for the support of their

families, from the State of employment to their State of origin or any other State. Such transfers shall be made in conformity with procedures established by applicable legislation of the State concerned and in conformity with applicable international agreements.

2. States concerned shall take appropriate measures to facilitate such transfers.

Article 48

1. Without prejudice to applicable double taxation agreements, migrant workers and members of their families shall, in the matter of earnings in the State of employment:

(a) Not be liable to taxes, duties or charges of any description higher or more onerous than those imposed on nationals in similar circumstances;

(b) Be entitled to deductions or exemptions from taxes of any description and to any tax allowances applicable to nationals in similar circumstances, including tax allowances for dependent members of their families. 2. States Parties shall endeavour to adopt appropriate measures to avoid double taxation of the earnings and savings of migrant workers and members of their families.

Article 49

1. Where separate authorizations to reside and to engage in employment are required by national legislation, the States of employment shall issue to migrant workers authorization of residence for at least the same period of time as their authorization to engage in remunerated activity.

2. Migrant workers who in the State of employment are allowed freely to choose their remunerated activity shall neither be regarded as in an irregular situation nor shall they lose their authorization of residence by the mere fact of the termination of their remunerated activity prior to the expiration of their work permits or similar authorizations.

3. In order to allow migrant workers referred to in paragraph 2 of the present article sufficient time to find alternative remunerated activities, the authorization of residence shall not be withdrawn at least for a period corresponding to that during which they may be entitled to unemployment benefits.

Article 50

1. In the case of death of a migrant worker or dissolution of marriage, the State of employment shall favourably consider granting family members of that migrant worker residing in that State on the basis of family reunion an authorization to stay; the State of employment shall take into account the length of time they have already resided in that State.

2. Members of the family to whom such authorization is not granted shall be allowed before departure a reasonable period of time in order to enable them to settle their affairs in the State of employment.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present article may not be interpreted as adversely affecting any right to stay and work otherwise granted to such family members by the legislation of the State of employment or by bilateral and multilateral treaties applicable to that State.

Article 51

Migrant workers who in the State of employment are not permitted freely to choose their remunerated activity shall neither be regarded as in an irregular situation nor shall they lose their authorization of residence by the mere fact of the termination of their remunerated activity prior to the expiration of their work permit, except where the authorization of residence is expressly dependent upon the specific remunerated activity for which they were admitted. Such migrant workers shall have the right to seek alternative employment, participation in public work schemes and retraining during the remaining period of their authorization to work, subject to such conditions and limitations as are specified in the authorization to work.

Article 52

1. Migrant workers in the State of employment shall have the right freely to choose their remunerated activity, subject to the following restrictions or conditions.

2. For any migrant worker a State of employment may:

(a) Restrict access to limited categories of employment, functions, services or activities where this is necessary in the interests of this State and provided for by national legislation;

(b) Restrict free choice of remunerated activity in accordance with its legislation concerning recognition of occupational qualifications acquired outside its territory. However, States Parties concerned shall endeavour to provide for recognition of such qualifications.

3. For migrant workers whose permission to work is limited in time, a State of employment may also:

(a) Make the right freely to choose their remunerated activities subject to the condition that the migrant worker has resided lawfully in its territory for the purpose of remunerated activity for a period of time prescribed in its national legislation that should not exceed two years;

(b) Limit access by a migrant worker to remunerated activities in pursuance of a policy of granting priority to its nationals or to persons who are assimilated to them for these purposes by virtue of legislation or bilateral or multilateral agreements. Any such limitation shall cease to apply to a migrant worker who has resided lawfully in its territory for the purpose of remunerated activity for a period of time prescribed in its national legislation that should not exceed five years.

4. States of employment shall prescribe the conditions under which a migrant worker who has been admitted to take up employment may be authorized to engage in work on his or her own account. Account shall be taken of the period during which the worker has already been lawfully in the State of employment.

Article 53

1. Members of a migrant worker's family who have themselves an authorization of residence or admission that is without limit of time or is automatically renewable shall be permitted freely to choose their remunerated activity under the same conditions as are applicable to the said migrant worker in accordance with article 52 of the present Convention.

2. With respect to members of a migrant worker's family who are not permitted freely to choose their remunerated activity, States Parties shall consider favourably granting them priority in obtaining permission to engage in a remunerated activity over other workers who seek admission to the State of employment, subject to applicable bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Article 54

1. Without prejudice to the terms of their authorization of residence or their permission to work and the rights provided for in articles 25 and 27 of the present Convention, migrant workers shall enjoy equality of treatment with nationals of the State of employment in respect of:

(a) Protection against dismissal;

(b) Unemployment benefits;

(c) Access to public work schemes intended to combat unemployment;

(d) Access to alternative employment in the event of loss of work or termination of other remunerated activity, subject to article 52 of the present Convention.

2. If a migrant worker claims that the terms of his or her work contract have been violated by his or her employer, he or she shall have the right to address his or her case to the competent authorities of the State of employment, on terms provided for in article 18, paragraph 1, of the present Convention.

Article 55

Migrant workers who have been granted permission to engage in a remunerated activity, subject to the conditions attached to such permission, shall be entitled to equality of treatment with nationals of the State of employment in the exercise of that remunerated activity.

Article 56

1. Migrant workers and members of their families referred to in the present part of the Convention may not be expelled from a State of employment, except for reasons defined in the national legislation of that State, and subject to the safeguards established in part III.

2. Expulsion shall not be resorted to for the purpose of depriving a migrant worker or a member of his or her family of the rights arising out of the authorization of residence and the work permit.

3. In considering whether to expel a migrant worker or a member of his or her family, account should be taken of humanitarian considerations and of the length of time that the person concerned has already resided in the State of employment.

PART V

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PARTICULAR CATEGORIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

Article 57

The particular categories of migrant workers and members of their families specified in the present part of the Convention who are documented or in a regular situation shall enjoy the rights set forth in part m and, except as modified below, the rights set forth in part IV.

Article 58

1. Frontier workers, as defined in article 2, paragraph 2 (a), of the present Convention, shall be entitled to the rights provided for in part IV that can be applied to them by reason of their presence and work in the territory of the State of employment, taking into account that they do not have their habitual residence in that State.

2. States of employment shall consider favourably granting frontier workers the right freely to choose their remunerated activity after a specified period of time. The granting of that right shall not affect their status as frontier workers.

Article 59

1. Seasonal workers, as defined in article 2, paragraph 2 (b), of the present Convention, shall be entitled to the rights provided for in part IV that can be applied to them by reason of their presence and work in the territory of the State of employment and that are compatible with their status in that State as seasonal workers, taking into account the fact that they are present in that State for only part of the year.

2. The State of employment shall, subject to paragraph 1 of the present article, consider granting seasonal workers who have been employed in its territory for a significant period of time the possibility of taking up other remunerated activities and giving them priority over other workers who seek admission to that State, subject to applicable bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Article 60

Itinerant workers, as defined in article 2, paragraph 2 (A), of the present Convention, shall be entitled to the rights provided for in part IV that can be granted to them by reason of their presence and work in the territory of the State of employment and that are compatible with their status as itinerant workers in that State.

Article 61

1. Project-tied workers, as defined in article 2, paragraph 2 (of the present Convention, and members of their families shall be entitled to the rights provided for in part IV except the provisions of article 43, paragraphs I (b) and (c), article 43, paragraph I (d), as it pertains to social housing schemes, article 45, paragraph I (b), and articles 52 to 55.

2. If a project-tied worker claims that the terms of his or her work contract have been violated by his or her employer, he or she shall have the right to address his or her case to the competent authorities of the State which has jurisdiction over that employer, on terms provided for in article 18, paragraph 1, of the present Convention.

3. Subject to bilateral or multilateral agreements in force for them, the States Parties concerned shall endeavour to enable project-tied workers to remain adequately protected by the social security systems of their States of origin or habitual residence during their engagement in the project. States Parties concerned shall take appropriate measures with the aim of avoiding any denial of rights or duplication of payments in this respect.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 47 of the present Convention and to relevant bilateral or multilateral agreements, States Parties concerned shall permit payment of the earnings of project-tied workers in their State of origin or habitual residence.

Article 62

1. Specified-employment workers as defined in article 2, paragraph 2 (g), of the present Convention, shall be entitled to the rights provided for in part IV, except the provisions of article 43, paragraphs I (b) and (c), article 43, paragraph I (d), as it pertains to social housing schemes, article 52, and article 54, paragraph 1 (d).

2. Members of the families of specified-employment workers shall be entitled to the rights relating to family members of migrant workers

provided for in part IV of the present Convention, except the provisions of article 53.

Article 63

1. Self-employed workers, as defined in article 2, paragraph 2 (h), of the present Convention, shall be entitled to the rights provided for in part IV with the exception of those rights which are exclusively applicable to workers having a contract of employment.

2. Without prejudice to articles 52 and 79 of the present Convention, the termination of the economic activity of the self-employed workers shall not in itself imply the withdrawal of the authorization for them or for the members of their families to stay or to engage in a remunerated activity in the State of employment except where the authorization of residence is expressly dependent upon the specific remunerated activity for which they were admitted.

PART VI

PROMOTION OF SOUND, EQUITABLE, HUMANE AND LAWFUL CONDITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

Article 64

1. Without prejudice to article 79 of the present Convention, the States Parties concerned shall as appropriate consult and co-operate with a view to promoting sound, equitable and humane conditions in connection with international migration of workers and members of their families.

2. In this respect, due regard shall be paid not only to labour needs and resources, but also to the social, economic, cultural and other needs of migrant workers and members of their families involved, as well as to the consequences of such migration for the communities concerned.

Article 65

1. States Parties shall maintain appropriate services to deal with questions concerning international migration of workers and members of their families. Their functions shall include, inter alia:

(a) The formulation and implementation of policies regarding such migration;

(b) An exchange of information, consultation and co-operation with the competent authorities of other States Parties involved in such migration;

(c) The provision of appropriate information, particularly to employers, workers and their organizations on policies, laws and regulations relating to migration and employment, on agreements concluded with other States concerning migration and on other relevant matters;

(d) The provision of information and appropriate assistance to migrant workers and members of their families regarding requisite authorizations and formalities and arrangements for departure, travel, arrival, stay, remunerated activities, exit and return, as well as on conditions of work and life in the State of employment and on customs, currency, tax and other relevant laws and regulations.

2. States Parties shall facilitate as appropriate the provision of adequate consular and other services that are necessary to meet the social, cultural and other needs of migrant workers and members of their families.

Article 66

1. Subject to paragraph 2 of the present article, the right to undertake operations with a view to the recruitment of workers for employment in another State shall be restricted to:

(a) Public services or bodies of the State in which such operations take place;

(b) Public services or bodies of the State of employment on the basis of agreement between the States concerned;

(c) A body established by virtue of a bilateral or multilateral agreement.

2. Subject to any authorization, approval and supervision by the public authorities of the States Parties concerned as may be established pursuant to the legislation and practice of those States, agencies, prospective employers or persons acting on their behalf may also be permitted to undertake the said operations.

Article 67

1. States Parties concerned shall co-operate as appropriate in the adoption of measures regarding the orderly return of migrant workers and members of their families to the State of origin when they decide to return or their authorization of residence or employment expires or when they are in the State of employment in an irregular situation.

2. Concerning migrant workers and members of their families in a regular situation, States Parties concerned shall co-operate as appropriate, on terms agreed upon by those States, with a view to promoting adequate economic conditions for their resettlement and to facilitating their durable social and cultural reintegration in the State of origin.

Article 68

1. States Parties, including States of transit, shall collaborate with a view to preventing and eliminating illegal or clandestine movements and employment of migrant workers in an irregular situation. The measures to be taken to this end within the jurisdiction of each State concerned shall include:

(a) Appropriate measures against the dissemination of misleading information relating to emigration and immigration;

(b) Measures to detect and eradicate illegal or clandestine movements of migrant workers and members of their families and to impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which organize, operate or assist in organizing or operating such movements;

(c) Measures to impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which use violence, threats or intimidation against migrant workers or members of their families in an irregular situation.

2. States of employment shall take all adequate and effective measures to eliminate employment in their territory of migrant workers in an irregular situation, including, whenever appropriate, sanctions on employers of such workers. The rights of migrant workers vis-à-vis their employer arising from employment shall not be impaired by these measures.

Article 69

1. States Parties shall, when there are migrant workers and members of their families within their territory in an irregular situation, take appropriate measures to ensure that such a situation does not persist.

2. Whenever States Parties concerned consider the possibility of regularizing the situation of such persons in accordance with applicable national legislation and bilateral or multilateral agreements, appropriate account shall be taken of the circumstances of their entry, the duration of their stay in the States of employment and other relevant considerations, in particular those relating to their family situation.

Article 70

States Parties shall take measures not less favourable than those applied to nationals to ensure that working and living conditions of migrant workers and members of their families in a regular situation are in keeping with the standards of fitness, safety, health and principles of human dignity.

Article 71

1. States Parties shall facilitate, whenever necessary, the repatriation to the State of origin of the bodies of deceased migrant workers or members of their families.

2. As regards compensation matters relating to the death of a migrant worker or a member of his or her family, States Parties shall, as appropriate, provide assistance to the persons concerned with a view to the prompt settlement of such matters. Settlement of these matters shall be carried out on the basis of applicable national law in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention and any relevant bilateral or multilateral agreements.

PART VII

APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

Article 72

1. (a) For the purpose of reviewing the application of the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee");

(b) The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of ten and, after the entry into force of the Convention for the forty-first State Party, of fourteen experts of high moral standing, impartiality and recognized competence in the field covered by the Convention.

2. (a) Members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot by the States Parties from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, including both States of origin and States of employment, and to the representation of the principal legal systems. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals;

(b) Members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity.

3. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention and subsequent elections every second year. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to all States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties that have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties not later than one month before the date of the corresponding election, together with the curricula vitae of the persons thus nominated.

4. Elections of members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the States Parties present and voting.

5. (a) The members of the Committee shall serve for a term of four years. However, the terms of five of the members elected in the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these five members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the meeting of States Parties;

(b) The election of the four additional members of the Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the present article, following the entry into force of the Convention for the forty-first State Party. The term of two of the additional members elected

on this occasion shall expire at the end of two years; the names of these members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the meeting of States Parties;

(c) The members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election if renominated.

6. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause he or she can no longer perform the duties of the Committee, the State Party that nominated the expert shall appoint another expert from among its own nationals for the remaining part of the term. The new appointment is subject to the approval of the Committee.

7. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee.

8. The members of the Committee shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide.

9. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Article 73

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for consideration by the Committee a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention:

(a) Within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State Party concerned;

(b) Thereafter every five years and whenever the Committee so requests.

2. Reports prepared under the present article shall also indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the implementation of the Convention and shall include information on the characteristics of migration flows in which the State Party concerned is involved.

3. The Committee shall decide any further guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.

4. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries.

Article 74

1. The Committee shall examine the reports submitted by each State Party and shall transmit such comments as it may consider appropriate to the State Party concerned. This State Party may submit to the Committee observations on any comment made by the Committee in accordance with the present article. The Committee may request supplementary information from States Parties when considering these reports.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall, in due time before the opening of each regular session of the Committee, transmit to the Director-General of the International Labour Office copies of the reports submitted by States Parties concerned and information relevant to the consideration of these reports, in order to enable the Office to assist the Committee with the expertise the Office may provide regarding those matters dealt with by the present Convention that fall within the sphere of competence of the International Labour Organisation. The Committee shall consider in its deliberations such comments and materials as the Office may provide.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations may also, after consultation with the Committee, transmit to other specialized agencies as well as to intergovernmental organizations, copies of such parts of these reports as may fall within their competence.

4. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other concerned bodies to submit, for consideration by the Committee, written information on such matters dealt with in the present Convention as fall within the scope of their activities.

5. The International Labour Office shall be invited by the Committee to appoint representatives to participate, in a consultative capacity, in the meetings of the Committee.

6. The Committee may invite representatives of other specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations, as well as of intergovernmental organizations, to be present and to be heard in its meetings whenever matters falling within their field of competence are considered.

7. The Committee shall present an annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the implementation of the present Convention, containing its own considerations and recommendations, based, in particular, on the examination of the reports and any observations presented by States Parties.

8. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the annual reports of the Committee to the States Parties to the present Convention, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations, the Director-General of the International Labour Office and other relevant organizations.

Article 75

1. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years.
3. The Committee shall normally meet annually.
4. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters.

Article 76

1. A State Party to the present Convention may at any time declare under this article that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State Party claims that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under the present Convention. Communications under this article may be received and considered only if submitted by a State Party that has made a declaration recognizing in regard to itself the competence of the Committee. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party which has not made such a declaration. Communications received under this article shall be dealt with in accordance with the following procedure:

(a) If a State Party to the present Convention considers that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under the present Convention, it may, by written communication, bring the matter to the attention of that State Party. The State Party may also inform the Committee of the matter. Within three months after the receipt of the communication the receiving State shall afford the State that sent the communication an explanation, or any

other statement in writing clarifying the matter which should include, to the extent possible and pertinent, reference to domestic procedures and remedies taken, pending or available in the matter;

(b) If the matter is not adjusted to the satisfaction of both States Parties concerned within six months after the receipt by the receiving State of the initial communication, either State shall have the right to refer the matter to the Committee, by notice given to the Committee and to the other State;

(c) The Committee shall deal with a matter referred to it only after it has ascertained that all available domestic remedies have been invoked and exhausted in the matter, in conformity with the generally recognized principles of international law. This shall not be the rule where, in the view of the Committee, the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged;

(d) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (c) of the present paragraph, the Committee shall make available its good offices to the States Parties concerned with a view to a friendly solution of the matter on the basis of the respect for the obligations set forth in the present Convention;

(e) The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under the present article;

(f) In any matter referred to it in accordance with subparagraph (b) of the present paragraph, the Committee may call upon the States Parties concerned, referred to in subparagraph (b), to supply any relevant information;

(g) The States Parties concerned, referred to in subparagraph (b) of the present paragraph, shall have the right to be represented when the matter is being considered by the Committee and to make submissions orally and/or in writing;

(h) The Committee shall, within twelve months after the date of receipt of notice under subparagraph (b) of the present paragraph, submit a report, as follows:

(i) If a solution within the terms of subparagraph (d) of the present paragraph is reached, the Committee shall confine its report to a brief statement of the facts and of the solution reached;

- (ii) If a solution within the terms of subparagraph (d) is not reached, the Committee shall, in its report, set forth the relevant facts concerning the issue between the States Parties concerned. The written submissions and record of the oral submissions made by the States Parties concerned shall be attached to the report. The Committee may also communicate only to the States Parties concerned any views that it may consider relevant to the issue between them.

In every matter, the report shall be communicated to the States Parties concerned.

2. The provisions of the present article shall come into force when ten States Parties to the present Convention have made a declaration under paragraph 1 of the present article. Such declarations shall be deposited by the States Parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States Parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General. Such a withdrawal shall not prejudice the consideration of any matter that is the subject of a communication already transmitted under the present article; no further communication by any State Party shall be received under the present article after the notification of withdrawal of the declaration has been received by the Secretary-General, unless the State Party concerned has made a new declaration.

Article 77

1. A State Party to the present Convention may at any time declare under the present article that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim that their individual rights as established by the present Convention have been violated by that State Party. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party that has not made such a declaration.

2. The Committee shall consider inadmissible any communication under the present article which is anonymous or which it considers to be an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or to be incompatible with the provisions of the present Convention.

3. The Committee shall not consider any communication from an individual under the present article unless it has ascertained that:

(a) The same matter has not been, and is not being, examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;

(b) The individual has exhausted all available domestic remedies; this shall not be the rule where, in the view of the Committee, the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or is unlikely to bring effective relief to that individual.

4. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the present article, the Committee shall bring any communications submitted to it under this article to the attention of the State Party to the present Convention that has made a declaration under paragraph 1 and is alleged to be violating any provisions of the Convention. Within six months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

5. The Committee shall consider communications received under the present article in the light of all information made available to it by or on behalf of the individual and by the State Party concerned.

6. The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under the present article.

7. The Committee shall forward its views to the State Party concerned and to the individual.

8. The provisions of the present article shall come into force when ten States Parties to the present Convention have made declarations under paragraph 1 of the present article. Such declarations shall be deposited by the States Parties with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit copies thereof to the other States Parties. A declaration may be withdrawn at any time by notification to the Secretary-General. Such a withdrawal shall not prejudice the consideration of any matter that is the subject of a communication already transmitted under the present article; no further communication by or on behalf of an individual shall be received under the present article after the notification of withdrawal of the declaration has been received by the Secretary-General, unless the State Party has made a new declaration.

Article 78

The provisions of article 76 of the present Convention shall be applied without prejudice to any procedures for settling disputes or complaints in the field covered by the present Convention laid down in the constituent instruments of, or in conventions adopted by, the United Nations and the specialized agencies and shall not prevent the States Parties from having recourse to any procedures for settling a dispute in accordance with international agreements in force between them.

PART VIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 79

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect the right of each State Party to establish the criteria governing admission of migrant workers and members of their families. Concerning other matters related to their legal situation and treatment as migrant workers and members of their families, States Parties shall be subject to the limitations set forth in the present Convention.

Article 80

Nothing in the present Convention shall be interpreted as impairing the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the constitutions of the specialized agencies which define the respective responsibilities of the various organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in regard to the matters dealt with in the present Convention.

Article 81

1. Nothing in the present Convention shall affect more favourable rights or freedoms granted to migrant workers and members of their families by virtue of:

(a) The law or practice of a State Party; or

(b) Any bilateral or multilateral treaty in force for the State Party concerned.

2. Nothing in the present Convention may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act that would impair any of the rights and freedoms as set forth in the present Convention.

Article 82

The rights of migrant workers and members of their families provided for in the present Convention may not be renounced. It shall not be permissible to exert any form of pressure upon migrant workers and members of their families with a view to their relinquishing or foregoing any of the said rights. It shall not be possible to derogate by contract from rights recognized in the present Convention. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that these principles are respected.

Article 83

Each State Party to the present Convention undertakes:

(a) To ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity;

(b) To ensure that any persons seeking such a remedy shall have his or her claim reviewed and decided by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy;

(c) To ensure that the competent authorities shall enforce such remedies when granted.

Article 84

Each State Party undertakes to adopt the legislative and other measures that are necessary to implement the provisions of the present Convention.

PART IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 85

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.

Article 86

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States. It is subject to ratification.
2. The present Convention shall be open to accession by any State.
3. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 87

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the present Convention after its entry into force, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following a period of three months after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 88

A State ratifying or acceding to the present Convention may not exclude the application of any Part of it, or, without prejudice to article 3, exclude any particular category of migrant workers from its application.

Article 89

1. Any State Party may denounce the present Convention, not earlier than five years after the Convention has entered into force for the State concerned, by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of twelve months after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. Such a denunciation shall not have the effect of releasing the State Party from its obligations under the present Convention in regard to any act or omission which occurs prior to the date at which the denunciation becomes effective, nor shall denunciation prejudice in any way the continued consideration of any matter which is already under consideration by the Committee prior to the date at which the denunciation becomes effective.

4. Following the date at which the denunciation of a State Party becomes effective, the Committee shall not commence consideration of any new matter regarding that State.

Article 90

1. After five years from the entry into force of the Convention a request for the revision of the Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate any proposed amendments to the States Parties with a request that they notify him whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposals. In the event that within four months from the date of such communication at least one third of the States Parties favours such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

2. Amendments shall come into force when they have been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of the States Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

3. When amendments come into force, they shall be binding on those States Parties that have accepted them, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Convention and any earlier amendment that they have accepted.

Article 91

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of signature, ratification or accession.
2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received.

Article 92

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention that is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the Parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those Parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.
2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of the present Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of the present article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party that has made such a declaration.
3. Any State Party that has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article may at any time withdraw that declaration by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 93

1. The present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of the present Convention to all States.

In witness whereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

ANNEX II

States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1 October 2005)

State	Signature	Ratification or accession (a)
Algeria		21 April 2005a
Argentina	10 August 2004	
Azerbaijan		11 January 1999a
Bangladesh	7 October 1998	
Belize		14 November 2001a
Benin	15 September 2005	
Bolivia		16 October 2000a
Bosnia and Herzegovina		13 December 1996a
Burkina Faso	16 November 2001	26 November 2003
Cambodia	27 September 2004	
Cape Verde		16 September 1997a
Chile	24 September 1993	21 March 2005
Colombia		24 May 1995a
Comoros	22 September 2000	
Ecuador		5 February 2002a
Egypt		19 February 1993a
El Salvador	13 September 2002	14 March 2003
Gabon	15 December 2004	
Ghana	7 September 2000	7 September 2000
Guatemala	7 September 2000	
Guinea		7 September 2000a
Guinea-Bissau	12 September 2000	
Guyana	15 September 2005	
Honduras		9 August 2005a
Indonesia	22 September 2004	
Kyrgyzstan		29 September 2003a
Lesotho	24 September 2004	16 September 2005
Liberia	22 September 2004	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		18 June 2004a
Mali		5 June 2003a
Mexico	22 May 1991	8 March 1999
Morocco	15 August 1991	21 June 1993
Paraguay	13 September 2000	
Peru	22 September 2004	14 September 2005
Philippines	15 November 1993	5 July 1995
Sao Tome and Principe	6 September 2000	
Senegal		9 June 1999a
Serbia and Montenegro	11 November 2004	
Seychelles		15 December 1994a
Sierra Leone	15 September 2000	
Sri Lanka		11 March 1996a
Syrian Arab Republic		2 June 2005a
Tajikistan	7 September 2000	8 January 2002
Timor-Leste		30 January 2004a
Togo	15 November 2001	
Turkey	13 January 1999	27 September 2004
Uganda		14 November 2001a
Uruguay		15 February 2001a

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