

CMW, A/61/48 (2008), Chapter 1 and Annex

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

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H. Day of general discussion

15. On 15 December 2005 (25th and 26th meetings, third session) the Committee held a day of general discussion on “Protecting the rights of all migrant workers as a tool to enhance development”. Opening statements were made by the Committee’s Chairperson, Mr. Kariyawasam, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants Jorge Bustamante, a representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Patrick Taran, and Committee member Abdelhamid El Jamri. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mehdi Lahlou and by Ryszard Cholewinski. Approximately 20 representatives of Member States and 60 representatives of civil society participated in the debate. The programme of the day is contained in annex IV to this report. The written contributions to the Committee’s discussion can be found on the web page of the Committee: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/mwdiscussion.htm>.

16. Contributions and discussions concentrated on the importance of recognizing that migrants should not be seen as commodities but as human beings, and that a human rights approach had advantages for the well-being of all actors involved in international migration. Participants considered that protection of human rights and prevention of discrimination in the country of employment were essential factors to enhance the integration of migrant workers and members of their families, thus enabling them to contribute to the socio-economic welfare of the country of employment. The potential contribution of migrants to the economy and society could not be fully realized if there were deficits in the implementation of their rights. Participants also felt that protecting the rights of migrant workers in the country of origin, both before departure and after return, would enhance the welfare of migrants and the contribution that they could make to the development of their country of origin, through, inter alia, an effective use of their acquired skills and experience upon return. Properly informing migrant workers before departure about the conditions in the country of employment would help them to be better prepared for their stay in the host country and thus facilitate their integration and place them in a better position to perform their activity. In this context, the importance of looking into ways of realizing the portability of social security and pension benefits was highlighted, as well as improving access to the justice system in the country of employment for migrant workers with outstanding claims for wages or benefits.

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Annex IV

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION, 15 DECEMBER 2005 (THIRD SESSION), ON “PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AS A TOOL TO ENHANCE DEVELOPMENT”

- 10.00-10.15 Opening
- Rights of Prasad Kariyawasam, Chairperson, Committee on the Protection of the All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- 10.15-10.30 Introductory statement
- rights of Jorge Bustamante, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human migrants
- 10.30-10.45 Introductory statement
- Organization Patrick Taran, senior migration specialist, International Labour
- 10.45-11.00 Introductory statement
- Rights of All Abdelhamid El Jamri, member, Committee on the Protection of the Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- 11.00-11.15 Coffee break

Theme one: Protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families and its impact on development in the country of origin

- 11.15-11.35 Keynote speech
- (INSEA), Mehdi Lahlou, Institut national de statistique et d'économie appliquée Rabat, Morocco
- 11.35-13.00 Discussion among participants
- Chairperson/Facilitator
- Rights of Ana Elizabeth Cubias, member, Committee on the Protection of the All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- Rapporteur
- All Francisco Alba, member, Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- 13.00-15.00 Lunch break

Theme two: Protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families and its impact on development in the country of employment

15.00-15.20 Keynote speech

Ryszard Cholewinski, expert in International Migration Law

15.20-16.45 Discussion among participants

Chairperson/Facilitator

Prasad Kariyawasam

Rapporteur

All Arthur Gakwandi, member, Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

16.45-17.00 Coffee break

17.00-18.00 Report and concluding comments