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I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

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D. Future meetings of the Committee

4. At its 58th meeting (sixth session), on 27 April 2007, the Committee decided that its seventh session would be held from 26 to 30 November 2007, at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

5. At its 58th meeting (sixth session), the Committee considered that in view of the number of reports received, it needed more meeting time in order to fulfil effectively the functions with which the Convention had entrusted it. It therefore decided to request the Secretary-General to arrange two sessions for the Committee in 2008, of two weeks duration in spring and of one week's duration in autumn. In accordance with rule 19 of the Committee's provisional rules of procedure, the Secretary-General prepared and circulated to the Committee's members a written estimate of the costs involved in the decision (see annex III). The sessions of the Committee will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

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G. Treaty body reform

15. The Committee, at its 41st meeting (fifth session) started discussing the concept paper of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on a unified standing treaty body. At its 54th meeting (sixth session) the Committee discussed its position towards the High Commissioner's proposal and other matters concerning the harmonization of working methods. The Committee's position paper is contained in annex IV to the present report.

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Annex III

Oral statement in accordance with rule 19 of the provisional rules of procedure

1. This statement is made in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

2. At its 58th meeting (sixth session), the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to arrange two sessions for the Committee in 2008, one session of two weeks duration and the other of one-week duration. This arrangement would replace the one three-week session per year for which provision has been made under sections 2 and 28E in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.
3. The total estimated provision for travel and daily subsistence allowance for the independent experts proposed in the 2008-2009 proposed programme budget amount to US\$ 183,200 (\$91,600 per year) under section 23, Human Rights.
4. Total full costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance for the independent experts of the activities envisaged under the terms of the decision would amount to US\$ 180,000 for 2008 under section 23, Human Rights.
5. There would not be any additional requirements related to conference services to be provided to the Committee, since the pattern of meetings proposed for 2008 remain unchanged.
6. Should the draft decision be adopted by the Committee, total additional full cost for activities envisaged under the draft decision for the year 2008 would amount to \$88,400, under section 23, Human Rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.
7. Although it is estimated that additional requirements of US\$ 88,400 are likely to arise were the Committee to adopt the draft decision, prior experience on the pattern of meetings of the Committee suggests that additional requirements should not be proposed at this time. The Secretariat wishes to inform the Committee that, based on experience in the servicing of the sessions of the Committee in 2008 and decisions that will be taken by the Committee on the pattern of its sessions for 2009, it will inform the Committee in 2008 of any implications on the resources approved by the General Assembly under section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Annex IV

Statement by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families concerning the idea of creating a single human rights treaty body

1. The present statement is the contribution of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to the ongoing reform debate concerning the human rights treaty bodies.
2. The Committee recalls the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/59/2005/Add.3) and the proposals contained therein for the reform of the human rights treaty bodies. The Committee expresses its

appreciation for the concept paper by the High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning her proposal for a unified standing treaty body (HRI/MC/2006/2).

3. The Committee examined with great interest the High Commissioner's concept paper, which had the merit of identifying a number of challenges that are currently faced by the human rights treaty body system. The Committee recognizes the intention of the High Commissioner to propose practical measures aimed at finding solutions to the challenges identified.

4. The Committee has examined all the documents relating to the proposal contained in the concept paper, as well as the positions adopted by other treaty bodies in reaction to this proposal. The Committee would like to express its concern that the establishment of a unified standing treaty body replacing a specialized body monitoring the Convention on Migrant Workers may lead to a lack of specific attention to the rights of migrant workers. Beyond this concern about the loss of specificity of the Convention on Migrant Workers, the Committee is also concerned about losing its own identity, especially when it has only been in existence for few years and is still striving to develop that specific identity.

5. In view of these concerns, the Committee does not consider that the High Commissioner's proposal is feasible at this point. The establishment of a unified standing treaty body may constitute a long-term objective, but the Committee is, for the time being, strongly in favour of the focus being on the harmonization of the working methods of the treaty bodies and on greater cooperation between them in order to enhance the capacity of the treaty body system.

6. To that end, the Committee examined the proposals made by the Working Group on the harmonization of working methods. These include the idea of establishing a working group of the inter-committee meeting to discuss concrete proposals, or alternatively, the creation of a higher-level, decision-making body, which would replace the inter-committee meeting. The Committee favours the first option of establishing a working group of the inter-committee meeting. It believes that the inter-committee meeting should be maintained undiminished in its scope because it focuses not only on harmonization, but also discusses other matters of interest to the treaty bodies system. This working group could be mandated to make suggestions on harmonization of working methods to treaty bodies through the inter-committee meeting which should be maintained and its scope enhanced, if required.

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