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CHAPTER II. RELATIONS WITH PARTNERS

A. Meeting with States parties

10. At its 1st meeting, the Committee held an informal meeting with States parties to the Convention. The meeting focused on working methods and the challenges faced by States parties in reporting to treaty bodies.

11. Several State representatives emphasized the importance of the Committee's meeting regularly and suggested that it should meet again in 2004. They also suggested that the Committee build on the experience of other treaty bodies in developing its reporting guidelines and rules of procedure and take into account the ongoing discussions relating to reform of the reporting procedures. Some underlined the importance of studying the link between the capacity of States to meet reporting obligations and technical assistance.

B. Cooperation with other United Nations organs and departments

12. On 2 March 2004, the Committee met with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants, Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro, and the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the rights of non-citizens, David Weissbrodt. The Committee agreed that it would work with these mechanisms with regard to promoting ratification of the Convention.

13. During the session, the Committee received information on the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) from the directors of the respective branches and from the National Human Rights Institutions Unit. It also met with representatives of the United Nations Department of Public Information in Geneva.

C. Meeting with the chairperson of the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies

14. At its 7th meeting, on 4 March 2004, the Committee met with the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in his capacity as Chairperson of the fifteenth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies. He provided the Committee with a wealth of information on the work of the Committee he chaired as well as on the outcome of the second inter-committee meeting, in particular with regard to the reform of the treaty body reporting process.

D. Meeting with ILO and other specialized agencies

15. At its 6th meeting, on 3 March 2004, the Committee met with representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO). They discussed possible ways of cooperating, bearing in mind the prominent role the Convention reserves for ILO. The ILO representatives pledged their support to the Committee, in keeping with the practice already established with other United Nations human rights treaty bodies. It was agreed that as the Committee developed its methods of work, the interaction between the Committee and ILO would be examined to see how the Committee could best be supported by the various departments of ILO that deal with the issue of migrants.

16. At the same meeting, the Committee also met with the representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), all of whom expressed support for the Committee and committed themselves to working with the Committee in the future.

17. During the meetings with the representatives of specialized agencies, mention was made of undertaking an analytical study of migration processes in the world, with a view to promoting greater ratification of the Convention.

E. Meeting with other concerned bodies

18. At its 7th meeting, on 4 March 2004, the Committee met with representatives of several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including some of the members of the Steering Committee for the Global Campaign for the ratification of the Convention. It welcomed the contribution made by civil society both during the elaboration of the Convention and later in the efforts undertaken for it to enter into force. The Committee expressed the hope that NGOs would continue to work with the Committee both on promoting the ratification of the Convention and by providing the Committee with information with regard to its reporting responsibilities. In this respect, the Committee encouraged NGOs to continue to work together in coalition wherever possible, in light of the excellent experience achieved by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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