



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

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## Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Thirty-seventh session

### Summary record (partial)\* of the 550th meeting\*\*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 8 December 2023, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Corzo Sosa

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

\*\* No summary records were issued for the 541st to 549th meetings.

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*The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.40 p.m.*

### **Organizational matters**

1. **The Chair** said that he wished to begin by saying a few words about climate justice and environmental racism following the Committee's successful joint side event on 7 December with the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on addressing the impact of climate change on the human rights of migrants and promoting the universal ratification of the Convention. Giving an overview of the origins of the modern environmental justice movement, its links with the rights of Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities, the disproportionate impact of climate change on communities of colour, and manifestations of environmental and climate injustice and racism, he said that much could be gained if the United Nations human rights mechanisms paid greater attention to environmental issues, particularly climate change, when addressing racial disparities and greater attention to racial disparities and other elements of environmental justice when addressing environmental and climate issues.

2. In order for States to comply with their human rights obligations and to realize the objectives of the Paris Agreement, they must adopt and implement ambitious policies aimed at reducing emissions, including by effectively contributing to phasing out fossil fuels, foster climate resilience and ensure that public and private investments were consistent with a pathway towards low carbon emissions and climate resilient development. In so doing, States must seek to address all forms of discrimination and inequality, respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of all, and effectively defend the rights of environmental human rights defenders.

3. In their future work, the human rights treaty bodies should continue to review the impacts of climate change and climate-induced disasters on the rights holders protected under their respective treaties and provide guidance to States parties on how they could meet their obligations under those instruments in relation to mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

4. Turning to the other activities undertaken during the thirty-seventh session, he said that the Committee had held interactive in-person dialogues with delegations from Uruguay and Kyrgyzstan and an online dialogue with a delegation from Sao Tome and Principe, and it had adopted concluding observations on the reports of all three States parties. It had also adopted lists of issues prior to reporting for the Gambia and Mexico, as well as a list of issues in relation to the initial report of Benin.

5. The Committee had been debriefed by the Chair and other members on a number of inter-sessional activities in which they had participated. In September 2023, the Chair had participated in a ministerial round table on migration, environment and climate change in Asia and the Pacific and discussed the possibility of a country visit to the Philippines in the first quarter of 2024, while in October he had addressed the Third Committee of the General Assembly during an interactive dialogue on the rights of migrants and held bilateral meetings with representatives of Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama and Nepal on the margins of the General Assembly. In October, Mr. Charef had attended the Migrant Festival in Agadir, Morocco, and in November the Chair and Ms. Diallo had participated in a round table organized by the Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law. Ms. Diallo had also met with several organizations in her capacity as the Committee's focal point for engagement with civil society organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In November, the Chair and the secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, had organized an information session for members of parliament worldwide. In the same month, in-person regional consultations had been held with the member States of the Economic Community of West African States in Dakar, Senegal, and online regional consultations had been organized with countries in Central and South America on the Committee's draft general comment No. 6 on the convergence of the Convention and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

6. During the session, the Committee had read parts I and II of draft general comment No. 6 and had discussed the next steps for its finalization and adoption before or at the thirty-eighth session in June 2024. The Committee had adopted a road map for collaboration

between the Committee and the Labour Migration Branch of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Earlier that week, Mr. Khaled had represented the Committee at an event organized by ILO on the right to freedom of association and collective negotiations. The Committee had also adopted a road map for collaboration with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions and a joint declaration with the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, and had signed a collaboration agreement with the Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law.

7. The Committee had organized a successful joint public side event with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on policies to prevent xenophobia and its impact on the rights of migrants. The two Committees had also held a private meeting to discuss the next steps for the elaboration of their future joint general comment on the same topic. A tentative list of States parties to be reviewed during the Committee's thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions had been drawn up, and the country rapporteurs had been identified.

8. More generally, the Committee had continued to enhance its partnerships with representatives of civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-Women, IPU and the OHCHR Migration Unit.

#### **Closure of the session**

9. **The Chair**, following the customary exchange of courtesies, declared the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on Migrant Workers closed.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*