

## **“Addressing the Impact of the Climate Change on the Human Rights of Migrants and Promoting the Ratification of the CMW Convention as a pledge for the UDHR 75 initiative”**

7 December 2023 at 15:00, Palais Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrated in 2023 is an occasion to renew the ground-breaking commitments made by States when they adopted the Declaration in 1948. One of the promises of the Declaration is universality, upholding diversity, strengths, and achievements of the many communities striving to address today’s global challenges. The Declaration has inspired the many standards that are now embodied in the core human rights treaties and their optional protocols. These instruments aim to realize the rights contained in the Declaration with legally binding obligations.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets targets to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. The Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention) and the Global Compact for Migration are two important international instruments in the context of migration, which are unique, complementary, and mutually reinforcing in promoting and protecting the rights of all migrants, regardless of their status.

The Global Compact for Migration, not legally binding, laid the foundations for the creation of a strategy by Member States that protects all migrants in situations of particular vulnerability, through a series of mechanisms, including the availability of regular pathways, as it is provided for in the various objectives of the Global Compact.

The Migrant Workers Convention, however, not only provides a comprehensive international legal framework for the promotion of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families, but also establishes minimum standards, legally binding upon States parties and that apply to migrant workers and members of their families, irrespective of their migration status. In addition, the Convention reflects the rights spelled out in the ICCPR and the ICESCR, as well as other core human rights treaties, and interprets them in light of the specific situation of the large global population of migrant workers and members of their families.

The Migrant Workers Convention is currently the least ratified of the core international human rights treaties. With only 59 States parties, the two most recent core instruments, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, both adopted in 2006, have already surpassed the ratification rate of the migrants’ rights treaty.

However, if migrant workers are often placed in an increased position of precarity and vulnerability to human rights violations, the enjoyment of their rights is increasingly impacted by climate change. Migrant workers, especially those in an irregular situation, are disproportionately affected by the negative implications of climate change. In this context, the rights enshrined in the Migrant Workers Convention are crucial for the effective promotion and protection of the human rights of migrant workers, as they consider the specific vulnerability faced by this group.

### **Objective of the side event**

The side-event takes place on the margins of the 37th session of the CMW Committee. Its objective is to promote universal ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention and to raise awareness on the impact of the environmental degradation and climate change on the human rights of migrants by:

- Facilitating the exchange of experiences between the Champions of the Convention and those of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, focusing on the convergence and complementarity of the two instruments and the need for their implementation in synergy

- Highlighting the importance of the integration of the impact of climate change on the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the national programmes of the human mobility governance.

### **Speakers**

H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

H.E. Mrs. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

Mr. Serdar Özkan, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

Mrs. Luningning Camoying Valdez, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

Mr. Felipe Gonzales Morales, former UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;

Mr. Vassiliy Yuzhanin, Head of the International Migration Law Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM);

Ms. Monami Maulik, Civil Society Officer, Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration;

Ms. Laura Healy, UNICEF Team leader of the climate change and mobility portfolio;

Mr. Alan Desmond, Editor, Journal of immigration, asylum and nationality law, University of Leicester, United Kingdom;

Mr. Patrick Taran, President, Global Migration Policy Associates.

**Moderation:** Mr. Mahamane Cisse-Gouro, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division.

### **Date, venue and language**

The side event will take place on Thursday 7 December 2023 from 15:00-17:00, at Palais Wilson, first floor conference room, with simultaneous interpretation in English, Spanish and French.

### **Co-Sponsors:**

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva.