



NATIONS UNIES
DROITS DE L'HOMME
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

GFMD-CMW Side Event on migrants

13:30 to 15:30
19 May 2016

ILO Building, Salle XI, R2 Level

Background

The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (the Committee) has been working with countries as states parties aiming at protecting and promoting the rights of migrants. GFMD chair-in-office realized that important contribution from this treaty body can enrich the discussion of the GFMD. It was also realized that in this context, it is important to increase collaboration between the GFMD and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. GFMD Chair and the Committee will jointly hold a side event following the second preparatory Government Team meetings of the 9th GFMD on 19 May 2016 from 1:30 to 15:30 at the ILO Building, Room XI, R2 Level.

Purpose and Content

International migration is a complex, multidimensional phenomenon that is posing an increasing number of challenges and risks to migrants. The root causes of migration are often directly related to severe and massive violations of human rights. The extent and diversity of human rights abuses that increasingly impact migrants is truly worrisome. Among these abuses, it is important to highlight the following: trafficking in persons, labour exploitation, arbitrary detention and expulsion, constraints in access to economic, social and cultural rights, including health and education, as well as other issues. Women and children are the most vulnerable groups of migrants who face multiple forms of challenges.

The world discourse on migration most of the times tend to focus on theoretical aspects of its root causes, as an economic phenomena or political, and in terms of the debate on choice as opposed to necessity. No matter what the phenomena are, migration is about Migrants, about mobility of human beings. Any discussion on migration, in particular in the context of development cannot therefore, overlook the rights, wellbeing and dignity of migrants.

As migration has been termed as an agent of development, it can be identified as a potential tool, which can provide for dignity in life for many people that choose to migrate or are necessitated to migrate. In order to strengthen this tool for providing for a life of dignity, the positive factors of social and ethical realities need to be strengthened, while negating the negative impacts. Hence, creating a dignified place for migrants in a society, ethical recruitment, decent job and rights of migrants form intrinsic part of the discussions on migration and development.

In order to benefit from this phenomena, we stand at a point when there is a greater need to foster a safer, more transparent system of international mobility that protects migrant's rights, and serves shared economic interests for migrants and their host communities, while ensuring their rights and safety. Panelists will provide an overview of the priority issues including the impact of existing international normative framework, promotion and protection of migrant's rights, dignity and wellbeing, the challenges and vulnerable groups like women and children in the context of migration, and highlight best practices based upon human rights norms and standards.
