

Statement by the Committee on cooperation with national human rights institutions

1. The Committee and independent national human rights institutions share the common goals of protecting, promoting and fulfilling the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families. The Committee considers that its close cooperation with independent national human rights institutions is critical and is exploring ways to further interact with such institutions.

2. The Committee emphasizes that national human rights institutions should be established in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 (see resolution [48/134](#), annex) and duly accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The Paris Principles provide guidance on the establishment, competence, responsibilities, composition, including pluralism, independence, methods of operation and quasi-judicial activities of such national bodies. Under the Paris Principles, national human rights institutions have a specific mandate to monitor and report on the compliance by their respective State with international human rights instruments, including compliance with recommendations from international human rights bodies.

3. The Committee notes that all human rights treaty bodies allow national human rights institutions with any status (A, B or C) under GANHRI to participate in most aspects of their work, including by submitting written information and attending public and/or closed briefings with treaty body members. The Committee also notes that non-members of GANHRI, for example specific ombudsman entities and other national independent mechanisms, can cooperate with the treaty bodies.

4. The Committee considers that national human rights institutions play an important role in promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families at the national level, protecting migrant workers' human rights and enhancing public awareness of such rights. In that regard, it encourages national human rights institutions to publicize and disseminate the Convention, its concluding observations and general recommendations, as well as to monitor the State party's implementation of the Convention. As set out in the Paris Principles, national human rights institutions should also encourage ratification of the Convention in those States that are not yet party to the Convention.

5. The Committee expects national human rights institutions to ensure that their work on, inter alia, the elaboration of recommendations on laws, policies and practices, the carrying out of activities in human rights education and the consideration of individual complaints, is based on the principle of the universality of human rights, according to which every person, no matter their immigration status, has inalienable fundamental rights, and of the principle of general non-discrimination, as contained in the Convention.

6. The Committee reiterates that national human rights institutions have broad mandates to protect and promote all human rights for all persons, especially those in a situation of vulnerability, such as migrant workers and members of their families. In that regard, it encourages national human rights institutions to ensure that migrant workers and members of their families have easy access to all services for the protection of their rights provided by national human rights institutions. It also urges cooperation among national human rights institutions in States of origin, transit and destination to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, in accordance with the Convention.

7. The Committee recognizes that national human rights institutions may contribute in various ways to its work throughout the reporting cycle, for example by providing comments and suggestions on a State party's report. The Committee welcomes the provision by national human rights institutions of country-specific information on States parties' reports that are before the Committee, including both qualitative and statistical

data. Such information may be submitted in writing prior to the relevant session of the Committee. Such reports should be brief (no more than 10 pages long) and provide country-specific information on priority issues for the State party concerned regarding the Convention. It is also useful for such reports to include suggested questions and/or concrete recommendations for the State party, for consideration by the Committee.

8. The Committee invites national human rights institutions to attend the in-session meetings allocated to them and to provide information orally during those meetings. The Committee includes an item on meetings with national human rights institutions in the agendas of its sessions in order to enhance the visibility of input from such institutions.

9. The Committee encourages national human rights institutions to contribute to general comments under consideration, including during the days of general discussion, and to make use of the Committee's general comments in their monitoring and advocacy efforts.

10. National human rights institutions that are interested in obtaining more information on interacting with the Committee should contact the Committee secretariat by writing to cmw@ohchr.org.