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PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

Side-event on the margins of consultations for the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

8 May 2017 | 13:00-15:00 | Room VIII | Palais des Nations

Concept Note

Background

Around the world many migrants are today in vulnerable situations and in need of specific human rights protection measures. Analyzing and exploring the parameters and limits of such situational and/or embodied vulnerability presents an opportunity to understand the diversity of migratory experiences that are evident today.

In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Member States pledged to combat with all the means at their disposal the abuse and exploitation suffered by migrants in vulnerable situations, to address their special needs in accordance with obligations under international law (para 10 and 23) and committed to consider developing guidance on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations (para. 52). Member States also indicated that attention to the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations could be included in the *Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration* to be adopted in 2018 under the auspices of the United Nations (Annex II para. 8i). The resolution establishing the modalities of the global compact further invites Member States to take into account in the consultation phase of this compact their perspectives with regard to the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations (para 20).

In order to assist States and other stakeholders to develop, strengthen, implement and monitor measures to protect the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations, the Global Migration Group (GMG) is finalizing a set of *principles and practical guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations*. This is an initiative led by OHCHR as co-chair of the GMG Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, and has so far taken place through an open, consultative and multi-stakeholder process. The New York Declaration has taken note of this process (para 51), and the High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a progress report of the principles and guidance to the 34th session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/34/31).

This side-event, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaborations with the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), and co-sponsored by the Governments of El Salvador, Canada, Portugal and Switzerland, aims to discuss practical and effective ways of ***Protecting the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations***.

Agenda

Opening

- Ms. Carmen Elena Castillo, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of El Salvador

Keynote speaker

- Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High-Commissioner for Human Rights and co-chair of the Global Migration Group Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality

Panel

- Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Chair, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Mr Francois Crepeau, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants
- Ms. Pia Oberoi, Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Mr. Philip Lynch, International Service for Human Rights
- Ms. Kirsten Hagon, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Mr. Paulo de Tarso Lugon, Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS)

Moderator

- Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)