



The Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on Rights of Migrants

*Statement by the Steering Committee for the Global Campaign for Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**

2003 Watershed year for protection of migrant workers

This year has been of special significance for the advancement of the rights of migrant workers and their families. The cornerstone for migrant workers protection, the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families finally came into force on 1st July.

The Convention is now officially part of the seven core international human rights treaties. Twenty-four countries have ratified it. Its entry into force will also substantially strengthen other human rights mechanisms, such as the Commission on Human Rights' Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

This year, we celebrate International Migrants Day one week after the formal establishment of the United Nations Committee tasked with supervising the implementation of the Convention. This Committee of independent experts will receive and examine reports by States Parties to the Convention and will monitor implementation of its provisions. The Committee will also guide relevant governments as they take steps internally for the integration of the text of the treaty into national legislation.

Thanks to these two developments, 2003 is truly a watershed year for the protection of migrant workers. States can no longer claim that there is no international legal framework for the protection of the human rights of migrants.

In December a group of States launched the Global Commission on International Migration. The Commission, which has the support of the Secretary General, can play a crucial role in promoting a greater public understanding of migration in all its dimensions and in encouraging international dialogue on strengthened international cooperation for the protection of the rights and dignity of migrants. The Steering Committee encourages the Commission to keep human rights at the heart of its work

Members of the Steering Committee for the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention call on all member states of the United Nations, with particular reference to host States, to ratify the Migrant Workers Convention. We also urge all governments involved in migration initiatives to consider the human rights protection of migrants as a key component to any plans for managing migration in their regions and worldwide.

The Convention has been ratified by Azerbaijan, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Uruguay. An additional nine countries have signed it: Bangladesh, Chile, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Turkey, and Togo.

*The Steering Committee is a unique alliance of intergovernmental agencies and non governmental organizations promoting ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention. Members include: December 18.net, Human Rights Watch, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Labour Office, International Organization for Migration, Migrant Forum in Asia, Migrants Rights International, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Public Services International, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Council of Churches. Observers: Amnesty International, International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent. For more information on the Steering Committee please visit our website at <http://www.migrantsrights.org>.