



## **Executive Summary:**

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **"The Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families: Between Reality and Hope"**

**Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 2024**

As part of NCHR's commitment to implement Egypt's obligations regarding the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families, with the aim of consolidating the foundations of human rights and working to create a supportive environment that adheres to national and international standards, and in implementation of the Economic Committee's Action Plan, the Committee organized a panel discussion entitled ***"The Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families: Between Reality and Hope"*** on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 2024, at NCHR's headquarters. The panel discussion was attended by Ambassador Moushira Khattab, NCHR President ; Dr. Ayman Zohry, Head of the Civil and Political Rights Committee; Mr. Mohamed Mamdouh, Head of the Economic Committee; and Dr. Ihab Abdel Aati, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Labor; Mr. Abdel Moneim El Gamal, President of the Egyptian Trade Union Federation; Representative Ihab Mansour, Deputy Chairman of the Manpower Committee in the House of Representatives; a group of political party leaders, a select group of experts in the labor movement, union leaders, and representatives of farmers and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The discussion panel came within the framework of NCHR's commitment to achieving the objectives of the National Human Rights Strategy, by focusing on vulnerable groups such as migrant workers and farmers. Moreover, it addressed mechanisms for protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families, based on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It also emphasized the right of every human being to a decent job opportunity and adequate living conditions for themselves and their families.

**The participants reached a set of recommendations and proposals, most notably the following:**

#### ***First, recommendations regarding the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families:***

- Emphasize the importance of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, while considering the possibility of updating and redrafting it to keep pace with political and geographical developments and to accommodate changes in international labor markets and the growing needs of migrant workers. It also emphasized the need to urge non-signatory countries to accede to it to ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families in both sending and receiving countries, thus ensuring the Convention's effectiveness as a fundamental tool for preserving their human rights.
- Reduce the difficulties faced by migrant workers and their families, protecting them, and providing consular assistance to them and their families.



- Protect and respect the cultural identity of migrant workers and their family members, activate their rights to form associations and unions, participate in voting, and running for elections, and ensure they are not denied political rights in their country of employment.

***Second, recommendations for protecting and promoting the rights of Egyptian workers abroad:***

- The Ministry of Labor should work to increase communication with the main host countries for Egyptian workers through advisors and attachés, in addition to examining traditional and emerging labor markets.
- Provide training and qualification programs for Egyptian workers before they leave to work abroad in order to equip them with the skills required in the international labor market and increase their chances of obtaining better jobs.
- Tighten the Ministry of Labor's oversight of companies recruiting Egyptian workers to work abroad, ensuring their compliance with established controls and standards, and imposing deterrent penalties on agencies that exploit Egyptian workers.
- Take immediate measures to protect Egyptian migrant workers, especially those working under the sponsorship system, which contravenes international human rights principles and violates all international conventions.
- Launch awareness campaigns for migrant workers about their rights and the means of avoiding exploitation, and complaint procedures. It is essential to enhance confidence in consular authorities by highlighting their effective role in protecting migrants and providing them with support in various fields.
- Consular authorities must fulfill their role and meet the needs of Egyptian migrant workers and their families through protecting them and providing them with assistance and support.
- Assist workers returning from abroad to reintegrate into the local labor market by encouraging them to invest in small and medium-sized enterprises and providing them with financial and technical support.

***Third, recommendations regarding non-national workers in Egypt:***

- The need to periodically issue and update data and statistics on migrants to assess their needs and determine the burdens on limited government resources. This will help develop well-informed and targeted policies to improve the living and working conditions of migrants.
- Increase regular inspections of workplaces to ensure the implementation of migrant workers' legal rights.
- Strengthen the role of CSOs working on migration issues to inform migrants of their legal rights in Egypt.