

## C. Country visits

### 1. Requests for visits

37. During 2021, the Working Group sent a country visit request to El Salvador (25 August 2021) and to Comoros (12 November 2021), and reminders of its earlier requests to visit Canada (12 July 2021), Cuba (24 August 2021), India (24 August 2021) and Saudi Arabia (24 August 2021).

### 2. Responses of Governments to requests for country visits

38. On 17 May 2021, the Government of Botswana extended an invitation to the Working Group to conduct a visit to the country in the second half of 2022. On 15 September 2021, a letter was sent to the Permanent Mission, proposing that the country visit, for a duration of 10 working days, could take place either from 25 April to 6 May 2022 or from 9 to 20 May 2022. The country visit has subsequently been scheduled from 4 to 15 July 2022.

39. On 2 June 2021, the secretariat met with the Minister of Labour of El Salvador and the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. At the meeting, the Working Group was invited to undertake a country visit to El Salvador at its earliest convenience. On 25 August 2021, the Working Group sent a letter in which it proposed conducting the visit from 8 to 19 November 2021. On 3 September 2021, the Permanent Mission sent a note verbale advising that El Salvador would not be able to accommodate the visit in 2021, and that the authorities would consider the visit request in the future.

40. In a meeting held on 30 June 2021 with the Permanent Mission of Türkiye, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group reiterated its interest in conducting a visit to Türkiye for a duration of 10 working days. The Permanent Mission subsequently indicated that the visit could not take place in 2021, and discussions as to the timing and modalities of such visit are still ongoing.

41. Following a meeting on 5 July 2021 between the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group and the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, the Working Group sent a letter on 12 July 2021, indicating that it looked forward to continuing the dialogue with the Permanent Mission in order to find a mutually agreeable timing for a country visit, if possible, during 2021. Discussions as to the timing of such visit are still ongoing, and possible dates for 2023 are being considered.

42. In an email message of 25 August 2021, the Permanent Mission of India acknowledged receipt of the Working Group's request for an official country visit to India. The Permanent Mission noted that the COVID-19 situation in India was still evolving, and that it would revert on the request once the situation in India had stabilized.

43. On 22 September 2021, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group met the Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva to discuss a country visit in 2021, noting that visit dates for Maldives had been agreed upon just before the eruption of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Working Group notes with great appreciation that the Government of Maldives subsequently extended an invitation, and the Working Group was able to visit Maldives from 29 November to 10 December 2021.<sup>13</sup>

44. Following a meeting between the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group and the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations Office in Geneva on 22 September 2021, the Working Group sent a letter to the Permanent Mission on 24 September 2021, confirming the interest of the Working Group in conducting a country visit to Tunisia in the first half of 2022. In a letter dated 4 October 2021, the Permanent Mission informed the Working Group that the authorities had accepted its proposal of organizing a visit to Tunisia for January 2022. It was subsequently agreed that the visit could take place from 24 January to 4 February 2022. On 11 January 2022, the Permanent Mission informed the

<sup>13</sup> See A/HRC/51/29/Add.1.