

OMBUDSMAN OF UKRAINE

**To participants
of the All-Ukrainian Tripartite Conference
on the occasion of the ILO 90th Anniversary
and 55th Anniversary of Ukraine's membership in the ILO**

Dear participants of the Conference!

Open-heartedly I congratulate you with the opening of the Conference on the occasion of the ILO 90th Anniversary and the 55th Anniversary of Ukraine's membership in the ILO.

Humanitarian, political and economic reasons which had laid down the basis for creation and promotion of the international labour standards, kept their actuality and urgency in our days.

The ILO Conventions and Recommendations have become the internationally recognized labour code, provisions of which have become the part of the national legislation of overwhelming majority of States.

Development of the occupational safety and health concept and strategy has become one of the main achievements of the ILO during the last decade.

Implementation of this strategy is very important for Ukraine, which is losing the labour resources first of all because of the lack of decent workplaces. It is necessary to note that the ILO Conventions and Recommendations are not fully implemented in Ukraine that prevents from implementation of the right to work, guaranteeing of the equal opportunities to freely choose professions and occupations, of non-discrimination in the world of work and of equality regardless the gender and age, of protection from unlawful dismissal, prevents from introduction of social standards, social benefits at the level guaranteeing decent living conditions for working people and their families' members. The problem of the worst forms of child labour is one of the urgent in our country. Unfortunately, up to now the new labour code has not been finalized yet, as well as the draft laws on employment of population, social dialogue, medical insurance etc.

Me as an Ombudsman of Ukraine raised the issue of ratification of a number of ILO Conventions, among which ILO Conventions 173 (in particular part III) concerning protection of workers' claims in the event of the insolvency of their employer, 174 concerning the prevention of major industrial accidents, 176 concerning safety and health in mines and the Maritime labour Convention of 2006. Ratification of those documents would allow to harmonize the national legislation on employment with the international labour standards, create appropriate and safe working conditions.

In the conditions of the global financial and economic crisis the International Labour Organization has developed the new programme recommendations, for example, on Global Jobs Pact which would help overcome long-term crisis, unemployment and poverty of working people.

I am sure, that to implement these strategic tasks, the ILO has the solid theoretical basis, rich experience as the world centre of the social partnership and source of the leading labour legislation.

I wish to the representatives of the Government, trade unions and employers – participants and guests of the All-Ukrainian Conference – to take all possible measures to integrate the ILO principles, values and ideals into the national legislation, to make them the basis for the programmes of actions and practical industrial relations, for the social policy implementation in the interest of the people, to ensure their rights to decent life in the third millennium.

Let me wish you good health, patience, wisdom and inspiration to achieve honorable objectives of the social justice in the name of people.

NINA KARPACHOVA