

## SECTOR Note

### *ILO support to national activities in the Textiles and Clothing Sector*

#### **Morocco**

#### **Boosting the competitiveness in the garment industry in Morocco**

The ILO has worked with social partners in Morocco to help the textile and clothing (TC) sector adapt to the stiffer international competition anticipated with the phase-out of the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA). With ILO assistance, tripartite partners formulated and adopted a national action plan that, in addition to conventional factors, considered social factors as a means to boosting productivity and competitiveness. Results included:

- institutionalization of regular tripartite meetings of the social partners to review progress made and problems encountered in implementing the National Action Plan;
- establishment of a new bi-partite institution of social dialogue to accompany the evolution of the garment industry;
- launching of a social dialogue process in the six regions of textile and clothing production;
- an assessment of child labour within the industry;
- the elaboration of a gender strategy to support the implementation of the national action plan;
- the compilation and testing of a training package on competitiveness, productivity and decent work;
- the pilot testing of an approach that strengthens the role of enterprises in staff training;
- the mobilization of extra-budgetary funds (Project TRA-DE Maroc) to support the implementation of the Action Plan.

#### **Technical Cooperation Spanish Funded Project TRA-DE Maroc**

Technical support was provided to the TRA DE Project financed by the Spanish Government. SECTOR initiated and facilitated the development of the MFA Forum Initiative in Morocco, working under the umbrella of the Tripartite National Steering Committee of the ILO Project. With the support of the ILO a bipartite sectoral committee, the only one of this kind, was created for the Textile and Clothing sector.

A “training of trainers” programme was developed by the ILO, using a modular approach dealing with “improving competitiveness in textiles and clothing through decent work”.

The sectoral dialogue was reinforced at the enterprise level through the creation of bipartite teams (Equipes pour le Progrès) in 11 pilot enterprises that benefited from the coaching of the trainers trained by the ILO to elaborate plans of action to improve their productivity and competitiveness through decent work.

### **Useful links/Resources**

- [Decent Work of the Textile and Clothing Industry in Morocco Tra De Maroc](#)

### **Romania**

The ILO facilitated the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the Tripartite National Steering Committee set up under the ILO Action Programme. A number of seminars were held, with the support of the ILO, to deal with priority areas identified in the Plan of Action. These topics included, inter alia, a round table to discuss a study -diagnosis on the decent work situation in the Romanian TC industry, a tripartite seminar on the social impact of Romania's accession to the EU, a training seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and a seminar on social protection. The Plan of Action was highly disseminated in TC enterprises, in particular on the occasion of TC fairs.

### **Philippines**

The Clothing and Textile Industry Tripartite Council, created to implement the ILO Action Programme continued the implementation of the National Action Plan to improve Competitiveness in the Textile and Clothing Sector through Decent Work. The most recent activities included a profiling of displaced workers in the TC industry and a survey of codes of conduct in selected clothing manufacturing firms.

### **Tunisia and Egypt**

At the request of the two Governments, and with the support of the ILO Algiers Office and Sub-regional office (SRO) in Cairo, pilot activities, following the approach developed in the Action Programme, were initiated in Tunisia and Egypt in 2007.

In Tunisia, the initial focus was on social dialogue as a way to improve competitiveness. A second theme was the "annualization" of working time. Tripartite seminars and a foreign tour to Portugal were organized in 2007 to deal with these topics.

In Egypt, pilot activities were undertaken in selected enterprises to implement the modular training approached developed in Morocco and a "training of trainers programme" was organized.