



Programme of Cooperation
between
the Russian Federation
and
the International Labour Organization
for 2010 – 2012

March 2010

Introduction

This Programme of Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Labour Organization for 2010-2012 continues previous programmes of cooperation in the social and labour sphere and takes account of the new context resulting, inter alia, from the impact of the global financial and economic crisis.

The Programme derives both from the priorities underlying the main activities of the Government of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2012, whose application is of equal interest to the Government of the Russian Federation, national trade union federations and employers' associations, and from the strategic concept of decent work of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Programme of Cooperation is based on Russia's membership of the ILO, and takes account of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the International Labour Organization concerning the Office of the International Labour Organization in Moscow, signed on 5 September 1997; the Programme defines the main areas of joint activities to be undertaken by the ILO and its tripartite partners in the Russian Federation in 2010-2012.

The main objective of the Programme is to promote the further development of labour relations in the Russian Federation with a view to achieving decent work by focusing efforts on such areas as employment promotion, social protection, wages and occupational safety and health (OSH), international labour standards, fundamental principles and rights at work, and social dialogue.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to cooperation with the ILO and fully supports the ILO's key policy provisions and practical approaches with regard to improving standards of living, which define decent work as an important goal for activities at the national level.

Conceptual approach to implementation of the Programme of Cooperation

In the context of the global financial and economic crisis, vigorous efforts are under way in the Russian Federation to reduce distress in the labour market by resolving the problems involved in implementing social guarantees, improving the quality of training and its accessibility, and labour mobility. As the President of the Russian Federation D.A. Medvedev stated at the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh on 24-25 September 2009, and at the APEC CEO Summit in Singapore on 14 November 2009, the International Labour Organization has an important role to play in this process, and Russia supports the *Global Jobs Pact*, adopted at the International Labour Conference in June 2009.

The *Global Jobs Pact* is a conceptual policy document that calls for measures to maintain levels of employment and prevent the devastating effect of reductions in wages and deteriorating working conditions. The main idea of the Pact, which was endorsed by the tripartite delegations of ILO Member States, is to preserve jobs in the crisis context, to maintain social expenditure at its previous level and if possible

to increase it as a means of forestalling the crisis in order to accelerate and facilitate its termination. The Russian Federation has succeeded in stabilizing the situation thanks to vigorous anti-crisis measures and an active social policy, including measures aimed at controlling the situation in the labour market and maintaining the stability of the financial system. Nevertheless, the problems involved in overcoming the crisis and those pertaining to the social sphere and employment remain a priority.

In the preamble to the General Agreement between the national trade union organizations, national employers' associations and the Government of the Russian Federation for 2008-2010 (hereinafter the General Agreement), the Parties include among their priority objectives the implementation of socio-economic policies ensuring the right of citizens to decent work, better living conditions for workers and their families, poverty reduction through stable development of the economy, improving its competitiveness and increasing enterprise sustainability, higher labour productivity, stable employment and labour market flexibility, safety and health in the workplace, and greater opportunities for skill improvement and career development for working people.

According to paragraph 7.8 of the General Agreement the Parties assist the development of relations with the International Labour Organization, ensure implementation of the Programme of Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the International Labour Organization, and contribute to the formulation and discussion of documents of the ILO.

In accordance with the task assigned to it by the President of the Russian Federation, D.A. Medvedev, the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, together with the federal executive bodies concerned, has reviewed the list of ILO Conventions and other international instruments specified in Annex 2 to the General Agreement.

The review found that with the existing legal base of the Russian Federation and the current structure of executive bodies with supervisory and controlling functions necessary for the application of the standards embodied in those Conventions, it is possible to prepare for the ratification of several ILO Conventions.

Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the ILO also contributes to and promotes the achievement of a number of the UN Millennium Development Goals, including poverty eradication, employment promotion – including employment and vocational training for youth, combating HIV/AIDS in the world of work, and the elimination of child labour. Cooperation in these areas has evolved successfully in recent years through specific projects and programmes aimed at improving social policies, methodologies and approaches, and will continue.

The Russian Federation is currently involved in the intensive processes related to external labour migration, and actively participates in exchanges of experience and the formulation of policy in this area with other States. This is important for the determination of priorities for cooperation in view of the fact that the activities of the ILO Subregional Office in Moscow cover countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This offers a favourable basis for the development of regional

dialogue on all major issues in the social and labour sphere and the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The Russian Federation has rich experience of a wide range of approaches to the problems of employment, payment of wages to workers, and anti-crisis measures. Such approaches make it possible to conduct activities under regional programmes aimed at reducing distress in the labour market that take due account of specific conditions in the region. Moreover, cooperation with the ILO at the regional level provides an opportunity to test new, modern approaches, methods and programmes, to adapt them to Russia's specific conditions, and then disseminate the successes at the federal and regional levels.

It should also be noted that labour migration and OSH have been defined as the main priorities for subregional cooperation in the period 2010-2012.

Main areas of cooperation

The fundamental priorities for cooperation between the Russian Federation and the ILO in 2010-2012 will be employment and labour migration, improvements in occupational safety and health, and social dialogue, including the following issues:

1. Fundamental principles and rights at work

- Improvement of labour legislation;
- Reforming OSH legislation;
- Creating a reliable system for the assessment of working conditions and management of occupational risks;
- Improving the mechanisms of economic incentives to stimulate the improvement of working conditions, focusing on prevention.

2. Employment

- Legislative regulation of foreign labour migration;
- Methods of preserving and creating productive jobs in the crisis context;
- Maintaining levels of employment;
- Vocational training and skills development as a labour market policy tool;
- Implementation of regional programmes on additional measures to reduce distress in the labour market.

3. Social protection

- Improving the system of public sector remuneration with a view to raising the quality of social services using a results-based approach;
- Machinery to determine minimum wages and to increase the purchasing power of remuneration, and methods for its application;

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- Methods and ways to promote the elimination of child labour.

4. Social dialogue

- Improving the system of social partnership;
- Improved procedures for collective bargaining and the regulation of labour relations;
- Improving the effectiveness of the Tripartite Commission on the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations;
- Initiating preparatory work for the ratification of Conventions of the International Labour Organization;
- Improving the mechanism for settling collective labour disputes, and the formulation of proposals for the development of a system for the out-of-court settlement of labour disputes;
- Further implementation of programmes aimed at preventing HIV/AIDS at the workplace through the development of social dialogue.

Monitoring and evaluation of the Programme of Cooperation

After the adoption of the Programme a Workplan will be developed for its implementation listing the measures, the time-frames, the expected outputs and the indicators to be used to measure the results. A permanent tripartite working group with ILO participation will assist the Parties in the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme.

On completion of the Programme the Parties will hold a joint meeting to evaluate the results and the lessons learned, to formulate general conclusions and to plan further activities.

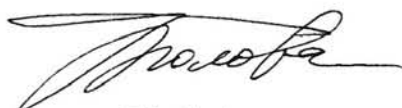
Done in Geneva, 24 March 2010.

Director-General
International Labour Office



Juan Somavia

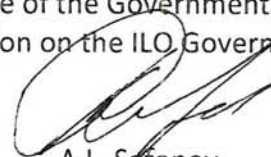
On behalf of the trade union federations of
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