



## **ILO Regional Office for the Arab States**

### **Regional Tripartite Conference on ILO Convention No. 189: Raising Awareness and Sharing Knowledge on Decent Work for Domestic Workers Cairo-Egypt**

**22-24 October 2012**

#### **CONCEPT NOTE**

##### **Background**

In June 2011, the International Labour Conference adopted the *Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189) and Recommendation (No. 201)*. Subsequently, the Governing Body of the ILO endorsed an *ILO Strategy for action towards making decent work a reality for domestic workers worldwide*. A principle area of action under the strategy is knowledge development and knowledge-sharing, including the exchange of experiences and good practices among ILO constituents.

As a follow-up, the ILO Regional Office for the Arab States is organizing a tripartite regional knowledge-sharing conference on decent work for domestic workers to raise awareness of the ILO's new instruments on domestic workers and support efforts towards ratification and implementation.

##### **Rationale and Objective**

Countries in the region participated actively in the elaboration of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201, and supported their adoption. Furthermore, initiatives are under way in several countries to review, strengthen or establish legislative frameworks for the protection of domestic workers, which are mainly women workers from Asia and Africa.

Against this background, the planned conference pursues a two-fold objective: (1) to raise awareness of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 among ILO constituents in the region which guide action to protect domestic workers; (2) to support implementation efforts by facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experiences regarding the extension of labour law to domestic workers and its enforcement, as well as regulation of the activities of recruitment agencies.

## **Participation**

Participation will be open to government representatives, as well as representatives of workers' and employers' organizations from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. A number of observers will be invited.

## **Background documentation**

The ILO will compile background documentation which aims at facilitating the exchange of experiences and related discussions. The documentation will present regional and international experiences with regard to extending labour law protection to domestic workers and the regulation of recruitment agencies.

## **Agenda**

The meeting agenda will roughly be structured around three major blocks: (1) an opening session and key note presentations; (2) thematic sessions for presentation, discussion and assessment of country-specific experiences; and (3) a concluding session.

## **Outputs**

The ILO will prepare a draft report summarizing the discussions which will be shared with participants for comments before finalization. The information and documentation generated in connection with the conference will serve as inputs for producing a package of tools for constituents, dealing in depth with the policy issues at hand, practical approaches and country-specific experiences.