

International Labour Conference, May-June 2014

Fair migration : Setting an ILO agenda Report of the ILO Director General

The ILO Constitution calls for “the protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own”. According to ILO Director-General Guy Ryder in his report to the International Labour Conference (ILC), it is necessary to construct an agenda that demands respect of the fundamental rights of migrant workers while offering them real opportunities for decent work. Today, migration is growing and is likely to continue to do so. It has moved centre stage in national, regional and global policy agendas. It is too frequently associated with labour abuses. For the most part, migration is about work. The first policy response to this situation must be to promote decent work opportunities in countries where they are currently inadequate. The post-2015 development agenda is an opportunity to give renewed impetus to this shared responsibility.

The report highlights seven dimensions for a possible strategic direction, focus and force for the ILO’s future work on migration:

- Promoting decent work in countries of origin, including the contribution of migrants.
- Formulating orderly and fair migration schemes in regional integration processes
- Promoting bilateral agreements for well-regulated and fair migration between member States
- Instituting fair recruitment processes
- Countering unacceptable situations
- Realizing the rights-based approach
- Contributing to a strengthened multilateral rights-based agenda on migration.

Since ILO Conventions apply to migrant workers as well, they are an avenue for bringing the added value of tripartism to the improvement of migration policies and practice. The ILC can give the necessary strategic direction, focus and force to the ILO’s future work by launching an agenda for fair migration that will become a priority in the ILO’s future programmes.

Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILC Standing Orders, article 7 and section H) The Conference Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations addresses this item and submits a report on its work to the Conference. It considers information and reports supplied by governments under articles 19, 22 and



35 of the Constitution on the effect given to Conventions and Recommendations in the form of the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR). The

Conference committee has three reports before it: **Report III(1A)** is the report of the CEACR and includes, in particular, observations on the application of ratified Conventions; **Report III(1B)** contains the General Survey of reports under articles 19 and 22 with respect to the Minimum Wage Fixing Convention (No. 131) and Recommendation (No. 135), 1970. This General Survey and its discussion by the Conference Committee will contribute to the recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (labour protection) placed by the Governing Body on the agenda of the 2015 Session of the Conference under follow-up to the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. The report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations is published separately. **Report III(2)** is an information document on ratifications and standards-related activities

Supplementing the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), to address implementation gaps to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, to effectively achieve the elimination of forced labour – Standard setting, single discussion

20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally. The Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Forced Labour and Trafficking for Labour Exploitation (11–15 February 2013) considered that despite the broad reach of Convention No. 29, and the measures taken by member States, there was “an added value in the adoption of supplementary measures to address the significant implementation gaps remaining in order to effectively eradicate forced labour in all its forms” (Conclusions, para. 26). The experts reached a consensus that these gaps “should be addressed through standard setting to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures” (paragraph 27).

In March 2013 the Governing Body decided to place this standard-setting item on the agenda, to be addressed in a single discussion.

The Office has prepared three reports as a basis for this item: **Report IV(1)** is a law and practice report, while **Report IV(2A)** contains replies by governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations to the questionnaire which accompanied Report IV(1). **Report IV(2B)** contains a proposed draft text of the instrument.

Key Resources

ILC

Fair migration: Setting an ILO agenda (Report of the Director General)
The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories (Annex to DG report)
Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations
General Survey of the reports on the Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131), and the Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation, 1970 (No. 135)

Strengthening action to end forced labour - Report IV (1)- Report IV (2)
Transitioning from the informal to the formal economy Report V(1)
Report V(2)
Employment policies for sustainable recovery and development
Conference Guide
Second Preliminary List of Delegations

Transitioning from the informal to the formal economy – *Standard setting, double discussion*

The informal economy is significantly impacting the world of work, with as much as 40 to 80 per cent of the labour force in developing countries working within it. Increasingly, transition to formality has emerged as a priority policy agenda in developed and developing countries, and new policy initiatives and approaches are taken in different regions that facilitate this transition through multiple pathways.

In March 2013 the Governing Body decided to place a standard-setting item on the agenda of the 2014 Session of the ILC on facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy, under the double discussion procedure, which means that this item will be dealt with at the current session and at the 2015 Session of the Conference.

This standard-setting item builds on the [conclusions concerning decent work and the informal economy](#), adopted by the Conference in 2002, the outcome of the [ILO Tripartite Interregional Symposium on the Informal Economy \(2007\)](#) and the [2012 Conference conclusions concerning the recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work](#), which called for the convening of a meeting of experts on advancing fundamental principles and rights at work in the informal economy.

[Report V\(1\)](#) includes a law and practice report on the informal economy, its impact on the attainment of decent work for all workers and employers and the ILO's approach to the transition to formality, as set out in the 2002 conclusions. It covers the regulatory environment relating to the informal economy at national and international levels, and examines the need for an integrated policy framework encompassing the ILO's four strategic objectives (fundamental principles and rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue) adapted to the national context of each member State for a progressive transition to the formal economy and decent work.

The report also includes the questionnaire sent to member States as a basis for preparing a Recommendation on facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy. [Report V\(2\)](#), recently despatched to member States, summarizes the replies received to that questionnaire and contains a set of proposed draft conclusions, prepared on the basis of those replies, which are intended to serve as a basis for discussion by the Conference during this session.

Recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of employment

The 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization introduced a scheme of recurrent discussions by the ILC. This year the recurrent discussion focuses on employment.

[Report VI](#), "Employment policies for sustainable recovery and development" analyses current employment challenges in diverse regional and national contexts and their implications for effective responses and employment policy. It discusses the impact of the continuing economic and financial crisis and of the weak and uneven recovery on employment and labour markets in different regions and for different groups, especially young people and women. It examines policy responses to the crisis and their effectiveness beyond the crisis, analysing six global and structural trends and drivers of change that carry profound implications for employment policy: globalization and technological transition; income inequality; climate change, the new demographic context; skills mismatches; and gender gaps.

The report also provides a succinct review of action by the Organization and its Members to promote employment. It presents measures taken by the Office to implement the 2010 recurrent discussion conclusions, placing emphasis on the inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive nature of the four strategic objectives of the ILO. In its approach to the challenging and evolving environment, the report takes account of the new priorities introduced by the ILO's internal reform, reviewing possible ways to address the employment challenges faced by ILO constituents in specific contexts. It contains a set of suggested points for discussion.



Presentation of "The ILO at Work: Development Results 2012-2013" – 10 June, 13:15–13:45, Room XIX, Palais des Nations

The report illustrating the ILO's development cooperation results will be presented by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.

Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) Meeting: 10 June 10:00–10:30, Room XII, Palais des Nations.

The joint CPLP–ILO publication will be presented in the presence of ministers and high-level representatives of the countries, and ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.



Registration on arrival

Delegates will be able to register and collect their badges at the ILO Pavilion, at the entry to the International Labour Office (headquarters building), provided that the Office has received their credentials. The registration desk will be open on Monday, 26 and Tuesday, 27 May from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and as from Wednesday, 28 May, daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. as necessary, excluding Sundays.

During the Conference all participants must be in possession of a personalized badge issued by the ILO, and of a valid identity document, containing a photograph, to gain access to the Palais des Nations complex. Badges must be worn visibly at all times. Systematic checks of both badge and identity document will be made at the Palais des Nations entrance. If a valid identity document is not shown, the participant will not be allowed entry into the complex.

NGO briefings during the Conference

Four NGOs briefing will be conducted during the ILC : they will take place from **9.00 to 10.00, on 29 May, and on 2, 5 and 9 June**. Topics covered include : information on the ILC, post-2015 issues, and the presentation of "The ILO at Work: Development Results 2012-2013". The meeting will take place in **Room IV, at the Palais des Nations**.

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