

**BAHRAIN (2016-2017)**

**THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR**  
*Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention*

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>REPORTING</b>  | <b>Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations</b>  | YES.  |  |
|   | <b>Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process</b>                    | YES, according to the Government: Involvement of the employers' organization (the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and the workers' organizations (the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions, and Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation) by means of consultation and communication of a copy of the Government's report.   |  |
| <b>OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS</b>                                      | <b>Employers' organizations</b>   | No.   |  |
|   | <b>Workers' organizations</b>   | No.   |  |
| <b>EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</b> | <b>Ratification</b>   | <b>Ratification status</b>  | Bahrain has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.  |
|   |   | <b>Ratification intention</b>   | <b>2017 AR:</b> The Government indicated that the 2014 Protocol is still under revision by the concerned authorities and presently its ratification is unlikely. |
|   | <b>Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour</b> | <b>2016 AR – 2017 AR:</b> The Government specified that there are no national policies and plans of actions aimed at preventing all forms of forced labour as well as those setting out measures for combatting trafficking in persons. However, the Human Trafficking Prevention Law was adopted in 2008 and Bahrain works to eliminate human trafficking. The Law states the definition of human trafficking, sets up the role of a number of authorities and expresses the penalties. A high-level national committee for the prevention human trafficking was formed, consisting of a number of major governmental authorities that can play an enormous role.  |  |
|   | <b>Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action</b>                                |   |  |
|   | <b>Measures taken or envisaged to prevent all forms of forced labour</b>                                | <p><b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government, the measures taken or envisaged include: a) the strengthening and broadening of the coverage of legislation, particularly labour law; and b) the regulation and supervision of the labour recruitment and placement process.</p> <p><b>2016 AR:</b> The Government reported that the following measures have been taken or are envisaged for the prevention of all forms of forced or compulsory labour: a) dissemination of information using publications issued in different languages; b) facilitation of easy electronic access for expatriate workers to check their relevant work permits information before arrival; c) forging cooperation with sending countries' embassies in awareness raising programs and promoting safe and regular migration; d) issuing of Human Trafficking Prevention Law No. 1-2008; and e) unemployment scheme in the form of basic social security guarantees, which cover the foreign workers stay in the country.</p> |  |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <p><b>Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour</b></p>                            | <p><b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government, the following measures have been taken or envisaged: a) training of relevant actors for identification of forced labour practices (including all labour inspectors in Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Labour Market Regulatory Authority); b) legal protection of victims; c) Medical and psychological assistance for victims; d) measures for the rehabilitation and social and professional reintegration of victims; e) protection of privacy and identity; and f) appropriate accommodation.</p> <p><b>2016 AR:</b> The Government reported that it established a number of shelters to accommodate victims of human trafficking for both genders. The shelters provide various services including legal consultation and medical assistance.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies</b></p>                               | <p><b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government: Bahrain recently launched the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is a process adopted to enable the concerned national parties to identify, support and follow up any suspected victims of trafficking in persons (TIP) in Bahrain. It represents a collaborative framework through which stakeholders fulfill their obligations to protect, recover and promote human rights of the TIP victims in a timely manner. This mechanism consists of a number of stages, which describe clearly the mandate and the responsibilities of each party. Moreover, it responds to the victim needs and respects its privacy and personality. Other measures include: a) information and counselling for victims regarding their rights; b) provision of free legal assistance; c) cost-free proceedings; and d) provision of penalties such as the confiscation of assets and criminal liability of legal persons. Measures aimed at providing access to justice and remedies apply to all victims of forced or compulsory labour, irrespective of their presence or legal status in the national territory.</p> <p><b>2016 AR:</b> The Government stated that the Ministry of Labour and Social Development provides legal assistance services for free. As per the Labour Law, all labour disputes cases are exempted from fees. The human trafficking law provides the penalties applicable for this type of violations including fines and imprisonment. The Government further indicated that the measures aimed at providing access to justice and remedies apply to all victims irrespective of their legal status and that the Government provides the necessary assistance for the victims to leave the country or legalize their situation to stay and get a job again.</p> |
|   | <p><b>Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out</b></p> |   |
|   | <p><b>Cooperation with other Member States, international / regional organizations or NGOs</b></p>       | <p><b>2017 AR:</b> The Government of Bahrain indicated that it worked closely with international and regional organisations, specifically with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Promotional activities</b></p>   |   |
|   | <p><b>Special initiatives/Progress</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</b></p> | <p><b>According to the social partners</b></p>   | <p><b>Employers' organizations</b></p>  |
|   |  | <p><b>Workers' organizations</b></p>  |
|   | <p><b>According to the Government</b></p>  | <p><b>2017 AR:</b> The Government reported that lack of awareness has been the major obstacle in relation to the forced labour issues.</p>  |

|   |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|---|
|   |                       | <p><b>2016 AR:</b> The Government indicated that difficulties in collecting data regarding human trafficking and forced labour are the main obstacles encountered affecting the realization of the principle of effective and sustained suppression of all forms of forced labour.</p>  |
| <p><b>TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS</b></p> | <p><b>Request</b></p> | <p><b>2016 AR - 2017 AR:</b> The Government indicated the need for technical cooperation with the ILO in the following areas:</p> <p>i) <i>More important areas:</i> a) awareness-raising and mobilization activities; b) collection and analysis of data and information; c) capacity building for the competent authorities; d) capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations; and e) exchange of experiences between countries or regions; international cooperation.</p> <p>ii) <i>Less important areas:</i> a) assessment, in cooperation with the ILO, of the obstacles identified and their impact on the realization of the principle; b) guidance on the development of the national policy and plan of action; c) inter-institutional coordination; d) promotion of fair recruitment and placement practices; e) promotion of fair migration policies; f) vocational training, job-creation and income-generation programmes for at-risk populations; g) guidance on supporting due diligence; and h) promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable at-risk workers to join workers' organizations.</p> |
|   | <p><b>Offer</b></p>   | <p><b>NIL.</b></p>  |