

Governing Body - 343rd Session, November 2021
Legal Issues and International Labour Standards Section
Legal Issues Segment

Workers' Group Comments

Document for Ballot by Correspondence

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Agreements concluded with other international organizations
Proposed agreement between the International Labour Organization and the
International Civil Aviation Organization and proposed agreement between the
International Labour Organization and the African Union

The Workers' Group welcomes the proposed agreement between the ILO and ICAO. The 2013 Global Dialogue Forum on civil aviation and its changing world of work had already stressed the need to renew cooperation with the two organisations with very little progress since then. The need for a better understanding between the ILO and ICAO has been exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic as aviation has been one of the hardest hit industries.

The Workers' Group welcomes the scope of the agreement in terms of women and future of decent and sustainable work in aviation. However, we also recognize that the agreement falls short of the needs agreed in 2013 and the coordinated response that is essential from the UN system in order to respond to the labour challenges of the aviation industry. Greater coordination is fully in line with the call made in the ILO Centenary Declaration for the ILO to promote policy coherence in the multilateral system in pursuit of its human-centred approach to the future of work.

The implementation of the agreement should ensure that ratification and implementation of international labour standards and health and safety issues are addressed in the next months, particularly in the preparation for the technical meeting on a green, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for the civil aviation sector that will be held in 2023.

The Workers' Group has also taken note of the proposed agreement between the ILO and the African Union. While agreeing with it we find that the language in the third preambular paragraph that describes the ILO could have better reflected the fact that international labour standards are a distinct feature of the Organisation and its clear added value together with tripartism. We expect this important aspect to be addressed in the implementation of the agreement.

The Workers' Group agrees with the decision point in paragraph 11.