



# **COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE**

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS AND  
SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS**

**AND THE**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**  
between the  
**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS AND  
SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS**  
and the  
**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

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The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS),

AWARE of the significant complementarity between the two institutions;

WISHING to develop and step up their cooperation on matters of mutual interest;

IN THE FIRM BELIEF that developing and stepping up this cooperation would be mutually beneficial to both organisations and would enhance cooperation between their members;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

*Common overall objective and consultation*

The ILO and AICESIS share the overall objective of cooperating on the following issues: social dialogue and civil dialogue, tripartite consultation, international labour standards and fundamental labour rights, the decent work agenda, the global jobs pact, the social protection floor, the development of participatory democracy and the social dimension of globalisation.

In order to facilitate achieving the goals of both organisations, the ILO and AICESIS shall consult each other on the planning and implementation of programmes promoting decent work as a tool for socio-economic development.

ARTICLE II

*Exchange of information*

The ILO and AICESIS shall exchange non-confidential information and documentation on issues of common interest, and keep each other informed of their respective activities, both planned and ongoing, in order to identify areas where cooperation between the two could be desirable.

### ARTICLE III

#### *Joint activities*

AICESIS and the ILO agree to regularly organise joint conferences at regional and sub-regional levels. These meetings shall aim to promote exchanges of experience and best practice and the training of ESC members, and shall focus in particular on:

- SMEs and the decent work agenda, including consideration of the role of ESCs in the promotion and proper implementation of these instruments; and
- social dialogue, including consideration of the role of ESCs in stability and as promoters of social dialogue at national and regional levels.

A schedule for these meetings shall be drawn up jointly on a biannual basis (every 2 years) to ensure the best possible conditions for their preparation and funding.

The ILO and AICESIS may also, under conditions to be determined by mutual agreement in each case, conduct joint studies or cooperate in the implementation of specific programmes or projects relating to matters of mutual interest falling within their respective mandates.

### ARTICLE IV

#### *Participation in their respective meetings*

Each organisation may, in accordance with its own constitutional provisions, invite the other to take part in its meetings, when issues of interest to the other organisation are to be discussed.

Specifically:

- an ILO representative may regularly attend meetings of AICESIS bodies,
- a representative of AICESIS may be invited to regional or sub-regional ILO meetings that relate to the common overall objective,
- the possibility of participation by AICESIS representatives or members – in line with their remit – in technical cooperation activities developed by the ILO shall be considered.

### ARTICLE V

#### *Providing expertise*

Each organisation may, under conditions to be determined by mutual agreement in each case, and within the limits of the resources available, provide expertise and other means of support to the other party.

## ARTICLE VI

### *Implementation*

The executive director of the social dialogue sector of the ILO, and the secretary-general of AICESIS shall be responsible for the implementation of this agreement, and shall take all necessary measures to ensure close contact and proper coordination.

More generally, the ILO director-general and the AICESIS president-in-office shall take the necessary steps to ensure closer cooperation and liaison between the two organisations on matters of common interest.

## ARTICLE VII

### *Monitoring and evaluation*

The implementation of this cooperation agreement shall be reviewed at an appropriate level every six (6) years. Operational interaction shall be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis and a report drawn up every two (2) years by the two parties, to be presented at meetings of the ILO and AICESIS, or at other forums established by mutual agreement.

## ARTICLE VIII

### *Duration and termination*

This cooperation agreement shall have an open-ended duration and may be terminated by mutual consent, or by one of the parties, subject to six (6) months' prior written notice.

## ARTICLE IX

### *Amendments*

(a) Under this cooperation agreement, the parties may, where necessary, conclude additional arrangements or agreements.

(b) The cooperation agreement may be amended by mutual consent. Each organisation shall consider sympathetically any proposal for amendment submitted by the other party.

## ARTICLE X

### *Entry into force*

This cooperation agreement, drawn up in duplicate original copies in French, shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both parties.

Juan Somavia  
*Director-general*  
International Labour Organization

Mohamed Seghir Babes  
*President-in-office*  
International Association of Economic and  
Social Councils and Similar Institutions

Geneva,