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ILO Recommendation 202 on social protection floors adopted



The 101st session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted on 14 June 2012 the [Recommendation no. 202 concerning national floors for social protection](#) by an impressive tripartite consensus vote: 452 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention. Social protection floors are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. This new international labour standard aims at extending essential health care and basic income security to millions of people.

The social protection committee of the EU has included the social protection floors in its [Work Programme 2012](#). The Recommendation is also very important for EU external action, such as the programming of EU external assistance and the upcoming European Commission communication on promotion social protection through EU development cooperation. At the request of developing countries, the ILC also adopted a Resolution on assisting developing countries through technical cooperation (see [report of the committee on the social protection floor](#) p. 108)

ILC defines plan of action for fundamental principles and rights at work



The International Labour Conference (ILC) has undertaken a recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW). As a result, the ILC adopted a framework for action for the effective and universal respect, promotion and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work 2012–16 (see [committee report p.157-167](#)). While important progress has been made since 1998 towards the universal application of fundamental principles and rights at work, significant gaps remain. This framework aims to accelerate the pace towards the effective and universal realization of FPRW. The framework will feed into a concrete plan of action for the period 2012-2016. The promotion of FPRW, or core labour standards, is also part of EU internal and external policies. The framework for action can be very useful for turning EU policies into concrete actions.

ILC held general discussion on youth employment crisis



The International Labour Conference (ILC) held a general discussion on the youth employment crisis. The [report](#), prepared for this discussion by the ILC's committee on youth employment, says that a multi-dimensional approach with measures to generate growth and decent job creation is urgently needed. Employment, education and the school-to-work transition, labour market policies, youth entrepreneurship and rights for young workers are the main areas for action and should tackle the social consequences of the crisis while ensuring financial and fiscal sustainability, the report says. The ILC delegates, in the general discussion, called on “governments, the multilateral system, the G20 and all relevant national, regional and international organizations” to tackle the issue, with the ILO taking a leadership role.

Suspension of ILO sanctions on Burma/Myanmar



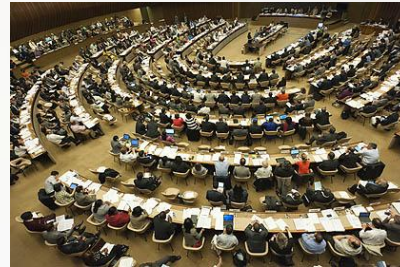
The International Labour Conference (ILC) has authorized the ILO to develop decent work initiatives in Burma/Myanmar beyond the existing ILO initiatives on forced labour.

Since 1999, by a decision of the ILC, Burma/Myanmar has not received technical cooperation from the ILO, except for the purpose of combating forced labour. Myanmar has not been invited to ILO meetings or activities on various labour matters. In 2000, the ILC called its members and international and regional organisations to take measures – such as sanctions – in order to contribute to the respect of the [Forced Labour Convention \(No. 29\)](#).

These sanctions have now been suspended for one year, and the ILO will follow the situation (see “Resolution concerning the measures on the subject of Myanmar adopted under article 33 of the ILO Constitution” in the [report of the selection committee, p.9](#)). The decision taken during the ILC came a day before [Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the ILC](#) on 14 June 2012.

The lifting of these restrictions will have consequences on trade between Burma/Myanmar and the EU, since the EU linked the possible suspension of the exclusion of Burma/Myanmar from its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to the assessment of the situation on forced labour by the ILO. EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht welcomed the decision by the ILC in a [joint statement](#).

Active EU participation at the ILC



Almost 5.000 delegates from the ILO’s 185 Member States attended the 101st session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) from 30 May to 14 June 2012. Each Member State is represented by a delegation consisting of a government delegate, an employer delegate, a worker delegate and their respective substitutes and advisers. The EU actively participated at the ILC through EU coordinated [positions](#) on many substantive ILC agenda items.

Director-General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General (DG) Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Koos Richelle, participated at the high level panel discussions on youth employment on 4 June 2012 (see the [ILC youth employment committee report](#)).

Substantive involvement of the Benelux constituents at the ILC



The Belgian employer delegate Kris De Meester was elected as ILC employer’s Vice-Chairperson of the

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tripartite committee on the social protection floors Recommendation. This committee elected Jean Feyder, Permanent representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations in Geneva, as its Chairperson. The Dutch government financially supported the ILO preparatory work on the social protection floors.

The President of ACV-CSC Marc Leemans was elected Worker's Vice-Chair of the tripartite committee on the application of standards. Luc Cortebeek, Honorary President of ACV-CSC and Vice-President of the ITUC, is currently the Chair of the ILO Worker's Group. The Belgian federal minister of Employment Monica De Coninck and the Luxemburgish minister of Labour Nicolas Schmit both addressed the plenary session of the ILC. You can check the [list of the 101st ILC participants](#) online.

Juan Somavia's last International Labour Conference



For the last time as ILO Director-General, Juan Somavia opened the International Labour Conference (ILC) on Wednesday 30 May 2012. Somavia will be succeeded by Guy Ryder as from 1 October 2012. In his [opening statement](#), Juan Somavia cautioned the ILC delegates against austerity policies that could provoke a reaction of rejection from people in the hardest hit Eurozone countries. At the same time, he welcomed the debate in Europe on the need for growth, jobs and social protection and said that certainly the ILO will play its part in it.

In his [address to the delegates](#), midway through the ILC on 6 June 2012, Juan Somavia said that creating quality jobs, especially for youth, reducing poverty and informal work, promoting growth of middle classes, as well as providing fair access to opportunities, should from now on also be criteria to measure macroeconomic success.

Guy Ryder elected as new ILO Director-General



The ILO Governing Body has elected Guy Ryder as the tenth Director-General of the International Labour Office. Ryder, who is currently the ILO's Executive Director for International Labour Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, was elected by secret ballot by the ILO's Governing Body. He will begin his five-year term in October 2012 and he will succeed the actual director-general Juan Somavia.

ILO report on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories



The situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories is extremely worrying and remains precarious according to the [annual report](#) of the ILO submitted to the ILC. This is above all due to the realities of the occupation on the ground and the unabated expansion of Israeli settlements, leading to a shrinking space for Palestinian development, says the report. On the occasion of releasing the report, ILO Director-General Juan Somavia called for a development and peace logic which is based on a long-term vision of the economic, employment and security interests of all workers in both the occupied Arab territories and Israel.

ILO at conference on work opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities



As a part of the annual “Europe in Action” conferences, the associations [ANAHM](#) and [Inclusion Europe](#) co-organized a conference on work opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities, from 31 May until 2 June. The ILO-Brussels presented the ILO instruments

on disability and said that the majority of EU Member States has ratified the ILO [Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment \(Disabled Persons\) Convention \(No. 159\)](#). The ILO invited the remaining Member States, including Belgium, to ratify the convention or speed up the ratification process. EU policies are also in line with the ILO instruments, even though the economic crisis is not facilitating recruitment of workers with disabilities.

Transition to green economy could yield up to 60 million jobs

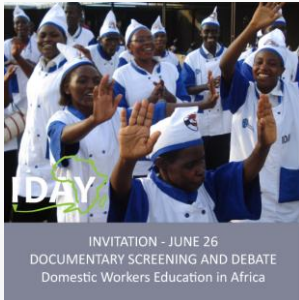


The Green Jobs Initiative, a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the ILO, the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Congress (ITUC), launched on 31 May 2012 the report [“Working towards sustainable development: Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy”](#). It says that the transformation to a greener economy could generate 15 to 60 million additional jobs globally over the next two decades and lift tens of millions of workers out of poverty. The report warns that these gains will depend on whether the right set of policies is put in place.

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Invitation: IDAY debate on domestic work and education in Africa



IDAY, a network of civil society organizations committed to improving basic education in Africa, is organizing on 26 June 2012 a debate on domestic workers and education. Various participants, including the ILO-Brussels Office, will take the floor. The Ambassador of Uruguay in Belgium will conclude the debate in his capacity as representative of the first country ratifying the [ILO Domestic Workers Convention \(No. 189\)](#). This event takes place in the context of the first anniversary of the Convention. You can register via info@iday.org.

World Day against Child Labour 2012



On the occasion of World Day against Child Labour on 12 June 2012, the ILO launched the note, [“Tackling child labour: From commitment to action”](#). This paper considers the progress that ILO member States are making in the application of ILO Conventions and Recommendations on child labour. The ILO's most

recent estimate is that some 215 million children across the world are still trapped in child labour. Whilst some progress is being made in reducing child labour, in too many cases the rights contained in the international standards are still not fully applied in practice and enforced.

New issue of ILO magazine “World of Work”



This issue of the [ILO “World of Work” magazine](#) focuses on youth employment and also features stories from the world of work: child labour, women workers in mines, employment, education... This will be the last paper version of the ILO magazine. The content of future editions will be available on the ILO public website.

Scheduled meetings

[List of scheduled ILO meetings](#)

Contact us

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