

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE GENEVA

REPORT FORM

FOR THE

MINIMUM WAGE FIXING CONVENTION, 1970 (No. 131)

The present report form is for the use of countries which have ratified the Convention. It has been approved by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, in accordance with article 22 of the ILO Constitution, which reads as follows: "Each of the Members agrees to make an annual report to the International Labour Office on the measures which it has taken to give effect to the provisions of the Conventions to which it is a party. These reports shall be made in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Governing Body may request."

The Government may deem it useful to consult the appended text of the Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation, 1970 (No. 135), the provisions of which supplement the present Convention and can contribute to a better understanding of its requirements and facilitate its application.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR DRAWING UP REPORTS

First report

If this is your Government's first report following the entry into force of the Convention in your country, full information should be given on each of the provisions of the Convention and on each of the questions set out in the report form.

Subsequent reports

In subsequent reports, information need normally be given only on the following points:

- (a) any new legislative or other measures affecting the application of the Convention;

- (b) replies to the questions in the report form on the practical application of the Convention (for example, statistics, results of inspections, judicial or administrative decisions) and on the communication of copies of the report to the representative organizations of employers and workers and on any observations received from these organizations;

- (c) **replies to comments by the supervisory bodies.** The report must contain replies to any comments regarding the application of the Convention in your country which have been addressed to your Government by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations or by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards.
-

Article 22 of the Constitution of the ILO

Report for the period from _____ to _____

made by the Government of _____

on the

MINIMUM WAGE FIXING CONVENTION, 1970 (No. 131)

(ratification registered on _____)

- I. Please give a list of the legislation and administrative regulations, etc., which apply the provisions of the Convention. Where this has not already been done, please forward copies of the said legislation, etc., to the International Labour Office with this report.**

Please give any available information concerning the extent to which these laws and regulations have been enacted or modified to permit, or as a result of, ratification.

- II. Please indicate in detail *for each of the following Articles of the Convention* the provisions of the abovementioned legislation and administrative regulations, etc., or other measures, under which each Article is applied. In addition, please provide any indication specifically requested below under individual Articles.**

If in your country ratification of the Convention gives the force of national law to its terms please indicate by virtue of what constitutional provisions the ratification has had this effect. Please also specify what action has been taken to make effective those provisions of the Convention which require a national authority to take certain specific steps for its implementation, such as measures to define its exact scope and the extent to which advantage may be taken of permissive exceptions provided for in it, measures to draw the attention of the parties concerned to its provisions, and arrangements for adequate inspection and penalties.

If the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations or the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards has requested additional information or has made an observation on the measures adopted to apply the Convention, please supply the information asked for or indicate the action taken by your Government to settle the points in question.

Article 1

1. Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention undertakes to establish a system of minimum wages which covers all groups of wage earners whose terms of employment are such that coverage would be appropriate.

2. The competent authority in each country shall, in agreement or after full consultation with the representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, where such exist, determine the groups of wage earners to be covered.

3. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall list in the first report on the application of the Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation any groups of wage earners which may not have been covered in pursuance of this Article, giving the reasons for not covering them, and shall state in subsequent reports the positions of its law and practice in respect of the groups not covered, and the extent to which effect has been given or is proposed to be given to the Convention in respect of such groups.

Please indicate whether a system of minimum wages has been established, specifying the groups of wage earners to which it applies; please supply any available information on the number of persons covered in each group.

Please indicate the competent authority for determining the groups of wage earners to be covered and the representative organizations of employers and workers which have been consulted on this matter. Please indicate the method by which the consultation was carried out.

Please supply the information requested in paragraph 3, giving the reasons why each group is not covered.

Article 2

1. Minimum wages shall have the force of law and shall not be subject to abatement, and failure to apply them shall make the person or persons concerned liable to appropriate penal or other sanctions.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the freedom of collective bargaining shall be fully respected.

Please indicate the legislative provisions which ensure that minimum wages shall have the force of law and shall not be subject to abatement, and the sanctions applicable for failure to apply the minimum wages.

Please indicate the manner in which effect is given to paragraph 2. Please indicate briefly the number and categories of workers whose wages are fixed through collective bargaining, indicating where appropriate the extent to which such workers are also covered under the minimum wage system.

Article 3

The elements to be taken into consideration in determining the level of minimum wages shall, so far as possible and appropriate in relation to national practice and conditions, include:

- (a) the needs of workers and their families, taking into account the general level of wages in the country, the cost of living, social security benefits, and the relative living standards of other social groups;
- (b) economic factors, including the requirements of economic development, levels of productivity and the desirability of attaining and maintaining a high level of employment.

Please indicate the extent to and methods by which the various elements referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) were taken into consideration in determining the level of minimum wages.

Article 4

1. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall create and/or maintain machinery adapted to national conditions and requirements whereby minimum wages for groups of wage earners covered in pursuance of Article 1 thereof can be fixed and adjusted from time to time.

2. Provision shall be made, in connection with the establishment, operation and modification of such machinery, for full consultation with representative organisations of employers and workers concerned or, where no such organisations exist, representatives of employers and workers concerned.

3. Wherever it is appropriate to the nature of the minimum wage fixing machinery, provision shall also be made for the direct participation in its operation of:

- (a) representatives of organisations of employers and workers concerned or, where no such organisations exist, representatives of employers and workers concerned, on a basis of equality;
- (b) persons having recognised competence for representing the general interests of the country and appointed after full consultation with representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, where such organisations exist and such consultation is in accordance with national law or practice.

Please indicate briefly the machinery set up for fixing and adjusting minimum wages. Please supply information on the minimum wages that have been fixed or adjusted during the period covered by the report.

Please state the manner in which the consultation referred to in paragraph 2 is ensured.

Please indicate whether provision has been made for the direct participation of the persons mentioned in paragraphs 3(a) and (b) in the machinery for fixing minimum wages. Please specify in respect of paragraph 3(a) how equality of participation is ensured, and in respect of paragraph 3(b) whether the organizations concerned have been consulted.

III. Article 5 of the Convention reads as follows:

Article 5

Appropriate measures, such as adequate inspection reinforced by other necessary measures, shall be taken to ensure the effective application of all provisions relating to minimum wages.

Please indicate in what manner effect is given to this Article. Please supply, in particular, information on the duties and powers of the inspectors responsible for supervision of the application of minimum wages, and on the application of the sanctions provided for in Article 2, paragraph 1.

- IV. Please state whether courts of law or other tribunals have given decisions involving questions of principle relating to the application of the Convention. If so, please supply the text of these decisions.**
- V. Please give a general appreciation of the manner in which the Convention is applied in your country, including, for instance, extracts from the reports of the inspection services and any other relevant data which you may consider useful in so far as such information has not already been given under other headings.**
- VI. Please indicate the representative organizations of employers and workers to which copies of the present report have been communicated in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.¹ If copies of the report have not been communicated to representative organizations of employers and/or workers, or if they have been communicated to bodies other than such organizations, please supply information on any particular circumstances existing in your country which explain the procedure followed.**

Please indicate whether you have received from the organizations of employers or workers concerned any observations, either of a general kind or in connection with the present or the previous report, regarding the practical application of the provisions of the Convention or the application of the legislation or other measures implementing the Convention. If so, please communicate the observations received, together with any comments that you consider useful.

¹ Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitution reads as follows: “Each Member shall communicate to the representative organisations recognised for the purpose of article 3 copies of the information and reports communicated to the Director-General in pursuance of articles 19 and 22.”

APPENDIX

MINIMUM WAGE FIXING RECOMMENDATION, 1970 (No. 135)

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Fifty-fourth Session on 3 June 1970, and

Noting the terms of the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Recommendation, 1928, the Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery (Agriculture) Recommendation, 1951, and the Equal Remuneration Recommendation, 1951, which contain valuable guidelines for minimum wage fixing bodies, and

Considering that experience in more recent years has emphasised the importance of certain additional considerations relating to minimum wage fixing, including that of adopting criteria which will make systems of minimum wages both an effective instrument of social protection and an element in the strategy of economic and social development, and

Considering that minimum wage fixing should in no way operate to the prejudice of the exercise and growth of free collective bargaining as a means of fixing wages higher than the minimum, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to minimum wage fixing machinery and related problems, with special reference to developing countries, which is the fifth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of a Recommendation,

adopts this twenty-second day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy the following Recommendation, which may be cited as the Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation, 1970:

I. PURPOSE OF MINIMUM WAGE FIXING

1. Minimum wage fixing should constitute one element in a policy designed to overcome poverty and to ensure the satisfaction of the needs of all workers and their families.

2. The fundamental purpose of minimum wage fixing should be to give wage earners necessary social protection as regards minimum permissible levels of wages.

II. CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF MINIMUM WAGES

3. In determining the level of minimum wages, account should be taken of the following criteria, amongst others:

- (a) the needs of workers and their families;
- (b) the general level of wages in the country;
- (c) the cost of living and changes therein;
- (d) social security benefits;
- (e) the relative living standards of other social groups;

- (f) economic factors, including the requirements of economic development, levels of productivity and the desirability of attaining and maintaining a high level of employment.

III. COVERAGE OF THE MINIMUM WAGE FIXING SYSTEM

4. The number and groups of wage earners who are not covered in pursuance of Article 1 of the Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970, should be kept to a minimum.

5. (1) The system of minimum wages may be applied to the wage earners covered in pursuance of Article 1 of the Convention either by fixing a single minimum wage of general application or by fixing a series of minimum wages applying to particular groups of workers.

(2) A system based on a single minimum wage:

- (a) need not be incompatible with the fixing of different rates of minimum wages in different regions or zones with a view to allowing for differences in costs of living;
- (b) should not impair the effects of decisions, past or future, fixing minimum wages higher than the general minimum for particular groups of workers.

IV. MINIMUM WAGE FIXING MACHINERY

6. The minimum wage fixing machinery provided for in Article 4 of the Convention may take a variety of forms, such as the fixing of minimum wages by:

- (a) statute;
- (b) decisions of the competent authority, with or without formal provision for taking account of recommendations from other bodies;
- (c) decisions of wages boards or councils;
- (d) industrial or labour courts or tribunals; or
- (e) giving the force of law to provisions of collective agreements.

7. The consultation provided for in paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the Convention should include, in particular, consultation in regard to the following matters:

- (a) the selection and application of the criteria for determining the level of minimum wages;
- (b) the rate or rates of minimum wages to be fixed;
- (c) the adjustment from time to time of the rate or rates of minimum wages;
- (d) problems encountered in the enforcement of minimum wage legislation;
- (e) the collection of data and the carrying out of studies for the information of minimum wage fixing authorities.

8. In countries in which bodies have been set up which advise the competent authority on minimum wage questions, or to which the government has delegated responsibility for minimum wage decisions, the participation in the operation of minimum wage fixing

machinery referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the Convention should include membership of such bodies.

9. The persons representing the general interests of the country whose participation in the operation of minimum wage fixing machinery is provided for in Article 4, paragraph 3, subparagraph (b), of the Convention should be suitably qualified independent persons who may, where appropriate, be public officials with responsibilities in the areas of industrial relations or economic and social planning or policy-making.

10. To the extent possible in national circumstances, sufficient resources should be devoted to the collection of statistics and other data needed for analytical studies of the relevant economic factors, particularly those mentioned in Paragraph 3 of this Recommendation, and their probable evolution.

V. ADJUSTMENT OF MINIMUM WAGES

11. Minimum wage rates should be adjusted from time to time to take account of changes in the cost of living and other economic conditions.

12. To this end a review might be carried out of minimum wage rates in relation to the cost of living and other economic conditions either at regular intervals or whenever such a review is considered appropriate in the light of variations in a cost-of-living index.

13. (1) In order to assist in the application of Paragraph 11 of this Recommendation, periodical surveys of national economic conditions, including trends in income per head, in productivity and in employment,

unemployment and underemployment, should be made to the extent that national resources permit.

(2) The frequency of such surveys should be determined in the light of national conditions.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

14. Measures to ensure the effective application of all provisions relating to minimum wages, as provided for in Article 5 of the Convention, should include the following:

- (a) arrangements for giving publicity to minimum wage provisions in languages or dialects understood by workers who need protection, adapted where necessary to the needs of illiterate persons;
- (b) the employment of a sufficient number of adequately trained inspectors equipped with the powers and facilities necessary to carry out their duties;
- (c) adequate penalties for infringement of the provisions relating to minimum wages;
- (d) simplification of legal provisions and procedures, and other appropriate means of enabling workers effectively to exercise their rights under minimum wage provisions, including the right to recover amounts by which they may have been underpaid;
- (e) the association of employers' and workers' organisations in efforts to protect workers against abuses;
- (f) adequate protection of workers against victimisation.

