

NINTH MEETING OF THE SRM TWG

(16-20 SEPTEMBER 2024)

Overview document: Cross-cutting and sectoral instruments (other categories of workers)

- This overview document provides background information applicable to the review by the SRM TWG of the cross-cutting and sectoral instruments concerning other categories of workers that it will review at its ninth meeting in September 2024.

9 August 2024

1. The regulatory approach to cross-cutting and sectoral instruments (other categories of workers)

Some of the international labour standards are relevant to all the strategic objectives. These often relate to specific categories of workers or sectors of work. Since its earliest days, the ILO has taken a sectoral approach to its activities and has engaged with the employers' and workers' organizations operating at the sectoral level.¹ The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008, as amended in 2022 calls on the Organization to develop new partnerships with non-state entities and economic actors, such as multinational enterprises and trade unions operating at the global sectoral level.²

Sectoral instruments address the specificities of sectoral work and identify and address the particular conditions in which sectoral work is carried out, with the objective of supplementing international labour standards of general application with sector-specific application. These instruments recognize that different sectors have unique challenges, risks, and working conditions that necessitate tailored approaches to ensure adequate protection for workers. Five of the ten most recent Conventions are sectoral standards: the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185), the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC 2006), the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

Cross-cutting and sectoral standards can be divided into six sub-groups: instruments concerning maritime labour, indigenous and tribal peoples, migrant workers, dockworkers, fishers, and other categories of workers. The sub-section of instruments concerning other categories of workers³ includes in particular instruments concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy, HIV and AIDS, plantations, tenants and share-croppers, nursing personnel, hotels and restaurants, home work and domestic work.

2. Review by the SRM TWG

At its ninth meeting in September 2024, the SRM TWG will review five instruments concerning other categories of workers, that are unrelated to one another:

- *Labour Standards (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention*, 1947 (No. 83)
- *Hours of Work (Inland Navigation) Recommendation*, 1920 (No. 8)
- *Older Workers Recommendation*, 1980 (No. 162)
- *Working Conditions (Hotels and Restaurants) Convention*, 1991 (No. 172) and *Recommendation*, 1991 (No. 179).

¹ E.g. the first sectoral meetings in 1927; and the present global tripartite meetings.

² [2008 Declaration](#), Part II, A (v).

³ Second meeting of the SRM TWG (October 2016), [Background tool 1](#): *Instruments by strategic objective*.

This will involve considering *technical notes 4.1 on labour standards (NMTs), 4.2 on working conditions (hotels and restaurants), 4.3 on hours of work (inland navigation) and 4.4 on older workers* to determine the classification of Conventions Nos 83 and 172 and Recommendations Nos 8, 162 and 179; and the appropriate follow-up action to be taken in relation to each.

Within its mandate as set out in paragraph 9(b) of its terms of reference, the SRM TWG may wish to consider whether any gaps in coverage exist in relation to instruments concerning other categories of workers, encompassing labour standards in non-metropolitan territories, working conditions in hotels and restaurants, inland navigation and older workers, as a whole and make corresponding recommendations to the Governing Body.