



Governing Body

352nd Session, Geneva, 28 October–7 November 2024

Programme, Financial and Administrative Section

PFA

Date: 15 October 2024

Original: English

Establishment of new country offices in Angola and Qatar

Summary: This document informs the Governing Body of discussions and arrangements with Member States concerning the opening of ILO offices in their respective countries.

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Related documents: None.

► Introduction

1. The Office has been approached by Member States with regard to establishing ILO country offices in order to facilitate greater cooperation and coordination with the Governments concerned to promote the work of the ILO. This document summarizes the background to the creation of the offices, the programmatic scope and the operational arrangements.

► Opening of an ILO office in Angola

2. The African countries using Portuguese as an official language (PALOP) have requested the establishment of an ILO office for the Portuguese-speaking community, primarily to improve support from the ILO by means of a dedicated office and Portuguese-speaking specialists. In November 2022, the Angolan Government made an official request to the Director-General to open an office in Luanda that would cover the PALOP. In May 2023 the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries adopted a resolution supporting that request.
3. In 2024, the Office supported the Government of Angola in ratifying the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102); the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190); and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187). The National Assembly has given its approval for these ratifications, and the instruments of ratification will be deposited with the ILO very shortly. Five other Conventions are in the process of being ratified. In 2023, the ILO provided support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau in ratifying the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). In Mozambique, the ILO has been engaged in efforts to extend social coverage to informal economy workers, thereby enhancing their access to social protection benefits. In Cabo Verde, the ILO's assistance has included providing labour market statistics, conducting an actuarial study and facilitating employment opportunities. In Equatorial Guinea, the ILO has supported the setting up of a labour market information system, conducted a labour survey and provided capacity-building for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the fishery sector. The main areas of support in the PALOP include vocational training and skills development, entrepreneurship development, statistics and social protection, and joint initiatives have been carried out with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In 2023, the Office mobilized resources totalling US\$5 million for a second social protection project funded by the European Union, contributing five ILO staff members.
4. The PALOP's priority needs are:
 - (a) the implementation of universal social protection, including through national social protection floors;
 - (b) steps to improve social dialogue, including to make national social dialogue frameworks operational and build the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations;
 - (c) the adoption of measures to address employment, including in the areas of informality, youth employment, employment statistics and vocational skills;
 - (d) the formulation of new Decent Work Country Programmes.

5. In response, the ILO commissioned a feasibility study that concluded that establishing an office in Luanda was both feasible and desirable. The Director-General accepted this recommendation and made an official visit to Luanda on 1 August 2024 during which he signed a host country agreement with the Government.¹ In addition, the Government has agreed to provide office space with facilities and an annual cash contribution of US\$300,000 towards the running costs of the office.
6. It is proposed that the office will be headed by a Country Office Director, supported by a small team of locally recruited staff, with additional specialists reassigned from countries in the region. It is envisaged that the Luanda office would become operational in January 2025.

► Opening of an ILO office in Qatar

7. The ILO opened a Project Office in Doha in 2018 to implement its technical cooperation programme designed to support major labour reforms in Qatar. The Government of Qatar has contributed funding totalling US\$19 million to a recently launched joint work programme for 2024–28.
8. Building on this joint work programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour, the Doha office would be set up to establish partnerships with Qatari institutions able to advance the Decent Work Agenda nationally, regionally and globally. This would include the Qatar Fund for Development, as well as relevant government and non-government entities and other UN agencies present in Doha. The Doha office could also promote regional and global ILO development cooperation programmes to be funded and hosted by the Government of Qatar. Lastly, the Doha office would be the ILO focal point for major international meetings hosted in Qatar, including the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development.
9. It is envisaged that, up to 2028, the costs of the ILO Doha office would be covered using the current contribution of the Government of Qatar to the joint work programme, with distinct budgets set up within the ILO system to account for different roles and functions. The Government currently provides the ILO with office space and facilities in the UN House in Doha and will continue to do so. Longer-term funding for the ILO Doha office beyond 2028 would need to be agreed upon with the Government in due course.
10. It is proposed that the ILO Doha office would have a Country Office Director, a Programme and Partnerships Officer and an administrative and finance team. That staff would continue to work as part of the team delivering the technical cooperation programme. It is envisaged that the ILO Doha office would become operational in February 2025.

¹ [View by country \(ilo.org\)](#).