

Committee on the Application of Standards

Date: 27 May 2025

Governments concerned are invited to submit written information on serious failure to report by 27 May 2025.

► Information on cases of serious failure to respect reporting and other standards-related obligations supplied by governments

Gambia

Failure to supply information in reply to comments made by the Committee of Experts

Failure to submit instruments to the competent authorities

The Government has provided the following written information.

The Government hereby conveys its apology for the long silence and we hope this apology will be honoured and valued. This letter therefore represents and demonstrates our renewed commitment to and fulfilment of ILO obligations. Notwithstanding, there are obviously challenges related to specific resources, staff attrition, sustained capacities and structural issues, just to name a few. These challenges have hugely impeded our consistency in reporting, attendance at ILO statutory meetings, and commitment to our outstanding contribution and regular annual contributions. This is why we will not be able attend the upcoming 113th Session of the Conference.

We wish to inform the Office that we have been in close contact with the ILO Regional Office in Dakar regarding some of the challenges and it has provided technical assistance on several occasions through a mini project and also through direct support to the Ministry. We wish to acknowledge with appreciation the technical assistance offered, which undoubtedly has had a positive impact and has ensured a kind of ILO presence in the country. The technical assistance offered in 2023 included the development of the formalization strategy, capacity-building for ILO tripartite constituents, and the completion and submission of a backlog of outstanding reports. Recently, from 7 to 11 April 2025, a mission was carried out by the ILO Regional Office headed by Director Samira Daoud with technical staff, to introduce the new director, who expressed the desire to strengthen existing collaboration with the Government and social partners. The purpose of the mission was to revive cooperation between the ILO and the Government of the Gambia for a strengthened implementation of the Decent Work Agenda in the country and to encourage the Government to renew the commitment toward ILO obligations. The Regional Director's visit presented two opportunities to the Ministry,

including capacity-building for the tripartite constituents and a scholarship package for four tripartite constituents with ITCILO – International Labour Standards Academy.

We further wish to state that we are aware of the several communications regarding the instruments to be submitted, the replies to the pending direct requests and observations, and the submission of reports. We are aware of the fact that this is an additional challenge and indeed an obligation to be fulfilled. All of these responsibilities present a need for technical assistance, as previously requested, to support the development of a road map with an explicit timeline to ensure a progressive commitment to the outstanding tasks and the establishment of a payment plan for the outstanding contributions. This arrangement will enable the Ministry to work toward the key Conventions, as indicated in the pyramid, which will be gradually ratified based on the proposed road map and the work of the SRM Tripartite Working Group.

Finally, we wish to reiterate the need to request technical assistance from either a local or international expert that would be hosted for a period of at least 18 months to implement the proposed road map.

We wish to assure your esteemed Office that we will deliver on these obligations, and we are hopeful that by 1 September 2025, reports will be submitted to the Office for your consideration.