

Committee on the Application of Standards

Date: 23 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

Lebanon

Failure to submit instruments to the competent authorities

The Government has provided the following written information.

With respect to the letter dated 9 May 2025 from the Director of the International Labour Standards Department addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning “failure to submit to the competent authorities the instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) under Article 19 of the ILO’s Constitution”, the Ministry of Labour would like to provide to the Committee on the Applications of Standards, the following information.

In 2022, the former Minister of Labour sent the 2021 observation of the Committee of Experts to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in order for the latter to submit the pending ILO instruments to the Parliament. Due to the Minister not having the capacity to address the Parliament directly, the communication needed to be transmitted via the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

On 6 July 2023, the Ministry of Labour received a reply from the Council of Ministers and shared it with the International Labour Standards Department on 25 August 2023 attaching “the reply of the Council of Ministers (as per the observation of the Committee of Experts 92/2021 concerning the submission to the competent authorities of Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the ILC under article 19 of the ILO’s Constitution)”.

In 2023, the Ministry of Labour received the same observation from the Committee of Experts. The Head of International Affairs Department assumed that the reply of the Council of Ministers was not satisfactory, although there was one letter (enclosed) sent to the President of the Parliament dated 11 April 2015 concerning the submission of Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 and the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203). In order to clarify the issue, the Head of the International Affairs Department followed up with officials of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. In September 2023, the Head of the International Affairs Department met with the Head of Legal Affairs Department from the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers to

explain that the Committee of Experts had urged the Government to indicate the dates on which several instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 99th, 100th, 101st, 103rd, 104th and 106th Sessions (2010–17) had been submitted to the National Assembly (Majlis Al Nuwwab), and to submit the new instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 108th (2019) and 111th Sessions (2023).

Furthermore, in August 2024, the Head of the International Affairs Department had several exchanges (on 7th, 19th, 20th and 22nd of August) with the Head of the Joint Affairs Department with the Parliament of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers to explain the constitutional obligation of submission. There seemed to have been a misunderstanding as the officials involved mistakenly considered that there was a need to study the examined Conventions for the purpose of ratification. The Head of the International Affairs Department explained that while ratification was an option, the obligation to submit more broadly implied to “notify” the Parliament of the instruments adopted by the International Labour Conference. At the end of August, the war started, and the civil servants of the Ministry of Labour had to leave the Ministry of Labour premises in the southern suburb of Beirut.

With respect to the above communication of the Director of the International Labour Standards Department, and with respect of the 2024 observation of the Committee of Experts, the Minister of Labour sent a letter, on 23 May 2025, to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers (copy attached) concerning “failure to submit the competent authorities of the instruments adopted by the ILC under article 19 of the ILO’s Constitution”.

The main challenges faced by the Government to fulfil its constitutional obligation of submission include force majeure reasons (the 2024 war) and the misinterpretation from the officials at the Council of Ministers on how to follow up. Finally, the Government requests ILO technical assistance, particularly in the form of capacity-building (a one- or two- day workshop) of the officers at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Parliament.