



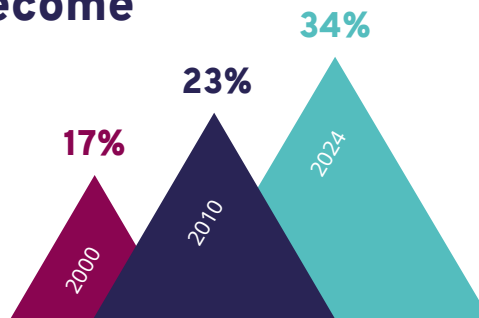
► LABOUR PROVISIONS IN TRADE AGREEMENTS

Protecting and advancing workers' rights through trade agreements

Labour provisions have become increasingly common

1 out of 3

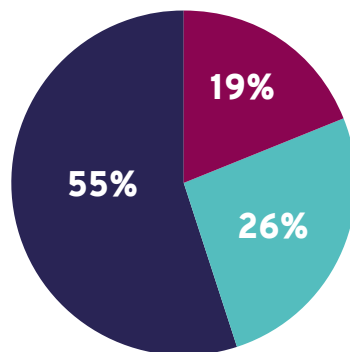
trade agreements (notified to the WTO) includes labour provisions



Trade agreements with labour provisions, % total number of trade agreements

Trade agreements with labour provisions

■ South-South
■ North-North
■ North-South



* Source: [Labour Provisions in Trade Agreements Hub \(LP Hub\)](#)

Around **160** countries have trade agreements with labour provisions

More than half of the trade agreements with labour provisions are North-South agreements, while one in five are South-South agreements. The remaining quarter consists of North-North agreements.

What are labour provisions?

1

COMMITMENTS

of partner countries to promote, protect, and enforce labour standards and workers' rights.

2

COOPERATION

and monitoring arrangements set up by partner countries to help promote and implement labour standards.

3

COMPLIANCE

processes, such as dispute settlement, created by partner countries to enforce labour commitments.

Labour commitments: what they are and how they are implemented

▶ KEY FEATURES OF LABOUR COMMITMENTS

- References to international labour standards
- Links to domestic labour laws
- Commitments to protect and improve labour rights
- Commitments to cooperate on labour issues of mutual interest

About **70%** of the trade agreements with labour provisions reference the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

KEY AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Occupational safety and health
- Working conditions
- Freedom of association and social dialogue
- Child labour and forced labour
- Non-discrimination

PARTIES CAN JOINTLY ENGAGE IN:

- Trainings and seminars
- Technical assistance and capacity building
- Technical exchanges and other exchange of information
- Joint research projects

How are stakeholders engaged?

WHO ARE KEY STAKEHOLDERS?

- Government officials
- Workers' representatives
- Employers' representatives
- Other civil society organisations

WHAT ARE THEIR POTENTIAL ROLES?

- Participate in **trade agreement negotiations**
- Participate in **meetings** and contribute to **implementation** activities
- Take part in **cooperative activities**
- Participate in **monitoring and dispute settlement** procedures

What do we know about the effects of labour provisions?



Can impact positively on **reducing gender gaps**, including female labour force participation rate and wages



Can enhance platforms for **social dialogue** that impact on **labour rights** in practice



Can **strengthen labour rights** through improved legislation and foster the ratification and effective **implementation of ILO Conventions**



Do not divert or decrease trade flows

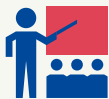
What is the role of the ILO?



Provides **advice and technical expertise** on labour provisions



Facilitates ratification and effective implementation of **international labour standards**, including through supporting labour law reform



Supports institutional **capacity building**



Produces **research and analytical tools** on trade and labour standards



Maintains the **main tool** for analysing labour provisions – [the ILO Labour Provisions in Trade Agreements Hub \(LP Hub\)](#)