



International
Labour
Organization

► Advancing social development through fundamental principles and rights at work

Concept note for a Solution Session at the
WSSD2

Fundamentals/ GENEVA

November 5 16:45-18:00

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► Background

The adoption of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) in 1998 by the International Labour Organization was a direct follow-up to the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development, which expressed the conviction that “social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms”. The 1998 Declaration covered 4 principles that are fundamental and globally considered as human rights in the world of work, namely: the abolition of child labour, the elimination of forced labour, non-discrimination at the workplace, the right to freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. In 2022, the ILO’s tripartite constituents agreed to amend the Declaration by adding a fifth fundamental principle regarding a safe and healthy work environment.

Thirty years after the first Summit, the Declaration has proven to be an important reference in advancing social development and social justice, by creating decent jobs, reducing child and forced labour and promoting a right-based approach to social development. The Declaration also plays an important role in global governance as it became a central element of the responsible business conduct agenda and the safeguard policies of development banks. In addition, an increased number of trade agreements highlights the contribution of FPRW in ensuring that the link between social progress and economic growth is maintained.

► Expected outcome

The first session of this solution session aims to highlight the contribution of FPRW to social development and social justice, including through the promotion of decent work for all, the elimination of forced and child labour, the reduction of inequalities and the creation of inclusive economic growth. Countries will present their experiences, provide insight into their policies and practices and explain how governments, in collaboration with the social partners - i.e. workers and employers' organisations -, advance social development through the implementation of FPRW.

The second session explores how FPRW can be scaled up to address major current and emerging challenges. At a time where civil space is shrinking in many places, this session aims to underscore the importance of strengthening social dialogue, by reinforcing bipartite and tripartite institutions and developing more inclusive and representative structures that can effectively reach those workers who continue to be excluded from formal labour protections. To this end, this session will delve into innovative approaches to tripartite dialogue that go beyond traditional workplace-based organizing to address the realities of work in today's global economy.

► Tentative agenda

Introduction and facilitation: Ms Manuela Tomei, Assistant Director-General for Governance, Rights and Dialogue, ILO

Session 1: Showcasing the contribution of FPRW to social development:

- Reducing forced labour in agriculture: Uzbekistan's experience in the cotton sector,
- Fundamental conventions: the Korean experience
- Fighting working poverty through social dialogue including collective bargaining: the German experience

Speakers include:

- Mr. Zakhidov Botir Erkinovich, Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction, Uzbekistan
- Mr. Lee Kang-Yeon, Director of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Employment and Labour, the Republic of Korea,
- Dr. Carsten Stender, Director-General for European and International Employment and Social Policy, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany

Session 2: Scaling-up the impact of FPRW on social development:

- Lessons from the Alliance 8.7 on the elimination of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour,
- Maximizing the impact of investment on decent job creation,
- Moving from “enabling” FPRW to improved labour protection,
- Realising FPRW in an open global economy,
- Linking economic and social development through upholding FPRW
- Creating an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, conducive to realizing FPRW

Speakers include:

- Ms. Larissa Luy, World Bank Group Director for Environmental and Social Risk
- Ms Li Andersson, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Employment Committee
- H.E. Claudia Fuentes Julio of Chile, Chair of Alliance 8.7,
- Mr Plamen Dimitrov, International Trade Union Confederation
- Arne Franke: Managing Director EU, International and Economic Affairs - BDA, Confederation of German Employers' Associations.

Concluding remarks

- What to expect from the 6th Global Conference on Child Labour H.E. Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN (tbc)