



From Workplace Rights to Constitutional Rights in South Africa

A round table discussion for the ILO Century Project

PROGRAMME

NEDLAC House, 14A Jellicoe Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa

14 November 2013

09:00 Coffee

09:30 Opening of the round table, background, framework

- Presentation of the Century Project
- Introduction to the material distributed
- A historical overview of the changing profiles of South Africa as ILO member since 1919
- Overview of the development of trade unions and industrial relations, apartheid and the anti-apartheid movement

10:00 ILO and the movement against apartheid

- Declaration and action against apartheid
- Trade unions, employers' organizations and the ILO since the government withdrawal

10:30 **First discussion round**

- Intensification of the anti-apartheid struggle 1984–1994
- The creation of COSATU and NACTU, their relations with the exile trade unionists
- Attempts for the respect of workplace rights, as a key part of the internal process
- COSATU, NACTU, SACCOLA relations: conflict and cooperation on the ground
- Evolution of the employer position against apartheid
- COSATU complaint 1988 and the ILO Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission mission
- Liberation of Mandela, speech at the International Labour Conference
- ILO support to trade unions and employers in South Africa
- Constitution, elections, South Africa re-joins the ILO

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Second discussion round**

- A. Technical cooperation prior to 1994
 - Cooperation programme for liberation movements
 - Assistance to employers' and workers' organizations
- B. Cooperation activities after democratization
 - Labour law reform etc.
- Labour law reform, social dialogue, NEDLAC
- ILO office established in Pretoria, technical cooperation programmes
- South Africa in the ILO since 1994

16:30 **Concluding discussion**

- Lessons learned for the South African constituents and the ILO
- Challenges ahead

17:30 Reception, followed later by dinner