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Policy Development Section

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FOR INFORMATION

Short overview of selected highlights of sectoral work carried out in the first part of 2013

Summary: This document provides a short overview of selected highlights of sectoral work carried out between January and August 2013.

Author unit: Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: None in addition to those in the footnotes.

1. In addition to the Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188),¹ a number of activities in the fishing sector were carried out in Asia.² In the context of the Tripartite Action to Protect Migrants within and from the Greater Mekong Subregion from Labour Exploitation (TRIANGLE project), technical assistance was given to the Government of Thailand by facilitating tripartite negotiations regarding a revision of Ministerial Regulation No. 10, to improve working conditions and combat forced labour in fishing, taking into account the provisions of Convention No. 188. In order to further promote Convention No. 188 in India, a gap analysis had been prepared by the Ministry of Labour and Employment with the ILO's support. The findings of this analysis, which compares Indian laws and regulations with the provisions of Convention No. 188, were presented, discussed and validated by a National Tripartite Workshop on the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), held in Goa from 8 to 9 February 2013. Finally, ongoing collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) led to the publication of a report on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture.³
2. Promotional work in the port sector has created a renewed interest in the Portworker Development Programme (PDP). In February 2013, the US National Maritime Safety Association (NMSA) signed an agreement with the ILO for the implementation of the training programme in the United States. The NMSA represents the US marine cargo handling industry on safety and health matters arising under various statutes, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). A similar agreement was renewed between Kenya and the ILO in March 2013, and another was concluded between the Ghanaian Ports Authority and the Regional Maritime University in April 2013.
3. Following the conclusion of the work of the Group of Experts,⁴ the ILO participated as an observer at the 75th Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee (26–28 February 2013), at which the Committee endorsed the decision of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics to elevate the guidelines to a non-mandatory code of practice. The draft was consequently submitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which included it as an agenda item at the 18th Session of the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (September 2013). Once the draft has received IMO approval (expected at the 93rd Session of the Maritime Safety Committee), it will be submitted to the Governing Body.
4. The ILO continued work in Malawi and Indonesia under the implementation of the sectoral approach to decent work in the global food supply chain, as endorsed by the Governing Body.⁵ The national projects in both Malawi and Indonesia are now at the inception stage. In Malawi, a value-chain study and a training-needs assessment, as well as training on decent work for labour inspectors and agriculture extension staff have been conducted. Similar activities are being undertaken in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara Province, where the ILO is partnering with the FAO to implement a larger project on the promotion of decent work for achieving food security and rural development. The ILO also continues to

¹ For more information on that meeting, see GB.319/POL/4, paras 7–11.

² Given the importance of the entry into force of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), a specific paper has been submitted to this Governing Body (GB.319/LILS/5).

³ FAO–ILO: *Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture* (Turin, 2013) http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_22655/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴ GB.317/POL/INF/1.

⁵ GB.312/POL/7 and GB.312/PV, para. 398.

participate actively in the UN Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on Global Food Security (HLTF).

5. Aside from the publication of the Chinese language version of the code of practice on safety and health in agriculture, the promotional work of the Office focused particularly on Zimbabwe. Building on earlier work to promote the application of the code of practice, as requested by the Governing Body,⁶ the national follow-up workshop held in Harare on 22 and 23 April 2013 discussed and validated the guidelines and information package⁷ and made recommendations on their implementation. The workshop was held back-to-back with a consensus-building workshop on occupational safety and health (OSH) in agriculture, which was also held in Harare, from 24 to 26 April 2013. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the proposed new harmonized legislation on OSHA, which merges three different laws. The tripartite workshop reviewed the act and provided guidance on the way forward. The new legislation is expected to extend coverage of OSH systems to the agricultural, informal economy and public sectors by integrating provisions from relevant international labour standards. Finally, an inception workshop took place in Harare (8–9 July 2013) to start the implementation of the code of practice and to share the results of the field tests of the information package and guidelines held in enterprises in Bulawayo, Chinhoyi, Harare, Masvingo and Mutare.
6. In follow-up to the forestry sector workshops held in 2012 (Chile) and 2013 (China), the Office has been providing support to local partners to develop plans for action. This is also the case in the construction sector, for which a subregional workshop for the East African Community was held in 2012,⁸ in addition to national workshops in Azerbaijan, Kenya and Paraguay.⁹
7. A working paper on challenges and perspectives in relation to the health of workers in selected sectors of the urban economy¹⁰ has been published. It aims to analyse and systematize the health challenges faced by the poorest strata of urban workers and discusses possible solutions. The paper focuses on five sectors, namely the construction, waste picking and recycling, street trading, domestic work, and agriculture sectors. The solutions analysed include social participation, capacity building, and cooperation and partnerships between different actors.
8. In order to assist Zambia to improve its application of the Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176),¹¹ two consultative national workshops were held in August 2013. These were part of the follow-up to the Sub-Regional Workshop for Selected African Countries: Improving Safety and Health in Mining (May 2012);¹² the

⁶ GB.310/STM/1, para. 9.

⁷ GB.317/POL/INF/1.

⁸ Appendix to GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 6.

⁹ GB.317/POL/INF/1, para. 13; Appendix to GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 6.

¹⁰ ILO: *The health of workers in selected sectors of the urban economy: Challenges and perspectives* (Geneva, 2013); http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/working-papers/WCMS_208090/lang--en/index.htm.

¹¹ Zambia ratified Convention No. 176 in 1999.

¹² Appendix to GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 7.

2012–13 programme for the mining sector;¹³ and direct requests made by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR). The first workshop focused on the development of a draft national OSH policy (Lusaka, 1–2 August 2013), and the second workshop considered a revision of the mining regulations with a view to ensuring compatibility with the provisions of Convention No. 176 (Kitwe, 6–9 August 2013). In Mongolia, following tripartite consultations that established the importance of Convention No. 176 for the country's mining industry, the Office has been providing technical assistance to a working group established in August 2013 and for the ongoing gap analysis of Mongolian laws and regulations vis-à-vis the provisions of Convention No. 176.

9. As part of the follow-up to earlier activities to give effect to the recommendations of the Tripartite Meeting on the Production of Electronic Components for the IT Industries: Changing Labour Force Requirements in a Global Economy, that took place in 2007, a workshop on social dialogue in the electronics sector was held in Batam (Indonesia) from 24 to 25 June 2013. During the workshop, which was attended by management representatives, plant-level workers, sectoral union federations and employer associations, challenges were discussed and agreements reached on the actions needed to improve social dialogue in the sector.
10. With a view to furthering social dialogue and good industrial relations in the oil and gas sector, the International Training Centre (ITC) and the ILO convened a Tripartite Subregional Workshop for Promoting Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations in the Oil and Gas Industry (Baku, Azerbaijan, 4–6 June 2013). At the end of this workshop, the participants, representing an industry that employs 1.4 million workers in the subregion, adopted a plan of action to promote good industrial relations in the oil and gas sector in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. This plan provides means of enhancing collective bargaining and social dialogue mechanisms; improving OSH, including through the training of labour inspectors; promoting gender equality; promoting youth employment; and addressing globalization challenges in the sector.
11. In order to improve safety and health and working conditions for health sector workers, the ILO has further promoted HealthWISE, a tool adapted by the ILO and the WHO for the health sector, based on the ILO Work Improvements in Small Enterprises (WISE) tool to assist health-care organizations in improving working conditions and workplace safety. In line with a dissemination strategy developed for Senegal in November 2012, a follow-up workshop was held in March 2013, which developed action plans for four hospital sites, which are currently being implemented with the assistance of a national committee (coordinated by the Ministry of Labour) and the Office.
12. In India and the Philippines, the Office has facilitated policy dialogue on health worker mobility between these two countries and EU countries in July 2013. The EU-funded project “Promoting Decent Work Across Borders: A Project for Migrant Health Professionals and Skilled Workers”, aims to promote approaches to migration that benefit the migrant workers, and the source and destination countries within a rights-based framework for better labour migration management. To this end, the project focuses on strengthening employment services for health-care professionals, facilitating skills recognition processes and enhancing labour market information systems.
13. For retail commerce workers, a toolkit on HIV and AIDS in the sector has been developed and validated. The guidelines on HIV and AIDS for retail commerce were validated in a tripartite validation workshop held in Uganda in August 2013. Both the commerce

¹³ GB.310/STM/1, para. 17.

guidelines as well as guidelines on HIV and AIDS for the mining sector, which had been validated at a tripartite workshop held in New Delhi, India, from 26 to 27 November 2012, are being published.

14. To assist in the use of the Toolkit on Poverty Reduction through Tourism, two workshops were held in Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic. A shorter workshop (4–5 February 2013) trained trainers in the use of the toolkit and was held back-to-back with a workshop on capacity building and social dialogue in the tourism sector (6–7 February 2013). The toolkit's use was also promoted by providing training in eight provinces in Viet Nam where training has been provided on the use of the Vietnamese language version of the toolkit. In addition, two notable publications on decent work and tourism were published in collaboration with other UN agencies (in particular the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)).^{14, 15}
15. In its work to promote the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151),¹⁶ the 2012 gap analysis of Brazilian laws and regulations vis-à-vis the provisions of Convention No. 151¹⁷ was presented in a workshop held in Brasília (June 2013). This was organized to assist Brazil in its application of Convention No. 151, which it ratified in June 2010. Similar workshops were also carried out in Serbia (16–17 April 2013) and the Dominican Republic (3–4 April 2013). In Botswana, the Office has been providing technical assistance to the national constituents with a view to reviewing and improving labour relations in the public service, with a particular focus on strengthening collective bargaining and dispute resolution mechanisms. The Office assisted the operationalization of the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) and helped it develop negotiation and meeting procedures as well as dispute resolution procedures in line with international labour standards. In addition, the capacity of its members to engage in mutual gains negotiation was increased through a study visit for PSBC members to the South African Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council in May 2013. As an initial result of the work on promoting the Convention, the Office has taken note with great interest of the ratification of Convention No. 151 by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where work had been carried out in 2012.¹⁸

Geneva, 10 October 2013

¹⁴ UNWTO: *Sustainable Tourism for Development Guidebook* (Madrid, 2013) (prepared in close cooperation with the UN Steering Committee on Tourism for Development); http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_216669/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁵ UNWTO–ILO: *Economic Crisis, International Tourism Decline and its Impact on the Poor* (Madrid, 2013); http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_214576/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁶ GB.310/STM/1, para. 48.

¹⁷ Appendix to GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 4.

¹⁸ See above.