
Committee on the Application of Standards

**Draft outcome of the discussion by the
Committee on the Application of Standards
of the General Survey on the occupational
safety and health instruments concerning
the promotional framework, construction,
mining and agriculture**

Introduction

1. The Committee welcomed the opportunity, in its examination of the General Survey on the Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167), the Safety and Health in Construction Recommendation, 1988 (No. 175), the Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), the Safety and Health in Mines Recommendation, 1995 (No. 183), the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), and the Safety and Health in Agriculture Recommendation, 2001 (No. 192), in the context of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Recommendation, 2006 (No. 197), to discuss the vital issue of occupational safety and health (OSH).
2. It recalled that the promotion of a safe and healthy working environment for all was a core element of the ILO's founding mission, reflected in the ILO Constitution and reaffirmed in the 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia, and constituted a key component of the Decent Work Agenda. Moreover, the Committee recalled the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 8 and target 8.8.
3. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to protecting workers from occupational accidents and diseases and called for a reinvigoration of efforts in that respect.
4. The Committee's discussion of this year's General Survey, together with the outcome of this discussion and the General Survey itself, will inform other ILO work, particularly in the context of outcome 7 of the Programme and Budget 2018–19 on promoting safe work and workplace compliance including in global supply chains.

Needs of member States and reality on the ground

5. The Committee noted the tremendous human cost of poor OSH and expressed grave concern with respect to the estimated 2.3 million workers who die from work-related accidents or diseases and the over 313 million workers who suffer non-fatal occupational injuries each year. It further noted that the construction, mining and agriculture sectors remained sectors that faced considerable OSH challenges, and recalled the specificities of those sectors. The Committee recalled the specific challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the support that these enterprises required. It further emphasized the need to promote OSH in global supply chains.
6. The Committee noted the difficulties faced in numerous member States with regard to the collection of accurate and comprehensive OSH data, and it recalled the importance of such information for measuring the impact of measures taken and for determining areas for future action.

Common commitments

7. The Committee welcomed the common commitment among the tripartite constituents for the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases. Improving OSH had a positive impact on working conditions, productivity, and economic and social development. It stressed that social dialogue was invaluable to the effective promotion of OSH.
8. A preventative approach to OSH was essential, involving awareness raising, consultation, participation, information, advice and training for both workers and employers. Building and maintaining a national preventative safety and health culture was indispensable, which required tripartite engagement in securing a safe and healthy working environment through a system of defined rights, responsibilities and duties. In this respect, workers' and employers' organizations played a key role in the development and promotion of an OSH culture.
9. The Committee recalled the essential role of national OSH policies and programmes, developed in consultation with the social partners and adapted to national realities, in achieving progressive and sustained improvement towards ensuring safe and secure working environments. It further stressed the importance of improving the application of OSH legal frameworks. It highlighted the importance of ensuring that labour inspectorates are provided with adequate human and material resources, as well as the utility of strategic approaches to the planning of labour inspection.

ILO means of action

1. Standards-related action

10. Recognizing the importance of the promotional framework for occupational safety and health, the Committee considered that the Office should undertake a campaign for the ratification and implementation of Convention No. 187. This should highlight the flexibility of the instrument with a view to its adaptation to specific national circumstances.

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11. The Committee noted that the General Survey, and its discussion, could contribute to the work of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group, particularly its consideration of standards policy with a view to ensuring institutional coherence on OSH.

2. Development cooperation and technical assistance

12. Acknowledging the references by a number of member States to the need for technical assistance in relation to the instruments, the Committee considered that the Office should, in light of the importance of accurate OSH data, enhance its collection of OSH statistics and provide technical assistance to member States in that respect to enable measuring progress and determining future priority action. This could include assistance concerning the strengthening, in consultation with the social partners, of systems on the reporting and registration of occupational accidents and cases of occupational disease.
13. The Office should strengthen its activities with regard to providing training and capacity building for workers' and employers' organizations to enable the social partners to participate fully in the development of a preventative safety and health culture. Moreover, it should provide assistance to those countries that have ratified one or more of the Conventions covered by the survey (Conventions Nos 167, 176, 184 and 187) with respect to their implementation. In its ongoing development cooperation activities, the Office should also pay particular attention to: building national capacities related to risk assessments at the workplace, training on the strategic approach to labour inspection, ensuring safe and secure working conditions throughout global supply chains, and the special OSH needs of SMEs.
14. The Committee expected the Office to undertake the technical support requested by member States and reinforce its technical assistance on OSH.

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15. The Committee requested the Office to take into account the General Survey on occupational safety and health and the outcome of its discussion of the General Survey, as reflected above, in relevant ILO work, particularly in the context of outcome 7 of the Programme and Budget for 2018–19.