

2011 Asia Regional Conference: “Advocacy towards the Ratification and Implementation of ILO Convention 189 and Recommendation 201 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers”
October 26, 2011, Manila, Philippines

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We are more than 140 participants representing organizations from more than 20 countries and territories, including 35 national trade unions, 5 domestic workers’ organizations and 20 civil society organizations from the International Trade Union Confederation-Asia Pacific (ITUC-A/P), International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN), Global Network-Asia, and Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). We convened the *Asian Regional Conference on “Advocacy towards the Ratification and Implementation of ILO Convention 189 and Recommendation 201 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers”* on October 24-26, 2011 in Manila, Philippines--the first ever such regional gathering since the historic 100th session of the International Labour Conference in June 2011 in Geneva. We express our appreciation for the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in making this conference possible. We are here to continue our joint efforts in ensuring decent work for domestic workers, which began in Hong Kong in 2008 and 2009, in Jakarta in 2010, in Manila after the 2010 ILC, and in Singapore before the 2011 ILC.

We came together to celebrate our victory as an alliance of trade unions, domestic workers’ organizations, migrant organizations, and civil society groups in working collaboratively and pushing for the adoption of ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) at the 100th session of the ILC. The historic adoption of this new Convention and its supplementary Recommendation 201 (R201) culminated the long struggle and sacrifice of various domestic workers’ groups, trade unions, and civil society advocates. C189 is the first international treaty that recognizes the need to protect the human and labor rights of ALL domestic workers.

However, for the Convention to come into force, it must be ratified by at least two countries as soon as possible. Despite the massive support from many countries in the world, there are countries in the Asian region that are still ambivalent and have abstained from voting in favor of the Convention. For domestic workers to reap the benefits of C189 and R201, there is an urgent imperative to convince all countries in Asia to translate their support into actual ratification and implementation of C189 and R201.

We chose to hold this conference in the Philippines because of the key role that the Philippine government, trade unions, domestic workers’ organizations and civil society groups played in pushing for the adoption of C189 and R201 at the ILC in June 2011. We hold on to the promise of the Philippine government to be one of the first countries to ratify the Convention. This will set a strong message to the other member-states of the ILO to do the same.

Now that domestic workers have a Convention, the challenge is to translate its contents into the real conditions of domestic workers. In Asia, the challenge is enormous. There are at least 23 million local and migrant domestic workers in Asia alone. In the ratification and implementation process one of the primary challenges is how to ensure that domestic workers and trade unions, not only the government, play a central role.

Thereafter, the ratification of C189 among the ILO member-countries will require the adoption or reform of national legislations to conform with C189, using R201 as guide, to ensure decent work for domestic workers across the world.

Towards these ends, and as members of this alliance, we fully support the ITUC “12 in 12” Plan of Action. We will continue to strengthen and sustain the alliance of trade unions, domestic workers, civil society and social movements. We jointly commit to support domestic workers in forming, joining and sustaining their own trade unions, organizations and networks.

We have discussed the attached plans and activities, which serve as the basis for our joint strategies and common plan of action in ensuring the immediate ratification of C189 in Asia, and its effective implementation and monitoring afterwards.

Domestic work is work!
Decent work for all workers!
Ratify and implement C189!

Participant organizations:

Number	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
1	Alliance of Coca-Cola Unions in the Philippines (ACCUP)	Philippines
2	Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL)	Philippines
3	Asian Migrant Centre/MFA	Hong Kong
4	Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC)	China-Hong Kong
5	Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS)	BANGLADESH
6	Cambodia Women Movement Organization (CWMO)	Cambodia
7	Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC)	Lebanon
8	Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)	Philippines
9	CHRD	Mongolia
10	Coalition Against Trafficking in Women -Asia Pacific (CATW-AP)	Philippines
11	Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)	Cambodia
12	Coalition for Migrant Rights (CMR)	Hong Kong
13	Confederation of Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CIU)	Philippines
14	Department of Labor and Employment- BWSC	Philippines
15	Department of Labor and Employment-LCO	Philippines
16	Domestic Workers Network in Thailand	Thailand
17	Federasi Serikat Pekerja Metal Indonesia (FSPMI)	Indonesia
18	Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Union (APL – FADWU)	China - Hong Kong
19	Federation of Free Workers (FFW)	Philippines
20	General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions (GFBTU)	Bahrain
21	General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)	Nepal
22	Global Network-Asia	Philippines
23	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)	India
24	Homenet Thailand	Thailand
25	Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (HKCTU)	Hong Kong
26	Hongkong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Union	Hongkong
27	Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME)	Singapore
28	Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME)	Singapore
29	ILO - Jakarta Office	Indonesia
30	ILO - Manila Office	Philippines
31	ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities	Italy
32	ILO International Training Center in Turin	Italy
33	ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific	Thailand
34	Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)	India
35	Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (MWU)	Indonesia
36	Institute of Labor Studies – Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	Philippines

37	Institute of Social development (ISD)	Sri Lanka
38	International Domestic Workers' Network (IDWN)	China - Hong Kong
39	International Labour Office Conditions of Work and Employment Programme (TRAVAIL)	Switzerland
40	International Trade Union Confederation – Asia and the Pacific (ITUC-A/P)	Singapore
41	International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)	Switzerland
42	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations – Asia-Pacific (IUF – AP)	Australia
43	ISC Charity Wing	
44	Jaringan Nasional Advokasi Pekerja Rumah Tangga (JALA-PRT)	Indonesia
45	Jordanian Commission on Women (JCW)	Jordan
46	Kapisanan ng Maralitang Obrero (KAMAO)	Philippines
47	Kongres Serikat Pekerja Indonesia (KSPI) or Indonesian Trade Union Confederation (CITU)	Indonesia
48	Korean Women Workers Association (KWWA)	South Korea
49	K-SBSI (ITUC)	Indonesia
50	Kuwait Trade Union Federation (KTUF)	Kuwait
51	Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN)	Philippines
52	Labor Education Foundation (LEF)	Pakistan
53	League of Independent Bank Organizations (LIBO)	Philippines
54	LSCW	Cambodia
55	Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC)	Malaysia
56	Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (MAKABAYAN)	Philippines
57	Mariners Association for Regional and international Networking Organization (MARINO)	Philippines
58	Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)	Philippines
59	Migrant Women's Club	China
60	Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS)	Bahrain
61	Migrant Service Center/National Workers Congress	Sri Lanka
62	National Alliance of Broadcast Unions (NABU)	Philippines
63	National Trade Union Federation (NTUF)	Sri Lanka
64	National Union of Workers in Hotel, Restaurants and Allied Industry (NUWHRAIN)	Philippines
65	Nepal Trade Union Congress Independent (NTUC-I)	Nepal
66	Nepal Independent Domestic Workers Union (NIDWU)	Nepal
67	Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan Para sa Kalayaan (KAISA KA)	Philippines
68	Partido ng Manggagawa / UCWA	Philippines
69	Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)	Philippines
70	Philippine Independent Public Sector Employees Association (PIPSEA)	Philippines
71	Postal Employees Union of the Philippines (PEUP)	Philippines
72	Pravasi Nepal	Nepal
73	Samahan at Ugnayan ng mga Manggagawang Pantahanan sa Pilipinas Inc. (SUMAPI)	Philippines
74	Samahan ng Migrante at Pamilya, Inc. - Tarlac City (SAMAPI)	Philippines
75	Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) - Kerala	India
76	Serikan Buruh Migran Indonesia	Indonesia
77	Thai Women Association (TWA)	Thailand
78	Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)	Philippines
79	Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2)	Singapore
80	Visayan Forum	Philippines
81	Workers Solidarity network (WSN)	Philippines
82	WSM	Indonesia

Observer organizations:

Number	Organization	Country
1	Akbayan	Philippines
2	Action Network for Migrants (ACT-FORM)	Sri Lanka
3	Atikha Inc	Philippines
4	Batis Center for Women	Philippines
5	CARAM-Cambodia	Cambodia
6	Center for Indonesian Migrant Workers	Indonesia
7	Center for Indian Migrant Studies(CIMS)-Kerala	India
8	CIMW-Indonesia	Indonesia
9	HOME Alumni	Singapore
10	Hope Workers Center	Taiwan
11	Jarnas Pekabumi	Indonesia
12	Kanlungan Center Foundation	Philippines
13	KAR – La’oved Israel	Israel
14	Legal Support for Women and Children	Cambodia
15	Migrant Care	
16	Migrants Rights Council	India
17	National Domestic Workers Movement	India
18	POURAKHI-Nepal	Nepal
19	Serikan Buruh Migran Indonesia	Indonesia
20	UN women	Philippines
21	Women’s Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), Nepal	Nepal
22	Youth Action Nepal	Nepal