



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) WELCOMES US/MYANMAR ANNOUNCEMENT ON LABOUR MARKET COLLABORATION

The International Labour Organization (ILO) welcomes the commitment by the Governments of the United States and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to work together to support the promotion of fundamental labour rights and practices in Myanmar.

This important initiative sends a message that internationally-recognized labour standards and responsible business practices will be at the forefront of Myanmar's reform and development process.

The ILO and the Myanmar Ministry of Labour are already working together on a range of labour market reforms that will be critical to the success of Myanmar's democratic, economic and social transition and the creation of an equitable, stable and prosperous future for the country and its people.

The consultative process announced today (Thursday 28 August) will support and build on the work of the ILO and the Ministry, with the assistance of key national and international stakeholders.

The creation of a framework of labour laws that are appropriate for national needs and circumstances and comply with internationally-recognised standards, is central to the Government's goal of promoting productive employment and decent work.

As this initiative recognises, it is also crucial to strengthen the capacity of the institutions who will apply this new legal framework. These institutions play an important role in ensuring that the reform process in Myanmar is equitable and sustainable and benefits both businesses and workers.

The Government and Parliament, in consultation with employers, workers and their representative bodies, have the responsibility for the development and application of labour laws that are both appropriate and effective.

And the ILO, which has been engaged in promoting fundamental rights and decent work in Myanmar for many years, looks forward to playing a leading role, together with the US Government and other international stakeholders, in providing technical support to those national actors to improve the lives of the people of Myanmar.

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