



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

I. INTRODUCTION

Recalling the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization dated 3 November 1945, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU),

WHEREAS the primary goal of the ILO is to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda rests on four pillars: respect for fundamental principles and rights at work and international labour standards, enhanced employment and income opportunities for women and men, social protection for all, and social dialogue to ensure greater voice and representation for people at work. The Decent Work Agenda as described in the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization represents an integrated approach that enables balanced progress toward the goals of economic development and social equity. The ILO assists member States in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the Decent Work Agenda and in 2006, the ILO's tripartite constituents, comprising worker, employer and government representatives established the Asian Decent Work Decade for the period up to 2015 in order to make a concerted and sustained effort to realize decent work in all countries of this diverse region.

WHEREAS the primary objective of the ESCAP is to promote inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, with particular focus on supporting member States in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Acting in its dual role as a regional arm of the United Nations and as part of the regional institutional landscape, ESCAP pursues the key objectives shared by all of the regional commissions of the United Nations, namely, to: (a) foster economic integration at the sub-regional and regional levels; (b) promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (c) support regional sustainable development by helping to bridge economic, social and environmental gaps among member States and sub-regions, and (d) deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

II. PURPOSE OF ILO-ESCAP COOPERATION

1. ILO and ESCAP reaffirm their commitment to work together to mutually reinforce and strengthen the work programmes of the respective organizations in supporting member States in the overall achievement of the internationally agreed development



goals, including the Millennium Development Goals taking into account the decent work approach. The themes of "social protection and public policy" "the promotion of social justice for a fair globalization" and "inclusive development" will guide cooperation under this agreement.

III. FOCUS OF ILO-ESCAP JOINT ACTIVITIES

2. The specific focus for joint priority activities is detailed in the Appendix to this MoU, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the two organizations.

IV. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

3. ILO and ESCAP recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) provide copies of relevant publications and public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

V. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

4. ILO and ESCAP recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations on an annual basis to be coordinated by the focal points mentioned below, the first of which will be convened within two months of the signing of this Agreement.

VI. RESPONSIBLE FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MoU

5. ILO and ESCAP agree to designate as responsible focal points for the activities under this MoU:



- (a) for ILO: Deputy Regional Director, ILO ROAP
- (b) for ESCAP: Chief, Programme Management Division (PMD)

VII. PREPARATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF JOINT WORK ACTIVITIES

6. In the priority areas of joint focus identified in the Appendix I, ILO and ESCAP will prepare as input into the annual consultation:

- (a) a list of all ongoing operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned future cooperation activities.

7. ILO and ESCAP agree that:

- (a) the appropriate programme managers in ILO and ESCAP will be responsible for the implementation of cooperation activities within their areas of responsibility;
- (b) the appropriate programme managers will provide brief reports as necessary to the responsible units in the ILO and ESCAP on the status of implementation of all cooperation activities listed within their areas of responsibility;
- (c) the designated ILO and ESCAP focal points will prepare a joint report periodically and as necessary on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities;
- (d) the responsible programme managers will complete annual assessments of results achieved with the cooperation activities;
- (e) these assessments will be reviewed by the designated ILO and ESCAP focal points in considering further cooperation activities; and
- (f) a joint mid-term review of the overall development impact of the ILO-ESCAP cooperation through the implementation of the MoU will be undertaken.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

8. ILO and ESCAP recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:



- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

IX. TERM AND REVIEW OF THE MoU

9. ILO and ESCAP agree that:

- (a) the term of the MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2013
- (b) a joint mid-term review will be carried out in 2011 with any necessary amendments to the MoU being made at that time.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

10. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a project document or written agreement.

11. The MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

12. The MoU may be terminated by either organization on six months notice in writing.

For the Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

For the International Labour
Organisation

Noeleen Heyzer
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Juan Somavia
Director-General

Bangkok, Thailand: 27 November 2008

Geneva, Switzerland: 9 January 2009



APPENDIX

AREAS FOR ILO-ESCAP COOPERATION

1. The promotion of a social floor to provide basic income and comprehensive social care to all, amidst rapid economic and social changes such as industrialization, aging, urbanization, and globalization through advocacy, research and capacity building.
2. Enhancing the regional knowledge base on statistics, with an emphasis on improving collection, analysis and dissemination of indicators for monitoring of progress towards the relevant MDG Targets, recognizing the importance of mainstreaming statistics across all areas of cooperation.
3. The promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, green growth and decent work as a key priority for addressing challenges of climate change and poverty reduction, with a specific focus on mainstreaming decent work into green growth tools and materials.
4. Capacity building and policy advocacy with ILO tripartite constituents and ESCAP members (planning, finance and women's machineries) to achieve the MDGs related to gender equality and women's empowerment in labour and social protection.
5. Strengthening cooperation on migration in the region including monitoring trends, harmonizing concepts and definitions used by member States, and addressing critical issues in managing migration, preventing smuggling and trafficking of human beings by providing greater social protection for migrant workers, and studying economic and social consequences of demographic and other long term changes in population and labor force structures.
6. Application of the Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work, formally adopted by the U.N. Chief Executives Board for Coordination in April 2007, including the self-assessment exercise, which will be conducted by ESCAP with ILO support.