

STATEMENT

Security Council - 7898th meeting



International
Labour Office

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STATEMENT BY

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Mr. President,
Excellences,
Distinguished guests,

As we have heard many times today, the ILO estimates that today 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour. This represents about three in every 1,000 of today's world population. Forced sexual exploitation accounts for 22 per cent of all victims whereas forced labour exploitation makes up 68 per cent of the total.

This is a huge business, in fact in 2014 estimates indicated that it generates annual profits of over US\$ 150 billion - Two thirds of the estimated total or US\$ 99 billion, came from commercial sexual exploitation, while another US\$ 51 billion resulted from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture and other economic activities.

In June 2014, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted a legally binding Protocol (to the Forced Labour Convention of 1930 (No. 29)) designed to tackle modern forms of forced labour and strengthen global efforts for their elimination. The Protocol, supported by a Recommendation, was adopted by government, employer and worker delegates to the International Labour Conference (ILC).

The Protocol strengthens the international legal framework by creating new obligations to prevent forced labour, to protect victims and to provide access to remedy, such as compensation for material and physical harm.

It requires governments to take measures to better protect workers, in particular migrant labourers, from fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices and emphasizes the role of employers and workers in the fight against forced labour. This Protocol is now open for ratification, and I am happy to report 13 ratifications thus far.

It is very clear that everyone has a role to play in fighting modern slavery, and that unless we all come together and unite against it, we are going to face an uphill battle. This is why the ILO with many partners has facilitated the creation of Alliance 8.7.

A partnership of partnerships, Alliance 8.7 is a coalition committed to accelerating and intensifying actions to tackle the problems of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour and achieve Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7. I invite you all to join this Alliance and help improve coordination and joint action – Which as we have heard over and over again today, remain real challenges in this area of work.

The ILO is also creating a Global Business Network against Forced labour and human trafficking, to work with employers and the private sector in ensuring that slavery does not infiltrate supply chains.

Mr. President, excellences, distinguished guests,

We at the ILO look forward to continuing and expanding our work together in combatting such violations of human rights.

Thank you very much.