



International  
Conference of  
Labour Statisticians  
11-20 October 2023



## Promotion and ratification of ILO Convention No. 160 (1985) on Labour Statistics

## Status of the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160)

### Statut de la convention (n° 160) sur les statistiques du travail, 1985

### Situación del Convenio sobre estadísticas del trabajo, 1985 (núm. 160)

Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on the feasibility of ratifying the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), and to consider and evaluate the urgency of its ratification in the case of the countries that have ratified the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), in view of the upcoming abrogation of Convention No. 63 in 2024. The countries concerned are Algeria, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

Les participants à la Conférence sont invités à donner leur avis quant à la possibilité de ratifier la convention (n° 160) sur les statistiques du travail, 1985, et à considérer, après évaluation, le caractère urgent de cette ratification dans le cas des pays ayant ratifié la convention (n° 63) concernant les statistiques des salaires et des heures de travail, 1938, compte tenu de l'abrogation prochaine de cette même convention en 2024. Les pays concernés sont l'Afrique du Sud, l'Algérie, la Barbade, le Chili, Cuba, Djibouti, l'Égypte, la France, le Kenya, le Myanmar, le Nicaragua, la République arabe syrienne, la République-Unie de Tanzanie et l'Uruguay.

Se invita a los participantes en la Conferencia a que expresen sus puntos de vista sobre la viabilidad de ratificar el Convenio sobre estadísticas del trabajo, 1985 (núm. 160) y a que consideren y evalúen la urgencia de su ratificación en el caso de los países que han ratificado el Convenio sobre estadísticas de salarios y horas de trabajo, 1938 (núm. 63), en vista de la próxima derogación de este último en 2024. Los países en cuestión son Argelia, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egipto, Francia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, la República Árabe Siria, la República Unida de Tanzania, Sudáfrica y el Uruguay.

## ► Introduction

### **ILO is a normative institution**

Main mission is that of setting and promoting labour standards and rights at work

### **Article 10.1 of the ILO's Constitution (1919)**

“the functions of the Office shall include the collection and distribution of information relating to the international adjustment of conditions of industrial life and labour...”

### **International labour standards on labour statistics**

- Convention No. 63 – Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work (1938)
- Convention No. 160 – Labour Statistics (1985)
- Recommendation No. 170 – Labour Statistics (1985)

## ► International (labour) standards on labour statistics

### What are international *labour* standards?

Legal instruments drawn up by the ILO's constituents (governments, employers and workers) setting out basic principles and rights at work

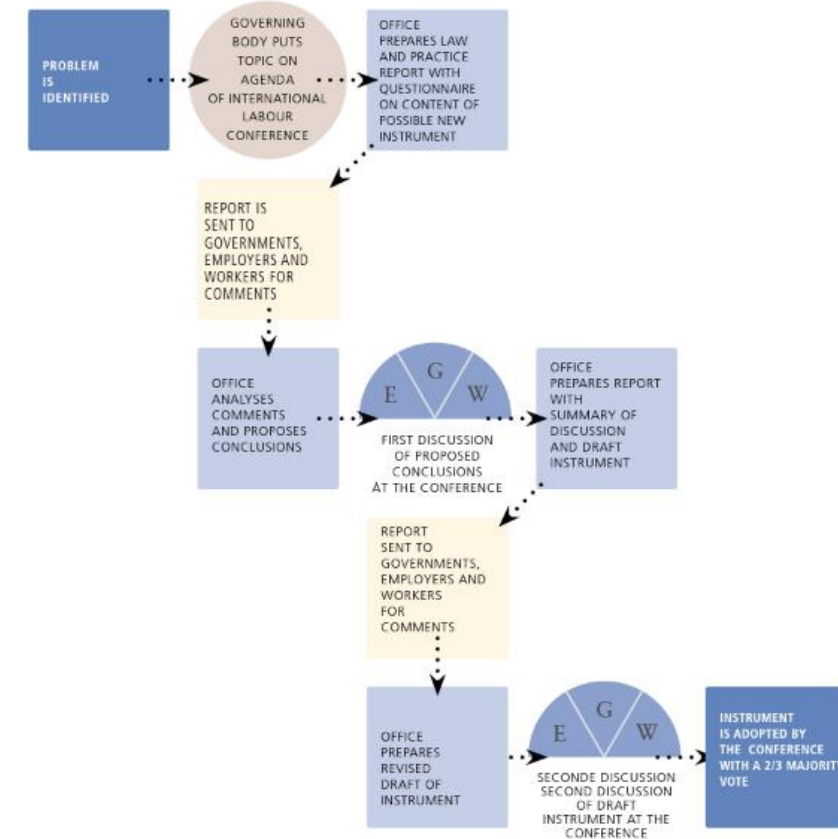
- Conventions (or Protocols) - legally binding international treaties
- Recommendations - non-binding guidelines

### What are *international standards on labour statistics*?

Resolutions and guidelines adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians

- Resolutions - non-binding, technical but general
- Guidelines - non-binding guidelines, more specific topics

Adoption of an international labour standard



## International labour standards on labour statistics

Section of the Convention	Convention No. 63	Convention No. 160
General Provisions	Art 1 Obligation to compile, publish and communicate statistics relating to wages and hours of work	Art 1 Obligation to regularly collect, compile and publish basic labour statistics
		Art 2 Ensures that the Convention remains up-to date by requiring States to take into consideration the latest ILO (including the ICLS) standards and guidelines when designing or revising concepts, definitions and methodologies
		Art 3 Requires States to consult representative employers' and workers' organizations with regard to Article 2
	Art 3 Protection of confidentiality of information	Art 4 Protection of confidentiality of information
		Art 5-6 Obligation to communicate to the ILO published statistics; information on their publication and detailed description of sources, concepts, definitions and methodology.
Labour Statistics	Art 5-12 <b>Average earnings and hours actually worked</b> in mining and manufacturing industries (including building and construction)	Art 7-8 <b>Labour force</b> (economically active population, employment, unemployment and visible underemployment)
	Art 13-21 <b>Time rates of wages and of normal hours of work</b> in mining and manufacturing industries (including building and construction)	Art 9-10 <b>Wages and working time</b> (average earnings and hours of work)
	Art 22 <b>Wages and hours of work</b> in agriculture	Art 11 <b>Labour cost</b>
		Art 12 <b>Consumer price indices</b>
		Art 13 <b>Household income and expenditures</b>
		Art 14 <b>Occupational injuries and diseases</b>
		Art 15 <b>Industrial disputes</b>
Acceptance of obligations	Art 2 Allows ratifying states to <i>exclude</i> from its acceptance of the Convention:  (a) Any one of Parts II, III, or IV; or (b) Parts II and IV; or Parts III and IV.	Art 16 Requires States to <i>accept the obligations</i> of one or more Articles in Part II, and to indicate with which Article(s) of Part II it undertakes to comply. States may progressively accept the obligations of additional Articles from Part II.
		Art 17 Provides for progressive expansion by enabling States to <i>place limits on the scope of the statistics</i> collected pursuant to the Article(s) of Part II which the State accepts.

## ► Proposed abrogation of Convention No. 63

- Since 1988, Convention No. 63 has been closed to further ratifications.
- 2018: the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group considered Convention No. 63 to be *outdated*
  - Recommended the ILC to consider its *abrogation* at its 112th session in 2024

## Standard Review Mechanism and its Tripartite Working Group

- Aim: ensure that international labour standards are clear, robust, up-to-date, and respond to changing patterns of the world of work
- Makes recommendations to the ILO Governing Body on the status of standards
- Instruments determined to be outdated may be proposed for abrogation or withdrawal.
- **Abrogation of ILO Conventions means that these standards are no longer part of the ILO's body of standards and cease to bind any country that has ratified them**

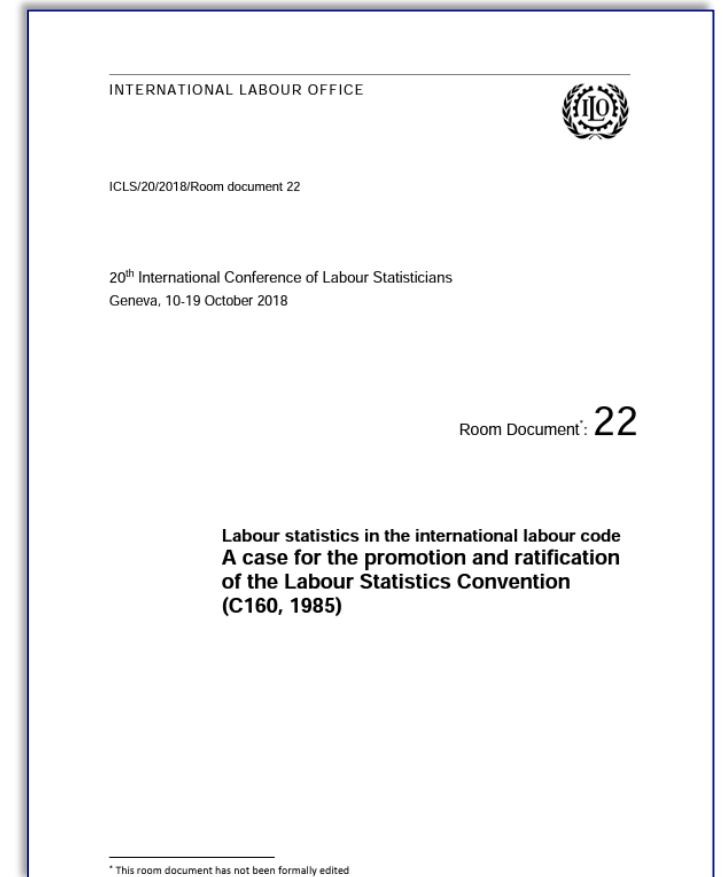
## ► 2018 ICLS - Call for ratification of Convention no. 160

### 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2018)

“Given the benefits of ratification of C160 both for the ratifying country and the ILO, the Office strongly encourages countries not having ratified it to explore the possibility of doing so.”

### Convention No. 160

- Relevant
- Comprehensive
- Flexible
- No too demanding



## ► Ratification of Convention No. 160

- SRM TWG encouraged the Office to actively promote the ratification of Convention No. 160 and provide the necessary technical assistance in this regard.
- In view of the proposed abrogation of **Convention No. 63**, as a priority, the Office is following-up with member States and non-metropolitan territories currently bound by Convention No. 63
  - *'Remedial ratification'* of Convention No. 160 - ratification of the up-to-date Convention related to the outdated Convention proposed for abrogation
- **Convention No. 2 on Unemployment (1919)** - *'remedial ratification'* of Convention No. 160.
  - Article 1 - Each ratifying Member State is bound to communicate all available information, statistical or otherwise, concerning unemployment.



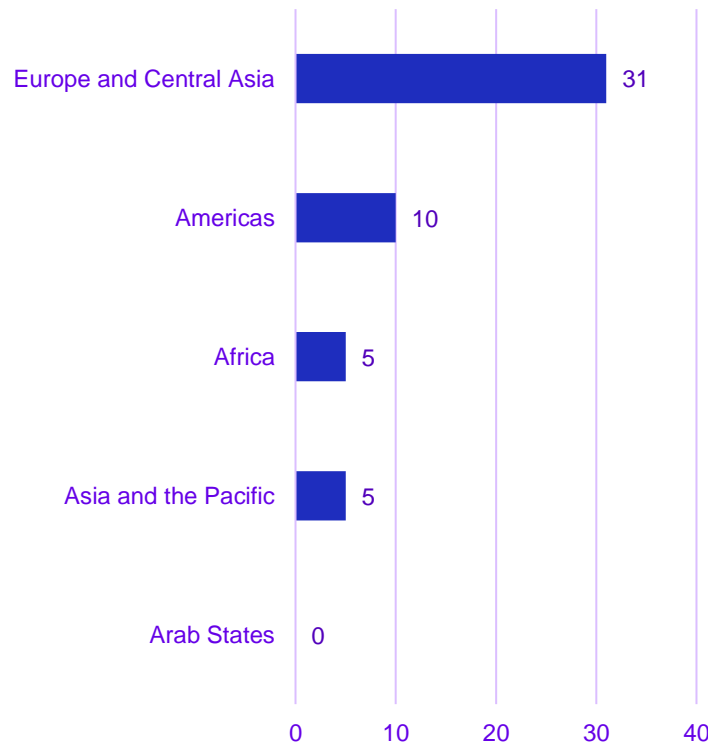
## Ratifying member States

### Convention No. 63 (14 countries)

- ▶ Algeria (1962)
- ▶ Barbados (1967)
- ▶ Chile (1957)
- ▶ Cuba (1954)
- ▶ Djibouti (1978)
- ▶ Egypt (1940)
- ▶ France (1951)
- ▶ Kenya (1964)
- ▶ Myanmar (1961)
- ▶ Nicaragua (1981)
- ▶ South Africa (1939)
- ▶ Syrian Arab Republic (1960)
- ▶ United Republic of Tanzania (1962)
- ▶ Uruguay (1954)

### Convention No. 160 (51 countries)

- ▶ Sierra Leone (2022)



### Convention No. 2 (33 countries concerned)

Argentina	Montenegro
Belgium	Morocco
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Myanmar
Central African Republic	Nicaragua
Chile	North Macedonia
Colombia	Papua New Guinea
Djibouti	Romania
Ecuador	Serbia
Egypt	Seychelles
Estonia	Slovenia
Ethiopia	South Africa
France	Sudan
Guyana	Syrian Arab Republic
Iceland	Türkiye
Japan	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Kenya	
Luxembourg	
Malta	

# Data availability in countries bound by Convention No. 63

## ► C160 and ILOSTAT data availability, selected countries

Country	Data reporting			Data coverage (latest year available in ILOSTAT)								
	ILOSTAT questionnaire responses	Microdata sharing	19th ICLS application	Employment and unemployment <i>Article 7</i>	Labour force by sex and age <i>Article 8</i>	Hours of work <i>Article 9.1</i>	Earnings <i>Article 10</i>	Labour cost <i>Article 11</i>	Consumer price indices <i>Article 12</i>	Household income and expenditures <i>Article 13</i>	Occupational injuries <i>Article 14.1</i>	Strikes and lockouts <i>Article 15</i>
Barbados	Not since 2017	LFS, HS (SLC)	Yes	2019	2019	0	2022	0	2022	2016	2016	2015
Chile	Yearly	HS (CASEN), LFS (ENE)	Yes	2022	2022	2022	2021	2019	2022	0	2018	2020
Cuba	Once in 2011		No	2017	2014	2010	2021	0	2008	0	2010	0
Djibouti	Never	HS (EDAM)	No	2017	2017	2017	2017	0	2022	1996	0	0
Algeria	Not since 2018		No	2017	2017	2017	2022	0	2022	0	2008	2004
Egypt	Not since 2019	LFS, SWTS	No	2021	2021	2021	2022	0	2022	2008	2018	2003
France	Yearly	LFS (EE)	Yes	2022	2022	2022	2023	2022	2022	2021	2020	2021
Kenya	Irregular, latest in 2022	HS (HBS), LFS	Yes	2021	2021	2021	2022	0	2022	2019	1989	1997
Myanmar	No longer requested	LFS	Yes	2020	2020	2020	2022	0	2020	0	2019	2008
Nicaragua	Irregular, latest in 2021	LFS (ECH), HS (EMNV)	No	2014	2014	2014	2014	0	2022	2014	2010	2009
Syrian Arab Republic	Once in 2011		No	2011	2011	2007	2022	0	2013	1997	2005	0
Tanzania, United Republic of	Not since 2014	LFS, NHBS, NPS, SWTS	Yes	2020	2020	2020	2022	0	2022	2014	0	0
Uruguay	Yearly	ECH	Yes	2022	2022	2022	2020	0	2022	0	2018	2021
South Africa	Yearly	LFS	Yes	2022	2022	2022	2022	2020	2022	2010	2016	2020



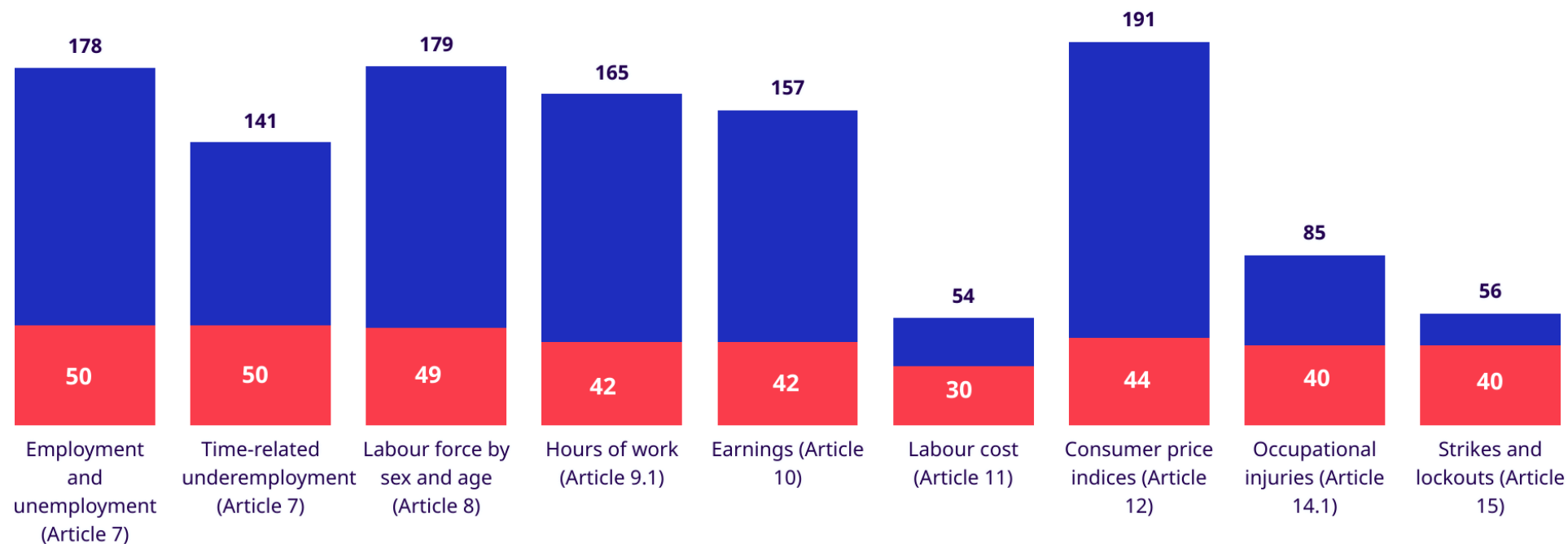
A value of 0 indicates no data.

Source: ILOSTAT

## Data availability under Convention No. 160

### ► C160 ratification and ILOSTAT data

■ Number of ratifying countries having accepted the corresponding article ■ Number of countries for which post-2015 data is available in ILOSTAT



Source: ILOSTAT and NORMLEX

## ► Data availability under Convention No. 160

### Reporting obligation on ratifying member States

- Effective implementation of Articles accepted
- Submitting Article 22 reports to the ILO's Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations every **6 years**
  - Data (and underlying methodology) is considered duly reported if widely available:
    - Online at the NSO's (or other competent national authority's) website
    - Official publications by NSO (or other competent national authority)
    - Submitted to the ILO's Department of Statistics via annual questionnaire or other arrangements
  - No considerable issues noted by the CEACR
  - No country has been examined before the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards

## ► Ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 160

### Convention No. 160 – only binding international labour standard on labour statistics

- Highly relevant and up-to-date and is at the heart of ILO Department of Statistics
- Development tool and not a means of coercion: contribute to the development of solid and comprehensive national system of labour statistics

### Why ratify Convention No. 160?

- Long-term commitment to systematic collection of labour statistics
- Gaining even more importance and relevance in times of **big data**
  - **SDG monitoring efforts** and ILO's ongoing effort to provide indicator framework for **measuring social justice**
  - Data collection related to other ILO Conventions (unemployment, violence and harassment and **OSH**)
- Provides valid grounds for requesting and raising **funding for assistance**

### Process of ratification ILO Conventions

- Close collaboration between ILO, Government and relevant national agencies (NSOs)
- Decision is taken – in most cases – by the parliament (or other legislative body)
- Acceptance of articles need to be communicated together with ratification to the ILO

## ► Ratification and effective implementation of Convention No. 160

### Next steps

- Priority focus – 14 countries bound by Convention 63
  - Meeting to be organized with representatives of countries concerned with participation of ILO officials (NORMES and STATISTICS) to discuss viability of ratification
  - Office will provide technical guidance to the follow-up at the country level with the involvement of NSOs and relevant ministries
- Office will continue to devote efforts to assist ALL countries to ratify and effectively apply Convention No. 160
  - Department of Statistics – continues to contribute to cross-Office collaboration to follow-up the SRM TWG's recommendations
    - Development of internal plans of action
    - Identification of opportunities for ratification
    - Provision of technical oversight of the implementation

## ► Points of reflection

- Participants in the Conference are invited to *express their views* on the **feasibility of ratifying the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160)**, and to *consider and evaluate the urgency of its ratification* in the case of the countries that have ratified the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), in view of the upcoming abrogation of Convention No. 63 in 2024.
- The countries concerned are Algeria, Barbados, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

► **Thank you!**  
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