

National Conference on the Role of Trade Union Youth
in the Ratification of Core Labour Standards in India
18-20 September 2012
New Delhi

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The three-day National Conference on the Role of Trade Union Youth in the Ratification of Core Labour Standards in India confirmed the commitment on role of youth in trade unions across the country, especially in the campaign for the ratification of the ILO Core Conventions, C87 and C98;

The Conference facilitated and increased knowledge and understanding of the trade union youth on the ILO Core Conventions, the role of trade unions in strengthening workers' rights, progress on the ratification of Core Labour Standards in India and on how trade unions have influenced and promoted actions on these unratified conventions;

The Conference also highlighted the various challenges faced by trade union youth such as increasing contractualization of the workforce, deteriorating working conditions, high unemployment and underemployment among youth, exclusion, absence of social security which makes many young workers' unable to benefit from the so-called "economic growth" of India;

It was pointed out that India is a founding member of the ILO, but is still failing in its obligation to ratify ILO Conventions 87 and 98. The fact that granting certain rights to civil servants in India, still being used as a pretext for not ratifying C87 and C98 and hence excluding and denying fundamental rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining to a majority of the workforce, is not acceptable;

The Conference notes that the central trade unions have openly expressed their confidence in the youth and invited the youth cadre and the youth committees of their respective organizations to actively participate in the national campaign on ratification of ILO Core Conventions;

The conference, in line with the 4th September 2012 united platform of central trade union action plan, agrees that to strengthen the Trade union efforts on the ratification of ILO Core Conventions 87 and 98, concerted efforts by the youth cadre/youth committees taking the ratification campaign to every state and districts of the country would be necessary;

The trade union youth believes that the Government taking immediate steps to ratify all unratified Core Labour Standards and ensure its implementation, especially ILO Conventions 87 and 98, will guarantee effective recognition of representative trade unions which is essential for promoting industrial harmony

and the avoidance of labor management conflicts and thereby improve the economic performance of the country;

Based on recent experiences of unions in many states, the Government of India should remove all obstacles that hinder the process of trade union registration and recognition;

This conference believes that the legislators of the country need necessary education and awareness on ILO C87 and C98 to develop political will for ratifying these conventions;

The trade union youth agrees to work with the media to ensure balanced approach in the way industrial disputes are reported;

The young workers of India, coming from the major central trade union organizations, calls upon the Government of India to immediately take steps to ratify Conventions 87 and 98 and ensure its implementation based on its commitments under the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights At Work and the 2008 Social Justice Declaration;

The trade union youth representatives of this conference, appreciate the role of HMS and INTUC together with the other major trade unions (AITUC, BMS and CITU) with the support of ILO/ACTRAV in providing us this great opportunity to come together on a common platform and take this campaign to greater heights.

Adopted on
20 September 2012
New Delhi