



► Importance of the effective respect and implementation of ILO's International Labour Standards (ILS) in the context of the outbreak of COVID

► International labour standards provide a tried-and-trusted foundation for policy responses that focus on a recovery that is sustainable and equitable.

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In situations of crisis, such as the one the world is facing with COVID-19, it is crucial to respect and implement ILS within the framework of the rule of law.

ILS are essential to ensure decent work for all workers at all times. They are particularly relevant in providing protection for workers in most of the areas impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Detailed Information on how ILS are relevant to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak can be found in the ILO publication issued on the 23rd of March 2020, addressing the most frequent asked questions (FAQ) on the current crisis.

Please see: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/publication/wcms_739937.pdf

* See video: https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional-videos/WCMS_740023/lang--en/index.htm

Complementing this work, ACTRAV has prepared more detailed briefs on C 102, R 202, R 205 due to their relevance for worker's organisations. They are a good support in the development of actions to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring that workers' rights are protected and promoted.

The sudden onset of the COVID-19 outbreak has caught the world unprepared. Governments have taken different measures in order to contain the spread of the virus and the collapse of the health care system. The economic and social impacts of these measures are already being felt or will be felt by workers and by enterprises. In some cases, workers are losing their jobs while in others, there are temporary reduction measures of working time or lay-offs or in others they can telework and still get paid. Some workers are receiving sickness or unemployment benefits, while others are left without any protection. Numerous workers still are in very uncertain situations, namely those in the informal economy, migrant workers or platform workers.

In responding to this crisis it is vital to remember that:

- ▶ The rule of law and the respect for ILS, in the framework of social dialogue, need to be the framework for the responses to the crisis
- ▶ Emergency measures should not undermine decent work.

ILS provide guidance in areas directly and indirectly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, which includes:

- ▶ The rule of law and the respect for ILS need to be the framework for the responses to the crisis
 - Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
 - Occupational, safety and health;
 - Working arrangements;
 - Protection of specific categories of workers;
 - Protection against discrimination;
 - Social security;
 - Employment protection;
 - Suspension/termination of employment;
 - Reduction of working time;
 - Wage protection;
 - Teleworking;
 - Rights and obligations of employers and workers during the crisis;
 - The right to removal of the work place in case of danger;
 - Flexibility in cases of crisis with regards to work;
 - Etc.