



International
Labour
Organization

UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

ILO side event

1 December 2014, 2:30 – 4 pm

Palais des Nations, Room XXI

“New ILO standards on the elimination of forced labour – A multi stakeholder approach to address contemporary forms of forced labour and trafficking” organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Background

The ILO estimates that about 21 million people are victims of forced labour worldwide, ninety per cent of whom are exploited in the private economy. Forced labour generates US \$150 billion in illegal profits per year. Most victims receive little or no earnings, and work for long hours in extremely poor and unsafe conditions. Many of the victims are trafficked, across or within international borders.

In June 2014, government, employer and worker representatives from the 185 member States of ILO responded to the urgent need for action, adopting a new legally binding Protocol, supplemented by a Recommendation in order to strengthen the global efforts to eliminate forced labour and human trafficking.

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.

Objectives

The side event will:

- provide insights into the new international instruments on forced labour;
- discuss the linkages between these new instruments and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- highlight the implications for governments and businesses and how stakeholders can put these new standards in practice, including in addressing forced labour and trafficking.

Target audience

- Business
 - Trade unions
 - Governments
 - Intergovernmental and regional organisations
 - National human rights institutions
 - Human Rights Organizations fighting forced labour and trafficking
 - NGOs
 - UN Officials
 - Others.
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Programme

14:30 - 14:40 **Welcome and introductory remarks**

“Protect, Respect and Remedy”: how ILO standards contribute to the implementation of the UN Framework and Guiding Principles”

Corinne Vargha, Branch Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO

14:40 – 14:50

Linking the new Protocol to the B&HR Guiding Principles

Margaret Jungk, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

14:50 – 14:55

The new ILO standards on the elimination of forced labour: a strengthened multi stakeholder approach to address forced labour and trafficking

Beate Andrees, Head of the ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour

14:55-15:05

The new ILO standards on the elimination of forced labour: the role of business

Matthias Thorns, Senior Advisor, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

15:05 - 15:15

The new ILO standards on the elimination of forced labour: the role of workers and their organizations

How can unions help to give a voice to victims and increase their access to remedy

Yves Veyrier, Secrétaire Confédéral cgt Force Ouvrière, France

15:15 – 16:00

Government interventions from the floor, followed by Q&A session

Moderated by Corinne Vargha
