

SRI LANKA (2017)

**THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR**  
*Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention*

<b>REPORTING</b>	<b>Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations</b>	YES.	
	<b>Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government, the social partners were not consulted when preparing the report. However, all consultations in the development and implementation of adopted measures are done through tripartite committee called 'National Labor Advisory Council'.	
<b>OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS</b>	<b>Employers' organizations</b>	No.	
	<b>Workers' organizations</b>	No.	
<b>EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Ratification status</b>	Sri Lanka has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		<b>Ratification intention</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government, the ratification of the Protocol is likely.
	<b>Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The Government indicated that there is a National Strategic Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking, 2015-2019.	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The Government reported that the National Labour Advisory Council is a tripartite body in which employers, employees and government officials come together and discuss on issues related to Labour.	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged to prevent all forms of forced labour</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government, measures taken or envisaged include: a) Promotion of safe and regular migration (Sri Lanka signed 22 memorandum or understandings with countries where mostly there are Sri Lankan migrant workers); b) Education/vocational training (the Government is planning to introduce vocational training for all student who fails ordinary level as well as providing help to young people to find more formal jobs); c) Promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable at-risk workers to join workers' organizations (so far, 36 collective agreements have been signed in 2017. The Government always encourages collective agreements. Plantation sector employees and some engineering related sectors benefit from such efforts); and d) Basic social security guarantees (to help reduce informal labour practices and benefit informal sector employees, the Department of Labour is in the process of recruiting 200 labour inspectorate to increase the coverage of social security).	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The Government reported that the following measures have been taken or envisaged: a) Training of relevant actors for identification of forced labour practices (Labour officers have been trained on identifying child labour practices); b) Appropriate accommodation (a government run shelter for women victims of human trafficking is established and maintained by the Ministry of Woman and child Affairs); c) Specific measures for children; and d) Specific measures for migrants (12 Safe houses for females at	

		Sri Lankans embassies established in 10 countries where Sri Lanka are employed).	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> According to the Government, measures taken or envisaged include: a) Free legal assistance (Legal aid Commission provides free legal consultancy); and b) Capacity building and enhanced resources for the competent authorities, such as labour inspection, law enforcement, prosecution services and judges (Labor officers are provided with computerized inspection system called 'LISA').	
	<b>Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out</b>		
	<b>Cooperation with other Member States, international / regional organizations or NGOs</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The Government stated that it cooperates with international, regional and non-governmental organizations.	
	<b>Promotional activities</b>		
	<b>Special initiatives/Progress</b>		
<b>CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</b>	<b>According to the social partners</b>	<b>Employers' organizations</b>	
		<b>Workers' organizations</b>	
	<b>According to the Government</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The Government identified the following main problems: a) Lack of awareness (especially among the public); b) Lack of information and data (it has been very difficult to take decisions due to lack of data); f) Shortcomings in the legislative framework; h) Challenges linked to the labour recruitment and placement process.	
<b>TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The Government specified that it requires ILO technical assistance in the following areas: <i>Most importantly or importantly:</i> a) Assessment, in cooperation with the ILO, of the obstacles identified and their impact on the realization of the principle; b) Collection and analysis of data and information; c) Guidance on the development of the national policy and plan of action; d) Promotion of fair recruitment and placement practices; e) Vocational training, job-creation and income-generation programmes for at-risk populations; f) Awareness-raising and mobilization activities; g) Capacity building for the competent authorities; h) Inter-institutional coordination; i) Capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations; and j) Promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable at-risk workers to join workers' organizations. <i>Less importantly:</i> a) Promotion of fair migration policies; b) Basic social security guarantees; c) Guidance on supporting due diligence; and d) Strengthening the legal framework.	
	<b>Offer</b>	<b>NIL.</b>	