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Selected highlights of sectoral work carried out in the second part of 2013

Summary: This document provides a short overview of selected highlights of sectoral work carried out between September and December 2013.

Author unit: Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: None.

1. With the assistance of the Office, discussions were held in the Philippines between the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Labour and Employment and trade unions with a view to drafting an action plan as part of the follow-up to earlier work promoting the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151) and, in this context, to setting a goal for the ratification of that Convention by the Philippines for October 2014. Other follow-up to earlier work includes the publication in Spanish and Portuguese of the training workbook “Promoting collective bargaining and dispute resolution in the public service”, as well as the development of a gap analysis for Greece.
2. Following the decision of the UN-Water Senior Programme Managers at the 19th Session of UN-Water (held from 29 to 31 August 2013 in Stockholm, Sweden) to designate the ILO as the lead agency for the 2016 World Water Day campaign, the collaboration between the Organization and the member organizations of UN-Water, the inter-agency coordination mechanism for all matters related to freshwater and sanitation, will be further intensified. The theme chosen for the 2016 World Water Day campaign, “Water and Jobs”, is expected to provide a good opportunity for the Organization to reinforce policy coherence through the work of UN-Water.
3. As part of the follow-up to the 2009 Global Dialogue Forum on the impact of the financial crisis on finance sector workers, a tripartite subregional meeting was held in Santiago (Chile) from 7 to 9 October 2013. At the subregional meeting, participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay examined and identified proactive measures to anticipate and address the impact of the financial crisis on finance sector workers.
4. Through its work in the tourism sector, the ILO also strengthened its links with other UN agencies and programmes. The ILO participated in the ad hoc Expert Group Meeting organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development (SCTD) on ecotourism, poverty reduction and environmental protection. The ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on sustainable tourism took place from 29 to 30 October 2013 and followed up on paragraphs 130–131 of the outcome document¹ of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in June 2012. It is expected that the recommendations that emanated from the meeting will be of value to participating countries aiming to develop eco-tourism potential, including, among others, small-island developing States, as well as other countries with coastal, mountainous, forest, lake or desert tourism attractions or resources.
5. The ILO also participated in and provided inputs into the work of the European Union (EU) sectoral social dialogue committee for hotels, restaurants and catering (HORECA), which is envisaging developing an EU-wide “quality passport” to improve mobility and skills development for hotel and catering workers within the EU.
6. Furthermore, the ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a pre-conference side event at the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, which took place from 10 to 13 November 2013 in Recife, Brazil. At this event, which focused on the security, safety, wellbeing and motivation of health workers in difficult contexts, the new workplace tool “HealthWISE: Work Improvement in Health Services” was introduced. The tool consists of an action manual and a trainers’ guide and aims to enable health workers to take action to improve their work environment. It was developed

¹ “The future we want”, available at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>

by the ILO, in collaboration with WHO, in 2010 and field tested in Senegal, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania in 2011, before being substantially revised in 2012–13.

7. As part of the continuing cooperation between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the ILO, a three-day seminar was held in St. Julian's (Malta) from 17 to 19 September 2013. It addressed environmental and economic issues, gender equality, social dialogue, HIV/AIDS and the world of work, and mainstreaming employment and decent work into postal services in the Mediterranean region, in addition to showing how sustainable development can foster improved performance and innovation in postal services. During the seminar, there were exchanges of good practices on sustainable development and decent work, and discussions on challenges and innovative practices on sustainable development. These allowed the identification of actions to be carried out in the region, within the resources available and taking account of local legislation. The seminar facilitated the preparation and adoption of an action plan on the sustainable development priorities identified, specifying the measures to be taken within a specific timeframe by Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED) members to address priorities related to gender equality, persons with disabilities, social dialogue, occupational safety and health and HIV/AIDS, as well as economic and environmental priorities. The Office organized part of the seminar, which consisted of presentations and subsequent group work on gender equality, persons with disabilities, HIV/AIDS and the workplace, occupational safety and health and social dialogue. The seminar was attended by senior officials from the postal services of a number of EUROMED participants (namely Egypt, France, Jordan, Malta, Morocco and the Occupied Palestinian Territory), as well as participants from the UNI Global Union.
8. In order to promote the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Meeting on Work in Fishing: Increased Knowledge Base and Sharing Good Practices for the Protection of Migrant Workers was held in Makassar, Indonesia, from 12 to 13 September 2013. The meeting's objectives were to present the international standards on work in fishing; to share information on national policy and legislative frameworks among ASEAN member States; and to share experiences and good practices on the protection of migrant fishers. This included discussions on Convention No. 188, and how it might be used to address these issues. The meeting adopted a set of recommendations and conclusions. It was organized by the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia, in cooperation with the ILO and the ILO's ASEAN TRIANGLE Project, with funding from the Government of Canada. Convention No. 188 was also discussed during consultations on changes in law and practice in Thailand to improve conditions in the fishing sector, held in Bangkok from 9 to 10 September 2013.
9. Efforts to promote the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), and Convention No. 188 included participating in an All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) workshop in Beijing (China), which aimed to assist China in its preparations for ratifying the MLC, 2006 (27–28 November 2013), and in a workshop on labour inspection at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin (from 14 to 17 October 2013). The event focused on inspection issues and will contribute to the development of draft guidelines for a meeting of experts to be held during the 2014–15 biennium.
10. In October 2013, the draft of the revised IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (1997 edition) was submitted to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which is expected to adopt the draft at the 76th Session of the Inland Transport Committee (scheduled to take place from 26 to 27 February 2014). Following their adoption by UNECE, the guidelines will be submitted to the 93rd Session of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (May 2014) and subsequently to the Governing Body at its 322nd Session (October–November 2014).

11. In addition to a study on living and working conditions in inland navigation in Europe,² which was presented at the 5th Congress of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) held in Strasbourg, France (3 December 2013), two additional documents on maritime issues were published in December 2013. These include a working paper on the working conditions and the human resources policies of transport companies designed to mainstream gender, the opportunities for success and advancement, and the barriers faced by women who work in the transport sector,³ as well as a policy brief on policies to promote the employment of women in the transport sector by preventing workplace violence.⁴
12. Within the framework of the Decent Work for Food Security⁵ initiative in Malawi, the capacity of agricultural extension workers and labour inspectors was built in order to create a regulatory environment conducive to the promotion of decent work in agriculture (October 2013). The objective of the training was to equip labour inspectors and extension workers with knowledge of core principles of labour inspection Conventions with a view to promoting a compliance-oriented labour inspection strategy that fosters the promotion of decent work in the agricultural sector. Also in Malawi, a draft development plan has been developed to address decent work bottlenecks in soya bean value chains in the districts of Lilongwe and Kasungu. This action plan is based on a participatory value chain analysis and training needs assessment (PVCA–TNA), which entailed a series of workshops for local advocates of the initiative and field visits, which were conducted in October and November 2013. The TNA component identifies training needs both at the stakeholder and beneficiary level. The PVCA includes an assessment of supporting institutions, policies and gaps.
13. To contribute further to the development of social dialogue on decent work in agriculture and related sectors in Malawi, the ILO has also joined two technical working groups under the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp), which is the Government’s main vehicle for strategic policy coordination in the area of agriculture. These are the food security and risk management technical working group and the commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development technical working group. The Decent Work for Food Security strategy for Malawi envisages the establishment of a committee consisting of representatives of the Government, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and producers’ organizations that regularly discusses decent work issues in agriculture and related sectors.
14. In Indonesia, following consultations with the central Government in Jakarta, a two-day workshop on the promotion of decent work in agro-food value chains was held in Kupang from 9 to 10 September 2013. The workshop brought together, among others, the Vice-Governor of Nusa Tenggara Timur province, representatives of BAPPEDA (Provincial Planning Agency), the Department of Agriculture of Nusa Tenggara Timur, the Department of Manpower of Nusa Tenggara Timur, the Association of Employers, trade unions, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The workshop included presentations on various aspects of the agro-food industry in Nusa Tenggara Timur, the role of decent work in value chain development and the Decent Work for Food Security concept, as well as group work aimed at identifying main elements of

² http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_234892/lang--en/index.htm

³ http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_234880/lang--en/index.htm

⁴ http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_234882/lang--en/index.htm

⁵ For further information on the sectoral approach to decent work in the global food supply chain, please see GB.312/POL/7 and GB.312/PV, para. 398.

selected agro-food value chains, key actors, and existing and potential barriers to the further development of these value chains. In December 2013, the ILO began to implement the inception programme for the Decent Work for Food Security programme and sustainable rural development in Nusa Tenggara Timur as a pilot initiative under the Area of Critical Importance of decent work in the rural economy. The main programme will be implemented under the leadership of the Ministry for the Development of Disadvantaged Regions with support from other ministries, and in partnership with FAO.