

DECENT WORK PARTNERSHIPS FOR DECENT WORK

Newsletter



International
Labour
Organization

Key Resources

May 2012, No. 28



Conference agenda

[Conference Guide](#)

Standing Items

Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General

[Report II: Information concerning the programme and budget and other questions*](#)

[Report III\(1A\): Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations](#)

[Report III\(1B\): Giving globalization a human face \(General Survey on the fundamental Conventions\)](#)

[Report III\(2\): Information document on ratifications and standards-related activities](#)

Social protection floor

[Report IV\(1\): Social protection floors for social justice and a fair globalization](#)

[Report IV\(2A\): Social protection floors for social justice and a fair globalization](#)

[Report IV\(2B\): Social protection floors for social justice and a fair globalization](#)

Youth employment

[Report V: The youth employment crisis: Time for action](#)

Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

[Report VI: Fundamental principles and rights at work: From commitment to action](#)

International Labour Conference: 101st Session, June 2012

The agenda of the 2012 Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) comprises the standing item on the application of Conventions and Recommendations, and thematic items on the elaboration of a Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor, the youth employment crisis and fundamental principles and rights at work.

Application of ILO Conventions and Recommendations

The Conference Committee on the Application of Standards provides an opportunity for the representatives of governments, employers and workers to examine the manner in which States fulfil their labour standards obligations, as well as to indicate any measures taken or proposed further to the reports presented. [Report III\(1A\): Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations](#) evaluates the extent to which member States have fulfilled their constitutional obligations in relation to international labour standards. Its second volume [\(1B\): Giving globalization a human face](#) provides a General Survey on the fundamental Conventions. [Report III\(2\): Information on ratifications and standards-related activities](#) summarizes the situation in each Member State.

Country representatives will be invited by the Conference Committee to discuss the expert observations and comments on a case-by-case basis, which will result in Committee conclusions on the case in question. Concerned Member States may be invited to accept technical assistance, submit additional information or address specific concerns in their next report to the Committee of Experts.

Social protection floor

Following the recurrent discussion on social protection at the 2011 Session, the ILO Governing Body placed the “Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor” as a single discussion item on the agenda of the 2012 Session. The Resolution and Conclusions of the 2011 ILC recognized the need for a Recommendation complementing existing ILO social security standards, so as to provide guidance to Member States to build social protection floors within comprehensive social security systems tailored to national circumstances and levels of development. According to [Report IV\(2B\)](#), social protection floors are nationally-defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. Such guarantee should include access to essential healthcare, as well as basic income security for children, for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, and persons of old age. The tripartite discussion in 2011 made it clear that any social protection extension strategy needs to be tailored to national circumstances and priorities, as well as resources. It also usefully identified principles that could guide the implementation of social protection floors, such as universality of protection; entitlement to adequate and predictable benefits prescribed by law; coherence with social, economic and employment policies; progressive realization; fair balance between the interests of contributors and beneficiaries; transparent financial management as well as fiscal and economic sustainability; involvement of representative organizations of employers and workers, as well as consultation with representatives of other organizations or people concerned.

The proposed text of the Recommendation in [Report IV\(2B\)](#) draws on an earlier overview of law and practice concerning the establishment of a social protection floor ([Report IV\(1\)](#)), and takes into account substantive comments from governments, and employers' and workers' organisations in reply to the questionnaire based on the previous overview ([Report IV\(2A\)](#)). If the Conference so decides, the proposed text will be the basis for a discussion on the elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on national floors of social protection.

Youth employment crisis

Another item on the 2012 agenda is the youth employment crisis, which is characterized by multiple dimensions of unprecedented scope: high rates of unemployment, lower quality jobs, rising marginalization of youth and among youth, insecure and slow transitions from school to work, and youth's overall detachment from the labour market. [Report V: The youth employment crisis: Time for action](#), submitted for general discussion, pinpoints critical elements of a response to the crisis. Crucially, the youth dimension of employment policies needs to be embedded in policy-making processes, with clear political commitment and consistent resource and budgetary allocations. While most current employment schemes focus on the jobseekers' side, employment-led growth with quality job creation and access to financing for youth can foster new opportunities and sustainable change.



Active labour market policies have been effective particularly when targeting specific groups, e.g. integrating disadvantaged youth and those detached from the educational and labour market systems. Policies to provide universal education and prevent school drop-outs can prevent child labour and decrease the ranks of disadvantaged youth represented by early school-leavers. Programmes to promote youth entrepreneurship also add to employment opportunities, but macroeconomic reforms are needed to enable access to finance for SMEs. Most young people live in developing countries, so more support is needed for public policies that facilitate the transition to work in the formal segment of the economy for youth engaged in rural and informal economies. Finally, another key ingredient is to ensure minimal social protection, considering that many young people are not entitled to unemployment benefits due to limited contracts and short contributory periods.

Fundamental principles and rights at work

The recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) in follow-up to the [ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](#) and [the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#) will endeavour to adopt a plan of action on FPRW for the period 2012–16. To that end, [Report VI: From commitment to action](#) provides several points to be reviewed and developed. Additional initiatives to give effect to a general commitment to FPRW as a key component of fair globalization may be necessary at both global and national levels. ILO priorities in assisting Member States need to be reasserted, including universal ratification of the eight fundamental Conventions, considering that significant numbers of workers still do not enjoy the protection of some of them. National measures to strengthen realization of FPRW for all should be identified, including the roles of employers' and workers' organizations, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

To increase the impact of ILO action, linkages between FPRW and other strategic objectives and between the four categories of FPRW should be identified. Forming a comprehensive strategy will involve defining ILO priorities regarding standards promotion, technical cooperation, knowledge sharing, and a research agenda on FPRW. In addition, recognizing that there are many FPRW initiatives outside the ILO, reflection is needed on whether the ILO should be more systematically involved in such initiatives and how its various means of action could be best used.

Delegates will be able to register and collect their badges at the **ILO Pavilion**, at the entry to the International Labour Office (headquarters building), provided that the Office has received their credentials. The registration desk will be open on **Monday 28** and **Tuesday, 29 May, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, and as from **Wednesday, 30 May** daily from **8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.**, and on Saturdays as necessary, but will be closed on Sundays.

During the Conference all participants must be in possession of a personalized badge issued by the ILO, and of an appropriate identity document containing a photograph, to gain access to the Palais des Nations complex. Badges must be worn visibly at all times.

To unsubscribe from the list, [click here](#)

♦♦♦♦

[Copyright and Permissions](#) 1996-2012
International Labour Organization (ILO) - [Disclaimer](#)

Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department
International Labour Office
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 799 7604
exrel@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/pardev