

UZBEKISTAN (2017)
THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR
Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention

REPORTING	Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations	YES.	
	Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process	2017 AR: YES. According to the Government, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (CCIU) and the Council of the Federation of Trades Unions (CFTU) have been consulted and they provided relevant information for the Government's report.	
OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS	Employers' organizations	2017 AR: Observations by CCIU.	
	Workers' organizations	2017 AR: Observations by CFTU.	
EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	Ratification	Ratification status	Uzbekistan has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		Ratification intention	
	Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour	2017 AR: The Government indicated that there is a national policy and plan of action to prevent all forms of forced labour and combat trafficking in persons.	
	Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action	<p>2017 AR: The Government reported that on 27 May 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved the Complex of additional measures for the 2014-2016 implementation of the ILO Conventions ratified by the Republic of Uzbekistan, including on prohibiting forced and compulsory labour and preventing the worst forms of child labour. The Complex of additional measures provides for measures in five key spheres: i) to improve the national legislation in line with the ratified ILO conventions (including No. 29 and No. 105 on forced labour); ii) to fulfil the ratified ILO conventions relating to forced and child labour; iii) to develop and implement programmes for co-operation with the ILO; iv) to expand the capacities of the ILO's social partners in the Republic of Uzbekistan; and v) to carry out awareness-raising work on implementation of the ratified ILO conventions ILO (including No. 29 and No. 105 on forced labour). The bodies responsible for implementation, co-ordination and assessment of these measures are the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry for Agriculture and the Water Economy, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Education, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Statistics Committee, the Council of the Federation of Trades Unions, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and others.</p> <p>The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-911 dated 8 July 2008 confirms the National Plan of Action for combating human trafficking for 2008-2010, including the following measures: i) improving the legislative and regulatory framework for combating human trafficking, including by amending and supplementing the Criminal Code in connection with adoption of the Law "On Combating Human Trafficking"; ii) introducing preventive measures and informing the public by identifying and putting a stop to activities of legal entities and</p>	

		<p>individuals acting as human trafficking agents, adopting measures in relation to foreign citizens engaged in recruiting and exporting (trafficking in) people for sexual or other exploitation, providing awareness-raising, advisory and legal assistance to citizens going abroad to find work, for health, rest and other purposes; iii) protecting and rehabilitating victims, including through projects for preventing and combating human trafficking and protecting the rights of victims of human trafficking crimes; iv) improving the measures for combating human trafficking by providing for regular exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, co-operation with Interpol, strengthening of border control over potential victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>The Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan passed special Decree No. PS-231-Sh on 4 October 2017 "On reinforcing measures to guarantee the labour rights of citizens in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and international labour standards". The Decree: 1) notes that the Constitution and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan guarantee citizens' labour rights, prohibiting child and forced labour; 2) recognises the need to reinforce parliamentary and public control over application of the rules of the legislation and international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan guaranteeing the labour rights of citizens, including preventing and prohibiting possible risks of child and forced labour materialising in any form; 3) sets up a Parliamentary Commission for guaranteeing the labour rights of citizens, charged with undertaking comprehensive measures to organise unconditional observance of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan guaranteeing the labour rights of citizens, including preventing and prohibiting use of child and forced labour, as well as the measures envisaged by the Country Programme for Decent Work in Uzbekistan, prolonged for 2017-2020.; 4) recommends non-governmental, not-for-profit organisations and other civil society institutions to conduct a far-reaching awareness-raising campaign among the population and to introduce public feedback mechanisms, in conjunction with effective social impact measures in relation to those who violate the labour legislation and submission to the competent bodies of proposals on holding them liable; 5) charges the Prosecutor General's Office with exercising strict oversight over observance of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan guaranteeing citizens' labour rights, including preventing and prohibiting use of child and forced labour; and 6) approves a Complex of Measures guaranteeing citizens' labour rights in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and international labour standards, including: a) developing proposals for implementing international labour standards and rules in the national legislation; b) regularly considering effective measures taken by heads of government and commercial management bodies and local government authorities with respect to observance of the labour-related legislation and international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan; c) ministries, departments and other organisations developing a complex of measures to preclude the risks of child and forced labour in their spheres of competence; d) providing the ILO with updated information about ratified conventions, including No. 29 and No. 105 on forced labour; e) reinforcing the social partnership mechanisms between government bodies and civil society institutions in preventing violations of workers' rights on recruitment, including for seasonal work; and f) keeping international organisations informed about measures the country takes to prevent and prohibit forced labour, etc.</p>
	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to prevent all forms of forced labour</p>	<p>2017 AR: According to the Government, measures taken or envisaged include: a) Awareness-raising work on implementation of the ratified ILO conventions; b) Improvement of the national legislation in line with the ratified ILO conventions; c) fulfillment of the ratified ILO conventions on forced and child labour; d)</p>

		Collaboration, development and implementation of co-operation programmes with the ILO; and e) Reinforcing the capacity social partners.	
	Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour	2017 AR: The Government indicated that the following measures have been taken or envisaged: a) a) Training of relevant actors for identification of forced labour practices; b) Legal protection of victims; c) Material assistance for victims; d) Medical and psychological assistance for victims; and e) Measures for the rehabilitation and social and professional reintegration of victims.	
	Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies	2017 AR: According to the Government, the measures include: a) Information and counselling for victims regarding their rights; b) Free legal assistance; c) Cost-free proceedings; d) Development of forced labour indicators; e) Access to remedies and compensation (the national legislation provides all human trafficking victims with access to justice and remedies); f) Capacity building and enhanced resources for the competent authorities, such as labour inspection, law enforcement, prosecution services and judges; g) Provision for authorities not to prosecute victims for acts which they have been compelled to commit; and h) Provision of penalties such as the confiscation of assets and criminal liability of legal persons.	
	Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out		
	Cooperation with other Member States, international / regional organizations or NGOs	2017 AR: The Government stated that it cooperates with various international, regional and non-governmental organisations. Co-operation with the ILO and the World Bank is conducted within the scope of the 2017-2020 Country Programme for Decent Work in Uzbekistan. Co-operation with non-governmental organisations is conducted in accordance with Decree No. 132 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 27 May 2014, which recommends the Council of the Federation of Trades Unions of Uzbekistan, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Farmers' Council of Uzbekistan, together with interested ministries and departments, to take part in monitoring and control over observance by organisations of the rules and requirements of the ratified ILO conventions and in conducting awareness-raising work among commercial entities about application of the labour rules, occupational safety and prevention of forced and child labour.	
	Promotional activities		
	Special initiatives/Progress		
CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	According to the social partners	Employers' organizations	
		Workers' organizations	
	According to the Government	2017 AR: According to the Government, the main obstacles in relation to forced labour are: a) Social and economic circumstances (low socio-economic development level in certain rural areas); b) Lack of resources in the institutional framework (lack of funds for creating and increasing the number of jobs in industry, construction and the services sphere in certain rural areas); c) Challenges linked to the labour recruitment and placement process (analysis required of matters associated with recruitment of manpower in agriculture in connection with the increase in mechanization); d) Challenges linked to migration policies (organised dispatch of Uzbek citizens to work abroad should be increased in scale).	

TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS	Request	<p>2017 AR: The Government indicated that it requires ILO technical assistance in the following areas:</p> <p>i) <i>More importantly:</i> a) Assessment, in cooperation with the ILO, of the obstacles identified and their impact on the realization of the principle; b) Awareness-raising and mobilization activities; c) Guidance on the development of the national policy and plan of action; d) Strengthening the legal framework; e) Capacity building for the competent authorities; f) Promotion of fair recruitment and placement practices; g) Promotion of fair migration policies; h) Vocational training, job-creation and income-generation programmes for at-risk populations; i) Capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations; and j) Exchange of experiences between countries or regions; international cooperation.</p> <p>ii) <i>Less importantly:</i> a) Collection and analysis of data and information; b) Inter-institutional coordination; c) Basic social security guarantee; and d) Guidance on supporting due diligence.</p>
	Offer	NIL.