

108th Session, Geneva, June 2019

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**Committee on the Application of Standards**

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*Following the decisions made during the informal tripartite consultations on the working methods of the CAS in March 2019, governments appearing on the preliminary list of individual cases have now the opportunity, if they so wish, to supply on a purely voluntary basis, written information before the opening of the session of the Conference.*

## **Information on the application of ratified Conventions supplied by governments on the preliminary list of individual cases**

### **Egypt**

#### **Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)**

**Egypt** (ratification: 1957). The Government has provided the following written information: With reference to your letter attached with the preliminary list of individual cases to be discussed at the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labor Conference, which includes the case of Egypt in its application of Convention of Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise No. 87.

I have the honor to inform you of the actions taken by the Government of Egypt to address the comments made by the Committee of Experts, especially after the adoption of the new trade unions law and the holding of trade unions elections.

**First:** With regard to reducing the minimum of workers required for the formation of trade union organizations, and the abolition of penalties for imprisonment, we have submitted thus comments to the Supreme Council for Social Dialogue, which approved to amend the law and transmitted to the Council of Ministers, on May 22, 2019. The Council of Ministers approved a draft law amending certain provisions of the Trade Unions Law and referred it to the parliament. The amendments include the following:

- a- Reducing the number of workers required to form a trade union committee to 50 instead of 150, reducing the number of union committees required to form a general union to 10 committees instead of 15, and reducing the number of general unions required to form federation into 7 unions instead of 10 general unions, the number of workers required to form General Union was reduced to 15 thousand instead of 20 thousand, and the number of workers required to form a federation was reduced to 150 thousand instead of 200 thousand. It should be noted that the labor force in Egypt is more than thirty million, these numbers represent no difficulties in practice.

- b- The abolition of penalties of imprisonment contained in the law, where the new law includes some of the penalties for imprisonment, which was amended by the government to include only fines.

**Second:** The Committee of Experts points out the importance of taking equal opportunities for all trade union organizations in the new law and application, especially in the light of the long-term of previous law in which the system was imposed trade union monopoly.

- The government affirms that the law guarantee equal treatment to all trade union organizations, equating all of them with reconciliation processes, and granting them equal legal status in all the rights, duties, immunities and privileges necessary to carry out their trade union activities.
- In practice, the government guarantee equal treatment for all trade union organizations. While the old unions are the most representative of workers, modern unions have been granted membership in the Supreme Council for Social Dialogue, and the Ministry of Manpower invites them to attend all events and activities of workers, and to attend meetings of forming national plans in the field of labour, and attend labour-related celebrations such as the celebration of Labor Day, holidays and national events, and provide the necessary technical support as required by them.
- The government gives trade union organizations which not affiliated with the Egyptian trade union federation (ETUF) special attention to the aim of spreading the culture of freedom of association and reassuring all workers that the government deals with all workers organizations as equal and extends trust between union organizations and government.
- Modern trade union organizations participate in the official Egyptian delegation participating in the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labor Conference.

**Third:** With regard to the communications received by the Committee from some workers organizations regarding the deprivation of the practice of trade union activities, and facing pressure to join the (ETUF)... and other allegations, the government confirms that these allegations are not specific and have no evidence, and the government has invited such organizations to provide more details about their concerns, so that the ministry can examine and solve them and already some of them did so and the Ministry solved their problems, but many of them did not submit anything until now and the Ministry continues to reiterate its invitation to them.

- The Egyptian Ministry of Manpower has invited the ILO Cairo Office to send a representative of the Office to attend the ministry's meetings with workers organizations and provide the necessary technical support for them.
- Finally, please be informed that there is an independent committee formed by the Ministry of Manpower to examine any complaint submitted by trade union organizations or workers wishing to establish trade union organizations, the Ministry welcomes any comments or communications received, and is fully prepared to examine them in the presence of representatives of the ILO Cairo Office. The Ministry also welcomes the continuation of dialogue and technical cooperation between us to achieve the best results.