

Promoting the application of ILO Fundamental Conventions under the framework of EU – Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement



International
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PROJECT AT A GLANCE

The project supports the effective implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the EU- Viet Nam free trade agreement (EVFTA), contributing to sustainable global trade with social justice. It is part of the global project “Trade for Decent Work” supporting a number of target countries, including Viet Nam.

Main target groups

Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs;
Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour;
Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
National Assembly;

Country

Viet Nam

Donor

The European Union

Project timeline

January 2019 – December 2019



PROJECT CONTEXT

By transforming its economy during the last decades, Viet Nam gained middle income country status and became a major actor in global supply chains. In more recent years, Viet Nam has been active in pursuing global integration agenda, through negotiation and conclusion of various free trade agreements, including EVFTA, of which Viet Nam and the EU are working together for eventual ratification.

As part of the new generation of FTAs, EVFTA has important provisions to safeguard labour rights and environment in its Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapter whereby the EU and Viet Nam reaffirm their commitment to obligations deriving from the ILO membership and the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. They are to respect, promote and effectively implement the principles concerning freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced or compulsory labour, the abolition of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, as pointed out in the ILO’s eight fundamental conventions.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal 8 (promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all) through improved labour relations and working conditions globally.

Its specific objective is to promote the application of ILO fundamental Conventions under the framework of EVFTA. It is expected that Viet Nam will ratify Convention 87 (on freedom of association), Convention 98 (on collective bargaining) and Convention 105 (on forced labour); and the implementation gap in respect of the already ratified core conventions will be reduced.

PROJECT OUTCOME/MAIN ACTIVITIES

The project has three intermediate outcomes:

- The capacity of ILO constituents (Government, employers and workers' organizations) is enhanced to implement the TSD Chapter of EVFTA and related international labour standards. The key targets are: to have the stakeholders' plan of action on implementation of EVFTA's TSD Chapter validated by December 2019; to submit the dossier for ratification of Convention 98 for final appraisal by end of 2019; to submit the dossier for ratification of Convention 105 for endorsement within 2020; and to develop the dossier for ratification of Convention 87 in 2021;
- The monitoring and reporting of evidence-based policies is strengthened for further improvement of national trade and sustainable development;
- Awareness and knowledge on the ILO fundamental principles and rights at work under EVFTA of the Government, employers and workers' organizations and other stakeholders is increased.

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