

Outcome 18: International labour standards are ratified and applied.

Indicators	2014-15 targets	2014-15 results					
		Total No.	Africa	Americas	Arab States	Asia- Pacific	Europe Central-Asia
Indicator 18.1: Number of Member States that, with ILO support, take action to apply international labour standards, in particular in response to issues raised by the supervisory bodies.	40 member States	36	Comoros Egypt Ghana Lesotho Mali Morocco United Republic of Tanzania Zimbabwe	Brazil Chile Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Dominican Republic El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Mexico Panama Paraguay Peru	Iraq Jordan	Bangladesh Fiji Kiribati Myanmar Philippines Solomon Islands Sri Lanka Thailand	Bosnia and Herzegovina Georgia Uzbekistan Russian Federation Turkey
Indicator 18.2: Number of Member States where, through ILO support, the principles and rights contained in international labour standards are incorporated in development assistance frameworks or other major initiatives.	5 member States	3			Jordan	Cambodia	Turkey
Indicator 18.3: Number of Member States that, with ILO support, improve ratification of up to date Conventions to include at least the instruments classified as core labour standards, as well as those regarded as most significant from the viewpoint of governance.	20 member States	1				Maldives	
Indicator 18.4: Number of Member States that have a Decent Work Country Programme which includes a normative component among the national	16 member States	17	Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Ethiopia Lesotho Madagascar Namibia Seychelles	Paraguay		India Indonesia Pakistan Sri Lanka Tuvalu	Moldova

priorities established by the tripartite constituents.			South Africa Zambia				
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In 2014-2015, the Office’s strategy for Outcome 18 focused on protecting workers from unacceptable forms of work and work performed in conditions that endanger their lives and health; and extending and strengthening the application of international labour standards, particularly to workers in the informal and rural economies and those in other vulnerable categories, including migrant and domestic workers and indigenous and tribal peoples. Delivery was ensured by combining an institutional component with the strategic use of country-level technical assistance.

At the institutional level, steps were taken to ensure that the body of standards is up to date, relevant and responsive to the world of work. In March 2015, the Governing Body established a tripartite working group under the standards review mechanism and adopted its terms of reference in November 2015. In addition, the Office has continued to provide support to the ILO supervisory bodies through its regular and special procedures and the Committee on Freedom of Association received significantly more representations under article 24 of the ILO Constitution.

The Office continued to support the ratification and implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) and to provide advice and information on issues related to its implementation through a dedicated email address and webpage. In April 2014, at its first meeting, the Special Tripartite Committee established under the MLC, 2006 adopted amendments to the Code of the Convention, which were subsequently approved by the International Labour Conference at its 103rd Session.

To ensure optimal impact, the institutional component of the strategy was complemented by the strategic use of technical assistance at the country level. Standards-related technical assistance, guided by comments of the ILO supervisory bodies, was provided to certain countries and implemented according to predetermined criteria. In particular, positive results were achieved through a time-bound programme of activities on international labour standards, financed through the Special Programme Account (SPA), which harmonized the Office’s technical assistance relating to international labour standards. In 2014, under the SPA, intensive technical assistance helped over 40 countries to ratify and/or implement international labour standards and strengthened the capacity of ministries of labour to fulfil their constitutional obligations, including the preparation of reports on the application of ratified Conventions. Activities were carried out in cooperation with the ILO International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) in Turin and, where relevant, with the work done in Areas of Critical Importance 8, on protecting workers from unacceptable forms of work; 5, on decent work in the rural economy; and 6, on formalization of the informal economy.

How the strategy helped to address gender equality and non-discrimination

Support for constituents was delivered through a variety of means. Comprehensive tripartite consultations were held on the standards policy with the aim of resolving issues arising from the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference and of implementing the Governing Body's decision on the standards initiative at its 323rd Session in March 2015.

Widespread capacity building for constituents on reporting obligations under the Conventions increased the quality of the information received by the supervisory mechanisms. Training was provided on, among other topics, freedom of association and collective bargaining, child labour, forced labour, discrimination, occupational safety and health and the rights of domestic workers and indigenous peoples.

The Office also provided technical advice to assist member States in the ratification of standards. With ILO assistance, Mexico adopted amendments to its Constitution that raised the minimum age of employment from 14 to 15 while awareness-raising for the social partners led to the country's ratification of Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) in June 2015. ILO advocacy campaigns and technical assistance also led to ratification of the MLC, 2006 in the Maldives and the Seychelles in 2014.

How the strategy contributed to addressing gender equality and non-discrimination

Particular attention was paid to application of the key standards on equality of opportunity and treatment, particularly in follow up to the comments made Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) and the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards. In 2014, a direct contact mission to Saudi Arabia and a high-level mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran were conducted in the context of application of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).

Advisory services were also provided to the tripartite constituents in relation to other instruments, such as gap analyses concerning the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183) (in Senegal); training for workers' organizations on the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) (in South Africa); advisory services on legislative reforms concerning sexual and workplace harassment (in Bolivia); and awareness raising and capacity building for labour judges and prosecutors on equality of opportunity in employment and occupation with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS (in Brazil).

Significant external partnerships that have helped in delivering the strategy

The Office continued to strengthen its external partnerships for the promotion of international labour standards throughout the United Nations (UN) system. It Office implemented activities in cooperation with various UN human rights bodies, particularly the Human Rights Council, and regularly submitted reports to the relevant UN treaty bodies. It remained active in the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG–HRM), which was transformed into the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) in January 2015.

In addition, a collaboration with the European Commission Directorate-General for Trade, initiated in 2015 to promote application of the fundamental Conventions in some beneficiaries of the European Union's Generalised System of Preferences Plus (GSP+) (El Salvador, Guatemala, Mongolia and Pakistan) based on issues raised by the supervisory mechanisms, provided important leverage for their application.

Significant outputs	
Knowledge generation and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of an online reporting system. After a trial period in 2012-2013, this new facility was made available to all member States for the 2014 reporting exercise. The 21 countries that chose to use it, all submitted all of the required reports. In 2015, additional member States asked to join the system.
Upstream policy advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripartite consultations on the Standards Review Mechanism and its Tripartite Working Group In October 2015, tripartite consultations were held at the global level in order to prepare the terms of reference for the Standards Review Mechanism, the cornerstone of the standards policy.
Capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014 (through support from the Special Programme Account), intensive technical assistance targeting over 40 countries helped them to ratify and implement the international labour standards and strengthened their capacity to fulfil their constitutional obligations, including the preparation of reports on the application of ratified Conventions. Over 78 activities, including gap analyses and comments on draft labour laws, were carried out. The success of this initiative was noted by the CEACR. NORMES – ITC-ILO programme. A significant programme of training on the international labour standards was carried out in collaboration with the ITC-ILO. In particular, the Maritime Labour Academy instituted a programme of specialized courses aimed at strengthening the capacity of governments, shipowners and seafarers to implement the MLC, 2006.
Strategic normative support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules of the Game: A brief introduction to International Labour Standards. The third (revised) edition was published in 2014. Its purpose is to integrate recently-adopted instruments, taking into account the entry into force of the MLC, 2006, and to put into perspective the key role that international labour standards can play in the context of the ongoing employment crisis. Guide to International Labour Standards (2014). Published in collaboration with the ITC-ILO, the Guide provides summaries of the Conventions and Recommendations by subject matter. Handbook: Guidance on implementing the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 - Model National Provisions. The second edition, with modifications, was published in 2014. The Handbook contains model legal provisions for implementing the MLC, 2006 and is intended to be used by national legislators and legislative counsel in drafting implementing legislation for the Convention. Compendium of International Labour Conventions and Recommendations (2015). The Compendium is a compilation of ILO Conventions that have not been revised, replaced or considered obsolete and indicates their current status. Compendium of Maritime Labour Instruments (2015). The second (revised) edition contains three Conventions relating to the maritime sector and several documents concerning their implementation. Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006): Frequently Asked Questions (2015). The fourth (revised) edition is intended to help those engaged in the study or application of the MLC, 2006 to find answers to their questions about this innovative Convention.