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Man storing raw cotton after the harvest, Uzbekistan, 2018 (© ILO/J. Astrup)

The ILO third party monitoring of the Uzbekistan's cotton harvest showed that the government's reform process led to a significant decrease in the number of identified cases of forced labour.

## ▶ 1. Introduction

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Forced labour is a severe violation of human rights affecting 25 million men, women and children in all countries and all economic sectors (ILO, Walk Free Foundation, 2017). It is rooted in poverty, discrimination and lack of social protection, and it disrupts fair competition between businesses.

In 2014, governments, workers' and employers' organizations adopted the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention No. 29, 1930 (hereafter "the Forced Labour Protocol") and the associated Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203) (hereafter "Recommendation No. 203").<sup>1</sup> The Protocol calls upon governments to take effective measures to prevent forced labour, protect victims and ensure their access to justice. In particular, the Protocol requires countries to formulate and implement National Action Plans (NAPs). This toolkit aims to support countries to develop NAPs that are tailored to their national context.

NAPs are useful and powerful policy tools that can bring together all relevant stakeholders and foster collective action around a common objective, such as the eradication of forced labour and achieving SDG Target 8.7.<sup>2</sup> A NAP will help a country turn forced labour policy into practice by:

- ▶ providing a framework for coherent joint action;
- ▶ building national commitment;
- ▶ setting clear, specific targets to guide action; and
- ▶ strengthening partnerships for increased synergies and positive outcomes.

The toolkit addresses the **process of NAP development, governance, implementation and evaluation**, and also **strategies to end forced labour**. It provides guidance to those involved in NAP development, implementation and monitoring, including representatives from governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholder groups. The toolkit may also be useful for organizations who support national partners in developing and implementing NAPs.

## Methodology

The toolkit builds on the ILO's expertise and national experiences.<sup>3</sup> A number of existing NAPs, either on forced labour or on related issues, such as child labour or human trafficking, were reviewed to produce this document. All the NAPs that appear in the text or that were analysed to develop this Toolkit can be found in Annex 2.

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1- The Forced Labour Protocol and the Recommendation No. 203 were both adopted in June 2014. While the Protocol is a binding treaty that requires ratification to enter into force, the Recommendation provides supplementary non-binding practical guidance to give effect to the measures requested by the Protocol.

2- Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is "to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms".

3- See for example the Tool kit for development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on Child Labour (ILO, 2017b) or the Guide for the preparation of National Action Plans on Youth Employment (ILO, 2008).

## How to use the toolkit

The toolkit consists of:

- ▶ A Guidance Manual.
- ▶ A number of specific tools.

Users may choose to use any part of the toolkit that is relevant to their needs but it is recommended to start by reading this Guidance Manual. The Manual describes the overall NAP development process and provides useful background information, guidance and lessons to consider at the different stages of the process, from defining the scope and the strategy, to the implementation and evaluation of the NAP. The different sections of the Guidance Manual include references to relevant excerpts from the Forced Labour Protocol and Recommendation No. 203, but also to the accompanying tools.

The 16 specific tools are highlighted throughout the Manual with this logo: . The tools vary in purpose, from providing more in-depth details on a particular topic, to providing templates and checklists that can be adapted to support users in the NAP development and implementation process. **Tool No. 2** in particular can be used as a reference throughout all sections of this Guidance Manual as it presents the definition of forced labour and related concepts.



In addition to the tools, readers will find a glossary of key concepts related to the NAP development and implementation processes in Annex 1. The terms included in the glossary are highlighted in the text by this logo: . The full text of the Forced Labour Protocol and the Recommendation No. 203 are provided in Annexes 3 and 4.



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Domestic worker, Costa Rica, 2010 (© ILO/G. Bolanos and F. Vindas).

With ILO support, Costa Rica adopted a Roadmap to free the country from child labour and its worst forms (including forced labour).

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## Useful links

50forfreedom: <http://50forfreedom.org/>

The 50 for Freedom campaign is led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its partners, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Organization of Employers (IOE), and is supported by more than 35 organizations, artists and human rights activists. Its aim is to reach 50 ratifications of the 2014 ILO Forced Labour Protocol and promote its implementation. It also aims to raise awareness, share innovative practices and enhance action to combat all forms of forced labour.

Alliance 8.7: [www.alliance87.org/](http://www.alliance87.org/)

Launched in 2016, the Alliance 8.7 is a global partnership that is bringing together all interested parties to join forces in achieving SDG Target 8.7 aiming at a world without forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. In 2020, the Alliance has so far gathered 17 pathfinder countries and 225 partner organizations.

Global Business Network on Forced Labour: <https://flbusiness.network/>

The ILO's Global Business Network on Forced Labour brings together businesses of all sizes and sectors, and their networks, from around the globe to eradicate forced labour. Its members and partners work to engage smaller enterprises, develop resources and tools, and devise local solutions that help shape national frameworks to create lasting change.