



18 December 2018

## ILO centenary ratification campaign

As you are aware, the International Labour Organization will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019. This provides our Organization with a unique opportunity to celebrate our achievements over the past century and to renew our commitment to advancing social justice through decent work as we address the economic and social challenges of our time. In this context the ILO will be conducting a campaign for the ratification and implementation of international labour standards in the lead up to and during its centenary year.

Written one hundred years ago, the Preamble to our Constitution observes that “*the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries*”. These very insights inspired the ILO to make the setting and supervision of international labour standards the central instrument of its pursuit of social justice. International labour standards are key as we work together today to fulfill the commitment to “*sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*” outlined in the 2030 Development Agenda.

At its 106th session (2017) the International Labour Conference adopted a resolution related to Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work which provides that: “*As the ILO approaches its centenary and twentieth anniversary of the 1998 Declaration, it should actively and as a matter of urgency: **step up action through development cooperation and other means to campaign for the universal ratification of the eight fundamental Conventions**, taking into account the low rates of ratification of Conventions Nos 87 and 98, by its centenary in 2019, and the attainment of the target of 50 ratifications of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, by 2018.*”

In this light, I am writing to encourage your Government, in consultation with your social partners, to consider ratifying at least one Convention during the centenary year, with due attention to the fundamental, governance and up-to-date technical conventions. This would be a particularly fitting commitment by member States to the objectives of the ILO and recognition of the importance of international labour standards to the pursuit of social justice through decent work.

The ILO stands ready to provide its constituents with technical support for their ratification efforts and the effective application of ILO standards. I look forward to working together with you for a productive outcome to the ILO Centenary ratification campaign.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Guy Ryder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G" and "R".

Guy Ryder  
Director-General