

Governing Body 341st Session, Geneva, March 2021
Institutional Section
Workers' Group Comments
DOCUMENT FOR BALLOT BY CORRESPONDENCE

**Review of annual reports under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles
and Rights at Work**

GB/341/INS/5(Rev.2)

The Workers group welcomes this year's review of the annual reports under the ILO Declaration on FPRW and its follow up.

We note with concern that the reporting rate has decreased by 31% for the period under review in comparison with 2018 and urge the Office to redouble its efforts to improve the reporting rate and to provide technical assistance on the new online reporting system. The Workers Group urges the Governments to submit their reports of the follow up to the ILO Declaration on FPRW and to overcome obstacles for the ratification of these fundamental instruments.

The Workers' Group also notes that this year again, some member states provided reports under the P29 but did not provide updated information on the other fundamental conventions. We reiterate the importance of providing information on all core conventions. In particular, it is of major concern that the reporting rate for C87 and C98 has decreased respectively by 16 % and 3%.

We welcome the universal ratification of C182 in last August, as well as the 22 new ratifications of the Protocol on Forced Labour (between 15 January 2019 and 31 January 2021). We welcome that after this reporting period, on March 17th, Sudan ratified the protocol allowing to meet the initial target set by the 50 for Freedom campaign. This is very encouraging and shows that with the necessary support and resources from the Office, ratification campaign can yield significant results.

The Workers' Group also welcomes the 9 new ratifications of fundamental conventions referred to in para 2^[1], but notes with concerns that apart from the Protocol 29 on Forced Labour, a further 114 ratifications covering 41 member States are still required before the goal of universal ratification of all fundamental Conventions is attained.

We welcome the indications from Member States that are taking steps towards the ratification of C87 and/or C98. However, we regret that there was no new ratification of C87 and only one ratification of C98 registered. It is of great concern that Conventions 87 and 98 remain the least ratified of the fundamental conventions, despite being enabling rights. This situation should be urgently addressed.

We recall that in three subsequent years the ILC called for the universal ratification and implementation of the fundamental principles and rights and work, namely the conclusions of the Recurrent discussion on FPRW in 2017, the Recurrent discussion on Social Dialogue in 2018 and the Centenary Declaration in 2019. This commitment should be taken seriously and translated into ratification.

The Workers' Group strongly requests those Member States which have not yet ratified C.87 and C.98, in particular those which have indicated that ratification was unlikely or did not report on their intentions, to

^[1] Myanmar (Convention No. 138), Viet Nam (Conventions Nos 98 and 105), Vanuatu (Convention No. 138), Eritrea, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu (Convention No. 182))

respect their renewed commitment under the ILO Centenary Declaration. We also call upon the Office to intensify its support and technical assistance for the ratification of these conventions in order to realize as soon as possible, the goal of universal ratification.

With these comments, we support the decision point.