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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

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**CONTRIBUTION BY THE
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International Labour Office

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of the ILO is to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. As such, the organisation has four strategic objectives:

a) *Promotion and realization of standards and fundamental principles and rights at work:* through the normative function of promoting and applying all its global standards, and, in particular, freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced labour and child labour as well as of discrimination in employment.

b) *Creation of greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and incomes:* through the mainstreaming of employment issues in economic and social policies to support labour market policies that ensure decent work and skills development.

c) *Enhancement of the coverage and effectiveness of social protection policies:* through greater labour protection in the form of improved gender equality, occupational safety and health, better conditions of work, and improved social security coverage.

d) *Strengthened tripartism and social dialogue:* through increased capacity of social partner organisations and strengthened institutional mechanisms for social dialogue, including in the context of regional economic integration.

In addition, the ILO conducts policy-oriented *research*, contributes to the development of the global *knowledge base* and responds to requests for technical *advisory services*.

As the international organisation with a mandate for labour issues, the ILO has accorded great importance to international labour migration since its inception. The ILO considers migrant workers as workers, who move for employment to countries other than their own during parts of their economically active lives. As such, the rights of migrants as workers, employment, social protection and participation in social dialogue, as described above, are of particular concern to the ILO and its tripartite constituents. Naturally, the improvement of labour markets, working conditions, skills, occupational health and safety as well as non-discrimination and the portability of social security entitlements are among its key priorities.

ILO's work on labour migration consists of several basic components, which generally relate

the Resolution and Conclusions on a Fair Deal for Migrant Workers at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference in 2004.

PROMOTION AND REALIZATION OF STANDARDS AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
AND RIGHTS AT WORK

In general, action of the ILO with respect to labour migration is guided by and based on the norms set out in its international labour standards, including the conventions, which are binding on the States that ratify them. All international standards apply to migrant workers unless otherwise specified. Moreover, as specified by the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the provisions of the eight fundamental ILO Conventions apply, without distinction, to all migrant workers regardless of their legal status.

The ILO has a comprehensive set of international labour standards coupled with a unique supervisory mechanism, including scrutiny by independent experts. Several ILO standards are of particular relevance to migrant workers. Conventions No.97 on Migration for Employment (Revised), 1949 and Convention No.143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions), 1975 contain important principles relating to the protection of migrant workers. Both Conventions cover issues concerning the whole migratory process including emigration, immigration and transit and apply to persons who migrate from one country to another with a view to being employed otherwise than on their own account. In addition, migrant workers also benefit from the protection of other ILO standards. The high number of ratifications of the eight ILO fundamental Conventions ensures protection of their rights in the areas of freedom of association and collective bargaining, freedom from forced labour, the abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in employment. Other relevant ILO standards, especially in the areas of labour inspection, wages, employment policy, private recruitment agencies, social security and occupational safety and health, are also applicable to migrant workers.

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) meets annually to review regular reports submitted by member states on the application

deal with the situation, and activities are also underway in Mekong Delta and in Africa under large-scale projects. Trafficking of both children and adults is a growing phenomenon, and it is largely for economic exploitation - indeed, more for this purpose than for sexual exploitation.

Work on the follow-up to the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work looks at the linkage between forced labour, child labour, irregular migration and trafficking. The ILO established the Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) in 2001 to spearhead ILO activities against forced labour, including trafficking. It is a broad-based technical cooperation programme working in close collaboration with workers and employers, civil society and other international organisations. SAP-FL aims to address all aspects of forced labour, from the lack of good jobs in the communities where many of the victims of trafficking originate to support for now-freed workers. The SAP-FL approach involves five thematic elements designed to improve efforts to combat forced labour and trafficking : better understanding of the problem; heightened global awareness; stronger legal and policy frameworks; stronger institutional structures; and special projects to help workers in forced labour and trafficking situations. Some ongoing initiatives have been undertaken through project implementation in various countries and regions, including South-East Asia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Europe and West Africa.

The ILO views child trafficking as one of the worst forms of child labour. Poverty, political conflicts, natural disasters, the inability to access schools, gender discrimination, poorly enforced laws as well as the demand for services provided by cheap migrant labour are among the key factors that increase a child's vulnerability to be trafficked. Through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), the ILO has developed a number of regional programmes to combat child trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia, Central and South America and in Europe. These are guided by the legal framework provided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two principal ILO Conventions: Convention 138 (1973) on the minimum age for admission to employment and Convention No. 182 (1999) on the worst forms of child labour. IPEC activities usually include the mapping of the problem, the development of regional strategies, awareness-raising activities, capacity-building measures and support to stakeholders in the development of rehabilitation or reintegration programmes.

CREATION OF GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN TO SECURE DECENT

workforce required by international standards. This will improve the employability and competitiveness of migrants. Other measures that have proven successful are permanent advisory structures between migrant receiving and sending countries, including the involvement of international labour recruitment agencies that will advise on the types of occupations and skills standards which are in demand. Finally, the programme encourages the development of a code of practice for international labour recruitment agencies.

In the 2006-07 biennium, ILO's Skills Department will tackle issues related to the migration of skilled labour such as brain drain and skills shortage, and continue the promotion of the ILO Human Resources Development Recommendation, 2004 (No. 195). In the Asian-Pacific region, SKILLS is involved with the implementation of the regional Strategic Framework for Skills Development, which has recognized migration as one of the principal areas to be addressed.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE COVERAGE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL
PROTECTION POLICIES

policies. Moreover, in its work, the ILO actively collaborates with other relevant international organisations and it is a founding member of the Geneva Migration Group.

IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE THROUGH RESEARCH, TECHNICAL COOPERATION
AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Through its International Migration Programme, the ILO conducts advisory services and policy-oriented research that cover wide-ranging issues such as the impact of globalization on labour migration, the effect of skilled migration on sending countries, the assessment of emigration pressures, patterns of labour market discrimination against migrant workers, gender issues or the productive use of remittances. The unit also established the *International Labour Migration Database*, which is coordinated with EUROSTAT and UNSD and promotes the improvement of statistical data collection systems. Recently, the Programme has been implementing an increasing number of donor-funded technical cooperation projects in Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and other individual countries. They generally focus on building the capacity of ILO stakeholders to develop comprehensive labour migration policies and to enhance policy measures to combat discrimination. Activities have also supported selected countries to implement programmes in support of potential victims of trafficking, to improve labour inspection procedures, to set up national tripartite forums on labour migration and to develop action plans. Furthermore, ILO continues to conduct tests on labour market discrimination in a number of major migrant-receiving countries.

Through its Bureau of Statistics ILO is developing a series of migration-related questions in a module for attachment to pre-existing household surveys on labour force. The module will be tested in six countries from different regions of the world. Working “intensively” with a limited number of countries, this project evaluates migration items currently collected, develops questions to add to surveys, pre-tests these questions, evaluates pre-tests, and shares these results with other countries involved in this project. The goal is to create questions on labour trafficking, with different (ind)

led to a joint activity with the Singapore Management University, which reviews China's and India's efforts to reverse brain drain.

The work of ILO's ILS examined temporary foreign worker schemes that were launched from the early 1990s onwards and compared them to guest worker programmes of the 1960s.

- Identification of relevant action to be taken for a wider application of international labour standards and other relevant instruments;
- Support for implementation of the ILO Global Employment Agenda at national level;
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