



International Labour Organization



SDG NOTE

A QUICK GLANCE

ON INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

In 2015 world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a rights-based roadmap for coordinated global action to tackle the challenges facing humanity, including those in the world of work. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda aiming at making inclusive and sustainable development a reality is strongly enshrined in it.

"With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we have a once-in-a generation chance to make a change and improve the lives of billions. The Agenda places Decent Work for all at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. Through its work to promote decent jobs and social justice for all, the ILO's mandate cuts across all of the Sustainable Development Goals. We can realize the vision of sustainable development of this transformative agenda by 2030 if we all come together in a global partnership of governments, business and trade unions, as well as multilateral organizations, civil society and ordinary people. Each and every one of us has a role to play, to ensure no one is left behind."

ILO Director General Guy RYDER

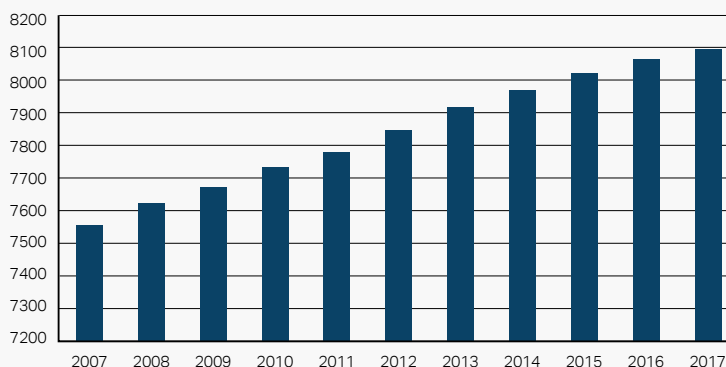


See [Decent Work and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Goal: Implementing the international labour standards to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all

As set forth by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Constitution, in order to achieve the objectives set in its Preamble for "adopting humane conditions of labour", a system of International Labour Standards (ILS) is developed, consisting of conventions, recommendations, declarations and resolutions. They set out the basic principles and rights at work that frame the ILO's policy work and advice. Their implementation provides both guidance on action to assist and the essential legal framework towards achieving progress in

Total number of ratifications registered since 1919



Source: ILO, NORMLEX home (<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:1>)

promoting rights at work, creating decent jobs, improving working conditions, extending social protection and supporting sustainable enterprises.

Today, the ILS have grown into a comprehensive system of instruments on work and social policy, backed by an elaborate supervisory system, and are the legal component of the ILO's



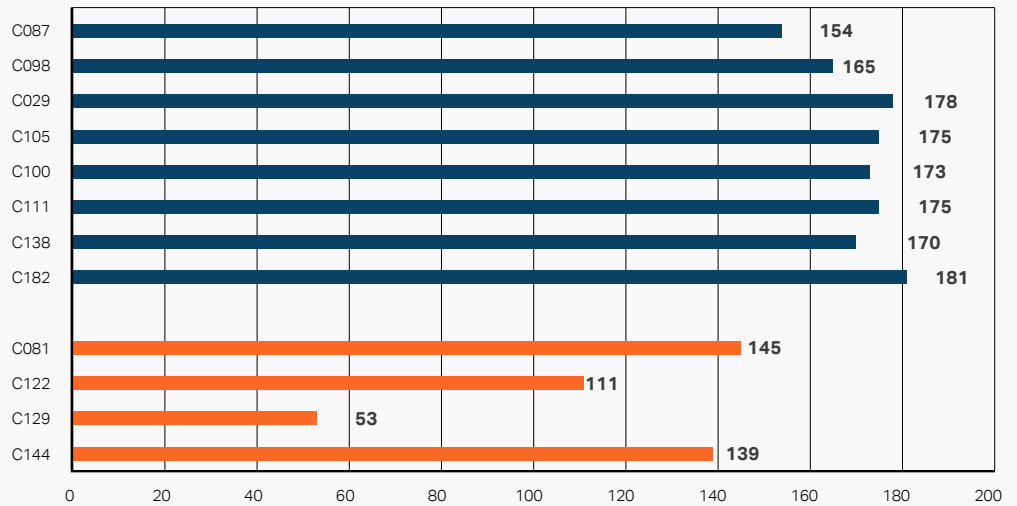


strategy for governing globalization, promoting sustainable rights-based development and eradicating poverty. The objective of the work of the supervisory bodies is to provide guidance towards full application of ratified Conventions through dialogue oriented to finding solutions that improve the lives of working peoples. The tripartite nature of the discussions leading to ILS provides a sound basis for the provision of advice or the promotion of policies in support of the international agenda, including the 2030 Agenda.

ILS implementation sustains the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all, which in turn, is a means and an end for the achievement of sustainable development, based on respect for rights at work, including the labour related human rights.

ILS are first and foremost about the development of people as human beings. They ensure that the economic development remains focused on improving human life and dignity, laying down the basic minimum social standards agreed upon by all players in the global economy. Application of ILS at country level, among others, ensures protection for workers and employers, contributes to formalizing the economy and warrants access to justice in case of violation of the rights at work. Ratification and implementation of ILS contribute to the achievement of all SDGs that are related to the strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda, given the latter's foundation in standards.

Fundamental and Governance Conventions



Source: ILO, *NORMLEX home* (<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:1>)

In order to sustain the promotion of decent work for inclusive and sustainable development, the ILS need to be robust and respond to the constantly changing patterns of the world of work, for the purpose of the protection of workers and to take into account the needs of sustainable enterprises. The ILO's Standards Initiative is intended to better equip the ILO to carry forward its mandate for social justice into its second century. It is comprised of two components: enhancing the relevance of international labour standards through a Standards Review Mechanism, and consolidating tripartite consensus on an authoritative supervisory system.

ILO's action within the UN system to promote ILS

All the ILO initiatives and partnerships with other UN agencies and stakeholders aiming to mainstream and achieve components of the Decent Work Agenda, contribute to the promotion and implementation of ILS, as they form the normative framework of the Agenda.

To this effect, the ILO will continue its cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other development agencies, financial institutions and other organizations, on matters relating to the realization of human and labour rights, including the labour related human rights, and the relevant SDGs targets.




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