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## International Labour Standards for Lawyers and Advocates

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Suva (Fiji)



[www.itcilo.org](http://www.itcilo.org)

# International Labour Standards for Lawyers and Advocates

## Background and rationale

International labour standards (ILS) adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) are important tools for the development of national legislation. However, the contribution of international labour law is not limited to its impact on labour legislation. ILS can also contribute to strengthening domestic case law on labour matters.

International labour law is a valuable resource for domestic judges and lawyers seeking to settle labour disputes. Together with the comments and analysis of the relevant supervisory bodies, ILS offer a matchless source of interpretation and inspiration for judges and lawyers in ILO member States. Several examples show that domestic courts are hesitating less and less to draw not only on international labour Conventions and Recommendations but also on the work of the ILO's supervisory bodies to interpret and complement their domestic law.

The International Training Centre of the ILO in collaboration with the ILO International Labour Standards Department and the ILO Country Office for Pacific Island Countries is offering a two day training course for Fiji lawyers and advocates of representative organisations of employers' and workers on the use of international labour law in legal practice and representational work.

## Objectives

### General objective

The main objective of the course is to enhance the knowledge and skills of legal practitioners and advocates from representative organisations of employers and workers to use international labour law at a national level.

### Specific objectives

At the end of this training, participants will:

- have an increased knowledge of the instruments and supervisory machinery of the ILS system;
- be able to determine when and how Fiji lawyers and advocates can use international labour law to solve labour disputes;
- be able to identify and make use of ILS in key areas such as freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, and non-discrimination in employment and occupation;
- be able to use ILO and ITC-ILO databases on ILS and case law relying on ILS.

## Participants' profile

The course is intended for labour lawyers as well as advocates who represent the interests of employers' or workers' organizations.

## Structure and content

The course will cover the following:

- the domestic labour law context in Fiji;

- general presentation of the ILS system: main characteristics of ILO standards; the ILS procedures from international drafting to national application;
- when and how domestic judges and lawyers can use international labour law;
- the work of the ILO's supervisory bodies and its relevance to domestic judges and lawyers;
- the content of ILS on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining;
- the content of ILS on equality in employment and occupation;
- ILO and ITC-ILO databases on ILS and on case-law relying on ILS.

## Language

English will be used during the course.

## Methodology and materials

The materials used during the course include a training manual and a compendium of court decisions from numerous jurisdictions around the world, which have relied on ILS.

Participants will engage in a preliminary dialogue with the course organizers online. They will receive some recommended readings, which will prepare them to the training.

## Resource persons

The course will be taught by experts from the ITC-ILO and the ILO. The lecturers will

include a member of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, one of the main ILO bodies supervising the application of ILS by member States.

## Follow up

As a follow up to the course participants will join an on-line Community of Practice. For more information, please see: [www.itcilo.org/ils-for-judges-lawyers-legal-educators](http://www.itcilo.org/ils-for-judges-lawyers-legal-educators).

## Applications

The deadline for submission of candidatures is **24 February 2016**.

Candidates must submit through the website the online application form duly filled in, available at: <http://intranetp.itcilo.org/MIN/A359319/en>

Applications from employers' organizations and workers' organizations will have be endorsed by the Secretaries of the Employers' Group and of the Workers' Group of the Governing Body of the ILO.

*As an Organization dedicated to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, the ILO is taking a leading role in international efforts to foster gender equality. In line with this ILO focus, women are particularly encouraged to apply to ITC-ILO courses.*