



ONLINE

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS (ILS) AND PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE WORKERS IN THE AGRICULTURE AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

7 – 9 JULY 2026

 3 DAYS

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre

BACKGROUND

Unacceptable forms of work are “work in conditions that deny fundamental principles and rights at work, put at risk the lives, health, freedom, human dignity, and security of workers or keep households in conditions of extreme poverty”. As such, they are the opposite of decent work. Based on international labour standards, they are identified based on twelve dimensions and a series of indicators that should be contextualized to national circumstances, as for example, workers in forced labour, risk to health and well-being; inadequate or insecure payment; excessive weekly hours; inadequate social protection, etc.

When analysing the root causes that lead to vulnerability to labour exploitation and unacceptable forms of work, poverty and indebtedness, discrimination and informality operate together to limit the options for survival and a sustainable livelihood. Vulnerability leads to accepting insecure, unprotected and often dangerous jobs in the informal economy. Furthermore, the absence of efficient protection from States including gaps in statutory legislation, enforcement and access to justice, and the presence of unscrupulous business actors and lack of business awareness, price-cost and delivery pressures are all factors giving rise to labour exploitation.

Agriculture workers regularly face high levels of working poverty, food insecurity, poor health and safety conditions, and lack of labour and social protection.

The Construction sector is characterised by a large share of informal workers (94 percent) and of employers in the informal sector (81 percent) and labour conditions vary widely throughout the world and evidence indicates the presence of exploitation in the sector. Moreover, the construction sector is characterized by complex supply chains and subcontracting, making monitoring and verifying compliance challenging.

Despite progress during the past two decades, the situation has slowed down in recent years, pointing to the need for renewed efforts to ensure that all workers around the world are able to secure decent living conditions for themselves and their families.

Against this framework, comprehensive approaches, based on International Labour Standards and informed by workers grievances, and on long-term partnership across sectors for the adoption of public governance measures regulating business conduct are required for the elimination of labour exploitation. These comprehensive approaches should focus on five priority areas: (i) addressing socio-economic vulnerability; (ii) reducing migrants' vulnerability; (iii) promoting fair recruitment, (iv) promoting decent work; and (v) addressing gaps in legislation, enforcement and access to justice.

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE?

Representatives from: Ministry of Labour, Sectoral Departments in Public Administrations, Social partners, Labour Inspectorates, Judges, legal practitioners and civil society organisations (CSOs).

OBJECTIVE AND CONTENTS OF THE EVENT

Drawing on International Labour Standards (ILS) and the key findings from recent sectoral analysis, frameworks for action at global and national level, and relevant case law, the international event aims at providing participants with up-to-date knowledge on main challenges in a constant changing world of work and related decent work deficits in the two sectors. International experts will facilitate a policy dialogue on how to address unacceptable forms of work and labour exploitation in agriculture and construction sectors, safeguarding workers' rights and promoting decent work conditions.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM THE EVENT?

The three-day knowledge-sharing event offers a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges brought about by labour exploitation in the agriculture and construction sectors and to analyse the priority areas for which existing policy instruments need to be revised. Focus will be on International Labour Standards (ILS), their relevance for adequate national regulatory and policy frameworks, and enforcement mechanisms. In addition, this event provides a comprehensive overview of existing legal frameworks to protect workers and mitigate their vulnerability to abuse, and to provide access to remedies. Within this framework, policy options and good practices to facilitate and incentivize responsible business conduct will be also discussed.

WHAT TOPICS DOES THIS EVENT COVER?

Participants will have the opportunity to update knowledge, take stock and share experiences on the following topics:

- Overview of International labour standards, global perspectives, and national legal frameworks to prevent and to tackle unacceptable forms of work and labour exploitation in agriculture and construction sectors.
- Progress achieved and main challenges in national policies to promote decent working conditions: national case studies at sectoral level.
- Analysis of case law developments from different geographic contexts.
- Emerging new strategies to raising awareness on fair business conduct and fair recruitment.
- The role of partnerships to tackle unacceptable forms of work and labour exploitation, including the ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice.
- Identification of additional areas of priority actions including labour inspection.

HOW IS THE EVENT ORGANIZED?

The programme is designed to engage participants in immersive debate based on interactive and participatory approaches. During three live webinars, participants will be actively involved in thematic review, peer – to – peer learning, discussions in plenary sessions and in working groups.

The online knowledge-sharing event includes the access to the knowledge platform: eCampus Towards decent work in the digital economy. The platform ensures participants have access to:

- Virtual library (a repository of ILO legal instruments, reports and analysis; studies conducted by other UN Agencies, universities and social partners).
- Access to Continuing Legal Education on ILS– Module 1.
- Collection of case studies and practices.
- Case law repository.

WHO ARE THE RESOURCE PERSONS?

The online discussion will offer a well-structured update on technical issues and an interactive platform facilitated by international experts from the ILO, other UN Agencies, EU, and Academic institutions worldwide.

WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT?

The course is offered in **English**.

HOW MUCH DOES THE EVENT COST?

The tuition fee for the course is **525 Euros**.

Please apply directly at the following link: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9719208/en>

ARE THERE ANY FELLOWSHIPS?

A limited number of fellowships are available to qualified candidates coming from eligible countries.

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 ITCILO courses.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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