

## Chapter II

## International Labour Organization (ILO)

In 2002, the International Labour Organization (ILO) continued to promote social justice and economic stability and improve labour conditions. ILO's strategic objectives were to promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work; create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income; enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection; and strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

In 2002, ILO membership remained at 175.

### Meetings

The International Labour Conference (ILC), at its ninetieth session (Geneva, 3-20 June), adopted new standards: a Recommendation on the Promotion of Cooperatives in all countries, replacing Recommendation 127 (1966), which was limited to developing countries [YUN 1966, p. 977]; a new Protocol to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention No. 155, 1981 [YUN 1981, p. 1396]; and a Recommendation updating the List of Occupational Diseases.

The Director-General submitted to the Conference a global report on a future without child labour, as follow-up to the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work [YUN 1998, p. 1375]. On 12 June, ILO launched the first "World Day against Child Labour". In a report on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories, the Director-General stated that the deteriorating economic and social situation there had given rise to a widespread humanitarian crisis.

Sectoral and other meetings convened in Geneva during 2002 included: Tripartite Meeting on Civil Aviation: Social and Safety Consequences of the Crisis Subsequent to 11 September 2001 (21-25 January); Fourth Meeting of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (16-18 February); Tripartite Meeting on the Promotion of Good Industrial Relations in Oil and Gas Production and Oil Refining (25 February-1 March); Tripartite Meeting on Employment, Employability and Equal Opportunities in the Postal and Telecommunications Services (13-17 May); Tripartite Meeting on Lifelong Learning in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Industries (23-27 September); Tripartite Meeting on the Evolution of Employ-

ment, Working Time and Training in the Mining Industry (7-11 October); High-level Tripartite Working Group on Maritime Labour Standards (14-18 October); and Joint Meeting on Social Dialogue in the Health Services: Institutions, Capacity and Effectiveness (21-25 October). The fifteenth Regional Meeting of the Americas was held in Lima, Peru, from 10 to 15 December.

### International standards

During 2002, ILO activities with regard to Conventions and Recommendations included standard-setting (see above) and the supervision and promotion of the application of standards. Supervisory bodies reviewed existing procedures and standard-setting policy, withdrawing outdated Recommendations.

### Employment and development

ILO continued in 2002 to help constituents combat unemployment and poverty through the creation of employment opportunities and improvement of existing jobs. It provided advice and guidance on employment and labour market policies and on their labour market information and statistical systems. Activities to promote employment included support to constituents to develop entrepreneurship through the creation of cooperatives and small and micro-enterprises.

Regarding human resources development, ILO emphasized the need for the adaptation of training policy and delivery to the rapidly changing skill requirements and special needs of vulnerable groups. It also responded to the needs of countries affected by conflict.

### Field activities

In 2002, expenditure on extrabudgetary technical cooperation programmes totalled \$107.5 million. The leading fields of activity were the standards and fundamental principles and rights at work sector with 40.3 per cent (\$43.3 million), followed by the employment sector with 33.5 per cent (\$36 million), social dialogue with 10.6 per cent (\$11.4 million) and the social protection sector with 9.2 per cent (\$9.9 million).

In terms of regional distribution, Asia and the Pacific accounted for 23.2 per cent (\$25 million), Africa for 22.5 per cent (\$24.2 million), Latin

America and the Caribbean for 16.4 per cent (\$17.7 million), Europe for 6.5 per cent (\$7 million) and the Arab States for 1.8 per cent (\$1.9 million). Interregional and global activities accounted for the greatest share at 29.6 per cent (\$31.8 million).

### **Educational activities**

The Turin Centre and the International Institute for Labour Studies, both autonomous institutions within ILO, reported to the ILO Governing Body. The Centre continued to carry out training and related activities in a wide range of technical areas as an integral part of ILO technical cooperation activities. The Institute continued to carry out research, encouraged networking related to emerging labour policy issues, and acted as a catalyst for future ILO programme development. The Institute analysed the relation-

ships between social exclusion, labour institutions and poverty, and explored the changing global organization of production and its social implications at the local level.

### **Secretariat**

As at 31 December 2002, ILO employed a total of 2,362 full-time staff, of whom 1,014 were in the Professional and higher categories and 1,348 were in the General Service category.

### **Budget**

ILC, in 2001, had adopted a budget of \$473 million for the 2002-2003 biennium.

NOTE: For further information on ILO, see *Report of the Director-General—ILO programme implementation, 2002-2003*.

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ILO maintained regional offices in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; Bangkok, Thailand; Geneva, Switzerland; and Lima, Peru.