

No. 7237

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Convention (No. 117) concerning basic aims and standards of social policy, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its forty-sixth session, Geneva, 22 June 1962

Official texts : English and French.

Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 4 May 1964.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Convention (n° 117) concernant les objectifs et les normes de base de la politique sociale, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa quarante-sixième session, Genève, 22 juin 1962

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 4 mai 1964.

No. 7237. CONVENTION (No. 117)¹ CONCERNING BASIC AIMS AND STANDARDS OF SOCIAL POLICY, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION, GENEVA, 22 JUNE 1962

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Forty-sixth Session on 6 June 1962, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals concerning the revision of the Social Policy (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947,² which is the tenth item on the agenda of the Session, primarily with a view to making its continued application and ratification possible for independent States, and

Considering that these proposals must take the form of an international Convention, and

Considering that economic development must serve as a basis for social progress, and

Considering that every effort should be made, on an international, regional or national basis, to secure financial and technical assistance safeguarding the interests of the population, and

Considering that, in appropriate cases, international, regional or national action should be taken with a view to establishing conditions of trade which would encourage production at a high level of efficiency and make possible the maintenance of a reasonable standard of living, and

Considering that all possible steps should be taken by appropriate international, regional and national measures to promote improvement in such fields as public health, housing, nutrition, education, the welfare of children, the status of women, conditions of employment, the remuneration of wage earners

¹ In accordance with article 18 (2), the Convention came into force on 23 April 1964, twelve months after the date on which the ratification of two members of the International Labour Organisation had been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office. Thereafter, the Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered.

The ratifications of the following States were registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated :

Jordan	7 March 1963	Israel	15 January 1964
Kuwait	23 April 1963		

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 218, p. 345, and Vol. 325, p. 346.

and independent producers, the protection of migrant workers, social security, standards of public services and general production, and

Considering that all possible steps should be taken effectively to interest and associate the population in the framing and execution of measures of social progress,

adopts this twenty-second day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two the following Convention, which may be cited as the Social Policy (Basic Aims and Standards) Convention, 1962 :

PART I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

1. All policies shall be primarily directed to the well-being and development of the population and to the promotion of its desire for social progress.

2. All policies of more general application shall be formulated with due regard to their effect upon the well-being of the population.

PART II. IMPROVEMENT OF STANDARDS OF LIVING

Article 2

The improvement of standards of living shall be regarded as the principal objective in the planning of economic development.

Article 3

1. All practicable measures shall be taken in the planning of economic development to harmonise such development with the healthy evolution of the communities concerned.

2. In particular, efforts shall be made to avoid the disruption of family life and of traditional social units, especially by—

- (a) close study of the causes and effects of migratory movements and appropriate action where necessary;
- (b) the promotion of town and village planning in areas where economic needs result in the concentration of population;
- (c) the prevention and elimination of congestion in urban areas;
- (d) the improvement of living conditions in rural areas and the establishment of suitable industries in rural areas where adequate manpower is available.

Article 4

The measures to be considered by the competent authorities for the promotion of productive capacity and the improvement of standards of living of agricultural producers shall include—

- (a) the elimination to the fullest practicable extent of the causes of chronic indebtedness;
- (b) the control of the alienation of agricultural land to non-agriculturalists so as to ensure that such alienation takes place only when it is in the best interests of the country;
- (c) the control, by the enforcement of adequate laws or regulations, of the ownership and use of land and resources to ensure that they are used, with due regard to customary rights, in the best interests of the inhabitants of the country;
- (d) the supervision of tenancy arrangements and of working conditions with a view to securing for tenants and labourers the highest practicable standards of living and an equitable share in any advantages which may result from improvements in productivity or in price levels;
- (e) the reduction of production and distribution costs by all practicable means and in particular by forming, encouraging and assisting producers' and consumers' co-operatives.

Article 5

1. Measures shall be taken to secure for independent producers and wage earners conditions which will give them scope to improve living standards by their own efforts and will ensure the maintenance of minimum standards of living as ascertained by means of official inquiries into living conditions, conducted after consultation with the representative organisations of employers and workers.

2. In ascertaining the minimum standards of living, account shall be taken of such essential family needs of the workers as food and its nutritive value, housing, clothing, medical care and education.

PART III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MIGRANT WORKERS*Article 6*

Where the circumstances under which workers are employed involve their living away from their homes, the terms and conditions of their employment shall take account of their normal family needs.

Article 7

Where the labour resources of one area are used on a temporary basis for the benefit of another area, measures shall be taken to encourage the transfer of part of the workers' wages and savings from the area of labour utilisation to the area of labour supply.

Article 8

1. Where the labour resources of a country are used in an area under a different administration, the competent authorities of the countries concerned shall, whenever necessary or desirable, enter into agreements for the purpose of regulating matters of common concern arising in connection with the application of the provisions of this Convention.

2. Such agreements shall provide that the worker shall enjoy protection and advantages not less than those enjoyed by workers resident in the area of labour utilisation.

3. Such agreements shall provide for facilities for enabling the worker to transfer part of his wages and savings to his home.

Article 9

Where workers and their families move from low-cost to higher-cost areas, account shall be taken of the increased cost of living resulting from the change.

PART IV. REMUNERATION OF WORKERS AND RELATED QUESTIONS*Article 10*

1. The fixing of minimum wages by collective agreements freely negotiated between trade unions which are representative of the workers concerned and employers or employers' organisations shall be encouraged.

2. Where no adequate arrangements exist for the fixing of minimum wages by collective agreement, the necessary arrangements shall be made whereby minimum rates of wages can be fixed in consultation with representatives of the employers and workers, including representatives of their respective organisations, where such exist.

3. The necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that the employers and workers concerned are informed of the minimum wage rates in force and that wages are not paid at less than these rates in cases where they are applicable.