

No. 881

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Convention (No. 87) concerning freedom of association and protection of the right to organize. Adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its thirty-first session, San Francisco, 9 July 1948

Official texts: English and French.

Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 19 July 1950.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Convention (n° 87) concernant la liberté syndicale et la protection du droit syndical. Adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa trente et unième session, San Francisco, le 9 juillet 1948

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 19 juillet 1950.

No. 881. CONVENTION¹ (No. 87) CONCERNING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE. ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, SAN FRANCISCO, 9 JULY 1948

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Having been convened at San Francisco by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Thirty-first Session on 17 June 1948;

Having decided to adopt, in the form of a Convention, certain proposals concerning freedom of association and protection of the right to organise, which is the seventh item on the agenda of the session;

Considering that the Preamble to the Constitution² of the International Labour Organisation declares "recognition of the principle of freedom of association" to be a means of improving conditions of labour and of establishing peace;

Considering that the Declaration of Philadelphia reaffirms that "freedom of expression and of association are essential to sustained progress";

Considering that the International Labour Conference, at its Thirtieth Session, unanimously adopted the principles which should form the basis for international regulation;

Considering that the General Assembly of the United Nations, at its Second Session, endorsed these principles and requested the International Labour Organisation to continue every effort in order that it may be possible to adopt one or several international Conventions;

adopts this ninth day of July of the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight the following Convention, which may be cited as the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948:

¹ In accordance with article 15, the Convention came into force on 4 July 1950, twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two members of the International Labour Organisation, i.e. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Norway, had been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office. Thereafter the Convention comes into force for any member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been so registered.

The ratifications by the following States have to date been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated:

United Kingdom (with respect to Great Britain)	27 June	1949
Norway	4 July	1949
Sweden	25 November	1949
Finland	20 January	1950
Netherlands	7 March	1950
Mexico	1 April	1950

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume 15, page 40.

PART I. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Article 1

Each Member of the International Labour Organisation for which this Convention is in force undertakes to give effect to the following provisions.

Article 2

Workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organisation concerned, to join organisations of their own choosing without previous authorisation.

Article 3

1. Workers' and employers' organisations shall have the right to draw up their constitutions and rules, to elect their representatives in full freedom to organise their administration and activities and to formulate their programmes.

2. The public authorities shall refrain from any interference which would restrict this right or impede the lawful exercise thereof.

Article 4

Workers' and employers' organisations shall not be liable to be dissolved or suspended by administrative authority.

Article 5

Workers' and employers' organisations shall have the right to establish and join federations and confederations and any such organisation, federation or confederation shall have the right to affiliate with international organisations of workers and employers.

Article 6

The provisions of Articles 2, 3 and 4 hereof apply to federations and confederations of workers' and employers' organisations.

Article 7

The acquisition of legal personality by workers' and employers' organisations, federations and confederations shall not be made subject to conditions of such a character as to restrict the application of the provisions of Articles 2, 3 and 4 hereof.

Article 8

1. In exercising the rights provided for in this Convention workers and employers and their respective organisations, like other persons or organised collectivities, shall respect the law of the land.

2. The law of the land shall not be such as to impair, nor shall it be so applied as to impair, the guarantees provided for in this Convention.