



ILO Plan of Action on Labour Migration in Asia - Pacific

~ Key Elements of the Plan of Action ~

The ILO Plan of Action on Labour Migration was prepared to address the specific opportunities and problems migration poses for policy and action, and to explore how to improve labour migration policies and governance.

Over the next two biennia, the ILO shall carry out in Asia and the Pacific region a programme on labour migration which shall have four basic elements:

I. Labour market complementation in Asia-Pacific

- Forecasts and analysis of likely imbalances in the demand and supply for educated workforce;
- A regional model for mutual recognition of occupational skills and qualifications for purposes of employment;
- Identification of determinants of demand for migrant labour and how these can be managed through various policy adjustments
- Technical advisory assistance to countries on integrating migration into their employment strategies, together with studies into the impact of migration;
- Promotion of agreements for more orderly migration of labour for decent employment; and
- Asian network of web-sites and data bases on labour migration

II. Implementation of multilateral framework for managing labour migration

- Mapping of the likely patterns of future labour migration in the region and identification of the questions and challenges they pose for policy makers;
- Assessment of the scope for cooperative management of labour migration starting with survey of bilateral labour agreements in the region;
- Survey of the rights and entitlements of migrant workers employed in different Asian countries;
- Promotion of the ratification of ILO Conventions 97 and 143 through, among others, national tripartite consultations/seminars, and advisory work;
- Studies in support of ratification such as assessment of legal obstacles to ratification;
- Advising constituents on best practices on “social inclusion” and coverage of migrant workers under national labour laws;
- Assistance in developing codes of practice to be adopted as private sector initiative to stop abusive practices in recruitment; and
- Documentation of best practices in management of labour migration and disseminating these to policy makers.

III. Promotion of Fair and Efficient Systems for Recruitment

- Work with Governments in improving their policies and measures for regulating and supervising recruitment;
- Promote practices which minimize the cost of obtaining decent jobs abroad and self-policing action by industry associations. A *model Code of Practice* will be developed and presented for endorsement by all the private recruiters’ associations in the region

- Promote *bilateral agreements*; and
- Study of *state regulation of recruitment for employment abroad* as it is practiced in several important origin countries.

IV. Social Protection for Migrant Workers

The ILO Plan of Action envisages protection of the migrant workers at various stages of the migration process, from recruitment to actual employment and subsequent return. “Best practices” and building on and cooperating with existing technical cooperation activities in the region, the Office will seek to promote the adoption of more effective approaches to:

- Preventing the illegal employment of undocumented workers and regularizing their status;
- Promoting equal treatment of foreign workers in employment, and providing easy access to complaints procedures in case of contract violations and abusive treatment;
- Monitoring risks to health and safety, preventing work-related accidents and illnesses, and providing for medical care;
- Promoting better integration of migrant workers in workplaces and non-discriminatory treatment including in social security;
- Preventing forced labour, encouraging membership in workers’ organizations and inclusion of migrant workers in collective bargaining; and
- Organizing repatriation or deportation in keeping with international principles on the basic rights of migrants.

ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration ~ A Rights-based Approach to Labour Migration ~

In March 2006, the ILO introduced a new multilateral framework on labour migration. The Framework serves as an instrument to carry out the ILO Plan of Action, facilitating formulation and implementation of more coherent and comprehensive migration policies to manage labour migration effectively and to promote rights of migrant workers.

The Framework provides rights-based principles and guidelines for both sending and receiving countries of labour migration, taking into account labour market needs, the sovereign right of all nations to determine their own migration policies, and relevant action for wider application of international labour standards and other instruments relevant to migrant workers.

Its 15 principles covers nine key dimensions of international migration namely I) decent work, II) means for international cooperation, III) global knowledge base, IV) effective management of labour migration, V) the protection of migrant workers, VI) prevention of and protection against abusive migration practices, VII) migration process, VIII) social integration and inclusion and IX) migration and development.

The Framework also gives a common platform for better cooperation and consultation among and between the tripartite constituents of the ILO and the Office, in partnership with other international organizations, to assist them in implementing more effective and coherent policies on labour migrations.

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<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/index.htm>