



Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration)

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Questionnaire for governments in preparation for the special MNE Declaration session during the 13th African Regional Meeting

The ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) was adopted in 1977 and updated in 2000 and 2006.

At the outset the MNE Declaration underscores that “through international direct investment and other means multinational enterprises can bring substantial benefits to home and host countries by contributing to the more efficient utilization of capital, technology and labour” (paragraph 1).

The aim of the MNE Declaration is “to encourage the positive contribution which multinational enterprises can make to economic and social progress and to minimize and resolve the difficulties to which their various operations may give rise” (paragraph 2).

“This aim will be furthered by appropriate laws and policies, measures and actions adopted by governments and by cooperation among the governments and employers’ and workers’ organizations of all countries” (paragraph 3).

As such the MNE Declaration sets out “principles in the fields of employment, training, conditions of work and life and industrial relations which governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations and multinational enterprises are recommended to observe on a voluntary basis” (paragraph 7).

“Multinational enterprises should take fully into account established general policy objectives of the countries in which they operate. Their activities should be in harmony with the development priorities and social aims and structure of the country in which they operate. To this effect, consultations should be held between multinational enterprises, the government and, wherever appropriate, the national employers’ and workers’ organizations concerned.” (paragraph 10).

As defined in paragraph 6 of the MNE Declaration “Multinational enterprises include enterprises, whether they are of public, mixed or private ownership, which own or control production, distribution, services or other facilities outside the country in which they are based”.



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The policy recommendations in the MNE Declaration are addressed to governments of home and host countries of multinational enterprises, employers' and workers' organizations and multinational enterprises and reflect good practices for domestic and foreign enterprises operating in a country.

The full text of the MNE Declaration can be accessed via www.ilo.org/mnedeclaration and the e-learning tool on the MNE Declaration via www.ilo.org/mnelearning. The International Training Center of the ILO will organize the course "Multinational enterprises, development and decent work: the approach of the ILO MNE Declaration" from 15 to 19 June 2015. For more information and registration please contact multi@ilo.org.

At its [320th session \(March 2014\)](#), the ILO Governing Body adopted a new follow-up mechanism on the MNE Declaration, comprised of promotional activities and an information gathering mechanism. The information gathering mechanism, which is linked to the ILO Regional Meetings, includes a short questionnaire to collect information directly from governments and employers' and workers' organizations in the ILO member States where the ILO Regional Meeting will take place.

The short questionnaire will serve to collect country-level experiences on harnessing opportunities and addressing challenges related to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and MNE activities for Decent Work, along the lines of the principles of the MNE Declaration. It will also serve to facilitate knowledge-sharing on this topic among the ILO tripartite constituents.

On the basis of the inputs received from governments and employers' and workers' organizations, the International Labour Office will prepare a short report which will serve as the basis for a discussion by the tripartite delegates during the Regional Meeting. The exact format of such a discussion will be decided at the time of setting the programme for the Regional Meeting.

In preparation of the 13th African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, 30 November – 3 December 2015), questionnaires are being sent by the International Labour Office directly and simultaneously to the Governments and Employers' and Workers' organizations of the ILO member States participating in the 13th African Regional Meeting.

We kindly invite you to fill out the questionnaire below and **return by 29 May 2015** by mail to:

International Labour Office
Multinational Enterprises and Enterprise Engagement Unit
Enterprises Department
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22 – Switzerland

or electronically to multi@ilo.org

We thank you for your cooperation.



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Questionnaire

Country: _____

Please provide your contact details for follow-up:

1. Awareness of the principles of the MNE Declaration

1.1. Taking into account the political and economic situation in your country, which areas of the MNE Declaration are relevant when it comes to operations of multinational enterprises?

- Employment promotion
- Equality of opportunity and treatment
- Security of employment
- Training
- Wages, benefits and conditions of work
- Minimum age
- Safety and health
- Freedom of association and the right to organize
- Collective bargaining
- Consultation
- Examination of grievances
- Settlement of industrial disputes

- none
- other. If so, please elaborate: _____



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1.2. Please provide further information on the areas that you have indicated above, including specific challenges and opportunities, and indicate which of these areas are most relevant and why.

1.3. Please describe initiatives taken by the government to address the areas indicated above (legislation, policies, measures and actions).



2. Dialogue and consultation

2.1. In your country, does the government provide an official representative or office that serves as a contact point for:

2.1.a. representatives of foreign MNEs, including workers' representatives in foreign MNEs?

yes, if so, please specify _____

no

no information available

2.1.b. Governments of other countries regarding the conduct of MNEs?

yes, if so, please specify _____

no

no information available

2.2. In your country, does the government hold any institutional consultations on MNE activity with foreign MNEs, employers' organizations or workers' organizations?

yes. If so, please specify _____

no

no information available

2.3. In addition to these institutional consultations, has the government organized any events in recent years dealing with the areas covered in the MNE Declaration?

yes. If so, please specify _____

no

no information available



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2.4. Please describe the institutional consultation or event that you regard as the most important one and indicate why.



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3. Promotion of the principles of the MNE Declaration

3.1. Did the government or any governmental agency organize any events or take any initiatives in recent years that sought to promote the principles of the MNE Declaration?

- yes
- no
- no information available

3.2. **IF YES:** Were any of these events organized or initiatives taken ...

3.2.a. jointly with, or including employers' or workers' organizations?

- yes
- no
- no information available

3.2.b. ... jointly with governments of other countries?

- yes
- no
- no information available

3.2.c. ... with assistance from the ILO?

- yes
- no
- no information available



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3.3. Please give examples of such promotional activities and describe the most successful ones.

3.4. Has the government developed or commissioned any promotional materials on the principles of the MNE Declaration which are available to the public in languages spoken in your country? Please give examples of the types of material on offer.



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4. Any other information

4.1. Please provide any other information that you find important regarding the promotion of the MNE Declaration at the national, regional and international levels.