



International Labour Organization (ILO)

ILO office:

4 route des Morillons

CH-1211 Geneva 22

Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0) 22 799 6111

Fax: +41 (0) 22 798 8685

E-mail: ilo@ilo.org

<http://www.ilo.org>

The International Labour Organization was established in 1919 in order to set and promote the fundamental principles and rights at work, promote decent working conditions, enhance opportunities in employment, strengthen social protection and promote social dialogue on work-related issues. The international labour standards developed by the ILO are designed to prevent dishonest competition based on lowering the costs of work and worsening of its conditions. The ILO basic statutory document is the Constitution developed in 1919 by 9 founding countries, including Poland. The Constitution was amended several times. Ideas being the basis for the ILO's work were defined in detail in the Declaration of Philadelphia of 1944.

The ILO acts through the annual International Labour Conference which meets in June in Geneva. ILC, that is a general assembly of the ILO, nominates the Governing Body, adopts the ILO's biannual programme of activity and the budget (coming from the fees of Member States and voluntary donations), establishes international labour standards (conventions, recommendations, declarations), discusses social and labour-related issues. All Member States (currently 187) are represented by two governmental delegates, if necessary accompanied by technical advisors; one representative of employers and one representative of workers. Delegates of employers and workers are independent from the governmental side. Since its establishment, the ILO has adopted 191 conventions and 208 recommendations, some of which are no longer in force.

The Governing Body, as the ILO's executive body, usually holds three sessions in Geneva each year to decide on the ILO's policy and programme of activities. It is composed of 28 governmental members, 14 employers' representatives and 14 workers' representatives. Ten countries of chief industrial importance have permanent governmental representatives, the remaining ones are elected every three years by the International Labour Conference.

The role of the ILO's secretariat is fulfilled by the International Labour Office, managed by the Director General (since 1 October 2022, it has been Gilbert F. Houngbo), who is elected by the Governing Board. The International Labour Office engages about 3500 officials in its seat in Geneva and across over 100 countries worldwide. The ILO manages programmes and technical cooperation projects, it is involved in research and publishing activity on a wide range of social and work-related topics.

In accordance with the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), every year the State Labour Inspection submits to the ILO's Director General, via the ministry of labour, an abridged report on its activity in the previous year and a report on its activity in agriculture (based on Convention No. 129). Moreover, the Inspection's representatives take part in conferences and other meetings organised by the ILO if their topics correspond to the scope of competence and the current priorities of the State Labour Inspection.