

ILO Conventions, Protocols and Recommendations

(Annexure – 1)

At a Glance		
1	ILO Member States	187
2	ILO Instruments adopted	402
	a. Conventions	190
	b. Protocols	06
	c. Recommendations	206

International labour standards

International Labour Standards are legal instruments drawn up by the ILO's constituents (governments, employers and workers) setting out basic principles and rights at work. They are either **Conventions (or Protocols)**, which are legally binding international treaties that may be ratified by member states, or **Recommendations**, which serve as non-binding guidelines.

In many cases, a Convention lays down the basic principles to be implemented by ratifying countries, while a related Recommendation supplements the Convention by providing more detailed guidelines on how it could be applied. Recommendations can also be autonomous, i.e. not linked to a Convention.

Fundamental Conventions

The ILO Governing Body has identified eight “fundamental” Conventions, covering subjects that are considered to be fundamental principles and rights at work. These **eight fundamental Conventions** are:

- 1. Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)**
- 2. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)**
- 3. Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (and its 2014 Protocol)**
- 4. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)**
- 5. Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)**
- 6. Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)**
- 7. Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)**
- 8. Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)**

Governance (priority) Conventions

The ILO Governing Body has also designated another four Conventions as governance (or priority) instruments, thereby encouraging member States to ratify them because of their importance for the functioning of the international labour standards system. **These four governance Conventions are:**

- 1. Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)**
- 2. Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)**
- 3. Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129)**
- 4. Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)**