



# Social Protection spotlight

Date: September 2020

## How to ratify and apply ILO Social Security Conventions ?

Promoting the ratification and effective implementation of up-to-date Conventions is a priority for the ILO and its constituents, and the ILO proactively supports the latter in ratifying social security Conventions.

The ILO can provide tailor-made technical support at each stage of the ratification process with due regard to each countries' national circumstances and constitutional framework (see Figure 1). This forms part of the integrated assistance provided to Governments and social partners to effectively formulate and implement appropriate policies and legal frameworks as a means to improve and maintain their social protection systems. This assistance includes a broad range of expert technical support and capacity building activities and is centered on effective and inclusive social dialogue.

The Office's technical support mainly consists of helping the national counterparts assess the compatibility of their social protection system with the minimum requirements established by the relevant ILO standard. Following completion, comparative reports are usually discussed by national tripartite workshops with a view to determining the next steps

towards a possible ratification or identifying obstacles to ratification and possible ways to address them.

In fact, Member states that have ratified the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), must engage in a tripartite consultation whenever they are considering ratifying a new ILO Convention.

The Office also provides countries engaged in a ratification process with authentic copies of the relevant Convention usually required in the context of the national parliamentary proceedings. Following completion of the ratification process at the national level, in order to be duly registered and start producing effects after 12 months, the ratification needs to be transmitted to the ILO Director General. In the case of Convention No. 102, the document of ratification transmitted to the ILO Director General needs to specify which 3 (at least) of the nine branches of social security are accepted upon ratification, being it understood that countries may always expand the number of accepted branches in the future.



## The application of ILO social security standards

Following ratification of ILO social security Conventions, their application, in law and in practice, is supervised through ILO's supervisory system<sup>1</sup>. In case issues arise with respect to how Conventions are implemented in law or in practice, the Office may provide constituents legal and technical services with a view to overcoming problems. Assistance is also available to help countries meeting their reporting obligations on the application of ratified standards.

In addition to supporting the ratification and application of ratified Conventions, the ILO has a vast experience in providing technical assistance to its constituents, in line with international social security standards. These services range from setting up and improving social protection schemes to reforming entire social protection systems. It includes policy, legal and financial advice, actuarial valuations and studies, assistance for the drafting of legislation, advice on the governance of social security schemes and their institutional set-up, as well as on monitoring the performance of social protection systems and schemes.

Visit the "Toolkit on ILO Social Security Standards – learn, ratify and apply"

A Toolkit was developed with the aim of raising awareness about ILO social security standards and promoting their ratification. By bringing together information and resources on these standards, the toolkit further serves to increase their impact and application in national contexts. The toolkit provides very practical and useful insights as to the ratification procedure, model instruments of ratification, as well as interactive information on the key provisions of these standards.

**Visit the toolkit:**

<http://standards.social-protection.org>



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<sup>1</sup> For more information consult ILO's information system on international labour standards ([www.https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/))

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Consult our websites for regular updates from the world of work response to the COVID-19 crisis

► [ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus](http://ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus)

► [www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=62&lang=EN](http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=62&lang=EN)