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.

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**Figure 1 : Steps common to the ratification of an ILO social security convention**

- Assessment of national law and practice against requirement of Convention (if necessary with ILO support) and validation of conclusions with ILO
- Tripartite endorsement of compatibility assessment, and establishment of roadmap towards ratification
- Ratification process according to national constitutional requirements
- Transmission of instrument of ratification to ILO Director General, registration of ratification as of the date of deposit or receipt
- Entry into force of Convention 12 months after the date of ratification
- First report on application of the Convention in the year following the entry into force
- Periodic reporting every 5 years

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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. 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.

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1 For more information consult ILO’s information system on international labour standards (www.https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/)
References


