**Title**

**“New ILO standards on the elimination of forced labour– A multi stakeholder approach to address contemporary forms of forced labour and trafficking”** *organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*

**Background**

The ILO estimates that almost 21 million people are victims of forced labour worldwide, ninety per cent of whom are victimized by private agents. Forced labour in the private economy generates US $150 billion in illegal profits per year. Most victims receive little or no earnings, and work for long hours in extremely poor and unsafe conditions. Many of the victims are trafficked, usually across international borders.

In June 2014, government, employer and worker representatives from the 185 member States of ILO responded to the urgent need for action, adopting a new legally binding Protocol, supplemented by a Recommendation in order to strengthen the global efforts to eliminate forced labour and human trafficking.

The Protocol strengthens the international legal framework by creating new obligations to prevent forced labour, to protect victims and to provide access to remedy, such as compensation for material and physical harm.

**Objectives**

The side event will:

* provide insights into the new international instruments on forced labour;
* discuss the linkages between these new instruments and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
* highlight the implications for governments and businesses and how stakeholders can put these new standards in practice , including in addressing forced labour and trafficking.

**Format**

The Head of the ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour as well as a government, an employer and a workers’ representative will share their views on their role and responsibilities in the implementation of the new standards. Special attention will be given to the aim of these instruments in ensuring a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach in combating all forms of forced labour, including trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced or compulsory labour.

The panel discussion will be followed by a session of questions and answers.

**Target audience**

* Business
* Trade unions
* Governments
* Intergovernmental and regional organisations
* National human rights institutions
* Human Rights Organizations fighting forced labour and trafficking
* NGOs
* UN Officials
* Others.

**Speakers**

* Corinne Vargha, Branch Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO
* Margaret Jungk, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
* Beate Andrees, Head of the ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour
* Government representative (TBC)
* Matthias Thorns, Senior Advisor, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
* Yves Veyrier, Secrétaire Confédéral, Confédération Générale du Travail Force Ouvrière, France

**Organizers**

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