

Convention No.117 Concerning Basic Aims and Standards of Social Policy

Summary: This convention recognizes that efforts should be made, on an international, regional or national basis, to make possible the maintenance of a **reasonable standard of living for everyone**, and to promote improvement in such fields as public health, housing, nutrition, education, the welfare of children, the status of women, conditions of employment, the remuneration of wage earners and independent producers, the **protection of migrant workers**, social security, standards of public services and general production. The instrument does not specifically address **national origin or status** as a category of prohibited discrimination, but the article does address the rights and conditions of **migrant workers**.

- reduction of production and distribution costs by co-operatives.

Article 5 Independent producers and wage earners conditions

PART III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MIGRANT WORKERS

Article 6 Circumstances under which workers are employed involve their living away from their homes; normal family needs.

PART I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1 Progress and social wellbeing

PART II. IMPROVEMENT OF STANDARDS OF LIVING

Article 2 The principle objective of economic development

Article 3 Development measures

- harmonise such development with the healthy evolution of the communities concerned.
- avoid the disruption of family life and of traditional social units
- close study of the causes and effect of migratory movements and appropriate action where necessary
- promotion of town and village planning
- prevention and elimination of congestion in urban areas
- improvement of living conditions in rural areas
- establishment of suitable industries in rural areas where adequate manpower is available

Article 4 addresses the following issues regarding agricultural producers:

- chronic indebtedness
- control of the alienation of agricultural land in the best interests of the country
- control of ownership and use of land resources; customary rights, in the best interests of the inhabitants of the country
- supervision of tenancy arrangements and of working conditions
- equitable share in any advantages which may result from improvements in productivity or in price levels

Adoption: 22 June 1962

Entry into force: 23 April 1964

Access status [here](#).

Access full text [here](#).

Article 7 Labour supply and utilization

Article 8 provides that when the labour resources of a country are used in an area under a different administration, the competent authorities of the countries concerned shall, whenever necessary or desirable, enter into agreements for the purpose of regulating matters of common concern arising in connection with the application of the provisions of this Convention.

2. Such agreements shall provide that the worker shall enjoy protection and advantages not less than those enjoyed by workers resident in the area of labour utilisation.

3. Such agreements shall provide for facilities for enabling the worker to transfer part of his wages and savings to his home.

Article 9 Movement of families to high-cost areas**PART IV. REMUNERATION OF WORKERS AND RELATED QUESTIONS**

Article 10 addresses the following issues respecting wages:

- fixing of minimum wages by collective agreements
- ensuring that the employers and workers concerned are informed of the minimum wage rates
- right to recover for underpaid work

Article 11 Proper payment of all wages**Article 12** Competent authority of wages**Article 13** Protection against usury**PART V. NON-DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOUR, SEX, BELIEF, TRIBAL ASSOCIATION OR TRADE UNION AFFILIATION**

Article 14 provides that it shall be an aim of policy to abolish all discrimination among workers on grounds of race, colour, sex, belief, tribal association or trade union affiliation in respect of:

- labour legislation and agreements which shall afford equitable economic treatment to all those lawfully resident or working in the country
- admission to public or private employment
- conditions of engagement and promotion
- opportunities for vocational training
- conditions of work
- health, safety and welfare measures
- discipline
- participation in the negotiation of collective agreements
- wage rates, which shall be fixed according to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the same operation and undertaking.

All practicable measures shall be taken to lessen, by raising the rates applicable to the lower-paid workers, any existing differences in wage rates due to discrimination by reason of race, colour, sex, belief, tribal association or trade union affiliation.

Workers from one country engaged for employment in another country may be granted in addition to their wages benefits in cash or in kind to meet any reasonable personal or family expenses resulting from employment away from their homes.

PART VI. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Article 15 Education, vocational training and apprenticeship; minimum age requirements

Article 16 Development of skilled labour

PART VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Articles omitted.