



## The ILO Centenary Standards Initiative

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The Standards Initiative is one of the [seven centenary initiatives](#) being implemented in advance of the ILO's centenary year in 2019.

Its objective is twofold. It aims:

- to enhance the relevance of international labour standards through a standards review mechanism, and
- to consolidate tripartite consensus on an authoritative supervisory system.

### 1. [Standards Review Mechanism](#) (SRM)

The SRM is an [in-built mechanism](#) of the ILO standards policy to ensure that the ILO has a clear, robust and up-to-date body of international labour standards that respond to the changing patterns of the world of work, for the purpose of the protection of workers and taking into account the needs of sustainable enterprises.

It was established by the Governing Body [in November 2011](#) but became operational at a later stage in 2015 through two decisions:

- (i) [a decision in March 2015](#), by the Governing Body to establish under the SRM a tripartite working group (SRM TWG) composed of 32 members (16 representing Governments, eight representing Employers and eight representing Workers);
- (ii) a decision [in November 2015](#) to adopt the terms of reference of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group.

The SRM TWG has been [mandated](#) to review the ILO's international labour standards with a view to making recommendations to the Governing Body on:

- (i) the status of the standards examined, including up-to-date standards, standards in need of revision, outdated standards, and possible other classifications;
- (ii) the identification of gaps in coverage, including those requiring new standards;
- (iii) practical and time-bound follow-up action, as appropriate.

The SRM TWG has had two meetings so far: the [first one in February 2016](#) and [the second meeting](#) in October 2016. Its [third meeting](#) will take place September 2017 to review 19 instruments relating to occupational safety and health.

Together with the launching of a standards review mechanism, the entry into force in October 2015 of [the 1997 Instrument](#) for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, has reinforced the ILO's efforts to ensure that it has a robust and up-to-date body of labour standards serving as a global reference. With the entry into force of the Instrument for Amendment of the Constitution, the Conference is now empowered, by two-thirds majority and upon recommendation by the Governing Body, to abrogate a Convention in force if it appears that it has lost its purpose or that it no longer makes a useful contribution to attaining the objectives of the Organisation. At its June 2017 Session, the Conference will undertake its first discussion following the entry into force of the Instrument for Amendment and will examine [the abrogation of four and the withdrawal](#) of two international labour Conventions.

2. A consolidated tripartite consensus on an [authoritative supervisory system](#).

Its implementation began with a request from the Governing Body, [in March 2015](#), that the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, and the Chairperson of the Committee on Freedom of Association [jointly prepare a report](#) on the interrelationship, functioning and possible improvement of the various supervisory procedures related to articles 22, 23, 24 and 26 of the [ILO Constitution](#) and the complaints mechanism on freedom of association.

This joint report was [received](#) and [discussed](#) by the Governing Body in March 2016.

At its March 2017 session, the Governing Body adopted a [work plan and timetable](#) concerning the strengthening of the supervisory system including ten proposals grouped under four focus areas. The ten proposals cover a broad range of topics such as: the relationship between the ILO supervisory bodies, the streamlining of reporting, information-sharing with organizations or legal certainty.

The work plan is now being implemented and will be discussed in November 2017 and March 2018 at the Governing Body.

For additional information on the ILO standards system and its supervision, please consult ILO [website](#).