



Employers' Workshop on Global Supply Chains Bangkok, 8–9 December 2015

Background:

The issue of “Decent Work in Global Supply Chains” will be on the agenda of the International Labour Conference in June 2016. As a general discussion item, the Conference will not develop a new ILO standard on global supply chains, but it will develop joint conclusions that will shape the ILO’s vision, strategy and action plan on global supply chains for the next 3-5 years, and also discuss the question of whether the ILO should develop an ILO standard on global supply chains in the future, as requested by trade unions. The Spokesperson of the Employers’ Group in the discussion will be Mr. Ed Potter (USA).

The objective of the IOE-ILO Employers’ Workshop on Global Supply Chains is to:

- Get a better understanding of the impact of supply chains on competitiveness and productivity, job creation and working conditions; Challenges and opportunities for buyers and suppliers.
- Identify possible areas of work for the ILO and discuss the successes and shortcomings of ILO supply chain interventions thus far;
- Elaborate on the draft background report for the ILC discussion next June and formulate possible approaches from the Employers’ Group; and
- Identify areas of work to be done before June by the IOE Secretariat, ACT/EMP and national employers’ federations.

What are the key questions participants might want start to consider before the meeting?

1. What are the key trends with regard to supply chains in your sector or country?
2. What is the impact of global supply chains on competitiveness, productivity, job creation, wages and working conditions?
3. What are the practices/limitations of buyers and suppliers tackling social challenges in their supply chains?
4. Which supply chain tools and instruments work and which do not?
5. Is there any governance gap with regard to global supply chains?
6. What do employers expect from the ILO’s engagement in supply chains?
7. What are the key areas of work the ILO should undertake with regard to supply chains?
8. What should the Employers’ three key priorities be with regard to the 2016 ILC discussion on global supply chains?

What are the working arrangements?

- The conference will be held in English under Chatham House rules.
- All participants are requested to actively engage in the discussion.
- IOE and ACT/EMP will produce a meeting report which will also inform employer representatives that were not able to join the workshop.
- The IOE ad hoc Task Force on Global Supply Chains will follow-up on the outcomes of the Bangkok meeting.

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