

A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work

ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work



The fifth pillar of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

5 Fundamental Principles & Rights at Work

- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- Elimination of forced and compulsory labour
- Elimination of discrimination in the workplace
- Abolition of child labour
- A safe and healthy working environment



List of key ILO Occupational safety and health Conventions

Fundamental

C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)

C187 - Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)

Occupational safety and health

C013 - White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)

C045 - Underground Work (Women) Convention, 1935 (No. 45)

C062 - Safety Provisions (Building) Convention, 1937 (No. 62)

C115 - Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115)

C119 - Guarding of Machinery Convention, 1963 (No. 119)

C120 - Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964 (No. 120)

C127 - Maximum Weight Convention, 1967 (No. 127)

C136 - Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)

C139 - Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139)

C148 - Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148)

C161 - Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161)

C162 - Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162)

C167 - Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167)

C170 - Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170)

C174 - Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)

C176 - Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176)

C184 - Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184)

C190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190)

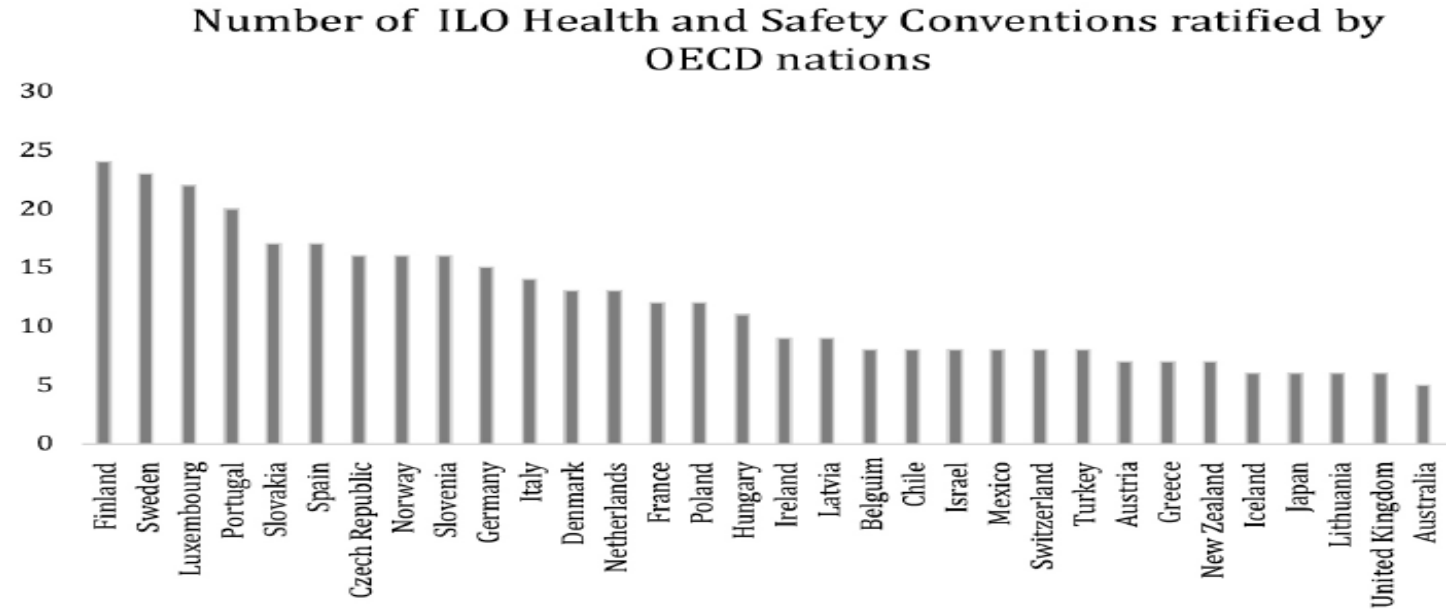
Seafarers

C134 - Prevention of Accidents (Seafarers) Convention, 1970 (No. 134)

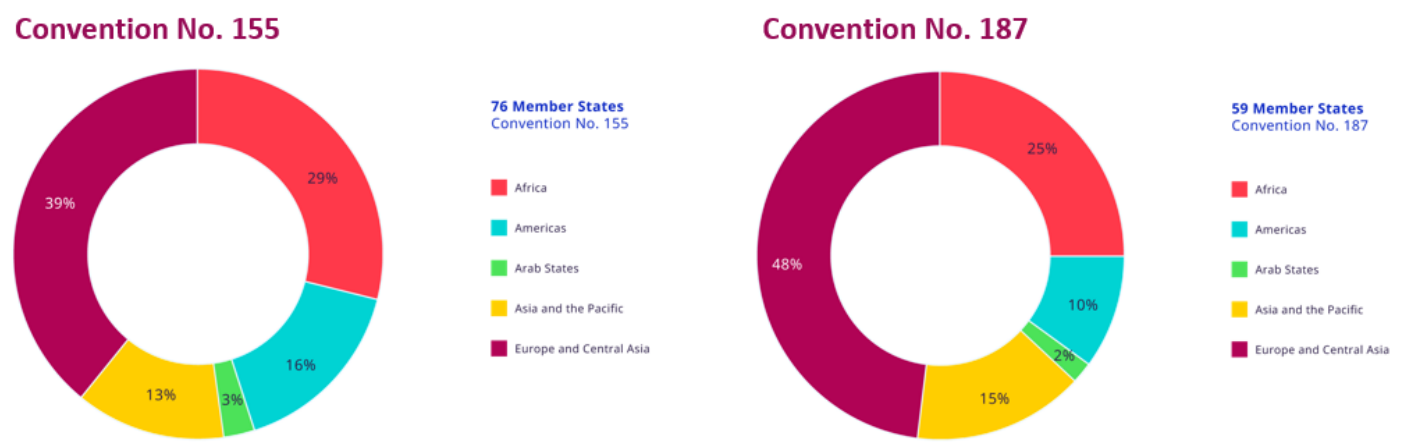
Dockworkers

C152 - Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention, 1979 (No. 152)

The state of the art of ratification of OSH Conventions



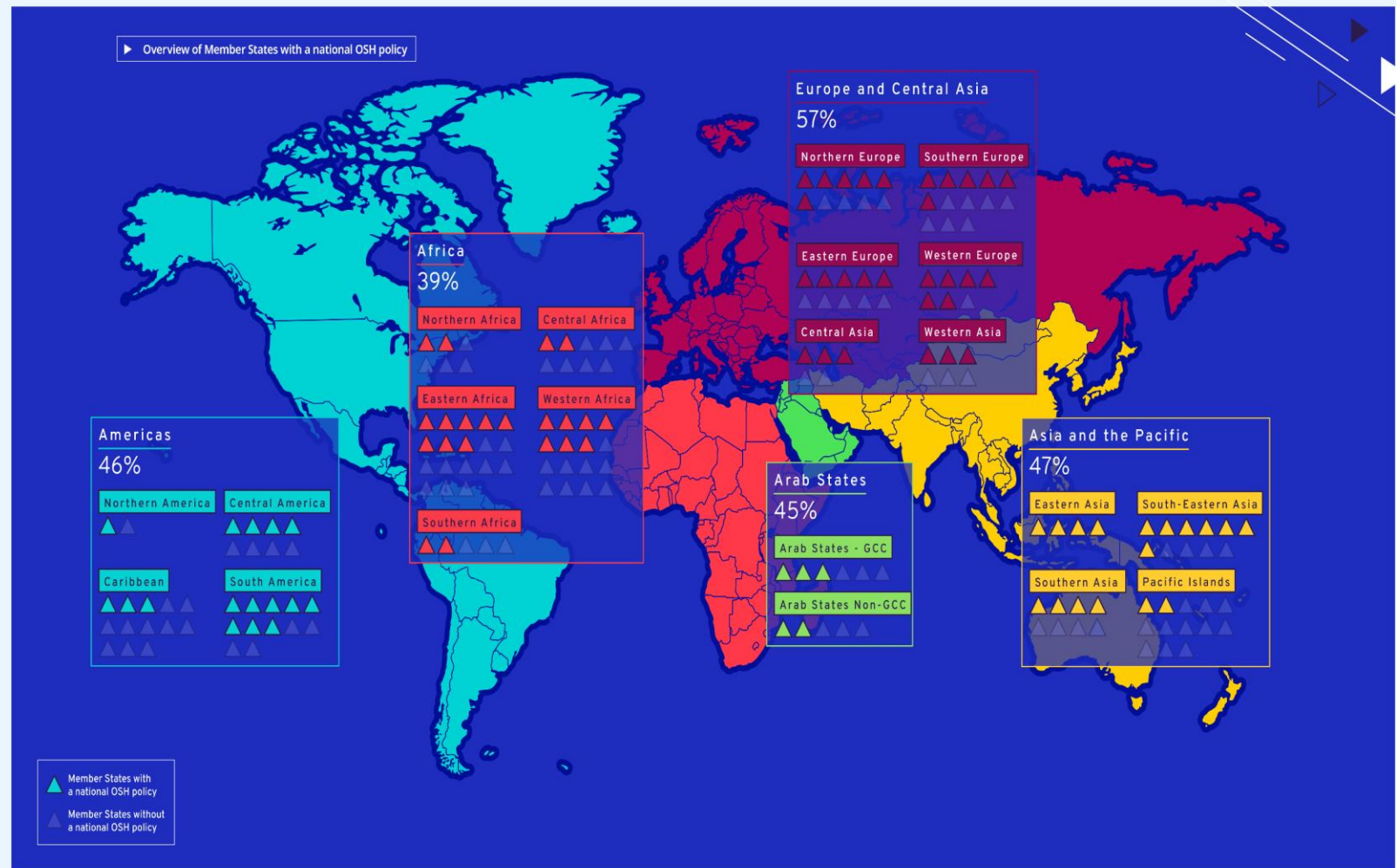
Source: Institute of Employment Rights. International health and safety standards after Brexit (IER, 2020)



(Distribution of Member States that have ratified the fundamental OSH Conventions: Source ILO, 2023)

The state of the art of national OSH programmes

Still a very long way ahead



(Overview of Member States with a national OSH policy: Source ILO, 2023)

IOSH narrative

ILO: World's leading experts call for occupational health and safety to be made a fundamental right



The world's foremost experts in occupational health and safety have called for the International Labour Organization (ILO) to designate workers' health and safety as a fundamental right on the eve of a 23 March ILO Governing Body debate on the issue.

IOSH calls for OSH to be recognised as a fundamental right



OSH AND HUMAN RIGHTS – LIFTING STANDARDS, SAVING LIVES

Posted: 3rd December 2020 | Updated: 3 Days, Wednesday 23rd February 2021

RICHARD JONES CFIOSH



COLLABORATE

In 2010, Buenos Aires, the United Nations 190th general conference on human rights and fundamental freedoms, set out 10 principles for states and businesses to protect workers from exposure to toxic chemicals. He observed that, although most 190 members had recognised safe working conditions as a fundamental human right since the 1970s, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that 376 million workers were still doing every year from work-related injuries or diseases. ILO has long been concerned about this gap between long-accepted commitments by governments and representative bodies to make safe and healthy work a basic right and the continuing harm being done. The Institution has been advocating that state recognise workers' safety and health as a material element in national and corporate prosperity for almost 60 years, arguing that basic compliance with national OSH laws should be made a starting point. It took the opportunity to state the case for greater recognition of OSH as both a right and a driver of economic good in a recent submission to a UN course of 24 documents for improving business impacts on human rights.

THE FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

Safe working conditions should be an inalienable right for all, as many governments and international bodies accept – if only on paper. What progress is being made towards making the avoidance of harm central to the world of work?

WORDS: LILIAN ROBERTSON




IOSH and International Labour Organization sign agreement to improve occupational safety and health worldwide



29 November 2021

IOSH and the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) have signed an agreement to enable joint activities that improve working conditions and protect workers around the world

Our knowledge hub



The recognition of “a safe and healthy working environment” to the International Labour Organization’s framework on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work FAQs

Who is the ILO and what is their part within occupational safety and health?
The International Labour Organization is the only tripartite United Nations agency, since 1919 focused on bringing together governments, employers, and workers of 187 Member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. Its occupational safety and health section – LABADMIN/OSH (Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health) Branch – aims to create worldwide awareness of the human and economic costs of work-related fatalities, injuries, and diseases and to place the health and safety of all workers high on the international agenda.

In a nutshell, how does the ILO operate?
The ILO’s tripartite membership (governments, employers, and workers drafts), adopts and monitors the implementation of international labour standards on key world of work issues – ILO Conventions and Recommendations. On the topic of OSH, its work focuses on promoting a safe and healthy working environment, which is a fundamental principle and right at work.

Which are the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work?
The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted in 1998, commits Member States to respect and promote principles and rights in relation to five categories (which are detailed below), whether or not they have ratified the relevant Conventions.

The Declaration makes the below referred rights universal, applying to all people in all States, regardless of the level of economic development.

Which are the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work?
The principle of a safe and healthy working environment will now be known as the fifth pillar of fundamental principles and rights at work, together with:

- 1 freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining
- 2 the elimination of forced or compulsory labour
- 3 the effective abolition of child labour
- 4 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation
- 5 a safe and healthy working environment.

Why do we need a safe and healthy working environment to be considered a Fundamental Human Right and Principle at Work?
The increasing human, economic and social burden of workplace accidents, diseases, fatalities, and injuries originated by work, or the working environment remains a major global issue. ILO estimates 2.78 million workers die each year from occupational accidents and work-related diseases while an additional 374 million workers suffer from non-fatal occupational accidents.

It is for this reason that there is an element of urgency around the vital importance of good OSH in the context of decent work.

What is an international standard, Convention?
ILO conventions include both legally binding international treaties and other non-binding instruments such as recommendations, codes of practice and guidelines, all instruments that promote decent, safe, and healthy working conditions and environments. The ILO has adopted more than 40 standards specifically dealing with occupational safety and health.

Workplace health and safety is a fundamental human right

What this means in practice



- Articles, videos, online content, presentations
- Position statement and resources
- Position notes, workers, employers, OSH professionals, public policy...
- FAQs



<https://iosh.com/about-iosh/our-influence/workplace-health-and-safety-is-a-fundamental-human-right/>

List of available resources from the ILO

► Available World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023 products

(available in English, French, Spanish, as well as further languages):



► Promotional poster



► PowerPoint Presentation: Implementing a safe and healthy working environment: Where are we now?



► Report: Implementing a safe and healthy working environment: Where are we now?



► Statement of Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo: Why safety and health at work is essential for social justice



► Q&A Video with Dr. Manal Azzi: Implementing a safe and healthy working environment



► Booklet: The Fundamental Conventions on Occupational Safety and Health



► Curtain raiser video: Video for the 2023 World Day for Safety and Health at Work

<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/events-training/events-meetings/safeday2023/lang--en/index.htm>

Many thanks



**A safe and healthy
working environment is
a fundamental principle
and right at work and is
fundamental to decent work**

If you would like to know more

Ruth Wilkinson

Head of Policy

ruth.Wilkinson@iosh.com



Dr. Ivan Williams Jimenez

Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager

ivan.williams@iosh.com

