



European Union
Statement

International Labour Conference
102nd session

(5-20 June 2013)

Committee on the Application of Standards

Iran

Geneva, 8 June 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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Iran (Convention No. 111)

European Union Statement

Thank you chair.

I speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia^{*}, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland[†], Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Norway[‡] and the Republic of Moldova.

We are deeply concerned that the human rights situation in Iran continues to deteriorate. The EU has engaged in the promotion of universal ratification and implementation of the eight fundamental ILO Conventions as part of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights, adopted in June 2012. Therefore, we call on the Iranian authorities to live up to the international human rights obligations that Iran has entered into, so as to protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms to which the Iranian people are entitled.

We are alarmed by the severe discrimination against women and the pervasive gender inequality. The Conference committee has been raising its concerns for many years, urging the Government to amend or repeal laws and regulations that discriminate against women. We strongly urge the Government to take concrete and immediate steps to ensure that laws and practices are fully in line with Convention 111, including amendments to the Labour Law with a view to ensuring that

^{*} Accessing Country Croatia and the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[†] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

[‡] Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

women in temporary and contract employment benefit from all entitlements and facilities. We urge the Government to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

We are also seriously concerned by the discriminatory practices against women in recruitment and in job advertisement. We urge the Government to take measures to prohibit these discriminatory practices.

We deplore the systematic discrimination of religious minorities, including the Baha'is whose religion is not recognized by Iran. We deplore that the Government has not addressed the very serious concerns raised for many years. We note that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Country has reported that the Bahai's are subjected to severe socio-economic pressure and that in some cases they have been deprived of property, employment and education. We urge the Government to take concrete and effective measure to eliminate these discriminations.

We cannot remain silent in the face of discrimination based on political opinion. We deplore the reports of prosecution and persecution of teachers, students and trade unionists advocating for social justice, for equal rights and employment and for women's rights. We urge the Government to take measures to ensure protection against discrimination on the basis of political opinion.

We note the recurrent lack of information during the discussions of this case. We urge the Government to cooperate fully and respond on the substance to the frequent requests made by the supervisory bodies. We also urge the Government to cooperate with the supervisory body in providing the information requested on equality of opportunity and treatment between men and women, including information about the complaints treated by the General Inspection Organisation.

We also invite the Government to avail itself of the technical assistance of the ILO, including comments and advice on all relevant draft legislation.

Thank you chair