

No. 585

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Convention concerning unemployment, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its first session, Washington, 28 November 1919, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946

English and French official texts communicated by the Director-General of the International Labour Office. The registration took place on 15 September 1949.

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Convention concernant le chômage, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa première session, Washington, 28 novembre 1919, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant révision des articles finals, 1946

Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le Directeur général de l'Organisation internationale du Travail. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 15 septembre 1949.

No. 585. CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT,
AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVISION
CONVENTION, 1946²

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Washington by the Government of the United States of America on the 29th day of October 1919, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the "question of preventing or providing against unemployment", which is the second item in the agenda for the Washington meeting of the Conference, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,

adopts the following Convention, which may be cited as the Unemployment Convention, 1919, for ratification by the Members of the International Labour Organisation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation :

Article 1

Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall communicate to the International Labour Office, at intervals as short as possible and not exceeding three months, all available information, statistical or otherwise, concerning unemployment, including reports on measures taken or contemplated to combat unemployment. Whenever practicable, the information shall be made available for such communication not later than three months after the end of the period to which it relates.

Article 2

1. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall establish a system of free public employment agencies under the control of a central authority. Committees, which shall include representatives of employers and of workers, shall be appointed to advise on matters concerning the carrying on of these agencies.

¹ For the date of entry into force of the Convention and the list of ratifications see Certified Statement on page 48.

² See page 3.

2. Where both public and private free employment agencies exist, steps shall be taken to co-ordinate the operations of such agencies on a national scale.

3. The operations of the various national systems shall be co-ordinated by the International Labour Office in agreement with the countries concerned.

Article 3

The Members of the International Labour Organisation which ratify this Convention and which have established systems of insurance against unemployment shall, upon terms being agreed between the Members concerned, make arrangements whereby workers belonging to one Member and working in the territory of another shall be admitted to the same rates of benefit of such insurance as those which obtain for the workers belonging to the latter.

Article 4

The formal ratifications of this Convention, under the conditions set forth in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

Article 5

1. Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention engages to apply it to its colonies, protectorates and possessions which are not fully self-governing—

- (a) except where owing to the local conditions its provisions are inapplicable; or
- (b) subject to such modifications as may be necessary to adapt its provisions to local conditions.

2. Each Member shall notify to the International Labour Office the action taken in respect of each of its colonies, protectorates and possessions which are not fully self-governing.

Article 6

As soon as the ratifications of three Members of the International Labour Organisation have been registered with the International Labour Office, the Director-General of the International Labour Office shall so notify all the Members of the International Labour Organisation.

Article 7

This Convention shall come into force at the date on which such notification is issued by the Director-General of the International Labour Office,

but it shall then be binding only upon those Members which have registered their ratifications with the International Labour Office. Thereafter this Convention will come into force for any other Member at the date on which its ratification is registered with the International Labour Office.

Article 8

Each Member which ratifies this Convention agrees to bring its provisions into operation not later than 1 July 1921, and to take such action as may be necessary to make these provisions effective.

Article 9

A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered with the International Labour Office.

Article 10

At least once in ten years the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention, and shall consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision or modification.

Article 11

The French and English texts of this Convention shall both be authentic.

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Unemployment Convention, 1919, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946.

The original text of the Convention was authenticated on 1 December 1919 by the signatures of W. B. Wilson, President of the Conference, and H. B. Butler, Secretary-General of the Conference.

The Convention first came into force on 14 July 1921.

IN FAITH WHEREOF I have, in pursuance of the provisions of Article 6 of the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946, authenticated with my signature this thirtieth day of April 1948 two original copies of the text of the Convention as modified.

Edward PHELAN
Director-General
of the International Labour Office

CERTIFIED STATEMENT

This is to certify that the Unemployment Convention, 1919, adopted by the International Labour Conference on 28 November 1919, at its First Session, and which entered into force on 14 July 1921, has to date been ratified by the following countries¹ and that these ratifications were duly registered on the dates indicated²:

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date of registration of ratification</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Date of registration of ratification</i>
Argentina	30.11.1933	* Luxembourg	16. 4.1928
* Austria	12. 6.1924	* New Zealand	29. 3.1938
* Belgium	25. 8.1930	* Netherlands	6. 2.1932
Bulgaria	14. 2.1922	Nicaragua	12. 4.1934
Chile	31. 5.1933	* Norway	23.11.1921
* Colombia	20. 6.1933	* Poland	21. 6.1924
* Denmark	13.10.1921	Rumania	13. 6.1921
Estonia	20.12.1922	Spain	4. 7.1923
* Finland	19.10.1921	* Sweden	27. 9.1921
* France	25. 8.1925	* Switzerland	9.10.1922
Germany	6. 6.1925	* United Kingdom ...	14. 7.1921
Greece	19.11.1920	* Union of South Africa	20. 2.1924
Hungary	1. 3.1928	Uruguay	6. 6.1938
* India ³	14. 7.1921	* Venezuela	20.11.1944
* Ireland	4. 9.1925	Yugoslavia	1. 4.1927
* Italy	10. 4.1923		
Japan	23.11.1922		

The Convention is also in force for Burma. In 1937 the United Kingdom Government delegate declared at the Twenty-third Session of the Conference that Burma had ceased to form a part of India on 1 April 1937 but would continue to observe the International Labour Conventions ratified up to that date by India and would participate in the future in the work of the International Labour Organisation through the medium of the Government of the United Kingdom which was empowered to accept on behalf of and with the consent of the Government of Burma the obligations arising from future international Conventions. Burma became a Member of the International Labour Organisation on 18 May 1948, on which date the Director-General of the International Labour Office

¹ It would not be appropriate for the International Labour Office to express an opinion with regard to the complex questions of a constitutional and juridical nature which may arise in regard to the effect of political or military events on the position of certain countries which have ratified the Convention.

² The names of Members Parties to the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946, are marked by an asterisk.

³ Ratification denounced on 16.4.1938.

received the instrument of acceptance by the Government of the Union of Burma of the obligations of the Constitution of the Organisation; this instrument states that the Government of Burma recognises that the obligations resulting from the ratification by India as regards Burma of International Labour Conventions before 1 April 1937 continue to be binding on the Union of Burma in accordance with the terms of these Conventions.

Geneva, 10 August 1949.

For the Director-General

C. W. JENKS
Legal Adviser