

No. 3915

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## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

**Convention (No. 47) concerning the Reduction of Hours of Work to Forty a Week, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its nineteenth session, Geneva, 22 June 1935, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946**

*Official texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 2 July 1957.*

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## ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

**Convention (n° 47) concernant la réduction de la durée du travail à quarante heures par semaine, adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa dix-neuvième session, Genève, 22 juin 1935, telle qu'elle a été modifiée par la Convention portant revision des articles finals, 1946**

*Textes anglais et français.*

*Enregistrée par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 2 juillet 1957.*

No. 3915. CONVENTION (No. 47)<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF HOURS OF WORK TO FORTY A WEEK, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION, GENEVA, 22 JUNE 1935, AS MODIFIED BY THE FINAL ARTICLES REVISION CONVENTION, 1946

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,  
Having met at Geneva in its Nineteenth Session on 4 June 1935,

Considering that the question of the reduction of hours of work is the sixth item on the agenda of the Session ;

Considering that unemployment has become so widespread and long continued that there are at the present time many millions of workers throughout the world suffering hardship and privation for which they are not themselves responsible and from which they are justly entitled to be relieved ;

Considering that it is desirable that workers should as far as practicable be enabled to share in the benefits of the rapid technical progress which is a characteristic of modern industry ; and

Considering that in pursuance of the Resolutions adopted by the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions of the International Labour Conference it is necessary that a continuous effort should be made to reduce hours of work in all forms of employment to such extent as is possible ;

adopts this twenty-second day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five the following Convention, which may be cited as the Forty-Hour Week Convention, 1935 :

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with article 3, the Convention came into force on 23 June 1957, twelve months after the date on which ratifications of the following two members were registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office :

	<i>Date of registration</i>
New Zealand . . . . .	29 March 1938
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics . . . . .	23 June 1956

The Convention has been subsequently ratified by the following members and these ratifications were registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office as indicated below :

	<i>Date of registration</i>	<i>Effective date</i>
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic . . . . .	10 August 1956	10 August 1957
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic . . . . .	21 August 1956	21 August 1957

*Article 1*

Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention declares its approval of—

- (a) the principle of a forty-hour week applied in such a manner that the standard of living is not reduced in consequence ; and
- (b) the taking or facilitating of such measures as may be judged appropriate to secure this end ;

and undertakes to apply this principle to classes of employment in accordance with the detailed provisions to be prescribed by such separate Conventions as are ratified by that Member.

*Article 2*

The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

*Article 3*

1. This Convention shall be binding only upon those Members of the International Labour Organisation whose ratifications have been registered with the Director-General.

2. It shall come into force twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members have been registered with the Director-General.

3. Thereafter, this Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered.

*Article 4*

As soon as the ratifications of two Members of the International Labour Organisation have been registered, the Director-General of the International Labour Office shall so notify all the Members of the International Labour Organisation. He shall likewise notify them of the registration of ratifications which may be communicated subsequently by other Members of the Organisation.

*Article 5*

1. 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.

1. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of ten years mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exercise the right of denunciation provided for in this Article,

will be bound for another period of ten years and, thereafter may denounce this Convention at the expiration of each period of ten years under the terms provided for in this Article.

#### Article 6

At the expiration of each period of ten years after the coming into force of this Convention, 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 in whole or in part.

#### Article 7

1. Should the Conference adopt a new Convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new Convention otherwise provides,

- (a) the ratification by a Member of the new revising Convention shall *ipso jure* involve the immediate denunciation of this Convention, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5 above, if and when the new revising Convention shall have come into force ;
- (b) as from the date when the new revising Convention comes into force this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification by the Members.

2. This Convention shall in any case remain in force in its actual form and content for those Members which have ratified it but have not ratified the revising Convention.

#### Article 8

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

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Forty-Hour Week Convention, 1935, as modified by the Final Articles Revision Convention, 1946.

The original text of the Convention was authenticated on 18 July 1935 by the signatures of F. H. P. Creswell, President of the Conference, and Harold Butler, Director of the International Labour Office.

The Convention had not come into force on 1 January 1947.

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 thirty-first day of August 1948 two original copies of the text of the Convention as modified.

Edward PHELAN  
Director-General  
of the International Labour Office