

No. 16064

MULTILATERAL

Convention (No. 141) concerning organizations of rural workers and their role in economic and social development. Adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at its sixtieth session, Geneva, 23 June 1975

Territorial application and declarations by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Authentic texts: English and French.

Registered by the International Labour Organisation on 21 December 1977.

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention (n° 141) concernant les organisations de travailleurs ruraux et leur rôle dans le développement économique et social. Adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à sa soixantième session, Genève, 23 juin 1975

Application territoriale et déclarations par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord

Textes authentiques: anglais et français.

Enregistrées par l'Organisation internationale du Travail le 21 décembre 1977.

CONVENTION¹ CONCERNING ORGANISATIONS OF RURAL WORKERS AND THEIR ROLE IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Sixtieth Session on 4 June 1975, and

Recognising that the importance of rural workers in the world makes it urgent to associate them with economic and social development action if their conditions of work and life are to be permanently and effectively improved, and

Noting that in many countries of the world and particularly in developing countries there is massive under-utilisation of land and labour and that this makes it imperative for rural workers to be given every encouragement to develop free and viable organisations capable of protecting and furthering the interests of their members and ensuring their effective contribution to economic and social development, and

Considering that such organisations can and should contribute to the alleviation of the persistent scarcity of food products in various regions of the world, and

Recognising that land reform is in many developing countries an essential factor in the improvement of the conditions of work and life of rural workers and that organisations of such workers should accordingly co-operate and participate actively in the implementation of such reform, and

Recalling the terms of existing international labour Conventions and Recommendations—in particular the Right of Association (Agriculture) Convention, 1921,² the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948,³ and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949⁴—which affirm the right of all workers, including rural

¹ Came into force on 24 November 1977 in respect of the two following members of the International Labour Organisation, i.e., 12 months after their ratifications had been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated, in accordance with article 8 (2):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>
Sweden	19 July 1976
Norway	24 November 1976

Thereafter, ratifications by the following States were registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the dates indicated, to take effect 12 months after such registration, in accordance with article 8 (3):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit</i>
Netherlands	26 January 1977
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15 February 1977
Cuba	14 April 1977
Switzerland	23 May 1977
Cyprus	28 June 1977
India	18 August 1977
Finland	14 September 1977
Ecuador	26 October 1977

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 38, p. 153.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 68, p. 17.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 96, p. 257.

workers, to establish free and independent organisations, and the provisions of numerous international labour Conventions and Recommendations applicable to rural workers which call for the participation, *inter alia*, of workers' organisations in their implementation, and

Noting the joint concern of the United Nations and the specialised agencies, in particular the International Labour Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, with land reform and rural development, and

Noting that the following standards have been framed in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and that, with a view to avoiding duplication, there will be continuing co-operation with that Organisation and with the United Nations in promoting and securing the application of these standards, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to organisations of rural workers and their role in economic and social development, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session, and

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

Adopts this twenty-third day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, the following Convention, which may be cited as the Rural Workers' Organisations Convention, 1975:

Article 1. This Convention applies to all types of organisations of rural workers, including organisations not restricted to but representative of rural workers.

Article 2. 1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "rural workers" means any person engaged in agriculture, handicrafts or a related occupation in a rural area, whether as a wage earner or, subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article, as a self-employed person such as a tenant, sharecropper or small owner-occupier.

2. This Convention applies only to those tenants, sharecroppers or small owner-occupiers who derive their main income from agriculture, who work the land themselves, with the help only of their family or with the help of occasional outside labour and who do not:

- (a) permanently employ workers; or
- (b) employ a substantial number of seasonal workers; or
- (c) have any land cultivated by sharecroppers or tenants.

Article 3. 1. All categories of rural workers, whether they are wage earners or self-employed, shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organisation concerned, to join organisations of their own choosing without previous authorisation.

2. The principles of freedom of association shall be fully respected; rural workers' organisations shall be independent and voluntary in character and shall remain free from all interference, coercion or repression.

3. The acquisition of legal personality by organisations of rural workers shall not be made subject to conditions of such a character as to restrict the application of the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this article.

4. In exercising the rights provided for in this article rural workers and their respective organisations, like other persons or organised collectivities, shall respect the law of the land.

5. The law of the land shall not be such as to impair, nor shall it be so applied as to impair, the guarantees provided for in this article.

Article 4. It shall be an objective of national policy concerning rural development to facilitate the establishment and growth, on a voluntary basis, of strong and independent organisations of rural workers as an effective means of ensuring the participation of rural workers, without discrimination as defined in the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958,¹ in economic and social development and in the benefits resulting therefrom.

Article 5. 1. In order to enable organisations of rural workers to play their role in economic and social development, each Member which ratifies this Convention shall adopt and carry out a policy of active encouragement to these organisations, particularly with a view to eliminating obstacles to their establishment, their growth and the pursuit of their lawful activities, as well as such legislative and administrative discrimination against rural workers' organisations and their members as may exist.

2. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall ensure that national laws or regulations do not, given the special circumstances of the rural sector, inhibit the establishment and growth of rural workers' organisations.

Article 6. Steps shall be taken to promote the widest possible understanding of the need to further the development of rural workers' organisations and of the contribution they can make to improving employment opportunities and general conditions of work and life in rural areas as well as to increasing the national income and achieving a better distribution thereof.

Article 7. The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

Article 8. 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 9. 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

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 362, p. 31.

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.

2. 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 10. 1. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall notify all Members of the International Labour Organisation of the registration of all ratifications and denunciations communicated to him by the Members of the Organisation.

2. When notifying the Members of the Organisation of the registration of the second ratification communicated to him, the Director-General shall draw the attention of the Members of the Organisation to the date upon which the Convention will come into force.

Article 11. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations full particulars of all ratifications and acts of denunciation registered by him in accordance with the provisions of the preceding articles.

Article 12. At such times as it may consider necessary the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision in whole or in part.

Article 13. 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 9 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 14. The English and French versions of the text of this Convention are equally authoritative.

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Convention duly adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation during its Sixtieth Session which was held at Geneva and declared closed the twenty-fifth day of June 1975.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures this twenty-sixth day of June 1975.

TERRITORIAL APPLICATION

Declaration registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on:

21 November 1977

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

(Application without modification to the Gilbert Islands. With effect from 21 November 1978.)

DECLARATIONS

Registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office on:

23 May 1977

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

(Decision reserved as regards the application to Montserrat.)

8 June 1977

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

(Decision reserved as regards application to St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.)

Certified statements were registered by the International Labour Organisation on 21 December 1977.
