



Joint Statement of the Labor Affairs Council of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement

Lima, Peru
(January 28, 2010)

The Labor Affairs Council (the Council) of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (U.S.-Peru TPA) convened its first meeting on January 28 in Lima, Peru. The Council is an important institution under the TPA, as it is charged with overseeing the Labor Chapter's implementation and reviewing each Party's progress under the Chapter.

The Council reaffirmed the Parties' commitments under the Labor Chapter, including to adopt and maintain in law and practice the rights stated in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The Council further clarified the domestic mechanisms, institutions, and procedures that each Party has established to advance the fulfillment of the Chapter's provisions. The Council also engaged in an in-depth discussion of the status of the Chapter's implementation, during which both Parties identified areas of particular concern.

Based on the productive discussion of the Council, the Parties began to work together to formulate a work plan and agreed upon priority areas for future cooperation to strengthen the Labor Chapter's enforcement. The Parties committed to remain engaged on a regular and continuing basis to vigorously address the challenges that still remain to ensuring full implementation of the Labor Chapter.

In connection with the Labor Affairs Council meeting, today the Council also held a public session with workers' and other civil society organizations, employers, and the general public. The Council believes that public sessions are critical to strengthening communication among the TPA Parties and these important groups, ensuring transparency in the administration of the Labor Chapter, and furthering the successful implementation of the Chapter's commitments. The Council is pleased to report that the public session involved a productive exchange of perspectives.

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