

ANNEX 18A COOPERATION

1. Officials of the Labor Ministry and other competent authorities responsible for labor affairs will cooperate to:
 - (a) establish priorities for cooperative activities on labor matters;
 - (b) develop specific cooperative activities in accordance with such priorities;
 - (c) exchange information on labor laws, regulations, and practices in each Party; and
 - (d) exchange information on ways to improve labor practices, including best labor practices, and implementation of the principles reflected in the ILO Declaration.

2. Cooperative activities between the Parties may include the following subjects:
 - (a) policy issues of mutual interest and their effective application: laws, regulations, practices, and implementation regarding freedom of association and collective bargaining, non-discrimination in employment, child labor, forced labor, occupational health and safety, compensation for work-related injuries or illnesses, employment standards, and migrant workers;
 - (b) labor-management relations: forms of cooperation and dispute settlement among labor, management, and government;
 - (c) social safety net programs: social programs for workers and their families and unemployment assistance programs;
 - (d) human resources development and management: technical and vocational training, including training of related instructors and development of training programs, training programs to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of labor administrations and tribunals, and development of training curricular as normally required in the Parties;
 - (e) migrant workers: dissemination of information on labor rights of migrant workers in each Party's territory;
 - (f) technical issues: programs, methodologies, and experiences regarding productivity improvement, encouragement of best labor practices, and the effective use of technologies;
 - (g) exchange of labor statistics and labor market information to enhance worker's and employer's awareness of labor demand and supply; and
 - (h) other matters as the Parties may agree, including further facilitation of partnership initiatives regarding labor.

3. Cooperative activities in paragraph 2 may be carried out through:
 - (a) exchanges of delegations, experts, scholars, teachers, and instructors, including study visits;
 - (b) exchanges of information, standards, regulations, procedures, and best practices, including publications and monographs;
 - (c) encouragement of dialogues between their respective government agencies and educational institutions;
 - (d) organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, training sessions and outreach, and education programs;
 - (e) development of collaborative projects or demonstrations;
 - (f) joint research projects, studies, and reports, including those involving independent experts with recognized expertise;
 - (g) cooperation on labor-related issues within international fora such as the ILO; and
 - (h) other forms of technical exchanges or cooperation as the Parties may agree.
4. The Parties shall carry out the cooperative activities with due regard for the economic, social, cultural, and legislative differences between them.