

PSI at the ILO Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration in Geneva

Public Services International representatives joined the Workers' Group during the Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva on 4-8 November.

Following a decision adopted at the 317th Session of the ILO Governing Body in March 2013, the Tripartite Technical Meeting brought together 12 government, 12 employers' and 12 workers' representatives in order to "assess the outcome of the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (UN HLD) and consider possible areas for ILO follow-up." Representing PSI in the workers' group is Maria Ostberg Svanelind from the Swedish affiliate, Akademikerförbundet SSR. In addition to the tripartite representatives, invited observers from the governments, employers' organisations, the Global Unions, trade union organisations, civil society and other international organisations were also present in the meeting.

The five-day meeting was highlighted by a high-level panel on the follow-up to the UN HLD on Migration and Development, consisting of the ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Director-General, William Lacy Swing, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Flavia Pansieri, the Swedish Ambassador and chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Eva Åkerman Börje, representative of the United States Council on International Business, Ellen Yost, and the Chair of the Council of the Global Unions and Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) General Secretary, Ambet Yuson.

The Tripartite Technical Meeting re-affirmed the commitment of the ILO and its tripartite constituents to work on labour migration issues and outlined clear recommendations and strategies on four areas, namely: (1) Follow-up to the UN High Level Dialogue and the post-2015 development debate; (2) Effective protection of migrant workers; (3) Sound labour market needs assessment and skills recognition; and (4) Cooperation and social dialogue for well-governed labour migration and mobility. Included among these recommendations are areas that are of priority to PSI, such as the promotion of decent work in all countries so that migration becomes an option and not a necessity, protection of migrant workers regardless of status, building the capacity of social partners in promoting access by migrant workers to public services, trade union rights, social security and justice, ensuring the gender-perspective in migration policies and promoting recruitment practices based on international labour standards. The tripartite meeting reiterated the competence and leadership of the ILO on labour migration issues as it prepares to Chair in 2014 the Global Migration Group, which is a coordinating mechanism among international agencies around migration.

ILO Tripartite Meeting:

http://www.ilo.org/migrant/events-and-meetings/WCMS_221809/lang-en/index.htm

ILO High-Level Panel Event:

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_229170/lang-en/index.htm