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Ministry of Employment and the Economy  
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Statement regarding the theme of the 2016 ILO International Labour Conference:  
Evaluation of the impact of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization  
2008

The Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions - SAK, Confederation of Unions  
for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland - Akava and  
Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK is as follows:

#### General

Adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2008, the Evaluation of the  
impact of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization was adopted  
unanimously following tripartite preparations and consultations. Its content is impor-  
tant because it specifies the four strategic objectives of the ILO, through which the  
Decent Work Agenda is expressed. These four strategic objectives are:

- 1) Promoting employment by creating a sustainable institutional and economic environment
- 2) Developing and enhancing measures of social protection – social security and labour pro-  
tection – which are sustainable and adapted to national circumstances
- 3) Promoting social dialogue and tripartism as the most appropriate methods
- 4) Respecting, promoting and realizing the fundamental principles and rights at work, which  
are of particular significance, as both rights and enabling conditions that are necessary for  
the full realization of all of the strategic objectives.

The four strategic objectives of the ILO and related content are, if possible, even  
more relevant today than when they were first adopted. During a time of economic  
and employment crisis, their significance is further magnified.

Where the objective for promoting employment is concerned, the Declaration states  
that: "individuals can develop and update the necessary capacities and skills they  
need to enable them to be productively occupied for their personal fulfilment and  
the common well-being."

Where the objective of social protection is concerned, the Declaration states that  
this includes: "policies in regard to wages and earnings, hours and other conditions

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of work, designed to ensure a just share of the fruits of progress to all and a minimum living wage to all employed and in need of such protection."

Where the objective of social dialogue and tripartism is concerned, the Declaration states that these can be used to most effectively: "facilitat(e) consensus building on relevant national and international policies that impact on employment and decent work strategies and programmes (...) and making labour law and institutions effective, including in respect of the recognition of the employment relationship, the promotion of good industrial relations and the building of effective labour inspection systems."

Where the objective of respecting, promoting and realizing the fundamental principles and rights at work is concerned, the Declaration states that: "...freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are particularly important to enable the attainment of the four strategic objectives (...) that the violation of fundamental principles and rights at work cannot be invoked or otherwise used as a legitimate comparative advantage."

The three trade union confederations have found that following the Declaration in the form of recurrent discussions, which change from year to year, has proven effective. This has made it possible to focus on each objective, one at a time. The conclusions drawn based on follow-up discussions have served as the impetus for orienting ILO activities toward new, topical themes.

Of particular note is the 2011 discussion on social protection and the subsequent recommendation on social protection adopted in 2012. Hopefully, this important recommendation will lead to the establishment of social protection in many countries. Attention should also be given to the constructive discussion held in 2012 on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work by the ILC Committee as well as the conclusions taken from this discussion: the need to amend the Forced Labour Convention (no. 29) and expand it to also comprehend the prevention of forced labour (human trafficking) as well as the need for employee protection in the informal economy. The Protocol to the Convention was adopted in 2014. Recommendation No. 204 concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy was adopted in 2015.

## Questionnaire

1.  
The trade union confederations emphasise the importance of the ILO's four strategic objectives. In Finland, which has a high degree of organisation and collective agreement coverage, labour market organisations agree on salaries and other terms of employment in collective agreements. In recent years, labour market organisations have signed extensive national agreements, such as the agreement concerning the extension of work careers, the Pact for Employment and Growth and its extension as well as pension reform.

The trade union confederations believe that the Finnish Government should take the content of the Declaration into consideration in its Government Programme and

policies. The Declaration emphasises maintaining policy coherence between the various ministries in realising the Declaration objectives. Then, concrete examples of solutions to be implemented at the national level and their linkage with the Declaration are examined. The list of examples is not exhaustive. Trade union confederations provide an opportunity to issue statements on, for example, the realisation of Declaration objectives with regard to social dialogue, in the ILO Advisory Board.

The Declaration's employment objective states that opportunities for individuals to develop and maintain their skills and capacities should be made available. Where this aspect is concerned, it is extremely problematic that cuts affecting the entire education chain are specified in the Government Programme, from early childhood and comprehensive education on up to vocational and higher education, not to mention cuts to research grants. The planned cuts to the subjective right to daycare would compromise employment opportunities for and the labour market position of women, in particular. The trade union confederations also mention the problem of planned Government cuts to rehabilitation grants in terms of realising the Declaration objective.

The Declaration mentions the development of labour law and social security as well as uncertainty factors stemming from, for example, rapid changes in technology and the economy. In this context, the trade union confederations refer to, for example, 'forced entrepreneurs' and the employers themselves, stating that legislation and the social security it provides should also be developed where these groups are concerned.

The Declaration specifies establishing functional occupational safety oversight, which the trade union confederations refer to in their views expressed in ILO annual reports.

The trade union confederations are concerned that the budget proposal currently being prepared by the Finnish Government includes cuts to development co-operation grants, which will effectively compromise the promotion of Decent Work and realisation of Declaration objectives all over the world.

2.

Finland participated with a tripartite delegation in the European Regional Meeting, which was held in Oslo in 2013. The Oslo Declaration emphasised the role of labour market organisations and collective agreement negotiations, particularly during crises.

The 2008 Declaration, which also comprehends the promotion and development of occupational safety, also emphasises policy coherence between the ILO and other international organisations. One example of regional co-operation is the European Union. The development of occupational safety should be emphasised in the EU. The European Commission's agenda to reduce regulation is of particular concern in this regard.

3.

Finland ratified the ILO Convention on Fundamental Principles and Rights and preparations are being made for ratification of the new protocol to the Forced Labour Convention.

The trade union confederations emphasise the unique oversight mechanisms of ILO conventions and ensuring their continued function, also in the future.

4.

In Finland, the ILO Advisory Board has addressed matters related to the Declaration in the manner specified in Convention no. 144, particularly concerning each standing Recurrent Discussion committee.

The trade union confederations have representation in the Development Policy Committee and POST-2015 working group, both of which dealing with the Decent Work Agenda.

5.

Finland participated with a tripartite delegation at the ILO European Regional Meeting, which was held in Oslo in 2013.

The POST-2015 working group, in which there is also representation from the trade union confederations and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, has been working to include Decent Work in the POST-2015 agenda.

6.

See the previous section.

7.

International level "Significantly"

The international impact of the Declaration has been significant, for example, due to the fact that new international norms regarding the victims of human trafficking and the informal economy have been drafted and adopted since the inception of the Declaration.

Regional level "A little"

Where the regional level is concerned, we refer to what we stated earlier in question 2, regarding the reduction of regulation in the European Commission's agenda.

National level "Moderately" or even "A little"

The situation could take a negative turn, from "Moderately" to "A little", if the Government institutes the cuts it is proposing in its Government Programme and budget preparations.

8.

"Moderately"

In this respect, the trade union confederations place a particular emphasis on the importance of adopting new norms (the social protection recommendation, the protocol to the Forced Labour Convention and the recommendation concerning the

Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy) to the significance of all ILO activities, not only those concerning Finland.

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