

BANGLADESH (2017-2018)
THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR
Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention

REPORTING	Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations	Yes.	
	Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process	No.	
OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS	Employers' organizations	No.	
	Workers' organizations	No.	
EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	Ratification	Ratification status	Bangladesh has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		Ratification intention	2017-2018 ARs: The Protocol is likely to be ratified after undertaking a feasibility study.
	Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour	2017-2018 ARs: There are plans of actions and a national policy for the prevention of all forms of forced labour as well as for combatting trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour.	
	Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action	<p>2018 AR: In addition to the information given in its 2017 AR, in each district and other tiers of local administration, there are Counter Trafficking Committee (CTC) headed by government officials. Government and non-government agencies, members of civil society and local elites are the members of CTC. Human Trafficking especially trafficking in women and children gets highest priority. Counter Trafficking Committees (CTC) have been formed at district, upazila and union levels. Anti-Human trafficking database cell has been established at MoHA. An Alliance to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children (ACTWC) has been formed under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, led by the Department of Women. The Government reiterates that the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 has been enacted. It further indicates that to implement and execute the law successfully particularly to enforce the law, punish the traffickers and perpetrators and to protect the survivors and their families, three rules have been formulated. The rules are: (1) The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Rule, 2017, (2) The Human Trafficking Suppression Authority Rule, 2017 and (3) The Human Trafficking Fund Rule, 2017.</p> <p>2017 AR: The Constitution of Bangladesh ensures establishment of a society based on the rule of law, justice, and respect for human dignity and the equal worth of all persons. In Bangladesh any form of forced and bonded labour are banned constitutionally. It is the state's obligation to prevent the violation of human rights including human trafficking, forced labour, and slavery. The Constitution at its Article 34 prohibits all forms of forced labour and any contravention of this provision shall be an offense punishable in accordance with the law. The "National Plan of Action 2015- 2017" for prevention of human trafficking, protection of</p>	

		<p>survivors, promoting legal justice, developing partnership and effective monitoring is under implementation. Various committees have been formed under the Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard such as GONGO National Coordination Committee to combat human trafficking, Committee to monitor the National Plan of Action 2015-2017 and RRRI (Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration) task force.</p>
	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to prevent forms of forced labour</p>	<p>2018 AR: The measures taken or envisaged include: a) <i>Information, education and awareness raising targeting especially people in vulnerable situation and employers</i>; b) <i>Regulation and supervision of the labour recruitment and placement process</i>; c) <i>Addressing the root causes that perpetuate forced labour</i>; d) <i>Promotion of safe and regular migration</i>; e) <i>Education/vocational training</i>: National Educational Policy, 2010, adopted; National Skill Development Policy, 2011 adopted; Development projects are being implemented; f) <i>Capacity building for the competent authorities</i>; and g) <i>Basic social security guarantees</i>: about 13.92 per cent of the annual budget of the government and 2.55 per cent of GDP is being spent for social protection.</p> <p>2017 AR: The measures taken or envisaged include: a) there are Acts, rules and regulations to prevent forced labour and safe migration; b) trainings are being conducted for law-enforcement agencies, and workshops and seminars are conducted for overall awareness raising; c) regulation and supervision of the labour recruitment and placement process for person who are at risk of being victims; d) workshops and seminars are being conducted for migrant workers. e) in addressing the root causes that perpetuate forced labour, research and studies are conducted; f) Promotion of safe and regular migration through i) Overseas Employment and Migrants Welfare Act, 2013, ii) 3) Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy- 2016 has been adopted, and iii) development projects are being implemented; g) the members of the law and enforcement agencies are being trained; h) provision of basic social security guarantees, such as about 12.33 percent of the annual budget of the government and 2.26 percent of GDP is being spent for social protection; and i) the government has formulated a comprehensive National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) which has prioritized the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.</p>
	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour</p>	<p>2017-2018 ARs: The following measures have been taken or envisaged: a) Trainings are being conducted for law-enforcement agencies. Workshops and seminars are conducted for overall awareness raising; b) legal assistance and protection of victims, where possible training material for income generation is provided; c) Medical and psychological assistance for victims; d) measures for the rehabilitation and social and professional reintegration of victims (safe home facilities which are available with the Department of Social Welfare are provided for rehabilitation and social and professional reintegration of victims); e) protection of privacy and identity; and f) the National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children operates toll free helpline 10921 which remains open for 24/7 days.</p>
	<p>Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies</p>	<p>2017-2018 ARs: The measures taken or envisaged include: a) information is provided to the family of victims and counseling support is provided for victims; b) as per existing rules and regulations free legal assistance is provided; c) regulations cost-free proceedings is provided; d) as per provisions of existing rules and regulations, victims have the access to remedies and compensation; and e) trainings are being conducted for law enforcement agencies while workshops and seminars are conducted for overall awareness raising.</p>
	<p>Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out</p>	
	<p>Cooperation with other Member States,</p>	<p>2017-2018 ARs: Bangladesh cooperates with other member States as well as with international, regional and non-governmental organisations.</p>

	international / regional organizations or NGOs	The Government ratified the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution in July 2002.	
	Promotional activities		
	Special initiatives/Progress		
CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL	According to the social partners	Employers' organizations	
		Workers' organizations	
	According to the Government		
TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS	Request	EA 2018: There is no need for technical cooperation.	
	Offer		