

**SURINAME (2017-2018)**

**THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR**

**Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention**

<b>REPORTING</b>	<b>Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations</b>	Yes.	
	<b>Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> No, the report was not communicated to the social partners at the time of reporting. However, the Government's report would be sent to the employers' organizations – the Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (VSB), and the Associatie van Surinaamse Fabrikanten (ASFA); and to the workers' organization, the Raad van Vakcentrales in Suriname (RAVAKSUR).	
<b>OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS</b>	<b>Employers' organizations</b>	No.	
	<b>Workers' organizations</b>	No.	
<b>EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Ratification status</b>	Suriname has not yet ratified the Protocol of 2014 (P029) to the Forced Labour Convention.
		<b>Ratification intention</b>	<b>2018 AR:</b> The Protocol is likely to be ratified since its ratification has been approved by the National Assembly in July 2018.
	<b>Existence of a policy and / or plan of action for the suppression of forced or compulsory labour</b>	<b>2018 AR:</b> The Government envisages adopting a plan of action in this regard by mid-2019.  <b>2017 AR:</b> There is a national policy and plans of action for preventing all forms of forced labour. A plan of action is being coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Police through the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Working Group.	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged for systematic and coordinated action</b>	<b>2017 AR:</b> The TIP Working Group has been created. Several information and education sessions have been held with several participants in the social field. Authorities responsible include: Ministry of Justice and Police, Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Labour (Labour Inspection). The Ministry of Labour is in the process of setting up a labour market information system in cooperation with the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean.	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged to prevent forms of forced labour</b>	<b>2017-2018 AR:</b> The measures taken or envisaged include: a) Information, education and awareness raising targeting especially people in vulnerable situation and employers; b) Strengthening and broadening of the coverage of legislation, particularly labour law; c) Addressing the root causes that perpetuate forced labour; d) Education/vocational training; e) Capacity building for the competent authorities; and f) Promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable at risk workers to join workers' organisations.	
	<b>Measures taken or envisaged to protect victims of forced labour</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> The following measures have been taken or envisaged: a) Legal protection of victims; b) Material assistance for victims; c) Medical and psychological assistance for victims; d) Protection of privacy and identity; e) Appropriate accommodation; f) Specific measures for children; and g) formation of the TIP Working Group.	

	<b>Measures taken or envisaged to facilitate access to remedies</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> The following measures have been taken or envisaged: a) Information and counselling for victims regarding their rights; b) Free legal assistance; c) Capacity building and enhanced resources for the competent authorities, such as labour inspection, law enforcement, prosecution services and judges; d) Provision for authorities not to prosecute victims for acts which they have been compelled to commit; and e) Provision of penalties such as the confiscation of assets and criminal liability of legal persons.	
	<b>Non-prosecution of victims for unlawful acts that they would have been forced to carry out</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> Yes.	
	<b>Cooperation with other Member States, international / regional organizations or NGOs</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> The Government cooperates with IOM, ILO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC). The UNODC is providing a capacity strengthening program for government institutions. The IOM is planning to provide assistance to government institutions and NGO's in a 3- year program which is planned to start in 2017.	
	<b>Promotional activities</b>		
	<b>Special initiatives/Progress</b>		
<b>CHALLENGES IN REALIZING MEASURES TARGETED BY THE PROTOCOL</b>	<b>According to the social partners</b>	<b>Employers' organizations</b>	
		<b>Workers' organizations</b>	
	<b>According to the Government</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> The main challenges are: a) lack of awareness; b) lack of information and data; c) social values, cultural traditions; d) social and economic circumstances; e) shortcomings in the legislative framework; f) lack of resources in the institutional framework; g) challenges linked to the labour recruitment and placement process; h) challenges linked to migration policies; and i) lack of social dialogue on the principle.	
<b>TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>2017-2018 ARs:</b> The Government indicated the need for technical cooperation with the ILO in the following areas: More importantly: a) Awareness-raising and mobilization activities; b) Collection and analysis of data and information; c) Strengthening the legal framework; d) Capacity building for the competent authorities; e) Capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations; f) Vocational training, job-creation and income-generation programmes for at-risk populations; and g) Promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable at-risk workers to join workers' organizations. Less importantly: a) Exchange of experiences between countries or regions; international cooperation; b) Assessment, in cooperation with the ILO, of the obstacles identified and their impact on the realization of the principle; c) Guidance on the development of the national policy and plan of action; and d) Promotion of fair recruitment and placement practices.	
	<b>Offer</b>		