

▶ China ILO cooperation

March 2023

The People's Republic of China is a founding Member State of the ILO. The country has ratified 28 Conventions, which include seven Fundamental Conventions, two prioritized Governance Conventions and 19 Technical Conventions.

▶ China and the ILO

The ILO and China have a long-standing partnership that has intensified in recent years thanks to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) and voluntary contributions by China to the ILO's Development Cooperation Programme.

The ILO office in Beijing was established in 1985 and oversees ILO's activities in China (including the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions) and Mongolia.

Since the beginning of China's transition to a market economy, the ILO has been providing technical assistance to the Chinese government and social partners in areas such as labour legislation, employment promotion and social security reform, the promotion of social dialogue and sound labour relations. The first MoU signed in 2001 between the ILO and Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) deepened the cooperation in developing the labour market policies and institutions in line with international labour standards, which promoted productivity and safeguarding workers' rights.

In 2016, the third Decent Work Country Programme was agreed between the ILO and its Chinese

constituents, laying the foundation for a MoU for strategic partnership focusing on the four dimensions of the decent work agenda, which was signed in the same year. The new MoU established a strategic partnership in realizing the common objectives of promoting social justice, decent work and fair globalization.

Over time, the nature of the cooperation between ILO and China has evolved. The ILO began integrating Chinese experience and approaches on employment services and other areas in its development cooperation programmes around the world.

In April and June 2019, the ILO signed three MoUs with the Government of China and one with the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), all of which provide a solid basis for an expanded programme of development cooperation.

More recently, in December 2022 the ILO and the MOHRSS signed a partnership agreement promoting the Global Development Initiative (GDI) with a focus on South-South Cooperation in employment.

▶ The Global Development Initiative (GDI)

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the UN General Assembly on September 21st, 2021. The initiative calls for greater international synergy to speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by revitalizing global development partnership as well as promoting stronger, greener and healthier global development.

In particular, one of the GDI's priorities is promoting full employment and eradicating poverty for youth and women. This objective is aligned with the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, in which the significance of seizing opportunities to promote full employment and decent work for all is emphasized.



On December 9, 2022, China's State Council held the seventh "1+6" Roundtable with heads of six major international organizations. ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo joined the meeting virtually. They had in-depth exchanges on China's economic situation, deepening reform and opening up, among others.

► China's South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) at a glance

In 2012, the first SSTC agreement between the ILO and China was signed, with China committing US\$ 1 million in support to South-South cooperation and the Decent Work agenda. In 2013, China and ILO launched their first South-South cooperation project on strengthening public employment services and labour market information in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). Since 2015, China has been committed to advancing social protection through SSTC. A Ministerial Declaration adopted in Chongqing in July 2017 established the BRICS Social Security Cooperation Framework. Within the scope of South-South Cooperation, under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in 2019 China has further intensified its partnership with the ILO around shared priorities such as social protection, skills development, labour governance and safety at work. Agreements were signed between the ILO and three Ministries:

- The first MoU envisages a cooperation with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS). This cooperation is based on a shared vision aimed at promoting decent work, social justice, and a human-centered future of work.
- The second MoU signed with the Ministry of Emergency Management focuses on OSH.
- The third MoU was signed with the Ministry of Transport to promote the implementation of the ILO's Maritime Labour Convention along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative.

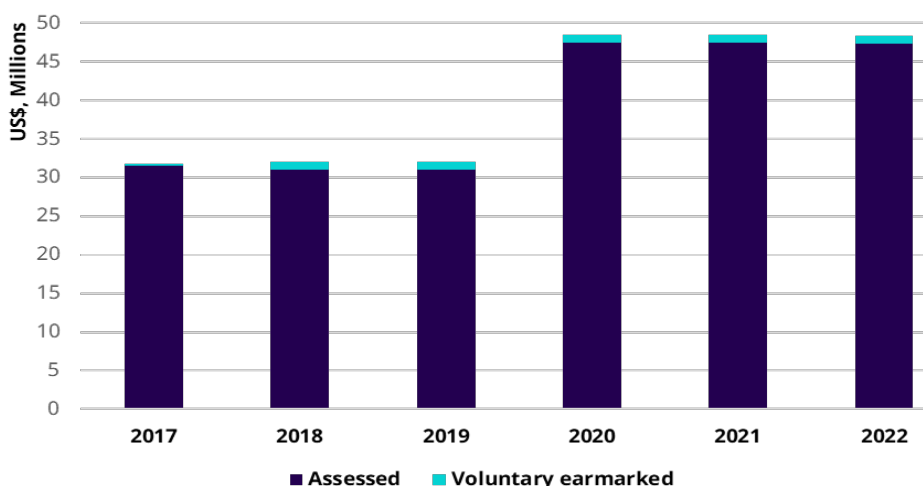
In December 2022, an additional MoU was signed between the ILO and MOHRSS under the GDI.

China's financial contribution to the ILO

China funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions**, which are paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. China provided nearly **US\$ 236 million** between 2017 and 2022.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes, regions and projects. Between 2017 and 2022, China's voluntary contributions totalled **US\$ 5.2 million**.

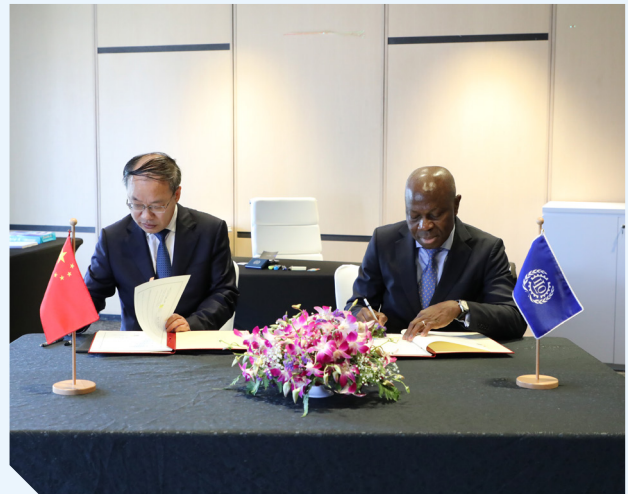
► China's total contributions to the ILO 2017-2022, US\$, Millions



In addition, China also contributed over US\$2.2 million to the ILO through the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme between 2017 and 2022, which provides young professionals with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field of multilateral international cooperation as well as enhances the development and capacity development work of the ILO. Through the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund established by China, the ILO also receives more than US\$ 1.1 million for two projects.

▶ China and the ILO sign an agreement to promote South South Cooperation

On 7 December 2022, during the Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting in Singapore, the ILO and the MOHRSS signed a MoU promoting the GDI with a focus on South-South Cooperation. It promotes SSTC as a means of undertaking development cooperation with partner countries. The partnership supports the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda with a focus on high-quality employment, public employment services and entrepreneurship development – which are critical themes for the ILO’s Global Social Justice Coalition and the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. This new South-South Cooperation agreement includes an initial contribution of US\$1 million.



▶ China, BRICS and the ILO

In 2017 and 2022, MOHRSS held the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting (LEMM) and working group meetings when China held the BRICS Presidency. The ILO has played an active role in providing technical support and connecting with the BRICS Network of Labour Research Institutes.

Activities like the [BRICS Knowledge series](#) (2021) and the Structured Funding Dialogue on-Skills (2022) have increased mutual exchanges between the ILO and BRICS countries. The 2022 BRICS LEMM Declaration focused on green jobs, skills development and workers’ rights protection, and proposes BRICS solutions to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and a human-centred inclusive recovery.

▶ Current and recent ILO projects funded by China

▶ ILO-China South-South Cooperation Agreement (2022-2023)

Through this development cooperation project, China aims to provide long-term employment support to ASEAN countries with a focus on the development and implementation of national employment policies. Activities implemented under the project include policy formulation and implementation, capacity building, technical assistance for employment diagnostics and monitoring and evaluation. The development cooperation projects which are designed and implemented within the framework of this partnership will follow the principles of equality, mutual support, common development, and local ownership, and will provide technical support to realize the ILO’s Decent Work strategic objectives, in particular the strategic objective of employment promotion.

▶ ILO-China Partnership Project on Strengthening Skills Development in ASEAN Member Countries (2018-2025)

Working to improve the employability of workers and increase the productivity of enterprises through skills and institutional capacity development, this project is leveraging SSTC to “build back better”. Thanks to a US\$ 4 million financial contribution from MOHRSS, the project supports its development partners in ASEAN countries to formulate skills laws and regulations for mutual skills recognition in the ASEAN region. The project promotes knowledge sharing on skills development between skills centres and TVET institutions through SSTC. Under the project, a Skills Development Network was launched in November 2021. Supported by the ILO and MOHRSS, the Network brings together 22 TVET institutes from China, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar with plans to further expand. The Network has included the signature of nine MOUs signed between 18 member TVETs of the Network, facilitating peer-to-peer relationships. These bilateral partners organized workshops on topics including TVET management, quality assurance of TVET institutions, digitalization of TVETs, digital skills training and poverty alleviation through TVETs. The Programme also co-organized the ASEAN+3 e-forum on Skills Development, bringing policymakers in East Asia together on skills development.

► With support from the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund established by China

► Achieving SDGs and ending poverty through Universal Social Protection in Cambodia and Pakistan (2018-2021)

With a contribution of \$ 746,014, the project helped develop a comprehensive overview of the best practices, tools and communication mechanisms for good governance in the social protection systems and floors; and assisting countries to achieve the SDGs and contributing to efforts to eradicate poverty. The project was jointly implemented by UN DESA and the ILO in the framework of ILO's Global Flagship Programme for Social Protection Floors. The project strengthened

the capacity of the national entities responsible for social protection in Cambodia to formulate and implement social security schemes; enhanced the capacity of the national entities responsible for social protection in Pakistan to coordinate the existing social security schemes and to monitor and evaluate their effectiveness; increased regional and global awareness on the vital important role of governance in extending the coverage of social protection.

► Strengthening the capacity of governments and youth employment stakeholders in Africa in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes promoting decent jobs for youth (2020-2022)

With a financial contribution of US\$ 373,000, the project aimed to strengthen the capacity of government institutions, youth, workers' and employers' organizations and other key youth employment stakeholders in Nigeria in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes promoting decent jobs for youth.

The project ensured close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development

(FMYS) resulting in youth employment stakeholders and young people taking ownership of the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP) and engaging in its implementation. Technical support was provided to stakeholders in developing and strengthening their monitoring and evaluation systems to better assess the impact of their youth employment interventions and contribute to the implementation of the NIYEAP.

► In collaboration with other development partners in China

► South-South Cooperation to Enhance the Institutional Capacities of Trade Unions in Asia and the Pacific (2019-2023)

Thanks to US\$ 1 million in support from All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), the project is building and enhancing the core capacities of trade unions and workers' organizations in the Asia and Pacific region to effectively participate and take action on issues of common interest to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, define and undertake strategies to build the future of work; and influence policy agendas on social, economic and environmental issues. The project delivered five virtual training programmes in 2021-2022.

A total of 189 trade union officials participated in these trainings. An online learning platform is currently being developed to create an inventory of training material generated by the project, and to offer a dedicated online space for trade unions in the region to collaborate and exchange experiences with one another. Also, a Training of online Trainers course was organized for 25, carefully selected trade union educators from the region focusing on improving their capacities.

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