

▶ CPLP ILO cooperation

May 2023

The partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) is anchored in social justice, particularly Decent Work, and promotes tripartite dialogue along with South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). For more information about CPLP – ILO cooperation, refer to [the South-South Meeting Point platform](#), which provides the latest updates and [relevant documents](#) on this partnership.

▶ Objectives and principles of the CPLP

The Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries CPLP is a transnational organization, created on July 17, 1996, with the aim of strengthening mutual friendship and SSTC cooperation among Portuguese-speaking countries. Its members include Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste. It has 32 associated observers, including states and international organizations.

The objectives of the CPLP include political and diplomatic harmony among its member states, cooperation among the constituent nations in all domains and the development of projects to promote and disseminate the Portuguese language through SSTC. All member states enjoy equality and reciprocity of treatment within the CPLP, maintaining their national identities and respecting the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and territorial integrity. The CPLP serves as a forum for member states' international promotion based on values development and mutual cooperation, considering peace, democracy, human rights, social justice and the rule of law as fundamental principles.

▶ History of CPLP – ILO cooperation

The CPLP and the ILO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2004 that allows for the promotion of the Portuguese language within the ILO and provides a framework for future protocols between the two organizations for developing joint programs in areas of common interest. Since 2005, the ILO Office in Lisbon has acted as an interface between the ILO and the Portuguese-speaking in line with a Protocol of Collaboration between the ILO and CPLP.

Both organizations share the common objective of promoting social justice and decent work, as well as contributing to sustainable economic growth and the harmonious development of all human beings, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. CPLP and ILO recognize the principle of dialogue between governments and social partners, as well as other actors of civil society, as an appropriate instrument for promoting social justice from a SSTC approach. Indeed, in recent decades, through SSTC, Portuguese-speaking countries have been able to improve their social indicators, reduce poverty, combat socio-economic and gender inequality, increase levels of social inclusion and promote decent work. This cooperation modality has allowed the transfer and adaptation to the national context of good practices among the various member countries.



► South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in the CPLP

In April 2013, during the 12th Meeting of the Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the CPLP, the Maputo Declaration was signed.

Among other aspects, the declaration highlights the common objective of «strengthening support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in order to contribute to the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda and its four strategic objectives in CPLP member states, with a special focus on combating child labour, strengthening the role of labour inspections, and promoting social protection.»

► June 12 - World Day to Combat Child Labour

Since 2011, the ILO and the CPLP have carried out several joint campaigns to commemorate June 12 as the «World Day Against Child Labour». The CPLP's involvement in this campaign is the result of a 2011, ministerial-level resolution of among the CPLP members to intensify joint efforts for the prevention and eradication of child labour in the community. to commemorate this day. For instance, in June 2022, CPLP joined the ILO to call for greater investment in social protection systems and schemes, with the understanding that strong social protection systems help protect children from child labour.



In November 2021, an e-Learning course on «The International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour for CPLP Countries» was delivered by the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC-ILO), in collaboration with the CPLP and with the financial support of the Portuguese Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP), in order to promote SSTC. Delivered as part of efforts for the International Year

for the Elimination of Child Labour, the course aimed to increase understanding of child labour and help key actors at the global and national levels determine what actions are needed for their respective contexts.

► Declaration and Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour in the CPLP

On March 31, 2021, in the framework of the XIV Meeting of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the CPLP, the CPLP adopted a Declaration and Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour for 2021-2025, and its member countries agreed to join Alliance 8.7, the global partnership to catalyse action on Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 on eradicating forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking and eliminating child labour, including its worst forms.

One of the specific objectives of the Action Plan is to «promote and strengthen multilateral technical cooperation among CPLP Member States and between them and the ILO». To this end, the Plan proposes several activities to be carried out in partnership with the ILO from a SSTC approach, including: updating the Study on the application of ILO Conventions 138 and 182; conducting a preliminary study on the child labour situation in each country, based on harmonized indicators established by the ILO; technical support for the preparation and/or implementation of national strategies, action plans or other public policy documents on child labour; and the promotion of training and capacity building actions in the area of labour inspection.

► Strengthening Social Protection Systems in the PALOP (Portuguese-Speaking African Countries) and Timor-Leste

Initiated in 2015, the ACTION/Portugal project provides technical assistance on social protection in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa – Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste within the framework of the ILO Global Flagship Programme on Social Protection Floors and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. In June 2022, a new agreement for phase three of the project was signed between the ILO and the Strategic and Planning Office of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal, extending the intervention through July 2025. This partnership enables the ILO to transfer good practices in SSTC as well as deepen and strengthen ongoing technical support for the implementation of comprehensive national social protection systems, including floors, in the project's partner countries, in line with national priorities and strategies. Past phases have supported the improvement of Timor-Leste's social security system legislation as well as the approval of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Basic Social Security Programs in Mozambique.

► Publications



In 2013 the CPLP and the ILO joined forces to carry out a "[Study on the application of ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182 and their Recommendations in the National Legislation of the CPLP countries.](#)"

This study provides a detailed analysis of national legislation to combat child labour and compares them with the parameters of both Conventions. It

also provides an overview of the child labour situation in each country and an overview of the government institutions, social partners and civil society organizations involved in national programs and action plans against child labour. After ten years, this study is being updated as part of the Action Plan Against Child Labour in CPLP (2021-2025).

In 2014, the CPLP and the ILO launched the joint publication "[South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the CPLP: Good Practices in Social Protection and Combating Child Labour.](#)" This publication highlights the achievements of SSTC activities in the CPLP, with examples of successful collaboration.

Within the framework of the distance learning course "[Strengthening the Capacities of Labour Inspections to Eradicate Child Labour: Strengthening Partnerships between CPLP Countries through South-South Cooperation,](#)" which took place in February 2023, a manual on this subject was also published.

► Focal Points for the Fight Against Child Labour

Since 2010, CPLP Focal Point Meetings on activities required to achieve the CPLP Plan of Action to Combat Child Labour have been held with the participation of ILO representatives.

The last meeting took place in May 2023 in Benguela, Angola. On this occasion, the Focal Points shared their experiences with ILO experts and discussed a proposed Plan of Action for Labour Inspection as well as analyse the status of the implementation of the CPLP Plan of Action.

► Strengthening the capacities of Labour Inspections to eradicate child labour

Stronger partnerships between CPLP Countries through South-South Cooperation

Within the framework of the ILO South-South Cooperation Programme, the distance learning course "Strengthening the capacities of Labour Inspections to eradicate child labour: strengthening partnerships between CPLP countries through South-South Cooperation" took place from February to March 2023. This course was aimed at labour inspectors from CPLP member countries and was co-organized by the ILO and the CPLP Executive Secretariat, with the financial support of the IIEFP.

The objective of the course was to create and strengthen partnerships between the Labour Inspectorates of the CPLP member countries to improve their capacities to identify, prevent and remedy child labour cases, in particular the worst forms of child labour. To this end, the training fostered the exchange of information between countries on the gaps and challenges encountered, as well as knowledge and experience on how national legislation on child labour, especially in its worst forms, is being implemented.



► XV Meeting of CPLP Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs



From [May 16 to 18, 2023, the XV Meeting of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the CPLP](#) took place in the city of Benguela, Angola, under the theme "For Social Justice and Decent Work for All". This ILO-supported event facilitated dialogue on the creation of an ILO national office in Luanda for the PALOPs; the updating of the Tíbar Action Plan on promoting Social Protection; the exchange of information on the situation of Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety, Hygiene and Health in the CPLP countries; and the updating of the 2021-2025 Action Plan to combat child labour in the CPLP member states.

► Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour

In May 2022, the Executive Secretary of the CPLP participated in the High-Level Panel «Voices from the World» at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban, South Africa.

The CPLP presented a Joint Declaration on the Elimination of Child Labour, committing itself to strengthening action against child labour, forced labour and child trafficking at the global, regional, national and community levels, based on ILO conventions and recommendations and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

► Key events

In June 2019 the «[Youth Conference on the Future of Work](#)» was co-organized by the CPLP, ILO-Lisbon, the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) and the CPLP Youth Forum.

In the context of the CPLP Year of Youth as well as the 70th anniversary of the OEI and the ILO's centenary, this event was designed to raise awareness and promote youth reflection on the challenges of the work of the future, entrepreneurship for sustainable development and social protection. During the conference, the ILO presented the «Report of the World Commission on the Future of Work,» which outlines the actions that need to be taken to achieve a future of work that provides decent and sustainable work opportunities for all.



In June 2021, the International Conference on «[Combating Child Labour in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)» was co-organized by the CPLP and the ILO. The objective of the event was to reinforce awareness of child labour, particularly the effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of adopting measures to mitigate its effects and the exchange of experiences on best practices in the fight against child labour.



► ILO Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy

In November 2021, the CPLP and the ILO organized the 12th edition of the Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE Academy), under the theme “Building back better: the role of the Social and Solidarity Economy in a people-centred and planet-sensitive recovery”. SSE Academy allowed participants from multiple countries to share their SSE experiences and methodologies.

The design of the SSE Academy also integrated the experience of SSTC cooperation in the CPLP. During these sessions, experts from CPLP countries presented concrete examples of projects where the SSTC approach strengthened the impact of the SSE in national contexts. Concrete examples of broader regional and inter-regional networks and platforms for the exchange of knowledge and experiences were also provided. As a result of this course, a ten-year Action Plan was elaborated, which includes among its objectives: the identification of SSE good practices and the realization of a needs assessment; the creation of legal and institutional frameworks for the SSE; and the wide dissemination of SSTC good practices related to the SSE.

Contact details

International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland

Department for Multilateral Partnerships
and Development Cooperation
(PARTNERSHIPS)

T: +41 22 799 7370
E: partnerships@ilo.org
ilo.org/partnerships