

Trade and decent work in Global Supply Chains

Information seminar for the FES-Asia project on “Core Labour Standards Plus”

5-11 June 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland

Trade liberalization and trade agreements in their current form have unleashed hyper-competitive pressure in products such as ready-made garments, footwear and consumer electronics. Social clauses linked to trade have provided little protection for workers on core labor standards, let alone safety, fair wages or social protection. However, there seems to be a window of opportunity to revive the old idea of a binding social clause in international trade and in global supply chains and combine it with a fair economic balance between suppliers, international companies, governments, trade unions and workers in Asia and Europe.

The FES-South East Asia “CLS Plus” project aims at developing a policy-oriented tool to assess and promote the implementation of comprehensive labour and social standards, including but also beyond the Core Labour Standards, in export-oriented industries in Asia in the framework of trade agreements and preference systems.

This Geneva based workshop will enable participants to get first-hand information from international experts of trade and labour rights’ policies. Additionally, participants will have the chance to further develop the regional project by incorporating the inputs received during this seminar.

Monday, 6 June 2016

Topic of the Day: Introduction to “international Geneva” and the world of the ILO

9:30-11:15	<p>Welcoming, Introduction, Who is Who and Who expects What</p> <p>Hubert René Schillinger, Director, FES Geneva</p> <p>Yvonne Theemann, Senior Program Officer, Trade and Development, Employment and Social Policy, FES Geneva</p>
11:15-12:15	<p>The FES-Asia project «Core Labour Standards Plus»: Status Quo</p> <p>Erwin Schweisshelm, Director, FES Vietnam</p> <p>Lukas Bauer, Coordinator, Programme Manager, FES Singapore</p>

12:15-13:00	Going to the ILO and accreditation to the International Labour Conference
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break at the ILO Cafeteria
14:30-15:30	<p>First information chain I: the universe of the International Labour Organization – introduction</p> <p>the ILO’s history, structure and mandate including today’s challenges and main objectives</p> <p>Yvonne Theemann, Senior Program Officer, Trade and Development, Employment and Social Policy, FES Geneva</p> <p>and first insights on the current International Labour Conference</p> <p>Anna Biondi, Deputy Director, Bureau for Workers' Activities, International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>
15:30-15:45	Coffee/Tea Break
15:45-17:15	<p>The FES-Asia project «Core Labour Standards Plus»: Status Quo – Quo vadis?</p> <p>Erwin Schweisshelm, Director, FES Vietnam</p> <p>Lukas Bauer, Coordinator, Programme Manager, FES Singapore</p>
17:15-18:00	<p>Special chain I: Informal meeting with Homeworkers’ delegation</p> <p>Lead by Karin Pape, Deputy Director, Organization and Representation, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)</p>

Tuesday, 7 June 2016

Topic of the Day: deepening the understanding of the ILO

09:20-10:00	<p>Security Check at the Palais des Nations:</p> <p>This process can take a while. Be patient, please.</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>Special chain II: Visiting the Meeting of the Working Group on “Decent work in Global Supply Chains”</p> <p>in cooperation with the Bureau for Workers' Activities at the ILO (ACTRAV) (tbc)</p> <p>Listening to the discussion on the amendments of the Committee’s text. For further information, please click here:</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/105/committees/supply-chains/lang--en/index.htm</p>

11:00-12:00	Special chain III: Visiting the ILC at the Palais des Nations
12:00-13:00	Lunch break at the cafeteria of the Palais des Nations
13:00-14:00	<p>Special chain IV: Networked Production in Global Value Chains – Implications for Trade Unions</p> <p>Professor Jörg Sydow, expert of Management and Inter-firm Cooperation, Free University of Berlin</p> <p>Organized by Mirko Herberg, Project Director, Global Trade Union Programme, FES Berlin</p>
14:00-14:30	Coffee Break and going to the ILO
14:30-15:45	<p>First information chain II: the universe of the International Labour Organization – Social Standards in Trade Agreements</p> <p>Christian Viegelahn, Economist, Research Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>
15:45-17:00	<p>First information chain III: the universe of the International Labour Organization – Social Protection Floors</p> <p>Valérie Schmitt, Chief, Social Policy, Governance and Standards Branch, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>

Wednesday, 8 June 2016

Topic of the Day: deepening the understanding of today's international trade (policy)

9:45-10:45	Second information chain I: the universe of trade policy - Global Value Chains Antonia Diakantoni, Counsellor, World Trade Organization (WTO)
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:15	Second information chain II: the universe of trade policy – enforcing international law through the WTO's Dispute Settlement System Sybilla Fries, Legal Affairs Officer, World Trade Organization (WTO)
12:15-14:15	Lunch Break
14:15-15:30	Further steps of the CLS Plus project Erwin Schweishelm, Director, FES Vietnam Lukas Bauer, Coordinator, Programme Manager, FES Singapore
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:30	Second information chain IV: The EU's trade policy: instruments to enforce sustainable development Tiina Satuli, First Secretary, Trade and Development, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organization
19:00	Special chain VI: Joint dinner with special guest and insights on the ongoing ILC Frank Hoffer, Senior Research officer, Bureau for Workers' Activities, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Thursday, 9 June 2016

Topic of the Day: expanding the knowledge of achieving socially sustainable development

10:15 -11:30	<p>Third information chain I: achieving socially sustainable development outside the ILO – human rights impact assessment of trade agreements</p> <p>Susan Mathews, Human Rights Officer, Right to Development, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p>
11:30-12:00	Lunch break
12:00-13:30	<p>Second information chain V: the universe of trade policy - Global Supply Chains from a workers' perspective</p> <p>Jenny Holdcroft, Policy Director, IndustriALL</p>
13:30-15:00	Going by bus to “Les Houches”, France
15:00-16:30	<p>Special chain VII: Visiting an a-typical producer company of mountain equipment – blue ice</p> <p>Giovanni Battista Rossi and François-Xavier Delemotte</p>
	Going back to Geneva by bus

Friday, 10 June 2016

Topic of the Day: final bits and pieces to complete the picture of today's complex world of supply and value chains; further steps of the CLS Plus project; evaluation

9:45-11:45	<p>Third information chain II: achieving socially sustainable development outside the ILO – voluntary standards</p> <p>Gregory Sampson, Market Analyst, Division of Market Development, International Trade Centre (ITC)</p>
11:45-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-17:00	<p>Final information chain: further steps of the CLS Plus project</p> <p>Erwin Schweisshelm, Director, FES Vietnam</p> <p>Lukas Bauer, Coordinator, Programme Manager, FES Singapore</p>
17:00-17:30	<p>Final Special-chain: Evaluation – write/tell us the truth</p> <p>Hubert René Schillinger, Director, FES Geneva</p> <p>Yvonne Theemann, Senior Program Officer, Trade and Development, Employment and Social Policy, FES Geneva</p>