

**World Bank-ITUC-FES Workshop on Labour Safeguards:
Concept Note
30 November-1 December 2016**

Objective: Develop a cooperative approach for implementation of labour safeguard at World Bank and other multilateral development banks

Dates and venue: The one-and-half-day workshop will take place on Wednesday 30 November and Thursday 1 December 2016 ending at 13:00 on the 1st, in the World Bank's Main Complex (1818 H Street NW, Washington DC), Room MC 8-100 on 30 November and Room MC 9-100 on 1 December.

Participants: Several trade union specialists, principally from developing-emerging countries; FES staff specialized in the IFIs or labour; staff from World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) engaged in development, implementation and compliance with labour safeguards; staff from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Background: On 4 August 2016, the World Bank's executive board adopted a new labour safeguard, Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working conditions, applicable to the Bank's public-sector divisions (IBRD and IDA). The safeguard consists of an obligatory labour standards lending requirement based on the ILO's fundamental rights conventions (core labour standards) and some other principles such as the provision of safe and healthy workplaces. The Bank has announced that it will undertake intensive preparation and training before the safeguard comes into full effect in 2018. It will add to labour safeguards already in place at other multilateral development banks (MDBs): IFC (the private-sector lending arm of the World Bank), EBRD and African Development Bank. The ITUC and associated Global Union Federations have been engaged in regular consultations with the World Bank about the detailed requirements of its planned labour safeguard. The ITUC has also taken part in frequent discussions with IFC regarding enforcement of its safeguard (adopted in 2006). Recently the ITUC and EBRD agreed on a memorandum of understanding to improve implementation of its labour safeguard (adopted in 2008) through increased exchange of information with trade unions. The ADB has expressed intentions to improve compliance with core labour standards in its projects. For its part, the FES for several years has supported efforts to ensure that MDB-financed activities comply with international labour standards.

Programme: There will be presenters and discussants from the MDBs, trade unions, FES and ILO on the following topics

- Experience with implementation of the longest-existing MDB labour safeguards (IFC and EBRD), including assessment of compliance and complaints filed for alleged violations
- Case studies of challenges met in compliance with the provisions of MDB labour safeguards in specific projects
- Strategy and steps taken for implementation of World Bank's new labour safeguard
- Comparison of mechanisms available to communicate cases of non-compliance and obtain redress
- Improved due diligence, monitoring and consultation mechanisms under development for labour safeguard compliance