



## COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCILS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



The International Labour Organization (ILO) (represented by the International Labour Office) and the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) (hereafter named the “Parties”)

CONSCIOUS of the great complementarity that exists between the two institutions;

DESIRING to develop and strengthen their cooperation on issues of common interest, including the promotion of decent work, inclusive development and social justice as means of promoting social peace and stability;

WISHING to conclude a new agreement replacing the Memorandum of Understanding signed on May 8, 2012;

CONVINCED that the development and strengthening of this cooperation would be mutually beneficial to both organizations, would strengthen cooperation between their members and would contribute to the promotion of policy coherence at international level;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

### ARTICLE I – *Common global objective and Consultation*

1. The common global objective of the ILO and AICESIS is cooperation on the following topics: social dialogue and tripartism, civil dialogue, the decent work agenda with its four pillars (fundamental principles and rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue), the development of participatory democracy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the social dimension of globalization and the future of the world of work.
2. To facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the two organizations, the ILO and AICESIS shall consult each other on the planning and execution of decent work promotion programs, as a tool for inclusive socio-economic development and the promotion of social justice.

### ARTICLE II – *Exchange of information*

The ILO and AICESIS exchange non-confidential information and documentation on issues of common interest and keep each other informed of their respective planned or ongoing activities with a view to identifying areas in which cooperation between them may be desirable and mutually beneficial.

### ARTICLE III – *Joint activities*

1. AICESIS and the ILO agree, within the limits of available resources, to hold regular and joint seminars or other forms of activity on topics of common interest for both institutions at all levels (international, regional, sub-regional and national). These meetings will aim to promote the exchange of experiences and good practice, as well as to strengthen the capacities of the members of the ESC-SIs, and their key aims are:

- (a) The promotion of social dialogue and of consultation in the drafting and implementation of inclusive social and economic policies, examining in particular the role of ESC-SIs as promoters of social dialogue and factors of stability, diversity and participatory democracy at all levels, and the crucial role of the social partners as major actors in economic and social progress;
- (b) The promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including:
  - (i) Goal no. 8: The promotion of sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all by examining in particular the role of ESCs-SIs in promoting and implementing this objective and;
  - (ii) The other objectives of sustainable development, including:
    - Goal no. 1: Eliminating poverty in all its forms and around the world,
    - Goal no. 3: Enabling everyone to live in good health and promoting the well-being of all at all ages,
    - Goal no. 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls,
    - Goal no. 10: Reducing inequalities within countries and between countries and
    - Goal no. 16: Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all, and establishing effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- (c) The development and regular updating of the global database on ESCs and social dialogue institutions that exist around the world.
- 2. A schedule of international meetings will be established jointly on a biennial basis (2 years), in order to ensure the preparation and financing of these meetings under the best conditions.
- 3. The ILO and AICESIS may also, under conditions to be determined by agreement in each case, carry out joint studies or co-operate in the implementation of specific programs or projects linked to common interest issues relevant to their respective mandates.

**ARTICLE IV – Participation in meetings**

- 1. Each organization may, in accordance with its own constitutional provisions, invite the other organization to take part in the meetings it organizes, when matters of interest to the other organization are discussed and in particular:
  - (a) a representative of the ILO may regularly participate in the meetings of the AICESIS.
  - (b) a representative of AICESIS may be invited to participate in the global, regional, sub-regional and national meetings of the ILO on the common global objective and vice versa, in particular when these meetings are linked to activities promoting social dialogue and the role of ESC-SIs, mentioned by Article III.
- 2. The possibility of representatives of AICESIS or of its members to participate, on the grounds of their competence, in technical cooperation activities developed by the ILO will be examined.

**ARTICLE V – Provision of expertise**

Each organization may, under conditions to be determined by agreement in each case and within the limits of available resources, make available its expertise and means of support to the other party.

**ARTICLE VI – Implementation**

- 1. The Head of the Social Dialogue and Tripartism Unit of the Department of Governance and Tripartism, within the ILO, and the Secretary General, within AICESIS, are responsible for the implementation of this Agreement. In this respect, they shall take all necessary measures in a closely coordinated and efficient manner to ensure the operational effectiveness of the cooperation arrangements envisaged by this Agreement.
- 2. More generally, the Director-General of the ILO and the President-in-Office of AICESIS will take the necessary steps to ensure closer collaboration and contacts between the two organizations on matters of common interest.

- 3. Any activity implemented by the ILO under this Agreement shall comply with the regulations, rules and procedures of the ILO.

**ARTICLE VII – Follow-up and evaluation**

The implementation of this Agreement will be reviewed at an appropriate level every six (6) years. Operational interaction will be monitored and evaluated regularly and a report will be prepared every two (2) years by both Parties, to be presented at ILO and AICESIS meetings, or in other fora, by mutual agreement.

**ARTICLE VIII – Duration and termination of the agreement**

This agreement will remain in force for any length of time and may be terminated by mutual consent, or by one of the Parties, on six (6) months prior written notice.

**ARTICLE IX – Amendments**

- 1. The Parties may, under this Agreement, conclude, if necessary, additional arrangements or agreements.
- 2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent. Each Party shall give favourable consideration to any amendment proposed by the other Party.

**ARTICLE X – Effect of the Agreement**

This Agreement terminates the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Parties on May 8, 2012, and replaces it.

**ARTICLE XI – Privileges et immunities**

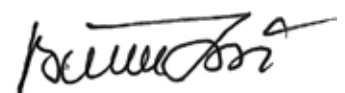
Nothing in this Agreement or any act relating thereto shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the ILO.

**ARTICLE XII – Entry into force**

This Agreement, in two original copies in the French language, shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties.



Guy RYDER  
General Director  
International Labour Office



Iacob BACIU  
President  
International Association  
of Economic and Social  
Councils and  
Similar Institutions

Geneva, 23 October 2018