

Q.2 Are there lessons that Canada can learn from UNICEF's experience to date in applying the CRC to all aspects of its work?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Core Labour Rights

Although the ILO has existed longer than other human rights entities (since 1919) violations of the rights of workers, including child workers and bonded labour, continue throughout the world. Violation of workers' rights may also have greater impacts on women, who are often employed in exploitive work situations - in special economic zones and in other contexts. On 18 June 1998 the ILO adopted a Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, affirming agreement on universal core labour standards found in certain ILO Conventions: abolition of forced labour (Conventions 29 and 105); freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining (Conventions 87 and 98); abolition of child labour (Convention 138); and Non-Discrimination in Employment (Conventions 100 and 111).

Q.1 Are there steps that you think Canada should take to strengthen its support for the Core Labour Standards in the international arena?

Q.2 Are there steps that Canada should take to strengthen the ILO generally or the enforcement mechanisms of the ILO?

Q.3 Is Canada doing the right things to encourage international joint efforts and dialogue among worker representatives (North-South, globally, etc.) aimed at promoting and protecting ESCR?

At the UN Commission on Human Rights in March 1999, Derek Fatchett, the UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, confirmed that his government was "adopting a rights-based approach to development assistance by tackling those structures of Government and society which disadvantaged the poor and resulted in persistent discrimination and impoverishment of women, children, indigenous peoples, or those with disabilities".

Similarly, Canada has also expressed strong commitments respecting actions on behalf of the rights of women and children in its foreign policy; but its efforts regarding indigenous peoples and persons who have disabilities are less well known.

Q.1 Assuming that you are aware of Canadian international efforts to promote employment, traditional livelihood and other rights of indigenous peoples, are there policy elements or steps that you would recommend for Canada in this field?

Q.2 Assuming that you are aware of Canadian international efforts to promote employment, educational and other rights of persons with disabilities, are there policy elements or steps that you would recommend for Canada in this field?