

labour⁶, the right to acceptable working conditions⁷ as to minimum wages, working hours and occupational health and safety. The GSP status is perceived by the developing countries as a significant economic advantage and as an instrument of American imperialism. Even the US business community does not encourage this system, fearing to lose large markets by suspension or termination of a GSP status for countries like China or Indonesia (Charnovitz: 1995: 184). And we have seen U.S. capitulation to Chinese intransigence on the linkage between human rights and international trade, as well as the renewal of the "Most-favoured nation" status (MFN) to China! Many labor rights are already in the NAALC, which has a broader scope than GSP on such matters. Thus, unlike GSP (probably because of the pressure exerted by some Republican members of the House), NAALC includes the prohibition of discrimination in the workplace⁸. The ILO itself considers the 1958 Convention against discrimination as a basic human rights convention, beside the others already recognized in GSP. Some labor rights are thus considered as universal human rights by a large number of countries (Sengenberger and Campbell: 1994). OECD includes non-discrimination in employment in its core labour standards but the right to acceptable working conditions is not part of such core standards. The OECD core standards were embodied in the Declaration of the 1995 World Social Summit, held in Copenhagen.

The GSP labor rights provisions have also been criticized since they show an "aggressive-unilateral labor rights approach" and seen to be an excuse for protectionism, especially when we observe that the U.S. have signed very few ILO Conventions (Charnovitz: 1995: 172). As said Howse and Trebilcock (1996: 61), some protectionists are masquerading themselves as moralists. Indeed, the U.S. are the most reluctant major industrial nation as to the ratification of ILO Conventions. Some authors (Howse and

⁶ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Minimum Age Convention*, no 138, 1973.

⁷ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Equal Remuneration Convention*, no 100, 1951.

⁸ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention*, no 111, 1958.