

► **Sectoral Policies Department**

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TO ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE ILO

19 September 2025

Meeting of Experts on Guidelines for Fair Labour Market Services for Migrant Fishers
(Geneva, 27-31 October 2025)

Dear Sir or Madam,

In accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 353rd Session (March 2025), it is my pleasure to invite your Government to nominate **an observer** to participate in the *Meeting of Experts on Guidelines for Fair Labour Market Services for Migrant Fishers*. The meeting will be held at the headquarters of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, from **Monday, 27 October to Friday, 31 October 2025**.

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and adopt guidelines for fair labour market services for migrant fishers. The draft guidelines may include guidance for all relevant stakeholders in terms of recruitment processes, work agreements, complaint procedures, enforcement measures and other essential aspects aimed at ensuring fair treatment, safeguarding the rights of migrant fishers and supporting employers to recruit and retain a suitable skilled workforce.

Background documents

The Office is preparing, in English, French and Spanish, draft guidelines on fair labour market services for migrant fishers, which will serve as a basis for consideration and discussion by the meeting. The initial sections of the draft guidelines set out the background in which they are framed, their purpose and scope, and definitions. The subsequent sections are structured according to the addressee of the relevant recommendations, such as flag States, States in the territory of which relevant recruitment and placement services operate, States of which migrant fishers are nationals or resident or otherwise domiciled in their territory, port States, coastal States, labour recruiters, fishing vessel owners and migrant fishers.

The draft guidelines will be shared electronically with all experts, advisers and observers five weeks prior to the start of the meeting, and will also be posted on the [meeting webpage](#) where other meeting-related documents will also be made available.

Composition

The meeting will be composed of 24 experts: eight Employer experts and eight Worker experts nominated by the Employers' and Workers' groups of the Governing Body, respectively, and eight experts nominated by the following governments: ¹ Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Should any of these governments decline to nominate an expert, a government from the reserve list ² will be invited to do so.

In addition to the eight government experts, the meeting will be open to interested governments who may attend as observers (one observer per government). ³

Selected official international organizations, as well as non-governmental international organizations, will also be invited to participate in the meeting as observers.

Accreditation

If your Government wishes to participate in this meeting, kindly send a letter of nomination **before Friday, 17 October 2025** with the name, title and **e-mail address** of your Government observer by e-mail to sectormeetings@ilo.org. Please indicate in the communication whether the participant will attend **in-person or remotely**.

When making these nominations, your Government is invited to bear in mind the resolutions adopted by the International Labour Conference, calling upon members to include a greater number of women in their delegations to ILO meetings, as well as the applicable resolutions and targets of the United Nations concerning the promotion of gender balance.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

Travel arrangements

In keeping with the *Standing Orders for meetings of experts*, travel and subsistence expenses of government observers will be payable by the governments concerned. Please note that the Office neither supplies insurance coverage nor accepts any liability for a participant's claim in connection with an accident or a medical disorder arising before, during or after the meeting. Participants are therefore responsible for obtaining adequate insurance coverage before travelling for the entire duration of the meeting, including time spent travelling to and from the event. Participants are kindly advised to only travel when in good health.

Visas and accommodation

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that if participants require entry visas for Switzerland, which is part of the Schengen area, they will need to be obtained in their respective countries well in advance of their departure.

Regarding accommodation, please note that the Office is not equipped to make reservations for hotel accommodation. A list of hotels offering preferential rates for participants in ILO meetings can be furnished upon request to the Office.

¹ In accordance with the decision of the Governing Body at its 353rd Session (March 2025): [GB.353/POL/3/Decision](#).

² The list of governments in reserve: Argentina, France, Namibia, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Senegal and Thailand.

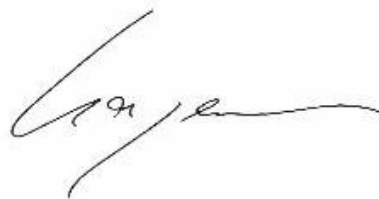
³ [Standing Orders for meetings of experts](#), adopted by the Governing Body of the ILO at its 334th Session (October-November 2018).

Delegates with disabilities

The ILO recognizes that social justice and decent work for all can be realized only if persons with disabilities are fully and meaningfully included in the world of work. In this context, the ILO strives to lead by example at the meetings it hosts and organizes. Should your nominated observer require any assistance in this regard, kindly address your request to sectormeetings@ilo.org.

We look forward to receiving a positive reply from your Government.

Yours sincerely,
For the Director-General:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Hagemann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Hagemann
Director
Sectoral Policies Department