ILO activities related to the mining industry

Martin Georg HAHN
International Labour Office
Introduction

- International Labour Organization
  - UN specialised agency
  - Unique tripartite structure
    - Workers
    - Employers
    - Governments
  - Seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights
ILO - main areas of work

- International Labour Standards
  - International standards
- Employment
- Social protection
  - Occupational safety and health
- Social dialogue
  - Sectoral social dialogue
ILO and mining

- International Labour Conferences
  - 1919: Adoption of Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (No.5)
  - 1931: Adoption of Hours of Work (Coal Mines) Convention (No.31)
  - ...

- Industrial committees
  - 1944: decision to establish seven industrial committees
    - Building, civil engineering and public works; Coalmining; Inland transport; Iron and steel production; Metal trades; Petroleum production and refining
ILO and mining

- Tripartite sectoral meetings
  - Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Issues in Small-scale Mines, 1999
  - Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in Coalmines, 2006
Sectoral Activities Department

- Treating all ILO issues
  - Through an integrated approach
  - In very close collaboration between ILO HQ units and field offices
  - Focussing on specific economic sectors

- Enabling sectoral social dialogue
  - In close contact with Global Union Federations and sectoral Employer Organizations

- Promoting decent work in specific sectors
  - Making a difference at the workplace
Governance

- The Sectoral Activities Programme involves ILO constituents directly, both in the running, as well as the choice of means of actions and issues to be addressed
- The Governing Body determines and oversees the programme
- Informal consultations with social partners and governments are held through advisory bodies for each grouping
Means of action

- The programme comprises the following components:
  - tripartite (or bipartite, where appropriate) sectoral meetings on sectoral issues and meetings of experts to develop guidelines or codes of practice;
  - smaller-scale global dialogue forums, (two/three day, tripartite or bipartite meetings on specific issues);
  - work in specific countries (including technical assistance and training), in line with the countries’ priorities set out in DWCPs; and
  - other activities (including research).
Specific ILS for mining

- Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No.176)
  - Complemented by Recommendation No.183
  - Ratified by 26 member States (most recent: Ukraine, Belgium)

- Others:
  - Medical examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No.124)
  - Minimum Age (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No.123)
Other instruments

- Codes of practice
- Guidelines
  - HIV/AIDS guidelines for the mining sector (to be published soon)
- Manuals
  - Safety and health in small-scale surface mines: A handbook
- Other reference materials
  - ILO's International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses
  - ILO Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety
Codes of practice

- Voluntary, practical guidance
- Contain general principles and specific guidance
- Provide a basis for prevention and protective measures
- Not designed to replace national laws or regulations or accepted standards
Current focus in mining

- Promotion of sectoral international labour standards
  - Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No.176)

- Promotion of sectoral tools (non-mandatory guidance)
  - Code of practice on safety and health in open pit mines (1991 – work on revision planned for next biennium)
Recent activities in relation to mining

- **Regional tripartite workshops**
  - Asia (Mongolia, 2009)
  - Latin America (Peru, 2011)
  - Africa (Tanzania, 2012)

- **National tripartite workshops**
  - Botswana
  - Dominican Republic
  - Georgia
  - India
  - Turkey
  - Viet Nam
  - ...
Recent activities in relation to mining

- Direct assistance to countries, upon request
  - Review of legislation
  - Technical assistance in relation to specific issues, such as social dialogue or better use of risk assessment
Ongoing and planned activities

- Research on labour implications of new technologies to reduce the carbon footprint
  - overview of existing technologies and
  - possible future needs for action in relation to labour issues in coalmining resulting from these technologies (such as resulting skills needs)

- Revision of code of practice on safety and health in open-pit mines
  - Preparatory work on draft in 2014-15
  - Meeting of Experts planned for 2016
    - Tripartite composition determined by the Governing Body
Project ‘CMS and life support systems’

- ‘If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal broader safety issues, they may communicate these to the ILO for consideration in its coal mine safety guidelines’

- Possible overlaps

- Possibilities for collaboration
Thank you

For further information

hahn@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/sector