

NATIONAL AGREEMENT TO ERADICATE SLAVE LABOUR IN BRAZIL

Considering:

- a) that there is a list of all employers and/or their middleman who exploit people through slave labour in Brazil (Act MTE 540/2004) by means of physical and moral constraint restricting both free option and free action on part of the workers;
- b) that despite the changes already made and the efforts taken by the companies involved in the various productive chains and by agencies from both the government and civil society there still remains spots of forced labour in Brazil, and in the rural area this forced labour usually assumes the features of slavery because of debts. So the priority of the government and the society should be to eradicate this immediately;
- c) that all kinds of forced labour represent a serious violation of human rights, also condemned by the Universal Human Rights Declaration, by the 29th and 105th Convention from International Labour Organization– OIT, by the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights in Labour from OIT, and by the American Convention of Human Rights;
- d) that the expansion of the promotion of a positive agenda is important, so that the commitment of all enterprises and the various agencies involved with society responsibility and sustainable development can be better valued;

All signatories agree to increase efforts aiming at dignifying and modernizing all labour relations in all the productive chain from all the sectors committed to “Employers Register Act 540/2004” that have kept workers in conditions analogous to slavery. So, within their own capacity, each of the parts agree to:

1. Define the specific goals for the regularization of labour relationship within these productive chains and this means the formalization of labour relations by producers and by suppliers to fulfill all labour and social securities duties as well as preventive actions referring to the workers’ health and security;
2. Define commercial restriction to companies and/or identified people in the productive chain that make use of degrading labour conditions coupled with practices that are considered slavery;
3. Support actions in partnership with different areas from the government and nonprofit making organizations that aim at social and productive reintegration of workers that are still working under degrading or unworthy conditions so that they can have opportunities to overcome their situation of social exclusion;
4. Support actions that provide information to workers who might be vulnerable to the enticement of slave labour force as well as campaigns to the overall society for the prevention of slavery;
5. Support actions in partnership with public and private agencies to facilitate the professional training and improvement of the freed workers;
6. Support actions that struggle against evasion of taxes and piracy;
7. Support and debate proposals that finance and demand the implementation of actions by the Public Power according to the National Plan to Eradicate Slave Labour;

8. Monitor the implementation of the actions described above and the achievements of the proposed goals as well as the release of the results from this joint effort;
9. Systematize and make public the experience so that the multiplication of these actions might be advanced contributing to abolition of the exploitation of all kinds of degrading labour and slavery in Brazil as well as in others countries;
10. Assess the results of the policies and actions in this agreement after a year of its formalization.

In the case of federations and representatives agencies, considering they do not have any power to control these measures, their commitment consists of advising their associates they should observe the recommended practices in the present agreement.

Joining this agreement is free to any social actor committed to dignity, formalization, modernization and eradication of the degrading labour and slavery.

Brasília, May 19th, 2005