

ILO: Environmental Mandate & Activities
International Labour Organization

Environmental Mandate

The International Labour Organization was founded to ensure everyone the right to earn a living in freedom, dignity and security, in short, the right to decent work. We have never accepted the belief that injury and disease "go with the job". In the course of this century industrialized countries have seen a clear decrease in serious injuries, not least because of real advances in making the workplace healthier and safer. The challenge is to extend the benefits of this experience to the whole working world.

The ILO's SafeWork programme is designed to respond to this need. Its primary objectives are: (a) to create worldwide awareness of the dimensions and consequences of work-related accidents, injuries and diseases; (b) to promote the goal of basic protection for all workers in conformity with international labour standards; and (c) to enhance the capacity of member States and industry to design and implement effective preventive and protective policies and programmes.

The programme will pursue a two-pronged approach. It will create alliances and partnerships by launching activities which can be used by ILO constituents, non-governmental organizations and human rights groups in advocacy campaigns and in calling for vigorous action by governments. Second, it will support action at the national level through an integrated programme of direct technical assistance. This will include the development of management tools and monitoring and information services designed to prevent occupational accidents and diseases and to protect the health and welfare of workers and the environment.

Environmental Activities

Activities of the ILO's SafeWork programme seek to advance four goals:

- preventive policies and programmes are developed to protect workers in hazardous occupations and sectors
- effective protection is extended to vulnerable groups of workers falling outside the scope of traditional protective measures
- governments and employers' and workers' organizations are better equipped to address problems of workers' well-being, occupational health care and the quality of working life
- the social and economic impact of improving workers' protection is documented and recognized by policy- and decision-makers