# Social Security for Migrant Workers - from ILO's perspectives -

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# Global Trends in Labour Migration

- In 2013, there were estimated 231.5 million international migrants, representing 3 per cent of the world's population.
- The number of migrant workers is estimated about 105 million. Migrant workers and their families account for about 90 per cent of total international migrants.
- Migrants provide significant remittances to their home countries, amounting to US\$ 338 billion in 2008.
- Women make up almost 50 per cent of international migrants.
- Between 10% to 15% of migrants are in irregular status
- => Growing number and more diverse forms of migration will likely to continue.



### **Backgrounds**

- In the time of globalization, lack of social security is one of the challenges facing migrant workers and their families.
- To secure the <u>equality of treatment</u> for migrant workers, and to <u>extend the social security</u> coverage, there is a large need to ensure the right of social security for migrant workers.
- Social security agreements bilateral or multilateral would be an effective way to safeguard the social security rights of migrant workers and their families.

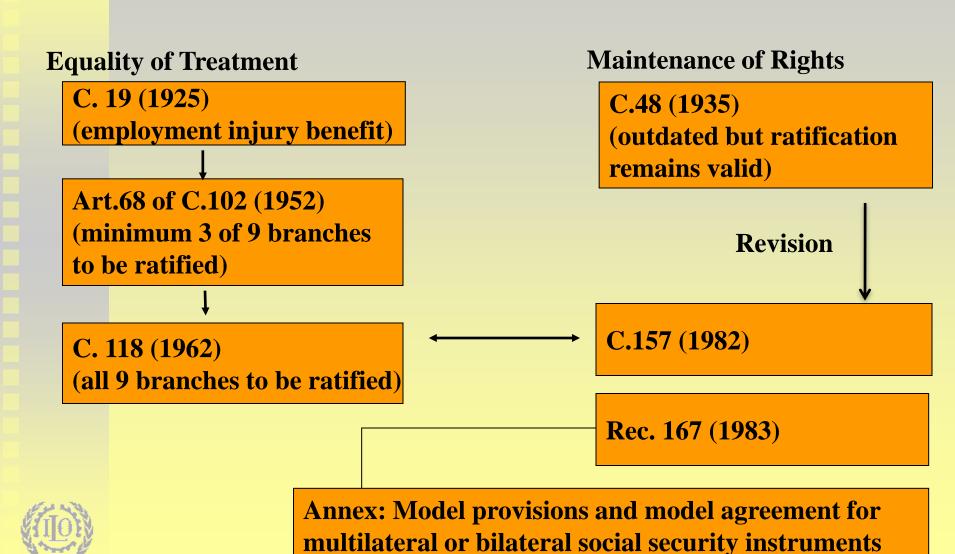


#### Instruments for coordination

- ILO Conventions and Recommendations
  - ◆ C102 Minimum standards, 1952
  - ◆ C118 Equality of treatment, 1962
  - ◆ C157 Maintenance of rights, 1982
  - ◆ R167 Maintenance of rights, 1983
- Social security agreements (treaties in international law)
  - Multilateral
  - Bilateral
- Binding on signatories once ratified



#### ILO instruments for the coordination of social security



# Strategy options for non-EU countries

- Flexibly designed bilateral social security agreements
- Unilateral national/personal measures
- Multilateral agreements
  - Join existing agreements (EU, harmonization)
  - Revise the outdated agreements (CIS)
  - Create new agreements



### Recent experiences of Moldova and Ukraine

- Moldova: BG (09), PT (10), RO(11), LU, AT, EE (12),
- Ukraine: SK (09), PT (11), EE (12), PL (13)

#### Success factors and challenges:

- Willingness of both sending and receiving countries to conclude bilateral social security agreements.
  - Cf. EC Communication on "The external dimension of EU social security coordination" (30 March 2012).
- Focus on pensions (<=> in-kind benefits, e.g. sickness)
- Low turn-over of staff
- Lack of branch (e.g. Ukraine has no social health insurance)
- Further need to build capacity for implementation

# Examples of regional multilateral agreements

- ◆ EC Regulations 883/2004 & 987/2009
- CARICOM Agreement on Social Security
- Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security
- Gulf Cooperation Council Unified Law on Insurance Protection Extension
- => In addition to geographical proximity they share common features
- => Difficulty in regional agreement in Asia with diverse types of schemes

# Challenges of social security coordination

- Long-term care benefits
- Fully funded pensions
- Irregular migrants



### References

- Social security coordination for non-EU countries in South and Eastern Europe: a legal analysis (ILO Budapest, 2012)
- Ensuring Social Security Benefits for Ukrainian Migrant
   Workers: Policy development and future challenges (ILO Budapest, 2012)
- Social Security for Migrant Workers A rights-based approach (ILO Budapest 2011)
- Coordination of Social Security Training Modules I, II, (2010, 2011)
- Coordination of Social Security Systems in the European Union. An explanatory report on EC Regulation No. 883/2004 and its Implementing Regulation No. 987/2009. (2011)

# Thank you for your attention For further information, please visit our webpage at

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