

## International Protection of Workers' Rights at a Crossroads: A Social Clause in the WTO

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*SUBJECT(S):* WORKER'S RIGHTS

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The Article discusses the rights of workers from the viewpoint of the international scene. It opens by looking into the emergence of the concept of "workers' rights," as established by the International Labor Organization (ILO). Particularly, it examines not only the structure of the ILO, but also its legislative function, core conventions, enforcement mechanisms, and linkage with the world trade. It also looks into the Bretton Woods System and the roles played by International Monetary Fund and the World Bank therein.

The Article proceeds by looking into the workers' rights in unilateral and regional arrangements. This discussion is divided as follows: (1) the history of unilateral and regional arrangements; (2) the North American agreement on labor cooperation; and (3) the labor legislations in the European Community. The Article also examines the nexus between a *free* versus a *fair* trade, the politics of labor law, and the social clauses embodied in spheres of business, government, and unions, as well as the social clauses adopted by different countries.