



FSC® General Assembly 2017

Vancouver, Canada, 8–13 October

September 2017

Strengthening Labour Issues within FSC System

Background

FSC has continued to empower workers by ensuring respect for the principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions that form the basis for worker's protection. Key aspects of the ILO core convention principles refer to the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation and freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

The FSC Board of Directors recently approved the FSC Report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO core conventions principles, marking an important milestone to secure workers' rights in forestry.

Current Status

FSC has established a Labour Solutions Forum (LSF) as a priority project to discuss labour issues.

The first LSF was hosted on 13-14 July in Lima, Peru, where participants discussed stakeholder expectations for the protection of workers and their coverage in different parts of the FSC system, including indicators based on ILO core conventions and other related labour standards.

In addition, the LSF analyzed the participation in standard development processes in FSC and discussed solutions for ensuring integration of labour issues. Lastly, it investigated dispute and grievance handling mechanisms in FSC to understand current experiences and proposed optimal approaches for handling workers issues in the FSC system.

The FSC Report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO core conventions principles will be published on 18 of September.



Timeline:

- Future LSF meetings are envisioned and proposals on topics of interest are welcome.

GA 2017 Activities

A side event at the General Assembly will provide an update on the recently approved FSC Report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO core conventions principles. Dorothee Jung will present the process elements and next steps while Paul Opanga will be reviewing the content and will provide more information on the indicators.

Perspectives of stakeholders including Building Wood Workers International (BWI) and North America Coalition (NAC) among others are also expected to inform the deliberations. Participants will have opportunity to speak about Motion 50 which calls for strengthening of social rights in Chain of Custody (CoC).

Proposals and issues arising from the LSF with special focus on strengthening the FSC Dispute Resolution System in relation to workers' rights will also be presented for discussion among participants.

[Side event 10 October 09:30 to 11:00](#)

Additional information

Link to Motion 50 on strengthening of social rights in the Chain of Custody: <https://ga2017.fsc.org/motion/strengthening-social-rights-in-chain-of-custody/>

The report of the LSF can be found here: <https://ic.fsc.org/en/news-updates/stakeholder-updates/id/1914>