



ILERA AFRICA

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Challenges of applying conventions to the informal economy: a developing world context

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INTRODUCTION

- 2 billion workers work informally
- Most in emerging and developing countries
- 60% of workers globally
- 40% self-employed
- Majority lack labour and social protection and decent work conditions

THE ILO AND THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

- Informal sector in 1970
- 2002: more complex and much larger in magnitude
- Recommendation 204
- Comprehensive definition
- Shared characteristics

FUNDAMENTAL CONVENTIONS

- New fundamental conventions
- Wide in scope
- ILO tripartite
- How can they benefit?



Recommendation 204

- Transition
- Scope
- Diversity
- Criticism

OTHER INSTRUMENTS

- Harassment Convention
- Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention (SA has not ratified)
 - National conditions
 - Flexibility clauses (developing world context)
- Maternity Protection Convention
- Social Protection instruments
 - Social Protection Floors Recommendation (developing world context)
 - Challenges
 - Social Security Convention

Conclusion

- Developing world context :
 - National conditions and technical assistance
 - Flexibility clauses
 - Starting point
 - National legislation
 - Enforcement problematic