

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Resolution on the Social and Economic Consequences of Preventative Action
Occupational Cancer: Adopted 20 June, 1974

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Considering the instruments that have been adopted on the prevention and control of occupational cancer,

Recognising that action taken under these instruments can have undesirable social and economic consequences for employers and workers,

Noting the terms of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, and other relevant ILO instruments,

Further realising that modern methods of environmental and biological monitoring, epidemiological evaluation and early treatment make it possible to intervene at an early stage,

Accepting that such methods apply not only to occupational cancer but also to the effects of other harmful substances and agents,

Emphasising the desirability of preventive action at the earliest possible stage, and
Conscious of its duties in promoting social justice;

Calls on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to give consideration to the social and economic consequences of early preventive action affecting workers and employers including—

- (a) the effect on workers of transfer or termination of employment for the purposes of their health protection as regards wages, salaries, pension rights, promotion prospects and other privileges;
- (b) the difficulties of providing alternative employment under the same conditions;
- (c) the problems of covering the interim period between the preventive action and the acceptance by the appropriate authorities of the country concerned of the obligations of rehabilitation, resettlement, invalidity pension, retraining and relocation;
- (d) the effect on industries of decisions calling for prohibition, limitation of production or stringent measures of control;
- (e) the effect on industries of measures calling for control of the environment external to the undertaking;

with the object of mitigating these effects, overcoming the difficulties and bridging any gaps in national legislation and practice.