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Media advisory

ILO to support Faith Leaders' Universal Declaration Against Slavery

Media advisory | 02 December 2014

ROME (ILO news) - Gilbert Houngbo, Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), will attend the signing the **Faith Leaders' Universal Declaration Against Slavery**, at a ceremony in Vatican City on 2 December 2014.

The signing of the Declaration brings together major global religious leaders to inspire spiritual and practical action by all faiths and people of good will to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking around the globe.

The Declaration is the follow-up to a ground-breaking agreement announced on 17 March 2014 at the Vatican establishing the Global Freedom Network (GFN). GFN signatories include representatives of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Egypt, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mr Andrew Forrest on behalf of the Walk Free Foundation.

The ILO Deputy Director-General will be available for interviews with the press after the ceremony in Vatican City which will conclude on 2 December 2014 at 1.30 p.m.

In June 2014, governments, employers and workers at the ILO International Labour Conference (ILC) decided to give new impetus to the global fight against forced labour. They voted overwhelmingly to adopt a Protocol and a Recommendation which supplement the [ILO's Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#) >.

The Protocol strengthens the international legal framework by creating new obligations to prevent forced labour, to protect victims and to provide access to remedy, such as compensation for material and physical harm. It requires governments to take measures to better protect workers, in particular migrant labourers, from fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices and emphasizes the role of employers and workers in the fight against forced labour.

For further information and interview requests please contact Francesca Ferrari at the ILO Rome office; phone: +39/066784334; mobile +39 3463463441; email: ferrari@ilo.org >

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