

Universality goes beyond the question of the number of States which are Members of the Organisation. Paramount in that concept is the idea that the aims and purposes of the ILO and the action that it takes must correspond with the needs of all the peoples throughout the world, whatever social or economic regime exists in their countries. The principle of universality means also that the functioning of the ILO should not be designed solely to fit any given social system or to impose a pattern of social structure to be uniformly applied; but it must maintain its purpose to help the governments and people of all countries to develop solutions to the labour problems that exist in their own special circumstances. In fact, the activities of the Organisation are required to adapt themselves to all possible forms of the life of those nations which have voluntarily accepted its aims as set forth in the Constitution. Its Constitution provides adequate scope for such adaptation.

ILO: *Record of Proceedings*, International Labour Conference, 37th session, Geneva, 1954, p.436.