They said about Qatar's reforms
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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Gilbert F. Houngbo, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

“The State of Qatar has made big progress (abolishment of the kafala system, introduction of minimum wages, heat protection measures...) in a relatively short time. It needs to be said as we don’t see that often. Recognising progress does not mean that the job is done. Now we need a period of consolidation during which institutions in charge of the implementation and the inspection need to be developed. Both, Qatar and the ILO are willing to continue working beyond the FIFA World Cup. The improvement that we have seen in Qatar is unique in the region.”

The Director General said on Twitter account

“Good to speck to FIFA President Gianni Infantino about ILO work with government, employers and workers in Qatar to deliver significant labour reforms. There’s real progress and I look forward to working with all partners on continued improvements well beyond the World Cup

They said about Qatar’s reforms

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FIFA President Gianni Infantino

“Delighted to have spoken to ILO Director General Gilbert F. Hounkbo to congratulate him on his new mandate in a vital role for the benefit of workers worldwide. We have made significant progress in recent years through our collaboration together on the conditions of workers in Qatar and I am looking forward to more formalized cooperation between our institutions on a global scale, having also spoke to the Labour Minister of Qatar, H.E. Dr Ali bin Samikh Al Marri, I am confident that we (ILO, Qatar and FIFA) can make further progress.”

https://twitter.com/fifacom/status/1157753117956350208/s=1280-t-gWpOC6f5xogD2AI2M2SL_g

FIFA President Gianni Infantino tweet

President Infantino added: “Having also spoken to the Labour Minister of Qatar, H.E. Dr Ali bin Samikh Al Marri, I am confident that we (ILO, Qatar and FIFA) can make further progress.” 3/3

11:10 PM 05/10/2022 Twitter Web App
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Progress report on the technical cooperation program between the Government of Qatar and ILO Project Office in the State of Qatar:

“Following the commitment of the Government of Qatar to continue building on the significant reforms undertaken in the first phase of the technical cooperation programme, and a series of exchanges with other national and international partners, a second phase of the programme was agreed to run from July 2021 to December 2023. In February and March 2022, delegations from ITUC Africa (11 members) and ITUC Asia Pacific (ten members) were received in Qatar. The delegations represented a mix of national, sectoral and sub-regional trade unions. They met with Government officials, worker and management representatives, community liaison officers from the GUFs; and visited shared accommodation, government offices and the Red Crescent Clinics. Press statements were issued by both ITUC Africa and ITUC-AP following their visits.”

“The Ministry of Labour and ILO continued to carry out campaigns throughout 2022 to raise awareness on the prevention of occupational injuries among workers and employers. A National Healthcare Incident Reporting and Learning system is being implemented, which will be a major step forward in the systematic and timely collection of data on occupational injury and illnesses for all workers. On another note, and in light of the influx of temporary workers and increased activity during the World Cup, measures are being taken by the MOL and ILO, in coordination with the Supreme Committee, and others to ensure compliance with Qatari law. In this regard, dedicated labour inspection campaigns will be run in November and December.” With regards to wage protection, the report mentioned that: “When the Minimum Wage Law came into force in March 2021, over 280,000 workers or approximately 13 per cent of the total workforce in the private sector saw their basic wage increase to the minimum threshold. Overall, 86 per cent of workers interviewed said that the reforms have had a positive impact on workers’ lives. 98 per cent of respondents reported receiving their wages on time.”
Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of European Commission

“Tangible progress on a number of issues including labour reform. Looking forward to sustained progress ahead of FIFA World Cup and cooperation in other areas such as skills development in the context of 2023 European Year for Skills.”
The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy's report entitled: 2021 Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world. The report noted that

“The Qatari National Human Rights Committee has established regular interaction with EU institutions and Qatar invited the EUSR for Human Rights to visit the country.” The dismantling of the sponsorship/kafala system, a positive step in labour laws reforms: In 2021, Qatar launched robust labour reforms, notably the dismantling of the sponsorship/ kafala system (which grants excessive powers to the employer over the employee) in 2021, and introduced a minimum wage for all workers, including foreign workers representing 88% of the country’s population. With these new reforms, Qatar is the first country in the Arab Gulf region to allow all migrant workers to change jobs before the end of their contracts without first obtaining their employees consent.”
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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Maria Arena
Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights

‘Since 2018, many reforms have been adopted with the impetus of the Qatar National Human Rights Committee and the action of the Minister of Labour, Dr Ali Al Morn. These include the abolition of the Kafala system, workers' mobility, the introduction of the minimum wage, workplace health and safety mechanisms, the creation of a social fund, the establishment of collective bargaining arrangements, and more. These reforms are important, but they need to be correctly implemented, evaluated and followed up, which is why we welcome the International Labour Organisation's engagement as a partner in implementing these reforms.

Luca Visentini
@VisentiniLuca

@etuc_ces welcomes @MariaArenaEU @EUparliament statement on improvements on workers/tradeunion/social rights in Qatar. Great follow-up to @ituc & @ilo action over last years. Need to go beyond @WorldCupEN and continue enforcement.

Marc Tarabella, Co-Chair of Parliament's Bureau of the Sports Group

"Boycotting Qatar is hypocrisy. Qatar has made enormous progress in terms of labor and human rights, largely spurred by the World Cup. The system can obviously be improved, there are still challenges, we need to help them complete what has been initiated. The 6500 figures, launched by The Guardian, has been greatly overestimated, as we know. Yes, there were deaths but especially at the beginning. If comparing Qatar’s occupational death rate currently to that of France. I repeat: Qatar comes from afar. All this progress must not be swept away by a public opinion that is waking up today, those who boycott, they obviously did not follow the file. Showing up one month before the Cup is hypocrisy and/or ignorance. What's the point of making efforts if it's, in the end, to be underestimated? For Qatar, this Cup is not a goal in itself but a stage. The improvement of human rights could extend to Bahrain, Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen.

To refuse to watch the event is also to miss out on a unifying party. Abandoning giant screens, public broadcasts, is really stupid. The World Cup is a celebration that must be experienced together. I encourage people to follow.

20221026_L-Avenir-Local-Huy-Waremme_p-2-3.pdf
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Sharan Burrow,
General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

“We said in 2015 there should be no World Cup without workers’ rights. We launched an International Labour Organisation (ILO) complaint against Qatar in 2016 which forced authorities to reform its labour laws and offer better living conditions and an improved minimum wage. The relationship between the organisation and the Doha authorities had gone from “worst enemies” to “valuable friends” in a “10-year turn-around. The claims that more than 6,000 workers had died on construction sites in Qatar since work on the World Cup began were a myth. I can honestly say my advice to fans is to go to the World Cup and have fun.”

With a week left before its 5th World Congress, BWI takes pride in its major accomplishments in promoting migrant workers' rights in Qatar, especially in the context of the World Cup. While more needs to be done, we will definitely build on our hard-fought victories.

#VamosBWI2022

Dietmar Schafers, BWI Deputy President

“BWI has been able to make significant improvements to the situation of migrant workers in Qatar. The joint inspection on the World Cup construction sites have helped prevent accidents and the labour reforms will have a lasting legacy beyond the World Cup. Migrant workers are treated now with more respect and their contribution recognized. Much more needs to be improved, but there has been real progress.”

https://twitter.com/bwiglobal/status/1574353839947657216?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

BWI Tweet:

“With a week left before its 5th world congress, BWI takes pride in its major accomplishments in promoting migrant workers' rights in Qatar, especially in the context of the World cup. While more needs to be done, we will definitely build on our hard-fought victories.”

https://twitter.com/bwiglobal/status/1574353839947657216?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
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Roberto Suarez Santos
Secretary-General of the
International Organization of Employers (IOE)

On the sidelines of the Seth Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, the Ministry of Labour organized a panel discussion titled: ‘Qatar’s Labour Reforms: Tripartite Cooperation Towards a Common The State of Qatar has been working during the past years to open more dialogue prospects with the international organizations and international partners, which helped in strengthening the mutual confidence. We have witnessed various brainstorm meetings devoted to optimizing the business environment in Qatar and this ultimately took place. Qatar has managed to make great accomplishment in partnership with all particularly at the level of Governments, employers and workers, considering what happened in Qatar is a triumph for these parties. It was a journey of ten years, but at the end was a successful story where the business community, together with the government of Qatar and the workers, have managed to have a different situation. I thank the government of Qatar for the courage that has demonstrated during this long journey and the commitment it sought with the business community.
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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Luca Visentini,
Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation

“more work needs to be done on implementation of reforms, but that Qatar should be seen as “a success story. The football world cup, which starts in less than a month, was undoubtedly an opportunity to accelerate change, and these reforms can constitute a good example to be extended to all other countries that in the future will host major sport events. We welcome the efforts made so far must be sustained to prepare Qatar’s economy and society for future challenges and to ensure that the quality of working conditions receives the long-term investment it needs. The ongoing reform process can also be of great help and a possible point of reference for other countries in the region.”

Luca Visentini

https://t.co/1N6k7yp
The African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa)

15 September 2022
Letter to H.E Minister of Labour, Dr Ali bin Samikh Al Marri: “We have equally noted the mission which ITUC-Africa undertook in the State of Qatar and in which African trade union leaders, including representatives from the Horn of Africa region expressed their satisfaction of the progress achieved in the Qatari labour sector, in particular, the enhanced protection and freedoms enjoyed by migrant workers in Qatar, including the migrant workers from the Horn of Africa countries.”

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) tweet: “IGAD workers’ unions call on Gulf states to emulate Qatar Labour rights.”

https://twitter.com/nationAfrica/status/1571287901411078912?s=48

Engaging with unions from across the has been a key part of the labour reforms in . In 2 weeks we’ll convene our biannual meeting with the global unions and @MOLQTR to assess the status of the reforms and set new priorities.

theeafricafrican.co.ke
Igad workers’ unions call on Gulf states to emulate Qatar labour rights

10:02 AM · 19/09/2022 · Twitter Web App
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ITUC-Asia

issued a press statement on 15 March 2022 entitled: ITUC-Asia Pacific Mission to Qatar: Major advances in labour reform set a solid platform for worker protection beyond 2022, in which it said:

The mission welcomes the significant advances in the remuneration and working conditions of migrant workers in Qatar and complements the government for its continued commitment. Qatar is by far the regional leader in terms of workers’ participation and social dialogue, labour mobility, labour law and international cooperation and transparency.” The mission, the ITUC and the ITUC-Asia Pacific would like to thank the government of Qatar for its time and hospitality and commends its openness to frank discussions as part of an ongoing and constructive dialogue and the 1W for facilitating the mission.”

The Federation of African Journalists

Date: 22 October 2022
Letter to H.E Minister of Labour, Dr Ali bin Samikh Al Marri: Successful Conclusion of Preparations for FIFA World Cup 2022

“The Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), Pan-African organisation that representing journalists in the African Continent, takes this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the State of Qatar for successfully completing the mammoth task of preparations and physical construction for hosting the FIFA 2022 World Cup which starts in a few weeks’ time. We are particularly happy with the proactive collaboration between the State of Qatar, the International Confederation of Trade Unions, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) among others, to address and resolve the initial concerns about labour rights. As a result of its openness and willingness to constructively respond to concerns, Qatar is now a shining example of protection of workers, particularly migrant workers, within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. As a continental federation, we are happy that our decision to stand by Qatar and mobilise African media during this biased campaign against Qatar has been vindicated by the results which show that dialogue is always better than confrontation. As you prepare to launch the games, FAJ and its entire leadership as well as member unions across Africa wish Qatar and its visitors a most successful tournament and looks forward to continued cooperation on matters of mutual interest.”
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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Fayez Ali Al Mutairi
Director-General of the Arab Labor Organization (ALO)

Interview with (CNA) on the sideline of his participation in the 110th edition of the International Labor Conference, which is being held in Geneva Qatar has made great strides in the field of worker rights and in providing security and safety for all workers in the country, especially in the facilities of the FIFA Work Cup Qatar 2022, through the provision of benefits and services to workers, and the legislation it has enacted to protect their rights. I have visited Qatar several times and was briefed on workers housing and workplaces, amenities and safety, both physical and occupational the training and qualification of workers, inspectors in cooperation with the organization, and the decision to raise the minimum wage, which is a global demand in light of the high costs and burdens of life. The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) is a key partner for all international labor organizations and is keen on effective participation in International Labour organization (co) conferences and Arab and regional coordination to achieve our demands that meet the needs and aspirations of the three parties of production “governments, employers and workers in all Arab countries.

https://2u.pw/qlszj
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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Moussa Oumarou

Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization for Field Operations 6, Partnerships

On the sidelines of the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, the Ministry of Labour organized a panel discussion titled: “Qatar’s Labour Reforms: Tripartite Cooperation Towards a Common Vision.” The State of Qatar has implemented numerous fundamental reforms in the labour sector, which are regarded as the widest in the past years. Laws and legislation that have been developed have significantly contributed to improving the working environment in the country. We always welcome the constant joint cooperation between the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the State of Qatar. Qatar is a model for all ILO member States in terms of fruitful cooperation that resulted in multiple premium reforms dedicated to the labour sector. We wish that progress in reforms in Qatar would become a positive image for the country after the World Cup, especially since workers in Qatar were able to contribute to making the Qatar 2022 World Cup event wonderful.
Max Tunon Head of ILO Project Office for the State of Qatar
gave a speech on the OSH day, 28 April 2022, in which he said that:

"In Qatar, we've seen a high degree of participation and engagement from all quarters. This is evident from the mix of speakers and participants in the room today. From several ministries and government entities, from major public clients and contractors, from workers representatives in OSH committees and joint committees, from global unions like the BM and ITF, from professional associations of safety officers, like IOSH; And importantly, the international partnerships that the Ministry of Labour has cultivated, represented today by the participation of the UK’s Health and Safety Executive."
Ruba Jaradat
Regional Director for
International Labour Organization Arab States

Interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference in its 110th Session that was held in Geneva. The reforms achieved by Qatar in the field of the labour market in recent years, which were implemented in record time and at a rapid pace, were exemplary. There is a close and continuous cooperation between Qatar and the ILO to further develop all these reforms. The ILO office has been operating in Doha for more than four years, which witnessed great progress and a remarkable pace in the labour market and are still being achieved. The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will also be an opportunity to celebrate these achievements. The labour reforms are in line to great extent with Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to build a more competitive and diversified, knowledge-based economy where the most attractive labour market in Qatar will allow it to compete globally for attracting talent and investment. For the first time in the region, we have joint committees with elected representatives of foreign workers to discuss workplace issues with employers.
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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The African Trade Union

issued a press release on the end of its delega-
tion’s mission to Qatar on 21 February 2021, in which it stated:

“Qatar has established several best practice initiatives such as the elimination of exit visas; freedom to change employers, which have led to the progressive reform of the Kafala sponsorship system; instituted a national minimum wage payment that includes accommoda-
tion and feeding and those who opt out of company accommodation and feeding provisions have the option of being paid in lieu. The reforms have also delivered improved health and safety requirements in construction sites and anywhere temperature exceeds a certain degree; signing of labour contracts in a design-
nated location (Qatar Visa Centres) before migrant workers’ departure to avoid discrepancies upon arrival in Qatar, and the establishment of workers representa-
tive council:

https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/2022/02/21/african-trade-union-delegation-lauds-qatar’s-labour-reforms
Migrant Forum in Asia

New legislation in #Qatar provides greater protection to #workers from heat stress. Prohibited summertime working hours expanded by four weeks and annual health checks for workers introduced @iloarabstates

IOM MENA

IOM’s mission in Qatar and the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar @QATARNHRC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 28 June 2021. The aim is to boost coordination in promoting human rights, migrant rights & combatting human trafficking.

https://twitter.com/IOM_MENA/status/1464213002832883718
They said about Qatar’s reforms

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Migrant Forum in Asia

The Mission of the IOM in Qatar and the Qatar National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) signed a MoU with the aim of enhancing coordination in the field of promoting human rights, the rights of #migrants and combating human trafficking.

https://twitter.com/mfasia_/status/1494536150518145033?c=2064t=Eh5s38Dg36pYoq3I7YYiA

International Domestic Worker’s Federation IDWF

Encouraging news from @Qatar On Oct 17, the Council of Ministers of the state of Qatar announced the endorsement of new legislation allowing workers to change employers freely’......More on http://bit.ly/31yIWoy "Qatar: Toward a #Kafala-free Community for #DomesticWorkers

https://twitter.com/IDWFED/status/1186354284380694248?s=2064t=u6lLUyWygk99gqacTlLxZw
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International Trade Union Confederation ITUC

The @ilo and Government of #Qatar have published a new report on health and safety provisions for workers in Qatar demonstrating a new level of openness and transparency in support of workers’ rights.

https://twitter.com/ituc/status/1461703548010474262?s=206	+8eiEUT5QCXNwQogM6eDIQ

International Domestic Worker’s Federation IDWF

Qatar’s Ministry of Labor and @itfglobal have signed an historic agreement to give transport workers the right to form joint committees and work towards achieving full unions.

https://twitter.com/ITFGlobalUnion/status/1499788310305351727?s=206+tigRtGyoysMxr6BygLUA
International Transport Worker’s Federation ITF

Good news for transport workers in #Qatar - the @ADL-SAQA and @Mowasalat_QAT have run their first forum for 100+ workers informing them about their rights and labour law changes in 2020 @ITFarabworld #WeAreITF @ITFArabworld

https://twitter.com/ITFglobalunion/status/1195035598354039597?s=20&ext=8gbFWjGY9wmpw/Dax2OTtw

International Transport Worker’s Federation ITF

The ITF, the @ilo and the government of Qatar have agreed to work together for the good of all transport workers. "We believe that ... the government of #Qatar is fully committed to... workers’ rights generally, More here: https://goo.gl/1ziY18 #WeAreITF @ituc

https://twitter.com/ITFglobalunion/status/1049286517989019659?s=20&ext=_3ZxGjID_dB2SNgh4Q