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ABSTRACT

[September 1994, Vol. 117, No. 9](#)

The ILO and tripartism: some reflections

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The views expressed in this article are the author's and are not necessarily a statement of the views of the U.S. Department of Labor or the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Seventy-five years of experience has shown that mechanisms for regulating terms and conditions of work and settling labor disputes are more effective if they are determined jointly by the parties involved, within a legal framework provided by the state. This article attempts to put issues surrounding tripartism—the process by which workers, employers, and governments contribute to the setting of workplace standards and the protection of workers' rights worldwide—into perspective by reviewing the history of the system and its achievements, and examining its future potential as a worldwide force for workers' rights.

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