



Bahrain-United States Free Trade Agreement

Labor

The negotiation of, and the provisions within, the Bahrain-U.S. FTA fully support and complement the efforts by the Kingdom of Bahrain to reform its political and labor system. The FTA contains provisions requiring the effective enforcement of domestic labor laws, and cooperative efforts to upgrade labor standards.

Enforcement of Labor Protections

The Agreement requires the Government of the United States and the Kingdom of Bahrain to effectively enforce labor laws and labor rights protections. The Agreement makes clear that it is inappropriate to weaken or reduce domestic labor protections to encourage trade or investment. Procedural guarantees are included to ensure workers and employers' access to fair, equitable, and transparent labor tribunals or courts.

Labor Cooperation Mechanism

The FTA establishes a labor cooperation mechanism to promote respect for the core labor standards embodied in the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration and compliance with ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

- Relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States agreed to establish priorities and develop specific cooperative activities, including discussions of legislation and practice related to the core elements of the workers' rights protection; development of social safety net programs; discussion of treatment of non-national workers; and improving systems for the administration and enforcement of labor laws.
- Areas for assistance to Bahrain in the near future include improved industrial relations practices, such as collective bargaining procedures and mediation and conciliation services, the development of social safety nets, such as an unemployment insurance system, and developments in foreign worker visa programs.

