



13. In line with its obligations under the ILO Constitution (Art. 22), when a member State ratifies an ILO Convention, it agrees to submit periodic reports to the ILO on the measures taken to apply the Convention. In the case of Maternity Protection Conventions, reports are due every five years and are examined by the ILO supervisory bodies. The CEACR makes two kinds of comments: observations and direct requests, which have been reviewed for the preparation of this report. Observations contain comments on fundamental questions raised by the application of a particular Convention by a State. These observations are published in the Committee's annual report (see ILO, 2014 for the last edition), which is submitted to the International Labour Conference (ILC) in June each year, where it is examined by the Conference Committee

on the Application of Standards. Direct requests relate more to technical questions or requests for further information. They are not published in the report, but are communicated directly to the governments concerned and made publicly available. The NORMLEX database systematizes all information related to international labour standards and is accessible at: <http://www.ilo.org/normlex>. For more information on the ILO's supervisory system, see "Maternity Protection Resource Package, Module 5", available at: <http://mprp.ilo.org> [25 Mar. 2014].

14. In some countries, collective agreements at the enterprise or sector level play an important role in the provision of maternity protection, but these agreements are not included in the database.