

# 2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of United States Free Trade Agreements

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of Labor		2019
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of United States Free Trade Agreements		1927
<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>
No	02/27/2017	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
Yes	Agency Authority	02/27/2019
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Terminate	No	Not Applicable
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b>	Agency Authority	
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>
Secretary of Labor, Article 17 of North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC)	09/13/1993	Continuing No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b>	National Policy Issue Advisory Board	
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>	No Reports for this Fiscal Year	

17a. 0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0  
 Open

**Meetings and Dates**

No Meetings

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$7,250.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$7,250.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.05	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The committee provided advice to the Secretary of Labor through the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), Office of Trade and Labor Affairs (OTLA) on the implementation of and new ways to best achieve the intent of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) and the labor provisions of United States free trade

agreements with Jordan, Chile, Singapore, Australia, Morocco, CAFTA-DR countries, Peru, Oman, Bahrain, Colombia, Korea and Panama. The committee was also able to provide advice on the labor provisions of any proposed future free trade agreements that the President or Congress may have wished to conclude.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The membership consisted of four members from the labor community, four members from the business community, and four members of the general public. The membership balance plan, which was reviewed and renewed along with the committee charter in Fiscal Year 2017, guided ILAB's efforts in comprising the committee. For example, we sought to ensure a broader representation of different economic sectors, particularly among the business and worker representatives, and considered a broader range of civil society actors to better represent the public interest.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The committee had been meeting since it was re-established in March 2011. The first meeting was on August 25, 2011, and subsequent meetings were held in October 2011, March 2012, and September 2012, March 2013, February 2014, and February 2016. The meetings were productive, with ILAB providing updated information about its work, and committee members asking numerous questions and providing advice regarding agency responsibilities in the implementation of the U.S. free trade agreement labor chapters and the NAALC. The NAC did not meet during 2015 because two

committee members representing half of the total of four business sector representatives retired from their jobs, and ILAB wanted to wait until the vacancies were filled, so that the membership balance among the representative sectors could be retained in any advice the committee would give to the Secretary of Labor. ILAB resumed meetings in February 2016 and built upon that meeting by establishing a subcommittee on Strategic Stakeholder Engagement that last met on September 13, 2016. The committee met once since, but the meetings began to have less relevance to the Department and to members, who were already engaged heavily in the Department's work on specific areas where they had specific equities. Further, that ad-hoc participation allowed for more than the twelve stakeholders represented on the committee to participate.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The committee offered significant insight on how the U.S. Government can work with its trading partners to improve labor laws and their enforcement in a way that advances the interests of American businesses, workers and citizens more broadly. In addition, Article 17 of the NAALC indicates that each party to the agreement may establish a national advisory committee made up of representatives from labor, business, and the public. The labor chapters of free trade agreements with Chile, Colombia, Korea, Morocco, CAFTA-DR countries, Panama, Peru, Oman, Bahrain, Singapore and Australia also provide for advisory committees. The input of the business, labor, and the public is vital to improving the implementation of these agreements. Recently, it was determined that this forum was

duplicating advice provided in other more organic and less costly engagements, and thus the Department decided to terminate the committee at the expiration of the last charter.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

All meetings were open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

The committee provided advice through the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) concerning the implementation of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) and the labor provisions of all U.S. free trade agreements. The committee advised on the implementation of the labor provisions of free trade agreements, including cooperative activities and other matters as they arise in the course of administering the agreements. Members paid their own travel and per diem. The NAC did not meet during FY19 because committee activities and operations were being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 13781, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch, to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of Executive Branch agencies. Consequently, the Department made the determination to terminate the committee, benefiting from more extensive input from these and other stakeholders in its direct engagement. FY19 actual costs, which include federal staff support, are substantially less than the NAC charter's reported estimated annual operating costs, as the committee did not meet and costs are associated with federal staff efforts to assess and ultimately move forward with a decision to terminate the committee.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Donna Chung DFO

**Narrative Description**

The NAC provided advice concerning the implementation of the Labor Chapters of US Free Trade Agreements and the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC).

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

NAC advice has helped ILAB improve its communication to its stakeholders, tailor its research agenda to better support its enforcement of FTA labor provisions, engage with the Government of Mexico on critical issues related to the NAALC, and improve the functioning of the labor-related mechanisms of intergovernmental cooperation under the NAALC.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

Members traveled and participated in the meeting at their own cost.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

8

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

Not Applicable

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

50%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

In addition to the recommendations discussed in the past, ILAB addressed two more recommendations in the past two years. With these recommendations, 50% of the NAC’s recommendations have been fully implemented. The two recommendations are discussed below. The NAC Research Report recommended that the Office of Economic and Labor Research (OELR) should be guided by the question “What are the necessary conditions for the enforcement of labor provisions in trade agreements?” Consistent with this, from 2015 through 2019, OELR and the DOL Chief Evaluation Office are co-sponsoring a project to collect nationally representative household-based data on the prevalence, nature, and possible effects of working conditions and health issues, including work-related violence, in six Central American trade partner countries. Such new, reliable and objective data, as well as qualitative findings from focus groups, will help to improve our understanding of compliance with certain internationally recognized labor rights. The project is being implemented by the University of Texas School of Public Health and its partners, who have designed and tested for ILAB a work violence module (see 2016 work-related violence report at <https://www.dol.gov/ilab/research/>). The 2012 NAALC Subcommittee Report, which was adopted by the NAC, recommended that ILAB try to engage the Government of Mexico in areas of mutual interest on labor issues including

migration and hemispheric cooperation on technical cooperation activities. ILAB has had discussions with the Government of Mexico regarding labor law reforms to address concerns about freedom of association and collective bargaining rights, gender discrimination, as well as child labor and forced labor in the agriculture sector. From December 2014-April 2018, ILAB funded a project that worked with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and other stakeholders to address discrimination in the workplace. ILAB is also funding World Vision to implement an \$8.7 million project (Campos de Esperanza) from November 2016 - October 2020 in Mexico, in particular in the coffee and sugarcane sectors, that involves multiple stakeholders in government, the private sector and civil society working together to reduce child labor in migrant agricultural communities, links children and youth to existing educational programs, and refers vulnerable households to existing government programs to improve income and reduce the need for child labor. Additionally, both countries have worked together to conduct outreach to workers in the U.S. and in Mexico about their legal rights, and to U.S. employers who employ migrant workers about their legal responsibilities. DOL also continues to work closely with Mexico and other countries in the Americas region under the auspices of the OAS Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML). The IACML convenes Ministries of Labor in the Americas region several times per year to discuss priority labor and employment topics of mutual interest. DOL has also engaged with the Government of Mexico on labor issues through the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

25%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

The NAC NAALC Report recommended exploring the establishment of a virtual Secretariat. ILAB updated its website to publish submissions filed in Mexico and in Canada and reports issued by Mexico and Canada to fill the former publication role of the Secretariat. The NAC Report recommended strengthening the submission process by holding public hearings and creating action plans with follow-up reports. ILAB worked with other DOL agencies (e.g. the Wage and Hour Division) and the Mexican government to develop a plan in response to the Mexican request for consultations under the NAALC and has held public meetings in the United States and Mexico. ILAB and the Mexican Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare jointly published a report on the activities conducted under the ministerial consultations workplan.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to**



**implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

We discussed ILAB efforts to implement member suggestions and NAC report recommendations at each meeting and via email.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

**Action Comments**

Based on feedback from the committee, ILAB hired full-time staff whose work expanded to include stakeholder communications. After contracting a web consulting firm to update its website and share information about its activities with stakeholders on a more proactive basis, ILAB led the Department of Labor (DOL) in making the website more accessible, user-friendly and easily updated prompting a broader shift to a content management system that allows for more timely, streamlined updates.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Not Applicable

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications

Other



**Access Comments**

Not Applicable