

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**National Skill Standards Board; Notice of Open Meeting**

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Skill Standards Board was established by an Act of Congress, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act of 1994, Title V, Pub. L. 103-227. The 27-member National Skill Standards Board will serve as a catalyst and be responsible for the development and implementation of a national system of voluntary skill standards and certification through voluntary partnerships which have the full and balanced participation of business, industry, labor, education and other key groups.

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 1996, in the Congressional Room at the Capital Hilton located at 16th & K Streets N.W., Washington, D.C.

AGENDA: The agenda for the Board Meeting will include discussion of: next steps and framework discussion following the Skill Standards Summit held in September.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., is open to the public. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats will be reserved for the media. Disabled individuals should contact Holly Hemphill at (202) 223-8700, if special accommodations are needed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Conway, NSSB Outreach Director, at (202) 254-8628.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 23rd day of October 1996.

James R. Houghton,

Chairman, National Skill Standards Board.

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Office of the Secretary**Bureau of International Labor Affairs; U.S. National Administrative Office; North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation; Hearing on Submission #9601**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce a hearing, open to the public, on Submission #9601.

Submission #9601, filed with the U.S. National Administrative Office (NAO) by Human Rights Watch/Americas, the International Labor Rights Fund, and the Asociacion Nacional de Abogados Democraticos (National Association of Democratic Lawyers), involves labor law matters in Mexico and was accepted for review by the NAO on July 29, 1996. Notice of acceptance for review was published in the Federal Register on August 2, 1996.

Article 16 (3) of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) provides for the review of labor law matters in Canada and Mexico by the NAO in accordance with U.S. domestic procedures. Revised procedural guidelines pertaining to the submission, review, and reporting process utilized by the Office were published in the Federal Register on April 7, 1994 (59 F.R. 16660). The guidelines provide for a hearing as part of the review.

DATES: The hearing will be held on December 3, 1996, commencing at 9:00 a.m. Persons desiring to present oral testimony at the hearing must submit a request in writing, along with a written statement or brief describing the information to be presented or position to be taken.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held in Washington, D.C. in Room N-5437, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. Written statements or briefs and requests to present oral testimony may be mailed or hand delivered to the U.S. National Administrative Office, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room C-4327, Washington, D.C. 20210. Requests to present oral testimony and written statements or briefs must be received by the NAO no later than close of business, November 22, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Irasema T. Garza, Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room C-4327, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 501-6653 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Nature and Conduct of Hearing**

As set out in the notice published in the Federal Register on August 2, 1996, the objective of the NAO's review of the submission is to gather information to better understand and publicly report on the Government of Mexico's promotion of compliance with, and effective enforcement of, its labor law through appropriate government action,

as set out in Article 3 of the NAALC, and on the steps the government of Mexico has taken to ensure that its administrative, quasi-judicial and labor tribunal proceedings for the enforcement of its labor law are fair, equitable and transparent, in accordance with Article 5 of the NAALC.

The hearing will be conducted by the Secretary of the NAO or the Secretary's designee. It will be open to the public. All proceedings will be conducted in English, with simultaneous translation in English and Spanish provided. The public file for the submission, including written statements, briefs, and requests to present oral testimony, will be made a part of the appropriate hearing record. The public files will also be available for inspection at the NAO prior to the hearing.

The hearing will be transcribed. A transcript of the proceeding will be made available for inspection, as provided for in Section E of the procedural guidelines, or may be purchased from the reporting company.

Disabled persons should contact the Secretary of the NAO no later than November 15, 1996, if special accommodations are needed.

II. Written Statements or Briefs and Requests To Present Oral Testimony

Written statements or briefs shall provide a discussion of the information presented or position taken and shall be legibly typed or printed. Requests to present oral testimony shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the witness, the organization represented, if any, and any other information pertinent to the request. Five copies of a statement or brief and a single copy of a request to present oral testimony shall be submitted to the NAO at the time of filing.

No request to present oral testimony will be considered unless accompanied by a written statement or brief. A request to present oral testimony may be denied if the written statement of brief suggests that the information sought to be provided is unrelated to the review of the submission or for other appropriate reasons. The NAO will notify each requester of the disposition of the request to present oral testimony.

In presenting testimony, the witness should summarize the written statement or brief, may supplement the written statement or brief with relevant information, and should be prepared to answer questions from the Secretary of the NAO or the Secretary's designee. Oral testimony will ordinarily be limited to a ten minute presentation, not including the time for questions. Persons desiring more than ten minutes