

April 29, 2025

Safety First!

The IndustriALL Global Union's MENA Oil and Gas Union Network held its meetings in Istanbul, Turkey from April 27 to 29, 2025. Oil and gas unions from Iraq, Bahrain, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine, and Turkey participated in the meetings. During the meetings, the network discussed safety and health in the sector, as well as the unions' priorities.

On the occasion of World Day for Safety and Health at Work on April 28, the network reaffirmed its deep belief that occupational health and safety are fundamental to sustainable development. The network also called for a full commitment to the highest safety, health, and social responsibility standards in the Middle Eastern and North African oil and gas sectors.

In this context, the network adopted the slogan "Zero Injuries" as its top priority through:

- Emphasizing the importance of a full commitment to continuing to work and fight to protect lives, preserve the working environment, and promote a culture of safety in all establishments and facilities.
- Demanding the application of best practices and international standards in occupational health and safety, particularly Conventions No. 155 (1981) and No. 170 (1990) on chemical substances.
- Activating occupational safety and health committees within workplaces through effective and constructive social dialogue.
- Providing ongoing training programs and advanced protective equipment for all workers.
- Establish a culture of occupational safety and health as an integral part of our daily values.
- Effectively recognize occupational safety and health as a fundamental human right at work
- Emphasize the responsibility of states and governments in the region to promote safety by enacting legislation in line with international labor standards, activating relevant structures and institutions (particularly inspection and insurance structures), and establishing mechanisms to compensate for workplace accidents and occupational diseases.
- Involve workers and their trade union organizations permanently in adopting preventive measures and formulating occupational safety and health policies.

MENA Oil and Gas Union Network