

## **ILO Convention 139**

This convention gives governments minimum standards to deal with cancer causing substances at work. It also has a Recommendation (R 147), which gives more detailed advice.

**Ask your government for a meeting to discuss a cancer prevention campaign.**

### *Article 1*

*1. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall periodically determine the carcinogenic substances and agents to which occupational exposure shall be prohibited or made subject to authorisation or control, and those to which other provisions of this Convention shall apply.*

*2. Exemptions from prohibition may only be granted by issue of a certificate specifying in each case the conditions to be met.*

### *Article 2*

*1. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall make every effort to have carcinogenic substances and agents to which workers may be exposed in the course of their work replaced by non- carcinogenic substances or agents or by less harmful substances or agents; in the choice of substitute substances or agents account shall be taken of their carcinogenic, toxic and other properties.*

*2. The number of workers exposed to carcinogenic substances or agents and the duration and degree of such exposure shall be reduced to the minimum compatible with safety.*

### *Article 3*

*Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall prescribe the measures to be taken to protect workers against the risks of exposure to carcinogenic substances or agents and shall ensure the establishment of an appropriate system of records.*

### *Article 4*

*Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall take steps so that workers who have been, are or are likely to be exposed to carcinogenic substances or agents are provided with all the available information on the dangers involved and on the measures to be taken.*