



**Konstantinos Papadakis (ed.)**

**Shaping global industrial relations: The impact of international framework agreements  
Geneva, 2011**

The empirical evidence presented in "Shaping global industrial relations: The impact of international framework agreements", derived from case studies drawing on field research, suggests that IFAs do indeed have the capacity to improve fundamental rights at work. While direct links between IFAs and improved working conditions are not always evident, IFAs clearly serve as a basis for further initiatives in the area of cross-border union organizing, which is the cornerstone of global social dialogue and agreements. As such, they establish recognition of social partnership across national borders, which is a key step forward in the internationalization of industrial relations. IFAs are the instruments closest to the traditional understanding of industrial relations – in the sense of negotiation, consultation or simple exchange of information between employers and workers on issues of common interest – as well as accepted notions of collective bargaining, dispute prevention and resolution, and respect for labour law.

This book features contributions from some of the top international experts in the field, from the ILO, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), as well as major research universities in Europe and North America. The first part of the book provides a snapshot of observed processes and outcomes of IFAs between company headquarters and the global and European trade unions. The second part looks at the nitty-gritty of impact assessment through case studies of selected IFAs and countries, focusing on three sectors – automotive, textiles, and food and agriculture – in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. The third part explores initiatives complementary to IFAs which may impact going forward. These include a critical analysis of trade union strategies for coordinating transnational action and a chapter on an ILO International Finance Corporation (IFC) project – “Better Factories Cambodia” –, an example of an effort to establish an improved industrial relations environment in buyer-driven industries where IFAs are less widespread.

The executive summary can be found at:

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_166493.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/genericdocument/wcms_166493.pdf)

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(résumé exécutif)

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