

US FUNDS A PROJECT TO COMBAT FORCED LABOR IN BRAZIL AND PERU

Lima, March 13, 2014 – The project *Consolidating and Disseminating Efforts to Combat Forced Labor in Brazil and Peru*, an initiative funded by the U.S. government and implemented by the International Labor Organization (ILO), was launched today by the Peruvian Minister of Labor, Ana Jara, Charge d' Affairs (CDA), Jeffrey M. Hovenier, and the ILO Regional Director for the Andean Countries, Carmen Moreno.

The project seeks to strengthen efforts to combat forced labor, including human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation and forced child labor. It also aims to support trilateral cooperation involving the U.S., Brazil, and Peru to replicate some components of Brazil's successful strategy to combat forced labor.

In his remarks, U.S. CDA Jeffrey M. Hovenier stated that “today we are launching the project component related to Peru, totaling \$600,000 to combat forced labor in Peru. This amount is part of the approximately \$6 million that the U.S. government contributes to the *Consolidating and Disseminating Efforts to Combat Forced Labor in Brazil and Peru* project.”

He pointed out that “according to the ILO, approximately 21 million people are victims of forced labor in the world and 1.8 million are victims of such practices in Latin America and the Caribbean. We share Peru's concern about the need for reliable and systematized information about forced labor in the country. We also agree with Peru about the need to strengthen inter-agency coordination to combat forced labor.”

To conclude, CDA Hovenier stated that “The Ministry of Labor has demonstrated leadership in taking action to combat forced labor in Peru, and we applaud these efforts. Last year, the Peruvian Government established the National Plan to Combat Forced Labor and continued leading the National Commission to Combat Forced Labor. We are pleased to work with Peru to support the implementation of the National Plan to Combat Forced Labor and bolster inter-agency coordination through the project launched today, including the exchange of experiences and good practices between Peru and Brazil.”

#

For more information, please contact Leslie Núñez Goodman (GoodmanLN@state.gov)

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy in Peru

Tel. 618-2556