



KEY ILC RESOURCES

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International Labour Conference focuses on the crisis

Summit on the Jobs Crisis: Committee of the Whole

The International Labour Conference (ILC) will concentrate strongly on the crisis. Highlighted in the [Director-General's Report](#) are the major consequences of the crisis: "millions of women and men have lost their jobs... unemployment is expected to continue rising at least until end 2010, probably 2011... When jobs are not available, demand for social protection increases significantly... Evidence of past crises indicates that, even after economic growth returns, employment only recovers to pre-crisis levels with a lag of four to five years. We already had a decent work deficit prior to the crisis."

To ensure full discussion on these pressing issues, the agenda of the 2009 Conference was modified by the Governing Body in March –

- § An **ILO Summit on the Jobs Crisis will be held on 15-16 June** during the ILC.
- § To allow more time for the summit, the plenary discussions would begin on 10 June.
- § The debate would be held in a Committee of the Whole on Crisis Responses to centre on the ILO's role in seeking to resolve the crisis and in promoting international coherence in crisis responses. It will also consider the proposed Global Jobs Pact.

Other items on the ILC agenda

Application of Conventions and Recommendations

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards are the two pillars of the ILO supervisory system. The Conference Committee is a standing committee of the Conference and a tripartite body.

At its November-December session each year the Committee of Experts examines the extent to which each Member State's legislation and practice are in conformity with ratified Conventions and conducts a general survey on a specific topic. Subsequently, the Conference Committee provides an opportunity for representatives of governments, employers and workers to review together the manner in which states are fulfilling their standards-related obligations.

The main task of the Conference Committee consists in discussing 25 individual cases (8-12 June) selected on the basis of the comments made by the Committee of Experts. Furthermore, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Conference in 2000, the Conference Committee holds a special sitting (6 June) on the application by Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). The Conference Committee invites the governments concerned to provide information to the Committee when it discusses individual cases.



The Conference Committee also discusses the General Survey (4-5 June) by the Committee of Experts, which this year concerns occupational safety and health. The promotion of decent, safe and healthy working conditions and environment has been a constant objective of the ILO since its foundation.

Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on HIV/AIDS in the World of Work – *Standard setting, double discussion (ILC 2009-2010)*

The form and content of a proposed instrument on HIV/AIDS in the workplace will be the focus of a double discussion by the Conference, involving a tripartite committee. HIV/AIDS seriously affects not only working people, but also their families and communities: in 2008, the vast majority of people living with HIV were aged 15-49.

The proposed Recommendation addresses some of the issues of HIV/AIDS in the world of work by –

- § supporting national HIV/AIDS programmes through a strengthened world of work response
- § promoting coordinated action among key workplace actors
- § reinforcing the impact of the ILO *Code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work*
- § reviewing developments since 2001 in the epidemic and global response.

The consensus between governments, workers and employers is that a new ILO instrument should incorporate and strengthen the ten key principles from the *Code of Practice*. In replying to a questionnaire, Member States and social partners recognised the need to increase the attention paid to the issue of HIV/AIDS in the world of work by adopting a new international instrument.

Two reports have been issued for the double discussion on HIV/AIDS. The first, IV(1) contains the questionnaire, while report IV(2) summarizes the nearly 250 answers received from governments, employers and workers. Based on the responses, the second report contains draft conclusions for the proposed contents of the instrument.

Gender equality at the heart of decent work, *General discussion*

Women's and men's efforts to find and keep decent work are being gravely affected by the current economic and jobs crisis. This report sets out the priorities that constituents could adopt to implement measures to advance gender equality in the workplace. The report also monitors the ILO's progress in assisting constituents to achieve gender equality; highlights current efforts to implement ILC resolutions and Governing Body decisions on gender equality; and provides background for constituents to chart a strategic course for the future.

Equality of rights is important throughout the lifecycle. Maternity protection and job security for pregnant women are central to decent work. For children, education is vital for freeing them from the cycle of poverty. During this global crisis, it is likely that youth unemployment will worsen, and it is hence essential to invest in human capital and provide adolescents, especially girls, with formal and non-formal education. For working women and men, changing the division of labour in the household can impact productivity, giving men the chance to benefit from dual-income partnerships and improved contact with children, and making them less vulnerable to economic shocks. Finally, it is necessary to adopt employment policies and ensure human resource development and lifelong learning programmes for older workers.

Pivotal to gender equality are tripartism and social dialogue: by leveraging social dialogue for gender equality, political leadership can be influenced.

Programme and Budget 2010-11 and Other Financial Questions:

The budget for the next biennium ([Report II](#)) has been submitted to the Conference for examination and adoption.

In Brief

Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA): An RBSA, established in January 2008 for voluntary contributions, expands and deepens the capacity to deliver on the priorities set by the ILO Programme and Budget, in particular the implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). This modality complements the two existing sources of funding – the regular budget and voluntary extra-budgetary contributions for technical cooperation. The first annual informal meeting on the RBSA for ILO donors only will be held during the ILC (8 June).

The World Day Against Child Labour, June 12 2009, is devoted to girls' rights and combating girl child labour.

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