

PROSPECTUS

Tripartite Forum on Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy

March 25-26, 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

Why is the Forum being held?

The Tripartite Forum on the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, convened upon request of the 280th Governing Body of the ILO, is expected to stimulate a process of ongoing dialogue and exchange of practical experiences on furthering the aims of the MNE Declaration in the context of international investment today.

Who will be there?

The 1½ day event will draw some 30 senior-level representatives of governments, workers, and employers, including their MNE representatives (10 nominated from each group), as well as Office and group secretariat representatives and experts.

How will the Forum proceed?

Panel presentations by highly experienced government, worker, employer and MNE representatives to showcase successful applications of the MNE Declaration such as:

- Declaration principles and regional economic and development frameworks
- Vocational training and retraining in changing markets
- Maintaining high standards of safety and health

Working groups with resource persons from employers' and workers' groups to discuss key issues, drawing on common and divergent experiences and strategies to:

- promote security of employment (direct and indirect) in the context of flexibility, restructuring and outsourcing?
- create the infrastructure for decent work, including terms and conditions of work, in the context of contractual business partnerships (e.g., supply and service chains), and investment incentives (e.g., export processing zones)?
- foster effective means of consultation, negotiation, and bargaining in the context of changing patterns of operation (e.g., linkages) and ownership (privatisation)?
- secure a common floor of fundamental principles and rights at work in the context of competition to attract international investment?

A plenary round-table discussion based on working group insights will draw upon informed views on key issues to identify areas for further inquiry and recommendations for action.

What results will the Forum bring?

Two publications will be produced for discussion among government, business and labour:

- A final synopsis of views will reflect the interactive discussion, exchange of experiences, and common and divergent perspectives presented.
- The Forum discussion paper, distributed to participants in advance, will highlight case studies of effective application of the aims of the Declaration.