

**Thirteenth Session of the Joint ILO/WHO
Committee on Occupational Health**

Geneva, 9-12 December 2003

**Review of Occupational Safety and
Health Activities of the ILO**

Information document



International Labour Office Geneva

Table of contents

Table of contents	2
Introduction	4
The social consequences of the globalization of the economy – ILO’s response	4
Review of the status of international Labour standards	4
ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up	5
Strategic objectives	6
Decentralization of Technical Cooperation	7
The integrated approach to standards-related activities in the area of OSH	8
ILO means of action in the area of OSH.....	9
Review of key ILO activities and achievements in the area of OSH	10
The SafeWork programme.....	10
OSH standards	11
Safety and health in Mines	11
Safety and health in agriculture.....	12
Recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases.....	13
Codes of Practice and Technical Guidelines and publications	13
Other OSH activities	17
Other ILO areas of action with significant occupational safety and health content.....	19
Sectoral activities.....	19
Child labour	20
Occupational safety and health and small and medium-sized enterprises	20
Poverty alleviation.....	21
Older workers	21
Gender equality.....	22
OSH and the informal economy	22
The role of employers and workers	23
Occupational safety and health and multinational enterprises.....	23
Meetings of experts.....	24
International collaboration	24
Partnerships.....	24
Specific Areas of collaboration.....	25
Chemical safety	25
Protection against ionizing radiations.....	27
Elimination of silicosis.....	30
International events and awareness-raising	31
Technical cooperation relating to occupational safety and health	32
Core activities and partnerships.....	32

Knowledge management and information exchange	36
Barriers and improvements	36
Current ILO action.....	38
The International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS)	38
Training in occupational safety and health.....	39
Research	39
Programme and Budget Proposals for 2004-2005.....	40
Conclusions and areas for future collaboration	42
Annex 1	44
Relation between the core OSH standards and	44
other ILO standards and areas of action.....	44
Annex 2	45
ILO Field capacities in the area of Occupational Safety and Health	45
Annex 3	46
Codes of practice, technical guidelines and key publications developed since 1995	46
Annex 4	48
ILO Meetings of Experts and Sectoral Activities	48
meetings convened since 1995.....	48
Annex 5	50
International collaboration in the area of OSH	50
Annex 6	54
Key ILO knowledge bases on occupational safety and health.....	54

Introduction

1. The ILO and WHO are two specialized agencies in the UN system that are directly concerned with the protection and promotion of workers' health. As a result, the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health was established in 1950 and has met since regularly to identify priority areas for action in the field of occupational safety and health as well as means of action available to the ILO and the WHO, has initiated joint or coordinated activities at the international, national and regional levels, and has served as a mechanism for promoting a closer cooperation between the two agencies with a view to contribute effectively to the development of occupational safety and health (OSH) policies and programmes worldwide.
2. At its last meeting in 1995, the Committee identified priorities for joint action by the ILO and WHO in various areas of occupational safety and health where such collaboration was deemed to create higher synergies, ensure complementarities and achieve better impact. Significant progress has been made in some of these areas such as the global elimination of silicosis, recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, the promotion of voluntary initiatives and standards, the linkage between environment and the world of work and the development of OSH information dissemination systems at the global and national levels. In other areas, particularly concerning a better coordination of field activities, progress has not been even in all the regions. In this respect, a good start has been made in the African region.
3. Since that meeting, the ILO has undergone very significant changes at the structural, organizational and strategic levels which have profoundly affected all the Organization's activities, including those related to occupational safety and health. This report provides an overview of these changes, of their impact, and of the key activities and achievements accomplished during the period 1995-2003. It also presents the plans and strategies for future ILO action within the general context of the impact of globalization of economies on safety and health in the world of work.

The social consequences of the globalization of the economy – ILO's response

4. After 1995, the ILO embarked in a drastic reshaping of its structure and reorientation of its major objectives and activities with the goal to strengthen and modernize its standard setting and better integrate its related means of action in the light of all the political, socio-economic and technological changes that have affected the world of work in this last decade.

Review of the status of international Labour standards

5. As part of the restructuring process aimed at transforming ILO policies and means of actions into integrated tools to deal more effectively with the challenges of globalization, a review of ILO standards-related activities was launched by the

Office in 1995. The setting up of a Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards was approved by the Governing Body at its 262nd Session (March-April 1995). This decision was taken following the discussions on standard-setting policy at the International Labour Conference in 1994. This review of all ILO International Labour Standards (ILS) was carried out on a step-by-step basis i.e. by considering the current and the demonstrated or potential impact of designated conventions and recommendations, and deciding on that basis whether the standard should be abrogated or revised. This work was completed in 2002 and a list providing the status of international standards as up-to date, in need for revision, undecided and candidates for shelving (i.e. no promotional efforts) or abrogation. As a result, seven conventions were declared as fundamental rights at work conventions (see paragraph 8 below), four were selected as priority conventions, namely the Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129) and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)¹.

6. Concerning occupational safety and health standards (Conventions, Protocols and Recommendations), the Working Party considered that 35 were up-to date, ten were in need of revision, and two were considered as no longer fully up to date but still relevant in certain respects. Since 1995, the ILO has adopted a number of instruments, among which the following one are of particular relevant to occupational safety and health: Safety and Health in Mine Convention (No. 176) and Recommendation (No. 183), 1995, Worst Child Labour Convention (No. 182) and Recommendation (No. 190), 1999, Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183) and Recommendation (No. 191), 2000, Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention (No. 183) and Recommendation (No. 192), 2001, Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 and List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation (No. 194), 2002. A list of these standards and their status is provided in Working Document JCOH/XIII/D.1. The relationship between core OSH standards and other ILO standards is illustrated in **Annex 1**.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up

7. On 18 June 1998 the International Labour Organization adopted the *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up* in Geneva, thereby taking up the challenges of globalization which have been the focus of considerable debate within the ILO since 1994. The aim of the Declaration is to reconcile the desire to stimulate national efforts to ensure that social progress goes hand in hand with economic progress and the need to respect the diversity of circumstances, possibilities and preferences of individual countries. It is ILO response to the fact that although globalization is a factor of economic growth, and economic growth is a prerequisite for social progress, it is

¹ Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards, GB.276/LILS/WP/PRS/1, 276th Session Geneva, November 1999

not in itself enough to guarantee that progress. It must be accompanied by a certain number of social ground rules founded on common values to enable all those involved to claim their fair share of the wealth they have helped to generate.

8. A first step in this direction was made in Copenhagen in 1995, when the Heads of State and Government attending the World Summit for Social Development adopted specific commitments and a Programme of Action relating to "basic workers' rights" - the prohibition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, equal remuneration for work of equal value and the elimination of discrimination in employment. The WTO Ministerial Conference held in Singapore in 1996 then provided the opportunity for a second step to be taken. The States renewed their commitment to observe internationally recognized core labour standards, recalled that the ILO was the competent body to set and deal with these standards and reaffirmed their support for its work in promoting them. The adoption of the Declaration constituted the third step. It makes a significant contribution to the aim set forth in paragraph 54(b) of the Programme of Action adopted by the Copenhagen Summit, which is to safeguard and promote respect for basic workers' rights, requesting States party to the corresponding ILO Conventions to fully implement them and other States to take into account the principles embodied in them. The Conventions covered by the Declaration include the:

- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No.98)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No.111)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

Strategic objectives

9. On taking up office in March 1999 the new Director-General, Mr. Juan Somavia, initiated a process of reform and modernization². They included: (i) the formulation of a strong tripartite consensus around the Organization's substantive priorities and the main focus of each priority; (ii) the reallocation of resources to implement these priorities through the Organization's programme of work; and (iii) the corresponding adaptation of the management structures and programme activities to make them operational.

² ILO: *Decent work*, Report of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 87th Session, Geneva, 1999 (also at www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc87/rep-i.htm)

10. An important aspect of this change was the putting in place of a process of strategic budgeting around four strategic objectives, namely standards and fundamental principles and rights at work; employment; social protection; social dialogue and their corresponding operational objectives – each strategic objective contributing to the ultimate goal of securing decent work for people everywhere. In the latter part of 1999, and during the first few months of 2000, these new perspectives gave rise to the development of new programmes and the renewal of organizational structures.
11. New internal structures for the Office have now been put in place to reflect the new strategic programme, including four technical Sectors (i.e. similar to Departments or Divisions) corresponding to the four strategic objectives. For each Sector, workplans have been developed around a new set of performance indicators, which provide the new framework for ILO activities. These activities include both the continuation of some existing programmes – for instance on standards, employers’ and workers’ activities, sectoral activities, social security and others, for which implementation is under way within the appropriate technical sector – and the launching of a number of new programmes, notably the InFocus programmes.
12. As a prominent part of the new programme, eight international focus (InFocus) programmes of high priority, relevance and visibility were created in order to concentrate ILO activities for maximum impact and coverage. Some InFocus programmes are mainly built on existing activities, and are intended to reinforce their coherence and priority. Others represent new efforts to tackle issues which are expected to make major contributions to the four strategic objectives of the Organization. The design of these programmes was completed in the latter part of 1999, and the new programmes were all operational at the beginning of 2000. These are:
 - *The InFocus programme on promoting the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*
 - *The InFocus Programme on Child Labour*
 - *The InFocus Programme on Boosting employment through small enterprise development*
 - *The InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability*
 - *The InFocus Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction*
 - ***The InFocus Programme on SafeWork***
 - *The InFocus Programme on Socio-Economic Security*
 - *The InFocus Programme on Strengthening Social Dialogue*

Decentralization of Technical Cooperation

13. Implemented by the ILO in 1993, the Active Partnership Policy was designed to bring the ILO closer to its tripartite constituency in member States and to enhance the coherence and quality of the technical services provided to them within the mandate of the Organization and in pursuit of common objectives. This policy calls for constant adaptation of the content and techniques of ILO action to the evolving needs of different countries and the changing international context.

14. Within the new context of the decent work objectives, specific actions have been undertaken to progressively enhance coordination between headquarters and the field structure through joint programming consultations involving all field units and technical departments. These substantive meetings, which began in June 1999 and were completed in March 2000, represented a major innovation in coordinating work between headquarters and the field offices and focused on strategic and operational objectives, indicators and targets. A review is now being carried out on measures to strengthen field services, and to extend the ongoing process of reform in order to improve the efficient delivery of services to ILO constituents. A key element of the policy has been the strengthening of ILO field structure through the transfer of financial and human resources from headquarters to the field Offices.

The integrated approach to standards-related activities in the area of OSH

15. Over the years, the ILO has multiplied the number of tools and activities in which it is engaged in order to carry out its fundamental mission of promoting the implementation of ILO standards and instruments at the national level. However, ensure that ILO actions have a real and measurable impact requires more than the signature of an instrument or ratification of an ILO Convention. Moreover, such a signature does not by itself guarantee that the objectives, the constituents articulated in such an instrument, will become reality. The promotion of standards is thus a fundamental permanent task, and an indispensable complement to the process of developing them. There are many standards to be promoted and transformed into reality and the ILO's normative mission has to be carried out on a large number of fronts at the same time. But today, the role and function of the diverse activities in relation to the standards which they are intended to promote, and vice versa, does not appear to be sufficiently clear. Furthermore, as different standards-related activities – development, supervision, promotion, technical assistance and cooperation – are functionally separated within the Office, it is institutionally difficult and cumbersome to create synergies and avoid fragmentation of action and dispersion of resources, both human and financial.
16. Remedying this situation is a major challenge. It is against this background that, at its 279th Session (November 2000) the Governing Body of the ILO decided to apply on an experimental basis an integrated approach to ILO standards-related activities in order to increase their coherence, relevance and impact. This approach aims to develop a consensus among the ILO's constituents on a plan of action in a specific subject area through a general discussion at the International Labour Conference. A plan of action which reflects the common vision of the ILO constituents will have greater potential to help realize increased synergies between the standards and related activities of the ILO. This process was designed to address not only standards – Conventions and Recommendations – but also other types of instruments such as codes of practice, as well as promotional activities, technical cooperation and the dissemination of information. The Governing Body selected ILO standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health as the first subject for this approach and included as an item on the agenda

of the 91st Session (2003) of the International Labour Conference a general discussion on ILO standards-related activities in the area of OSH.

17. This important discussion was attended by over 100 member States and elaborated a set of conclusions and recommendations, the essential ones being the development of a “promotional framework” instrument for the sound management of OSH, the definition of “preventative safety and health culture” and the introduction of the concept of “the right to a safe and healthy working environment”. The detailed results of the discussion that took place in June 2003 are provided in detail in a separate Information Document (JCOH/XIII/D.1). The discussion was based on a report reviewing all ILO means of action in the area of OSH and particularly the level of impact of ILO OSH standards and instruments.³ The report contained an analysis of results of a survey questionnaire sent to all Member States of the ILO and designed to assess the relevance and impact of ILO instruments and delivery of technical assistance. Responses were received from 103 countries and have been organized in a data base system which can be consulted on the ILO Web Site.

ILO means of action in the area of OSH

18. The Preamble to the ILO Constitution states that an improvement of working conditions is urgently required, inter alia, for “... the protection of the worker against sickness, disease and injury arising out of his employment ...”. The appalling conditions of work in industrialized countries in the early twentieth century were one of the decisive reasons for the creation of the International Labour Organization. A more recent expression of the ILO’s objectives in the area of occupational safety and health is found in the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1984 concerning the improvement of working conditions and environment (PIACT).⁴ This resolution formulated the objective in terms of three principles: (i) work should take place in a safe and healthy working environment; (ii) conditions of work should be consistent with workers’ well-being and human dignity; and (iii) work should offer real possibilities for personal achievement, self-fulfilment and service to society. These objectives have been reconfirmed in the context of the Decent Work Agenda by stating that “Decent work is safe work” and identifying the provision of a safe and healthy working environment as a prerequisite for achieving decent working conditions.
19. Following the restructuring of the Office to operationalize the four strategic objectives, the previous Working Conditions and Environment Department (TRAVAIL) was transformed into the Social Protection Sector which includes:

- **The Social security Department**

3 Report VI- ILO standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health, International Labour Conference, 91st Session 2003, International Labour Office, Geneva, ISBN 92-2-112883-0.

4 ILC, 70th Session (1984), Resolution concerning improving working conditions and environment: An international programme.

- The InFocus Programme on Socio-Economic Security
- The Social Security Policy and Development Branch
- The Financial, Actuarial and Statistical Services Branch

• **The Labour protection Department**

- *The InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment*
- The Conditions of Work and Welfare facilities programme
- The International Migration Programme
- The Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work

Review of key ILO activities and achievements in the area of OSH

20. Concern for OSH has always been a central part of the ILO's mandate. The directions set and the impetus provided by the Decent Work Agenda confirms this view by stating that decent work must be safe work. Occupational safety and health is therefore considered not only to be at the heart of the requirement to improve social protection, but also to be a major and positive factor in favour of economic growth and productivity. While the InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment represents the focal point for ILO work in this area, concern about the safety and health of workers is a significant element in a large number of actions implemented under the ILO's four strategic objectives, including, in particular, the following briefly summarized programmes and activities.
21. The main ILO areas of action that have an OSH or OSH-related component include employment, child labour, the informal economy, gender mainstreaming, labour statistics, standards, labour inspection and maritime safety. This gives a clear indication of the importance of OSH as a major element of overall ILO action, and particularly in the context of the Decent Work Agenda. The cross-cutting themes and areas of action presented here are considered to be the ones where OSH is a key element in the objective of achieving sustained decent working conditions and environment and strong preventative safety and health cultures.

The SafeWork programme

22. SafeWork is responsible for developing and implementing ILO OSH standards and related activities, with the exception of maritime standards dealing specifically with OSH issues, which are the responsibility of the Maritime Industries Branch of the Sectoral Activities Department. This division of responsibilities is based mainly on availability of specific expertise in relation to the subject matter, and SafeWork involvement in all OSH standards-related actions is systematic. The programme's main tasks are the development of the basis for adoption of OSH standards by the International Labour Conference and the development of non-binding standards, such as codes of practice, guidelines

and technical publications. In the same way, the provision of technical advisory services and assistance to ILO constituents in all aspects of OSH represents a major permanent task. Another major area of responsibility for SafeWork is the design and implementation of technical cooperation projects and programmes. SafeWork is also responsible for providing ILO input into environmental issues that relate to the world of work and it acts as the ILO focal point in the context of collaboration with other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) involved in this area.

23. The integration of the ILO Labour Inspection and the ILO Workers' Health Promotion and Well-being at Work (drug and alcohol abuse at work) activities in SafeWork has brought a wider scope to the programme. The International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS), is also a part of the SafeWork programme, and its activities are described further below. The collaboration of SafeWork with other international organizations and bodies is also described in detail separately in this document. The action of SafeWork is strengthened and extended to the field by a number of OSH experts stationed in the ILO field offices around the world as listed in **Annex 2**. SafeWork collaborates with, and provides technical assistance to other ILO programmes responsible for areas of action that have significant OSH content. The current operational objectives of SafeWork as defined in the ILO Programme and Budget Document for the 2003-03 biennium are:

“The InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork) targets improvements in preventive policies and programmes such as voluntary application of safety and health management systems, workers' health promotion and environmental issues in the world of work. These efforts are predicated on promoting the application of ILO standards. The goal is to extend the protective coverage and to demonstrate that safety pays.”

OSH standards

24. During the period 1995-2003, SafeWork was responsible for the development and adoption by the International Labour Conference (ILC) of two key ILO standards and one Protocol directly related to OSH.

Safety and health in Mines

25. The Safety and Health in Mines Convention (No. 176) and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 183) was adopted by the ILC in 1995. As of 2003, the Convention has been ratified by 18 Member States, including the USA.
26. The Convention provides for the formulation and periodic review a coherent policy on safety and health in mines, based on tripartite consultation. The measures for ensuring application of the Convention have to be prescribed by national laws and regulations, technical standards, guidelines or codes of practice; or other means of application consistent with national practice designed to identify, evaluate and control hazards related to mining. Prescriptions in the convention cover the designation of a competent national authority, inspection systems, reporting and investigating of accidents and mine disasters; statistics on

accidents, occupational diseases and dangerous occurrences; and procedures for the consultation of workers and their representatives.

27. National laws and regulations have also to provide that the manufacture, storage, transport and use of explosives and initiating devices at the mine must be carried out by or under the direct supervision of competent and authorized persons. They have to specify requirements relating to mine rescue, first aid and appropriate medical facilities; and finally, they have to provide that the employer in charge of the mine must ensure that appropriate plans of workings are prepared before the start of operation and that they are brought up to date periodically and kept available at the mine site. In addition, the Convention defines responsibilities and rights in relation to safety and health in mines. The recommendation provides further technical details.

Safety and health in agriculture

28. Agriculture is one of the three most hazardous sectors of activity, both in industrialized and developing countries. The issue concerning safety and health in agriculture was first discussed at the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health in 1962 and in 1995 the 12th Session of the Committee recommended joint activities for the improvement of the health of workers in agricultural. As a follow-up, the Central American Project on Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture was run from 1993 to 1998. This programme demonstrated the need for an integrated approach including occupational, public and environmental health consistent with current national and international trends.
29. Although agricultural workers are protected by the [Plantations Convention, 1958 \(No. 110\)](#) and agriculture is generally covered by the [Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 \(No. 155\)](#), there is no comprehensive international standard dealing with the problems of safety and health in agriculture. As a result, the Convention on safety and health in agriculture (No. 184) and its accompanying recommendation (No. 192) were developed and adopted by the June 2001 ILC.
30. They are the first comprehensive international standards on safety and health in this sector and propose a universal framework on which national policies can be developed. The Convention covers requirements for adequate inspection systems for agricultural workplaces; agricultural workers' right to know; appropriate means of risk assessment and management; preventive and protective measures regarding machinery safety and ergonomics; handling and transport of materials; chemicals management; animal handling; construction and maintenance of agricultural facilities. There are also provisions concerning young workers and child labour, temporary and seasonal workers, insurance against injuries and sickness, and welfare and accommodation facilities. The main sectors excluded from the scope of the Convention are subsistence farming, agro-industries, and the forest industry. The Recommendation provides for a progressive extension of the protection afforded by the Convention to self-employed farmers and sets out specific internationally agreed provisions designed to serve as guidelines as to how the national policy on health and safety in agriculture should be implemented.

Recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases

31. Coherent and effective systems for the collection of reliable statistics on occupational accidents and diseases are essential in providing the data necessary for managing national OSH systems effectively. Following the development of a Code of Practice on the recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases in 1995, the ILO adopted a Protocol to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 and a Recommendation on the list of occupational diseases in 2002.
32. Each State which ratifies the Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and health Convention, 1981 has to, in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers, establish and periodically review requirements and procedures for the recording and notification of: occupational accidents; occupational diseases; and as appropriate, dangerous occurrences, commuting accidents and suspected cases of occupational diseases. It also has to publish annually the statistics that are compiled. The requirements and procedures for notification have to determine the responsibilities of employers, the arrangements for notification and the criteria according to which such notifications have to be made.
33. The List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002 (No. 194) is intended to strengthen identification, recording and notification procedures for occupational accidents and diseases, with the aim of: identifying their causes; establishing preventive measures; promoting the harmonization of recording and notification systems; improving the compensation process. The list of occupational diseases established at the national level, which should be regularly updated, should include: at least the diseases enumerated in Schedule I of Convention No. 121; to the extent possible, other diseases contained in the list of occupational diseases annexed to the Recommendation; and to the extent possible, a section entitled "Suspected occupational diseases". Each Member State should furnish annually to the ILO comprehensive statistics on occupational accidents and diseases and, as appropriate, dangerous occurrences and commuting accidents.

Codes of Practice and Technical Guidelines and publications

34. A significant number of Codes of Practice as well as technical guidelines and publications have been developed during the period under review, either through the ILO mechanism of tripartite meeting of experts in the case of codes of practice or through collaborative efforts with other organisations such as the IAEA's radiation safety standards and guidelines. The most important ones in term of innovation and potential impact relate to the surveillance of workers' health, the management of OSH, and to chemical hazard communication. Each of them is described in the report within the context of the activity it covers. The Guidelines on OSH management systems and on workers' health surveillance are the ones of the most recent instruments that are having already a very significant impact and represent the model for future ILO technical guidelines. Technical publications

such as those in the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Series, studies and reports are too numerous to be described and analysed in detail in this report. As a result, only the most important OSH codes of practice are briefly introduced in this document. References to these documents and to all other the instruments listed in Annex 6 can be found on the ILO SafeWork Web Site.

Occupational safety and health management systems

35. After the successful introduction of the “systems” approach to management by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through its series on Quality (ISO 9000 series) and Environmental Management (14000 series) during early 1990s, there was a view that the same approach could be used for managing occupational safety and health at the *organization* level. Following strong objections from both Employers’ and Workers’ organizations to plans for an ISO standard in this area, the ILO, in co-operation with the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), carried out in 1998 a review and analysis of existing OSH management systems standards and guidance documents. The report was used as a basis for preparing the ILO Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems (ILO-OSH 2001) which were adopted at a tripartite Meeting of experts in April 2001 and published in December 2001.
36. ILO-OSH 2001 provides a unique international model for occupational safety and health management systems (OSH-MS), compatible with other management system standards and guides. It reflects ILO values such as tripartism and relevant international standards including the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161). The Guidelines encourage the integration of OSH-MS with other management systems and state that OSH should be an integral part of business management and that OSH should be a line management responsibility at all levels in the organization or enterprise.
37. Unlike traditional codes of practice which were focused on the national level, and in line with a recently initiated process of updating the procedures for developing Codes of practice, ILO-OSH 2001 provide implementation guidance at both the national and enterprise levels. At the national level, they provide for the establishment of a national framework, including the nomination of competent institutions, the formulation of a coherent national policy and the establishment of a framework for an effective national application of the guidelines. At the enterprise level, they encourage the integration of OSH management system elements into overall policy and management arrangements, as well as the definition of responsibilities at all levels, i.e. In that context, the Guidelines on OSH-MS are an effective tool for the sustained development of an enterprise preventative safety and health culture where achieving a safe and healthy working environment is the responsibility of both employers and workers.

Workers’ health surveillance

38. Health data are of a sensitive nature. Inappropriate or inaccurate collection of health information can have serious and long-lasting consequences for individual workers. In addition, some kinds of health assessments, tests and investigations

may not be justified from an occupational health point of view, and may represent an unwarranted intrusion into the private life of the individual worker. They may also introduce discrimination based on health findings into the workplace.

39. With a view to examining the world wide practice and the role of health surveillance in the protection and promotion of workers' health and establishing new guidelines on the technical and ethical aspects of such surveillance, the ILO convened a tripartite meeting of experts on workers' health surveillance in September 1997. The reviewing of the laws and practice in member States indicated that workers' health surveillance was progressively expanded from limited medical examinations for certain categories of workers and for workers exposed to specific occupational hazards to health surveillance of all workers in a number of countries. The different expectations, the appearances of more sophisticated means of investigation and rapid technological progress as well as renewed emphasis on prevention and on human and workers' rights call for a redefinition of the purpose of the health surveillance for workers and of its organization.
40. On the basis of the conclusions of the review, the *Technical and ethical guidelines for workers' health surveillance* were adopted at the tripartite meeting of experts and were later published with the approval of the Governing Body of the ILO. This is another instrument that has demonstrated high usefulness and impact. Its purpose is to assist all those who have responsibilities to design, establish, implement and manage workers' health surveillance schemes. The Guidelines provide practical guidance on the organization of workers' health surveillance (health assessment, biological tests, sickness monitoring, recording and notification systems, surveys, voluntary programmes and medical inspection) and on the collection, processing, communication and the use of health-related data.
41. Detailed guidance on many sensitive and important issues can be found in the Guidelines. These issues include the need to define who should or could initiate, request or conduct health assessments, which assessments are appropriate under what conditions, the role of the competent authority, the responsibilities of the employers, the rights and duties of the workers as well as the manner in which professional independence should be guaranteed.
42. The Guidelines also define the use of health surveillance for health promotion, epidemiological and public health purposes as well as issues related to rehabilitation and retraining. They also address fitness criteria, in particular for jobs involving responsibilities for the safety and health of other workers and of the public.
43. The Guidelines establish principles to place the medical surveillance within an occupational health perspective, which require clear definition of its purpose, means of action and use of its results in particular to protect workers' health and improve working conditions and environment. The provisions in the Guidelines are considered to be the basic requirements for the surveillance of workers' health and can be used in the development of legislation, regulations, collective agreements, work rules, policies and practical measures at enterprise level on workers' health surveillance.

Safety in the use of synthetic vitreous fibre insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool, slag wool)

44. With a view to promoting safety in the use of man-made mineral insulation wools and improving working conditions and environment, a meeting of experts was held from 17 to 26 January 200 in Geneva and adopted a code of practice on safety in the use of synthetic vitreous fibre insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool, slag wool).
45. This code of practice was designed to outline practical guidance on the basis of the state-of-the-art knowledge for preventive and protective measures necessary for safety in the use of these products and to promote higher international health and safety standards.
46. The provisions of the code are aimed at minimizing exposure to fibres and dusts from insulation wools, preventing the irritation and discomfort and averting any long-term health risks involved in working with such products and providing practical control measures to minimise occupational exposure.
47. The code of practice consists of eight chapters and a glossary. It defines major principles and approaches concerning safety requirements in the use of these insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool and slag wool). The code specifies general duties for manufacturers, suppliers, importers, building clients, designers, specifiers, employers, workers and the competent authorities, all of whom have an important role to play in maintaining safety in the whole process of the use of insulation wools starting from manufacturing up to waste disposal.
48. The code of practice provides detailed provisions on general measures of prevention and protection which could be useful for choice of insulation, product information, material safety data sheets and labels, packaging, transport and storage, engineering and technical control, sanitary, personal protective equipment including protective clothing, housekeeping and cleaning as well as waste management and disposal. It also contains provisions on specific preventive and protective measures which target special applications of these insulation wools such as batt and blanket insulation, blown insulation in attics, spray-applied insulation, cavity fill insulation, boiler, oven and pipe insulation, muffler insulation, board insulation, uncured insulation, insulation wool ceiling tiles and removal and maintenance work.
49. The code of practice outlines detailed requirements on information, education, training and expertise. It establishes principles to carry out surveillance of the working environment as well as workers' health. The appendices attached to this code provides additional information to the reader concerning systems of classification of these insulation wool products, exposure limits in various countries and exposure levels in manufacture and use of insulation wools. Example of a format for risk assessments and action plans included in the appendix D elucidates how some of principles embodied in this code could be possibly applied in practice at the shop floor of an enterprise.

Ambient factors in the workplace

50. Adopted in February 1999 by an ILO meeting of Experts and published in 2001, this code provides valuable practical recommendations and guidelines for assessing, eliminating and controlling hazardous ambient factors in the workplace. It provides a number of practical conclusions to help protect workers' health against hazardous substances, ionizing radiation, electronic and magnetic fields, optical radiation, as well as noise, vibration, thermal conditions and humidity. It reviews the various aspects of prevention and control for each of these factors, and provides essential guidance on hazard assessment and the surveillance of workers' health and the working environment. It also focuses on establishing education and training programmes to ensure workers receive relevant, up-to-date information on their working conditions.

Other OSH activities

Labour inspection

51. Labour inspection has been recognized by the ILO as an important element of labour protection since its inception. Standard setting in this area culminated in the adoption of the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), followed by the Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129). A Protocol to Convention No. 81 was adopted in 1995 to cover the non-commercial services sector. Substantial new developments and changes have been occurring in many countries, in terms of both policy and practice.
52. Labour inspectorates everywhere are facing the challenge of evolving from enforcement of labour relations regulations to more holistic strategies that include OSH and, in some cases, environmental issues, the provision of technical advisory services and an important role in the building of a preventative safety and health culture⁵ within the enterprise. Another challenge is the upgrading of national inspection systems' capacities and strategies to deal with the wide range of issues stemming from impact of globalization on the world of work. Inspectorates will have to promote the application of OSH management systems and add value to inspection through the provision of expert technical advice. In response to these trends, ILO's Labour inspection technical cooperation activities are currently focused on integrating child labour issues and the concepts of OSH management systems in the training of inspectors, developing a computerized knowledge base on national inspection systems and strengthening links with external labour inspection bodies such as the European Union Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) and the International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI).

⁵ ILO, Labour Administration Branch: *New prevention strategies for labour inspection*, Doc. No. 56, (Geneva, 1998).

Well-being at work

- 53.** The workers' health promotion and well-being at work element focuses on the promotion of health among all workers and their families and within the community through preventive and assistance programmes in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco, HIV/AIDS stress and violence at work. In all these areas, and particularly in the area of drug and alcohol abuse, the ILO's comparative advantage lies in its experience of using the approach of social dialogue. This approach has resulted in the implementation of very successful workplace and community initiatives, with the involvement of employers, workers, governments, public services and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and more recently the development of an integrated course on drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco, HIV/AIDS stress and violence at work (SOLVE).

HIV/AIDS

- 54.** The spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly in developing countries, is a crisis of exceptional proportions. In a large number of developing countries, HIV/AIDS now represents a major obstacle to economic growth and sustainable development. The ILO's share of the global action against this major health disaster has focused on achieving three objectives,⁶ namely, to raise awareness of the economic and social impact of HIV/AIDS in the world of work, to help constituents prevent the spread and reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS and to fight discrimination and stigma related to HIV status. Recognizing that to be successful the fight against this terrible disease had to be carried out not only on all fronts but also in a globally concerted and coordinated manner, the ILO became a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in October 2001. The most obvious direct link between HIV/AIDS and OSH is the exposure of health-care workers to the virus.
- 55.** Other OSH-related aspects include exposure risks of sex workers and the physical and psychological stresses and weakening of strength induced by the disease, which may put workers more at risk of suffering accidents. The confidentiality of medical data and the risk of discriminatory termination of employment are other areas linking HIV/AIDS and the world of work. The ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work contains principles for policy development and practical guidelines from which concrete responses can be developed at enterprise, community and national levels. More recently, the HIV/AIDS programme has started developing a guidance document specifically designed to assist Labour Inspectors in dealing with HIV/AIDS issues at the enterprise.

Social security, insurance and welfare

- 56.** The Social Security Policy and Development Branch (SOC/POL) assists member States and constituents in the design, reform and implementation of social security policies based on the principles embodied in international labour standards and

⁶ ILO: Resolution concerning HIV/AIDS and the world of work, International Labour Conference, 88th Session, Geneva, 2000.

thereby contributes to the effective governance and management of these policies. As a follow-up to a general discussion at the 89th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2001 on social security,⁷ special emphasis is placed on developing strategies to extend social security coverage. The Strategies and Tools against Social Exclusion and Poverty (STEP) programme promotes and supports the development of innovative ways of extending social protection coverage using linkages between public systems and community-based initiatives. It places special emphasis on access to health care for workers in the informal economy.

Other ILO areas of action with significant occupational safety and health content

Sectoral activities

57. The objective of the Sectoral Activities Programme is to facilitate the exchange of information between the ILO's tripartite constituents on labour and social developments. In many instances, OSH issues relevant to a particular sector are raised and discussed in this context. As a result, a number of OSH codes of practice and guidelines for sectors of economic activity such as forestry, dock work, accident prevention on board ship at sea and in port, and on OSH in the non-ferrous metals industries, have been developed by the Programme with the collaboration of SafeWork. A Convention and a Recommendation for the fishing sector placed on the agenda of the 2004 session of the International Labour Conference will also cover some OSH-related aspects. SafeWork and the Sectoral Activities Programme are currently jointly developing guidelines on safety and health in ship breaking. A meeting of experts to finalize these guidelines is scheduled for the end of 2003 in Bangkok. The Sectoral Activities Programme carries out important work concerning promotion of the Safety and health in agriculture and in mining Conventions.
58. Because of the unique character of seafaring, most maritime countries have special laws and regulations covering this occupation. Consequently, the ILO, since its founding, has had special "machinery" for seafarers that focuses solely on the preparation and adoption of maritime labour standards. These include standards directly addressing the safety, health and welfare of seafarers, dock work safety and labour inspection.⁸ Within the International Labour Office, maritime issues are dealt with by the Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR). A number of codes of practice, guidelines and reports that address seafarers' issues have also been developed. The ILO cooperates with other United Nations agencies with an interest in the maritime field, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London and WHO in Geneva.

7 ILO: Social security: Issues, challenges and prospects, Report VI, International Labour Conference, 89th Session, Geneva, 2001.

8 The list of ILO maritime labour standards and detailed information on ILO activities in this area are available at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/sectors/mariti/standards.htm>

59. The International Labour Office has launched a major consolidation of the existing body of more than 60 maritime labour instruments into a single instrument in line with recommendations made by the ILO Joint Maritime Commission in January 2001 (the Geneva Accord) and approved by the ILO Governing Body at its 280th Session (March 2001). The objective of the consolidation is to bring the system of protection contained in existing standards closer to the workers concerned, in a form that is consistent with this rapidly developing, globalized sector, and to improve the applicability of the system so that ship owners and governments interested in providing decent conditions of work do not have to bear an unequal burden in ensuring such protection. The tripartite meetings convened by the Sectoral activities Programme during the period under review and which covered OSH issues at various levels, are listed in **Annex 4**.

Child labour

60. The rapid ratification of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), is creating an overwhelming demand for specific guidance on the implementation of Article 4 concerning the identification of hazardous occupations.⁹ SafeWork and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) are currently in the process of developing tools and methods for identifying hazardous child labour and setting priorities for action by authorities, inspectors, employers' and workers' organizations, OSH professionals and their organizations, as well as key NGOs involved in the elimination of child labour. WHO also participates in this work at a significant level. These tools and methods will be tested and the results used within the context of improving implementation of the provisions in ILO OSH standards for preventing dangerous child labour at the enterprise level.

Occupational safety and health and small and medium-sized enterprises

61. The existing OSH standards apply in principle to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). However, practical experience clearly shows that the application of the standards is limited in this area. Primary reasons are the limited awareness among SMEs of the existence of OSH standards and, where there is awareness, the limited experience and knowledge of how to comply with the standards without jeopardizing business performance. Furthermore, there are often no support services available to these enterprises to assist them in complying. Local institutional capacity is often limited both in the institutions that are traditionally responsible for OSH as well as in the institutions providing business development services to SMEs, and it is not able to address their specific needs and demands in terms of compliance. Standards become relevant to SMEs only when a "win-win" situation can be created and practical guidelines, which fully

⁹ ILO: IPEC action against child labour: Highlights 2002 (Geneva, 2002).

recognize and accommodate their specific needs, are made available to them. The ILO InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability (IFP/SKILLS) and the ILO InFocus Programme on Boosting Employment through Small Enterprise Development (IFP/SEED) both include occupational health and safety in their small enterprise development activities and address those needs to a significant extent by promoting safe work practices within a business context. Further information on these programmes is available on the ILO Web site.

Poverty alleviation

62. In the context of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)¹⁰ process, the ILO is working to ensure that employment and other aspects of decent work are addressed as an integral part of the economic and social analyses and policies comprising the initiative. As the safety and health of workers is a fundamental concern of decent work, it should be an equally important concern in the poverty alleviation agenda for the simple reason that for workers to keep their employment, they must, among other things, stay healthy. They must therefore have a minimum knowledge of occupational hazards in their working environment and learn basic prevention principles. Serious consideration should be given to the possibility of using projects related to poverty alleviation as vehicles for conveying basic prevention information related to safety and health to individual families and to micro-enterprises operating in the informal economy through family planning micro credit schemes. The provision of basic OSH information at the level of the family unit could also be a way to increase the safety and health of children.

Older workers

63. The ILO has always been committed to the issue of ageing, specifically in elaborating international labour standards in the field of invalidity, old age and survivors' insurance. The most comprehensive instrument on this subject is the Older Workers Recommendation, 1980 (No. 162), which aims to protect the right of older workers to equality of treatment and stresses the measures that should be implemented to protect their needs, including the identification and elimination of the occupational hazards and working conditions which hasten the ageing process and reduce their working capacity. The ILO contribution¹¹ to the 2002 Second World Assembly on Ageing¹² stressed this fact and called for measures to promote the adaptation of working conditions for older workers. The ageing of the world workforce is a major issue, which raises many concerns, including OSH concerns.

¹⁰ See GB.285/ESP/2.

¹¹ ILO: *An inclusive society for an ageing population: The employment and social protection challenge* (Geneva), paper presented to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 Apr. 2002), at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/index.htm>

¹² See GB.285/ESP/6/1.

Gender equality

64. Increased feminization of the workforce worldwide is now recognized as having a major influence on the world of work. The issue of integrating gender mainstreaming approaches in OSH is not by any means new. A 1985 ILO resolution¹³ recommended that measures should be taken to extend special protection to women and men concerning reproductive hazards and sexual harassment. The consequences of the feminization of the workforce in terms of safety and health have become a key issue for action in many countries. By establishing a Bureau for Gender Equality, and placing gender equality as a key element on the Organization's Decent Work Agenda, the ILO has recognized this phenomenon and has identified it as a cross-cutting issue and one of the strategic objectives of its global agenda. As a result, gender concerns and perspectives are automatically mainstreamed in all its policies and programmes, including those related to OSH.

OSH and the informal economy

65. The extension of fundamental rights and social protection to workers in the informal economy has been the subject of major papers and discussions at the ILO during the past five years. These have culminated with the preparation of a report¹⁴ on the subject followed by a general discussion at the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2002, the adoption of a resolution¹⁵ and a basis for a future plan of action. A major reason why social protection, (particularly safety and health) is particularly critical for informal workers is that they are much more likely to be exposed to poor working environments, low safety and health standards and environmental hazards resulting in poor health outcomes than formal workers are. Most often they have little or no knowledge of the risks they face and how to avoid them. The intrinsically undefined structure of the informal economy makes it almost impossible for governments to collect the vital statistics needed to take appropriate remedial action and, since much informal work takes place in homes, inspectorates cannot investigate work conditions or bring much needed information and advice.
66. The ILO has already started to develop tools and methodologies to address training, awareness raising and other needs in order to start the process of improving the working conditions and environment of informal workers. A range of ILO programmes linked to employment and production is being used to integrate OSH requirements in skills development, policy and technical support activities in this area. Trade unions have begun to cover the informal economy as a complementary organizing activity. Employers' groups could also further

¹³ ILO: Resolution on equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women in employment, International Labour Conference, 71st Session, Geneva, 1985.

¹⁴ ILO: *Decent work and the informal economy*, Report VI, International Labour Conference, 90th Session, Geneva, 2002.

¹⁵ ILO: *Resolution concerning decent work and the informal economy*, International Labour Conference, 90th Session, Geneva, 2002.

expand the extension of services and negotiations to cover informal producers. Both social partners have produced information and methodologies aimed at introducing OSH principles in the informal economy. Key information on chemical and other hazards is produced and made available in many languages for use in the agricultural and manufacturing areas of the informal economy. Examples are too numerous to describe here and detailed information on ILO action in this area can be found on the ILO web site.

The role of employers and workers

67. If laws and regulations are essential in determining the legal framework regulating the administration of national OSH infrastructures, the successful application of laws and regulations within the workplace rests to a large extent with employers, workers and the organizations representing them.¹⁶ Often, the subject of OSH has been the starting point for developing wider bipartite dialogue. Both employers and workers, and particularly employers' and workers' organizations, give OSH an important place in their collaborative or separate actions.
68. Employers have developed a number of voluntary initiatives dealing with various OSH aspects and specific sectors of economic activity (e.g. the Responsible Care initiative and its worldwide programmes aim to make the chemical industry safer, increase respect for the environment and increase transparency in providing information to the public)¹⁷. Within the ILO, the Bureaux for Employers' and Workers' Activities carry out activities related to OSH, including the provision of technical assistance and training to their national counterpart organizations. Details of their OSH activities can be found on the ILO Web Site.

Occupational safety and health and multinational enterprises

69. The subject of multinational enterprises (MNEs) has been a recurrent issue in discussions which culminated in the adoption by the Governing Body at its 204th Session (November 1977) of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. The Declaration was further amended in 2000 to take account of new declarations and standards adopted after 1977, seven of which relate to OSH.¹⁸ The Tripartite Declaration of Principles, the only set of global voluntary guidelines agreed upon and followed up by governments and employers' and workers' organizations, takes into account various minimum standards including OSH standards, as well as codes of practice. The Tripartite

¹⁶ Husbands, R.: "National level tripartite and bipartite cooperation on health and safety", in ILO: *Encyclopaedia of occupational health and safety*, 4th edition, 1998, Vol. 1. Wright, M.J.: "Collective bargaining and safety and health", in ILO: *Encyclopaedia ...*, op. cit.

¹⁷ ILO: *Voluntary initiatives affecting training and education on safety, health and environment in the chemical industries*, Report for discussion at the Tripartite Meeting on Voluntary Initiatives Affecting Training and Education on Safety, Health and Environment in the Chemical Industries, Geneva, 22-26 Feb. 1999.

¹⁸ GB.279/12 and Addenda I and II to the Declaration, available at <http://ilo.org/public/english/employment/multi/index.htm>

Declaration of Principles is a very important framework that could be an effective tool for the promotion of OSH and particularly for the implantation and strengthening of preventative safety and health cultures in countries in which MNEs operate. MNEs could contribute to ILO efforts in the area of OSH by making available much needed technical information on best practices.

Meetings of experts

70. Meetings of experts have made a valuable contribution to the ILO work and have proved to be an extremely efficient working tool of the organization. They are essential for the preparation of proposed instruments for the submission to International Labour Conferences for consideration, codes of practice and technical guides, and an effective mechanism for the examination of problems specific to particular regions or certain general subjects in relation to which appropriate recommendations for the ILO activities need to be made.
71. The strength and comparative advantage of these meetings is that they are based on the participations of experts on a tripartite basis, i.e. equal participation of government, employer and worker experts. The outcomes of these meetings represent a consensus reached by the social partners on a given subject and as a result provide guidance which is internationally peer-reviewed. These meetings are approved by the ILO Governing Body. During the period under review, a large number of meetings addressing fully or partially OSH issues have been held mainly by the SafeWork and Sectoral Activities Programmes. Information on these meetings is provided in **Annex 4**.

International collaboration

Partnerships

72. International collaboration in the area of OSH includes all activities undertaken by the ILO jointly or collaboratively with other IGOs and NGOs, as well as with regional bodies such as the European Commission and specialized national institutions. These include the development of policies and programmes, the preparation of technical standards, the delivery of technical cooperation projects, the preparation of training material, the development of databases and information materials, as well as the organization of conferences, symposia and workshops. Among the United Nations specialized agencies, the WHO and UNEP are the ILO's major partners in the area of OSH. The ILO, IAEA and WHO are also close partners in the development of radiation safety standards. The ILO collaborates from time to time with regional bodies such as the European Commission, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asian Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
73. The International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA), the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the International Association of Labour Inspectors (IALI) and the International Social Security Association

(ISSA) are ILO's close specialized international NGO partners. At the national level, SafeWork collaborates with a large number of specialized agencies such as NIOSH (USA), the HSE (UK), the FIOH (Finland), or CCOHS (Canada). An overall summary table of ILO international collaboration on OSH is provided in **Annex 5**.

Specific Areas of collaboration

Chemical safety

74. In the past ten years, chemical safety has represented a major area of collaboration with other IGOs and one in which the ILO has made a major and sustained input. This has resulted in the establishment of important mechanisms, standards and other related outputs focused on developing an integrated and environmentally sound management of chemicals. During the past two decades, the major part of the ILO's input in the area of chemical safety has been provided within the context of a number of interagency cooperation mechanisms. Following the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the WHO, ILO, and UNEP established together the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) in 1982, with its main objective to provide internationally peer-reviewed chemical risk assessments and to carry out a number of activities related to chemical safety.
75. Ten years later, the three partners participated in a very significant way in the development of cooperative frameworks aimed at implementing the recommendations set by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 concerning environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. The first result of these efforts was the creation of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) in 1994 as an advisory mechanism to coordinate national actions and to make recommendations to the international organizations in terms of priorities for action. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 to coordinate the chemical safety activities of the FAO, ILO, WHO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR and the OECD.
76. These structures are now recognized as very effective channels for promoting worldwide a systems approach to the sound management of chemicals and are, at the same time, good channels for promoting the relevant instruments and technical guidelines and assessments developed by the IGOs involved in chemical safety. The participation of the ILO ensured that the steering mechanisms of the IPCS and the IFCS included representation of employers and workers. The provisions in the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), and the Chemicals Recommendation, 1990 (No. 177), played a significant role in shaping outputs such as the IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards and the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (see boxes 1 and 2).

Box 1

The Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

The ILO initiated this project as a follow-up to the adoption of the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), and steered its development under the umbrella of first the IPCS and then the IOMC. It was carried out by three focal points, namely the OECD for the harmonization of classification criteria for health and environmental hazards, the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (CETDG) for physical hazards and the ILO for the harmonization of chemical hazard communication (labelling and chemical safety data sheets).

More than 200 experts, including employers' and workers' experts, provided technical input into this project until its completion in 2001. In order to provide a mechanism for maintaining and promoting application of the GHS by member States, the United Nations Economic and Social Council decided in 1999 to reconfigure the CETDG as the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. At its December 2002 session in Geneva,¹ the full Committee adopted the final version of the GHS, which was officially published in 2003 in English and French. The document will be eventually available in the six languages of the United Nations.

The GHS has been designed to cover all chemicals including pure substances and mixtures and to provide for the chemical hazard communication requirements of the workplace, transport of dangerous goods, consumers and the environment. As such it is a truly harmonized and universal technical standard that should have a far-reaching impact on all national and international chemical safety regulations. Successful completion of the GHS was due in great part to the full involvement of the employers' and workers' organizations in the process. Their input at both the policy and the technical levels was critical in overcoming many significant obstacles.

¹ All relevant working papers and meeting reports for each session of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, including the full text of the GHS, are available in full text in English and French at:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html>

Box 2
The IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)

The ICSC project was developed in 1984 in the context of cooperation between the IPCS and the European Union. Funding is provided by the EU, the ILO and WHO. The project is currently managed by the ILO on behalf of the IPCS. The ICSCs summarize essential health and safety information on chemical substances in a clear way and are intended for use at the shop-floor level by workers, and by those responsible for workplace safety and health. To a large extent, the information provided in the ICSCs conforms to the provisions in the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), and the Chemicals Recommendation, 1990 (No. 177), related to Chemical Safety Data Sheets. The ICSCs are designed to serve as an international reference with respect to chemical safety information and are therefore prepared through an ongoing process of drafting and peer-reviewing by scientists from specialized institutions designated by the member States who contribute to the work of the IPCS. This process also takes account of the advice and comments provided by manufacturers, workers' and employers' organizations and other specialized institutions.

A large number of national institutions are involved in the translation of the ICSCs into different languages. Currently about 1,300 ICSCs are available free of charge on the Internet in 16 languages: Chinese, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese. A measure of the impact and usefulness of the ICSCs is given by the number of ICSCs downloaded from the Internet, which is estimated to be over 2 million per year. ICSCs in all these languages can be accessed at :

<http://www.ilo.org/cis>

Protection against ionizing radiations

77. Working with radiation could be dangerous if preventive and protective measures are not properly applied. Occupational exposure to ionizing radiation can occur in a range of industries, mining and milling, medical institutions, educational and research establishment and nuclear fuel cycle facilities. According to the latest (2000) Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), an estimated 11 million workers worldwide are monitored for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation. The UNSCEAR 2000 Report describes a downward trend in the exposure of several groups of workers, but it also indicates that an increasing number of people worldwide are receiving occupational exposures.
78. The ILO has had a long history in development of international guidance on radiation protection of workers. The ILO Conventions are a powerful mechanism in international law by which to motivate states to implement and demonstrate safety and health provisions complying with current international standards. In this respect, Convention (No. 115) and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 114) concerning the protection of workers against ionizing radiations are the basis for ILO action in the area of protection of workers against exposure to ionizing radiation. The ILO Convention 115 has been and remains effective. Convention has so far been ratified by 47 countries. Activities are being taken to increase this effectiveness by working with other international organizations, in particular with the IAEA and the WHO, towards its more widespread ratification and implementation in the Member States.
79. There has been a long-standing history on an efficient interagency cooperation on radiation protection which was strengthened by the establishment in 1986 of an Interagency Committee for Nuclear Accident Response (IAC/NR) which was later

renamed as the Interagency Committee for the Response to Nuclear Accidents (ICRNA) and by the establishment in 1990 of an Interagency Committee on Radiation Safety (IACRS). Both the ILO and WHO are active members of these two committees.

- 80.** The development of the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS) which was published in 1994 mark the culmination of efforts that have continued over the past several decades towards the harmonization of radiation protection and safety standards internationally. The unprecedented international effort to draft and review the Standards involved hundreds of experts from the member States of the sponsoring organizations, from specialized organizations and from employers' and workers' organizations. The meeting of the Technical Committee that endorsed the Standards in December 1993 was attended by 127 experts from 52 countries and 11 organizations. The Standards is jointly sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/NEA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The BSS establishes a system of radiation protection of which the provisions for occupational exposure are a substantial component.
- 81.** Published in 2001 and jointly sponsored by FAO, IAEA, ILO, OECD/NEA, PAHO, OCHA and WHO, the Safety Requirements on Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear and Radiological Emergency incorporates and establishes requirements for emergency preparedness and response so that emergency management can be seen in its entirety by the bodies concerned. These safety requirements are binding on the IAEA in relation to its own operations and on the states in relation to operations assisted by the IAEA.
- 82.** Another parallel development is the compilation of the Safety Fundamentals for Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources which are co-sponsored by the same six co-sponsoring organizations of the BSS. The Safety Fundamentals which was published in 1996 is a top-level publication in the IAEA Safety Series and provides the basis for the requirements in Safety Standards for the control of occupational, public and medical exposures and for the safety of radiation sources. Safety Guides and Safety Reports provide guidance and information on how to implement the requirements.
- 83.** The supporting Safety Guides relevant to occupational radiation protection which have been developed so far include (1) Occupational Radiation Protection, (2) Assessment of Occupational Exposure due to External Sources of Radiation, (3) Assessment of Occupational Exposure due to Intakes of Radionuclides (These three Safety Standards were co-sponsored by ILO and IAEA and published in 1999) and (4) Building Competence in Radiation Protection and the Safe Use of Radiation Sources (jointly sponsored by IAEA, ILO, PAHO and WHO, published in 2001). There are also some Safety Standards on specific sectors, particularly Occupational Radiation Protection in the Mining and Processing of Raw Materials (co-sponsored by ILO and IAEA) which is about to be published. Other

publications which were jointly developed by the IAEA, ILO and WHO include the Health Surveillance of Persons Occupationally Exposed to Ionizing Radiation (published by the IAEA 1998), the Organization and Operation of a National Regulatory Infrastructure Governing Radiation and Safety of Radiation Sources (published by the IAEA in 1999) and a five-volume Manual on Radiation Protection in Hospitals and General Practice (to be published by WHO).

- 84.** The ILO has always maintained close links with international scientific communities in the field of radiation protection, in particular with the ICRP, whose work is a primary basis for the development of international standards on radiation. For example, the ILO contributed to the work of the Task Group on Occupational Exposure of the ICRP and participated in the work of the ICRP Committee which reviewed the document. The general principles for the radiation protection of workers prepared by the Task Group lay a foundation for the development of the Safety Guide on Occupation Radiation Protection as mentioned in the previous paragraph.
- 85.** The current activities of the ILO are centred on the promotion of the active involvement of employers' and workers' organizations in the formulation of international standards on occupational radiation protection and the implementation of the BSS and the Safety Fundamentals at both international and national levels. At the international level, the ILO is closely associated with the work of IAEA's Radiation Safety Standards Advisory Committee (RASSAC) which is vested with the important mission of reviewing the Agency's Safety Series documents on radiation protection and safety of radiation sources and the Agency's programme of work for the preparation of these documents. Within the framework of the IACRS, the ILO and other member organizations discuss international policies and standards on radiation protection and coordinate among themselves radiation protection activities carried out by individual member organizations.
- 86.** The first International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection, hosted by the Government of Switzerland, was held at ILO headquarters in Geneva, in August 2002. It was organized by the IAEA and convened jointly with the ILO. Other key co-sponsors and organizers included the EC, the WHO, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, the UNSCEAR, the ICRP, the ICRU, the IEC, the IRPA and the ISR. The Conference concluded that current standards provided satisfactory levels of protection and their implementation should be promoted. An action plan to follow up the recommendations of the Conference is being prepared by the secretariats of both IAEA and ILO in close cooperation with the cosponsoring organizations and the workers' and employers' organizations.
- 87.** This action plan will be a useful tool to promote the ILO Convention 115. It will cover important aspects of the control of occupational exposures that have an international context, as identified at the Conference. It therefore deals with matters such as the strengthening of relevant international conventions, the development and maintenance of effective safety infrastructures, participation of workers, the fostering of a safety culture among managements and workers themselves, and the harmonization of international radiation protection requirements that are compatible with other provisions for health and safety at

work. Development of education and training and promotion of information exchange form an important part of the action plan, which also proposes joint international efforts for aiding decision making on attributing health effects to occupational radiation exposure. The protection of specific groups, including pregnant workers and their embryos and fetuses, is also addressed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION:
PROTECTING WORKERS AGAINST EXPOSURE TO IONIZING RADIATION
26-30 August 2003, Geneva, Switzerland**

- The international organizations should avoid unnecessary changes in standards of occupational radiation protection, so that regulatory stability can be maintained and implementation carried through.
- The international organizations should harmonize and, if possible, simplify their terminologies and their interpretations of requirements, especially those set out in conventions (including ILO Convention 115) and standards. Given the statutory responsibilities and the long tradition of the IAEA in the relevant field, this organization may wish to take the lead in an international harmonization effort. As part of this effort, the internationally recommended quantities and units should be used worldwide.
- To achieve the goal of better integrating radiation protection with general health and safety, the IAEA, with its specific radiation safety remit, and the ILO, with its overall worker safety remit, should consider collaborating more closely, especially in establishing and strengthening occupational radiation protection in developing countries.
- To achieve better dissemination of information and lessons learned into the medical, industrial and mining areas, the international organizations should consider whether systems similar to the ISOE could be established for these areas.
- The international organizations should consider producing a package of information and training material designed to enable workers to fully participate as stakeholders in all aspects of radiation protection.
- The international organizations are encouraged to make widely available in appropriate forms, including via the internet and in local languages, analyses of and lessons learned from accidents in industry to increase awareness and encourage responsible and safety-conscious behaviour among management and workers.
- The IAEA should initiate the formulation of detailed practical guidance to assist regulators in deciding what occupational exposures are unamenable to control. This guidance should be incorporated into recommendations for establishing which industries involving exposures to natural sources of radiation should be subject to control as practices, including advice on graded approaches to regulatory requirements that are nonetheless compatible with protection from artificial sources.
- The international organizations should develop guidance on the formulation and application of probability of causation schemes for the compensation of workers for radiation-induced occupational diseases.
- Many of these recommendations, and also a number of measures to strengthen occupational radiation protection globally, could be implemented if the international organizations, especially the IAEA and ILO, formulated and implemented an international action plan for occupational radiation protection.

Elimination of silicosis

- 88.** The scientific approaches and technical controls towards the prevention of silicosis are well-known and a combination of these preventive measures has proved to be highly effective when applied. Major efforts directed towards improving the working environment and minimizing dust exposure greatly reduces the risk of silicosis and makes it possible to eliminate silicosis as an

occupational health problem. Over the years, ILO and WHO have paid special attention to the prevention of silicosis in collaboration with national and international organizations, particularly with NIOSH (USA) and ICOH. Various activities have been and continue to be carried out in developing countries with the aim to promote and assist in the prevention of occupational respiratory diseases, with the elimination of silicosis as a specific target. A special training programme established by the ILO has considerably contributed to the improvement of practical skills of specialists using the ILO International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconiosis for early detection of pneumoconiosis in developing countries. The International Classification has been updated and reedited to provide both a classical film and a digitized version of radiographs.

- 89.** The programme brought together specialists from industrialized and developing countries. The leading specialists from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany and Japan have been involved in its implementation. For the last five years national training seminars have been organized in Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine, Peru, Turkey, Venezuela, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. The ILO/WHO long-term action programme to prevent occupational respiratory diseases have been successfully implemented over the years. It received a new impetus at the Twelfth Session of the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health in April 1995. The Committee identified the global elimination of silicosis as a priority area for action in occupational health, inviting countries to place it high on their political agenda and requesting the ILO and WHO to establish a joint programme of cooperation in order to achieve this goal. Later on, the Programme received an international recognition after the consideration at the 9th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases, which was jointly organized by the ILO and the government of Japan in Kyoto in October 1997. The conference concluded that the implementation of this important programme should be widely supported throughout the world. As indicated in paragraph 2 of this document, a number of activities directly related to occupational health have been initiated either by the ILO alone or in collaboration with the WHO. The ILO-WHO Global Programme on the Elimination of Silicosis is the flagship of this collaboration.

International events and awareness-raising

- 90.** Another important area of international collaboration is the preparation and organization of major international conferences and congresses such as the triennial World Congress on Safety and Health at Work or the International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases. Major conferences with a high level of ILO participation are very effective means of promoting ILO standards and other related materials such as codes of practice and guidelines, particularly in the area of OSH, where the ILO is regarded as the leading international organization.
- 91.** Since 1995, three World Congresses were held in Madrid (1996), Saõ Paolo (1999) and Vienna (2002). The XVIIth World Congress will be hosted by the US National Safety Council in 2005 in Orlando, Florida. An International Pneumoconiosis Conference was convened in Kyoto, Japan in 1997, and the Xth

Conference will be organized in Beijing in April 2005. Other major international gatherings directly related to occupational health included: the international Conference on National Infrastructures for Radiation Safety in Rabat (September 2003) under the aegis of the IAEA, ILO, WHO, EU and OECD/NEA, International Symposium on Work in the Global Village, in Helsinki (2001) and the 27th International Congress on Occupational Health, in Iguassu Falls, Brazil (2003). Information on the outcomes of these meetings can be found on the Web sites of ILO and WHO.

92. The most recent and important action taken in the area of awareness raising is the establishment by the ILO of a *World Safety and Health at Work Day* to be convened every year on 28 April. The ILO World Day for Safety and Health is bringing tripartite strength to the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996 and coordinated by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is intended to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and how promoting and creating a preventative safety and health culture can help to reduce the number of work-related deaths each year.

Technical cooperation relating to occupational safety and health

Core activities and partnerships

93. Assistance to constituents in the area of OSH has always been a constant element in the technical cooperation programme of the ILO. In 1975, at its 60th Session, the International Labour Conference reaffirmed with the resolution concerning future action of the International Labour Organization in the field of working conditions and environment that the “improvement of working conditions and environment and the well-being of workers remains the first and permanent mission of the ILO” and decided to launch PIACT. At the time, the main focus of PIACT was already the provision of assistance in implementing ILO standards, building infrastructures, awareness raising, training and dissemination of information. These areas of action remain the focus of current technical cooperation activities. Although the regular budget for technical cooperation (RBTC) funding of PIACT was never formally discontinued the programme effectively stopped through slow attrition of resources. OSH technical cooperation funding was overtaken to a large extent by the establishment of the long-term technical cooperation OSH programmes in the late 1980s and in 1995 funded by Finland¹⁹ and later Denmark.

19 ILO InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment, technical cooperation activities, at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/techcoop/index.htm>

- 94.** The ILO/FINNIDA programme was specifically aimed at developing national OSH information capacities and regional networking in Asia and Africa. The ILO/DANIDA partnership, based on a new strategy of active multilateralism,²⁰ led to the establishment of mutually recognized joint principles and priorities for several DANIDA-funded interregional programmes. These were based on the design and implementation of tripartite national OSH policies and measures, human resources development and capacity building, managing safety in particularly hazardous occupations and the elimination of silicosis. In addition, two sub-regional programmes were developed, one on OSH for the SADC countries and the other on Human Resources for OSH in the francophone African countries.
- 95.** Technical cooperation activities related to OSH were mainly directed at supporting national efforts to improve safety and health in a variety of areas. For example, the upgrading of inspection and advisory services and the establishment of national tripartite councils and advisory bodies; the enactment of laws and regulations and the establishment of appropriate enforcement machinery; the provision of improved information services; support for employers and workers in implementing programmes; the development of guidelines for the establishment and functioning of enterprise-level safety and health committees; and the provision of appropriate training for managerial and supervisory personnel to strengthen their capability to assume responsibility for the safety and health of workers.
- 96.** Numerous technical cooperation projects and activities fully focused or containing elements on OSH are regularly developed and executed by other departments in the Office. The Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) regularly provides technical cooperation assistance on OSH to national workers' organizations. The development of OSH management systems and increased understanding of linkages between good safety levels and high quality and productivity have in recent years led employers' organizations to participate in the OSH projects implemented by the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP). The ILO IFP/SKILLS and IFP/SEED programmes are both operating in a context that requires attention to working conditions, and include OSH modules in their training activities.
- 97.** In many instances, ILO technical cooperation activities have been carried out successfully through technical expert input in collaborative and complementary projects funded by the ILO, the European Union (Phare and Tacis Programmes), bilateral projects, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, etc. Inter-agency cooperation has been particularly effective with the European Union in Eastern Europe (accession countries) and Central Asia, and with the development banks in Asia. Comprehensive information on overall ILO technical cooperation activities,

20 Plan of Action for Active Multilateralism. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DANIDA, 2000, Copenhagen, Denmark, at <http://www.um.dk/publikationer/fremmedsprog/English/Plan/ActiveMultilateralism/>

including those related to OSH, is readily available in the progress reports presented annually to the Committee on Technical Cooperation of the Governing Body²¹ and the reports on general discussions at the International Labour Conference.

- 98.** Traditionally, OSH technical cooperation action undertaken by SafeWork has focused on very practical and technical issues. However, in accordance with the various ILO strategies to promote ILO outputs, and in response to the demands of constituents, this action has always used, and logically so, the ILO Conventions, codes of practice, guidelines, datasheets, databases and other relevant materials as a basis for providing the requested assistance. Since the SafeWork programme is also responsible for the development of these standards and materials, technical cooperation has always been perceived as the normal means of moving to the next step, namely the implementation of ILO standards, not only through assistance in upgrading national laws and regulations, but also through their promotion in the various sectors and enterprises, through the hands-on training of inspectors and by providing information to safety committees, safety officers and workers' representatives.
- 99.** Therefore, the objective of the ratification of Conventions and the implementation of ILO standards, although not always explicitly expressed in project objectives or mentioned in evaluation reports, has always been an implicit goal of most technical cooperation action in the area of OSH. However, the present use of ratifications as an indicator of impact for ILO technical cooperation activities does not take into account the long-term and sustained step-by-step approach needed to bring the regulatory system of a target country to a level where ratification of a given ILO OSH standard is possible.
- 100.** The experience gained from the country projects executed in the period 1970-80 indicated that the most relevant needs of the constituents were information, capacity building and policy development. For the constituents, relevant information meant ILO standards and codes of practice for the drafting of legislation, guidelines and datasheets for finding practical solutions to implement standards, manuals and training material for education and training, best practices and in-depth technical information for the safety professionals for the improvement of working conditions. The demands being continuous and broad, the most cost-effective solution was found to be assistance and training to set up national information and training facilities. Capacity-building assistance to enable national experts to use ILO standards as models and apply information and experience was equally relevant. As a result of this analysis, the ILO has based its technical cooperation activities on the three universal elements of labour protection programmes: policy, information and capacity building, essential in any functional national OSH system. In the last two years two more elements have been added to the three element matrix, namely the OSH management systems approach and the evaluation of the economic costs of poor working conditions.

21 Documents presented to the Governing Body of the ILO, at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/>

National OSH Programmes

- 101.** Experience has shown that effective implementation of OSH requirements at the national and enterprise levels can be achieved successfully only through the full involvement of the social partners in the sustained process of continual action, review and improvement, all principles which are at the heart of the logical process of a management systems approach. The long-term objective of delivering OSH capacity-building assistance to the tripartite constituents through the establishment and implementation of national OSH programmes or national SafeWork programmes is an appropriate response to this need and to the requirements of the ILO strategic programming approach to technical cooperation.
- 102.** This approach is based on both the progressive construction and strengthening of the building blocks needed to run a national OSH system and the parallel development of a strong workplace preventative safety and health culture. To achieve this goal, it is imperative that the capacity-building assistance provided by the ILO includes the development and provision of methodologies to be used by the constituents to build, strengthen and improve their OSH system themselves on a sustainable basis, it being understood that ILO assistance would only be needed to help start the process and ensure its sustainability with more limited support. This approach would ensure an acceptable level of coherence in the process of technical cooperation delivery and a coherent and effective use of scarce resources. Technical cooperation action within the framework of national OSH programmes would also provide a common tool for both headquarters' and field experts to use for effective coordination of the planning, design and delivery of specific projects according to the overall objectives of the national programme.
- 103.** The development and implementation of both national OSH programmes and the provision of focused and effective ILO assistance require information collection and analysis tools that can provide reliable data on which to base focused and effective action. The availability of such coherent mechanisms is critical ensuring that scarce national and technical cooperation resources are used efficiently and applied where improvements are critically needed and can be realistically expected. A well-designed centralized knowledge base containing this type of data would provide a common mechanism for the systematic exchange of information between field and headquarters' experts. It would also provide the data analysis tools necessary to assist in planning, designing and following project progress, as well as the capacity to construct general time-based views and projections.
- 104.** Appropriate methodology for the establishment and progressive implementation of national OSH programmes is currently being developed and tested by SafeWork. The preparation of a national OSH profile is an essential initial step in the process of building a good national OSH programme. The profile is an inventory of all the tools and resources available in a country to implement and manage OSH and is designed to provide the data necessary for setting national priorities for action aimed at the progressive and continual improvement of workplace safety and health. Once the profile is completed it can be used not only as a basis for identifying priorities for action but also as a tool for measuring progress over time through its periodic updating.

105. A number of countries have already started to prepare national OSH profiles and use them for the development of national OSH strategies. The efforts made in 1999 by the European Union in this area have resulted in the production of country profiles for all its Member States and more recently for the accession countries. National OSH profiles have been prepared or are being prepared in Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. A small ILO pilot project to evaluate the different aspects of developing national OSH profiles based on the outline elaborated by the Office is currently under way in Azerbaijan, China, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uzbekistan. It is hoped that after proper analysis and additional consultations, the results will lead to further improvements and the eventual publication of an ILO methodology for the preparation of national OSH profiles, including the development of a set of practical OSH indicators recipient countries would need to measure their progress. This work on methodology development should involve all countries interested in implementing a national OSH programme and should be the object of international collaboration, particularly with the WHO and its network of WHO Collaborating Centres.

Knowledge management and information exchange

106. The effectiveness and success of any process leading to prioritization, decision-making and action to solve or deal with any issue, whether political, social, technical or even personal, will always depend essentially on the capacity to access valid data related to the object of the decision or the problem at hand, to process this data, interpret correctly the results and finally feed them into a decision-making or priority-setting mechanism. In essence, any decision or action is only as good as the data it is based on.

107. In the field of OSH, adequate capacities to develop, process and disseminate knowledge – be it international labour standards, national legislation, technical standards, methodologies, statistics, best practices, educational and training tools, research or hazard and risk assessment data, in whatever medium, language and format needed – are a prerequisite for identifying key priorities, developing coherent and relevant OSH strategies and achieving measurable impact in terms of reducing occupational accidents and diseases. One has only to list the disciplines involved in OSH to measure the importance of mastering knowledge management tools. Like any field based on a multitude of disciplines, effective “data mining, processing and refining” is a fundamental need.

Barriers and improvements

108. Technical and scientific information is a commodity bound by the same economic rules as other commodities and thus often out of reach for many institutions in developing countries. Subscriptions to major knowledge bases providing the latest medical or toxicological data, or copies of technical standards, require a solid financial capacity, which is not the case for most national specialized bodies in developing countries. Although countries without widespread telecommunication networks could access information published in electronic media, such as the CD-ROM, subscription to these services is still a costly alternative. SMEs have the same access cost problems.

- 109.** The lack of adequate training materials and scientific and technical information in local languages is still an important barrier to the proper establishment of new technologies and an understanding of their risks. The Internet is having a somewhat beneficial effect on facilitating the search for information in a specific language. It is a fact that the ILO, along with many other IGOs with activities related to OSH, produces and makes available on the Internet a large number of useful technical documents and databases in many languages. Although the ILO already provides its constituents with significant technical assistance in translating important legislative and technical documents, the needs exceed by far these efforts.
- 110.** Another important area where there are serious disparities between countries is the capacity to collect and analyse vital statistics pertaining to OSH, more particularly occupational accident and disease statistics. Despite continuing efforts at all levels, and particularly the significant advances made during the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference on the recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases,²² and the ILO list of occupational diseases, national efforts in this area are far from being sufficient. Although national and global surveillance and alert systems and networks exist concerning public health threats of a pandemic nature, as well as for environmental threats, there is nothing comparable for occupational hazards and risks.
- 111.** In countries where there are reasonable telecommunication structures and access to the Internet, SMEs, national competent authorities and most of all educational institutions have greater access to both general and specialized OSH information. By facilitating and speeding up communication between employers' and workers' organizations and their affiliates, both at the national and international levels, ITC has greatly facilitated and improved the information of employers and workers on many aspects of the world of work, including OSH. The web sites of the IOE and those of the ICFTU and the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM)²³ provide access to very valuable information on OSH issues. Many national OSH institutions have established global Internet-based information networks, most of them accessible through the ILO SafeWork web site. These sites provide access to both legislative and technical information as well as to scientific databases on many aspects of OSH. Another important aspect of the information revolution is its positive impact on the language barrier. Internet use statistics for the month of September 2002²⁴ indicate that out of the online population of 619 million, 36.5 per cent were connected in English, 35.5 per cent used other European languages, and 28.3 per cent used Asian languages.

²² "ILO: Report of the Committee on Occupational Accidents and Diseases", *Provisional Record* No. 24, International Labour Conference, 90th Session, Geneva, 2002.

²³ See <http://www.ioe-emp.org>, <http://www.icftu.org> and <http://www.icem.org>, respectively.

²⁴ See <http://www.globstats.com>

Current ILO action

112. Within the ILO the need to adapt to this information revolution was understood very early and the process of integrating information technology into the various office work processes is now an established and permanent mechanism. The past five years have seen a very marked trend in the Office as a whole towards the transfer of the many knowledge bases of the ILO to the Organization's web site both on the Intranet for staff use and to the public web site where now all the ILO standards and many databases and documents are available in English, French and Spanish. The fact that important ILO information is now accessible free of charge and in several languages responds to a large extent to the points raised by constituents in the survey responses concerning free access to information. In the area of OSH, the ILO tool for the development, processing and dissemination of information is the CIS.

The International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS)

- 113.** Created in 1959 as an OSH information clearing house, the CIS has now grown to a global network of 129 CIS national centres covering all continents and engaged fully in OSH information and technical assistance exchange. In its 44 years of existence, the CIS has been a pioneer in the use of the latest information technologies. Besides using the occupational safety and health, safety standards, chemical and physical hazards (CISDOC) database as the foundation of a periodic bibliographic bulletin in English and French, the CIS has produced many OSH publications and established an extensive OSH library (see **Annex 6**).
- 114.** More recently, the CIS has reorganized the ILO SafeWork web site into a very effective tool to access the available ILO OSH information. Together with key regional and national centres, it is leading the development of an Internet-based portal to a "Global OSH Information Network"²⁵ designed to provide access to the most reliable OSH information available on the Web. In the area of international cooperation, the CIS participates in the production of the IPCS International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC). The latest edition of the ILO *Encyclopaedia of occupational health and safety* was produced entirely by the CIS and was for the first time made available in both paper and CD-ROM form.
- 115.** The CIS is well integrated in the overall ILO knowledge management strategy and is an essential element in the functioning of SafeWork. In terms of international impact, the CISDOC database is sold worldwide by two commercial operators and referenced in other major scientific databases. The CIS knowledge bases are often the only reliable sources of OSH information accessible in many developing countries and many national organizations of employers and workers rely on them. Since the placing of ILO OSH information on the Internet, the very high rate of use indicated by access statistics gives a more visible measure of its impact

²⁵ CIS national centres' global OSH information network, at <http://www.ciscentres.org>

in terms of service to constituents. At the end of 2001,²⁶ the CIS web page was consulted about 300,000 times a month, and its web traffic has grown at the rate of about 12 per cent a month since then. cursory analysis of the origin of queries shows that a majority come from developing countries and countries in transition.

- 116.** All the OSH information outputs of the ILO, particularly the products developed by the CIS, the publications of SafeWork, those of other ILO departments dealing with specific or sectoral aspects of OSH, as well as the outputs developed through international cooperation, are used in a very significant way as input or the basis for providing technical or capacity-building assistance to ILO constituents. Technical cooperation projects carried out by the CIS have provided a significant number of CIS national centres with the means and training to gain access to the Internet.

Training in occupational safety and health

- 117.** The International Training Centre of the ILO, situated in Turin, Italy, is the training arm of the ILO.²⁷ Established in 1964 by the ILO and the Italian Government and originally conceived as a technical and vocational training institution, it has matured into an institute for postgraduate and high-level in-service training. Today, its alumni network of over 80,000 men and women is present in 172 countries. Among the many training areas it covers, the Turin Centre regularly offers two-to-three-week training sessions on a number of OSH subjects. Current course subjects include the comparative analysis of national systems of occupational safety and health, occupational safety and health management systems and occupational safety and health inspection systems. There is a strong linkage between the Centre's training activities and technical cooperation programmes, which often provide funds to cover the costs of training. The ILO SafeWork programme regularly provides technical assistance and staff to support the OSH courses. Technical cooperation projects are also used to provide direct assistance to constituents on a number of OSH-related subjects. In addition to the Turin Centre, the MDT experts are active in developing or participating in many regional or national training activities.

Research

- 118.** The research efforts of the ILO in the area of OSH are mainly carried out on an ad hoc basis through the commissioning of publications on general or particular subjects. Some of the analytical reports that serve as a basis for developing ILO OSH standards can also be considered as research work. They can be separate from or part of the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Series publications. In a specific case, namely chemicals, scientific assessment of chemical hazards and risks is carried out as a collaborative effort with other organizations such as the

²⁶ ILO: Second Supplementary Report: Activities of the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) in 2000-01, Report of the Director-General, Governing Body, 283rd Session Geneva, March 2002 (GB.283/16/2).

²⁷ See <http://www.itcilo.it/English/bureau/turin/sp/index.htm>

WHO and UNEP. In the course of preparing for the general discussion on OSH during the 2003 International Labour Conference, a number of subjects for which research and analytical work would be useful as a basis for future action in the area of OSH have been identified, such as the economic aspects of OSH, including the cost of occupational accidents and diseases, and also of major industrial accidents, as well as the levels of national investments in OSH in relation to costs.

119. Other subjects and areas that could also be the object of very useful future studies and analytical reviews may include the relations between the world of work and the environment; the consideration of mechanisms for a better integration of occupational and primary health care delivery systems; the linkages between OSH and occupational accident and disease compensation mechanisms; the methodology and mechanisms for introducing hazard and risk concepts in school curricula; possible approaches to the extension of OSH requirements to workers in the informal economy, the place of OSH in poverty alleviation mechanisms; and the relation between occupational and public safety and health.

Programme and Budget Proposals for 2004-2005

120. During the 2004-05 biennium, the ILO's strategy will focus on promoting social protection as a key component of national and regional initiatives for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes.
121. The ILO's social protection programme aims to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all men and women. This strategic objective consists of two operational objectives. One of them relates to social security, including socio-economic security. The other concerns labour protection which comprises occupational safety and health and the environment, working conditions, labour migration, and the combating of HIV/AIDS at the workplace.
122. The ILO's competence in the field of labour protection is acknowledged by the international community. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation provides for the strengthening and promotion of "ILO and WHO programmes to reduce occupational deaths, injuries and illnesses and link occupational health with public health promotion ...". For ILO constituents the improvement of all aspects of terms and conditions of employment is essential for achieving decent work and long-term development. Member States that have ratified a large number of the ILO's Conventions on occupational safety and health, maternity protection, workers with family responsibilities, wages and working conditions, and apply them, have relatively low rates of occupational accidents and enjoy improved levels of productivity. Countries and companies that have a low rate of occupational accidents and diseases are also ranked as the most competitive. Decent work, a motivated workforce and safety, do pay. In spite of this however, concerns about the quality of work persist, and new challenges have emerged as a

result of the expansion of the informal economy, new forms of work organization and new psychosocial factors (e.g. stress, violence, drug use).

123. SafeWork's activities will be carried out under the Operational Objective 3b: labour protection of the ILO Programme and Budget proposals for 2004-2005 which is that ILO constituents target and take effective action to improve safety and health and conditions of employment, with special attention to the most hazardous conditions at the workplace.

124. The operational objective of occupational safety and health is set out in the paragraphs under Indicator 3b.1 (see the table underneath).

Indicator 3b.1: Improved national programming and reporting on occupational safety and health

Member States that make major progress in their occupational safety and health policies or capacities through ratification or application of ILO standards, implementation of ILO codes or guides, or launching of national programmes of action.

This is a revised indicator that merges indicator 3b.2 in the Programme and Budget for 2002-03, which reads as follows: "Member States in which national programmes of action are launched for selected industries and hazardous agents", and indicator 3b.1: "Member States in which constituents strengthen their occupational safety and health capacity through ratification and application of ILO standards, and the implementation of codes and guides, as well as information and statistical tools and methods on safety and health". In the Programme and Budget for 2000-01, the indicator was 3b.1 and it stated: "The number of member States in which national SafeWork programmes of action for selected industries and hazardous agents such as construction, chemicals, mining and silicosis are launched". Another indicator 3b.2 dealt with the statistical coverage of occupational accidents and diseases.

Target : 32 member States.

This is a new target. For the 2000-01 biennium the target for the corresponding indicator (3b.1) was eight member States, and it was fully achieved. In the case of indicator 3b.2, the target of five member States was largely surpassed, with results having been attained in 11 member States.

Strategy

221. The International Labour Conference will discuss the integrated approach to standards-related activities in the field of occupational safety and health in 2003. In the light of these discussions, the ILO's work in this field will be streamlined to maximize the impact on enterprises and countries. While ILO standards will play a key role, and their ratification and implementation will be encouraged, other ILO means of action such as codes of practice, guides and information tools will also be promoted. The ILO's 2001 Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems will be adapted to local contexts and used to encourage corporate social responsibility. Through its International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS), the ILO will further enhance its knowledge base by strengthening links with CIS National and Collaborating Centres, to meet rising demand for information. It will serve as a clearing house, providing constituents with relevant information, statistical data and solutions for particularly hazardous sectors, occupations and jobs. Special attention will be given to certain groups (e.g. workers and enterprises in

the informal economy, vulnerable groups and women workers). Member States will be encouraged to launch national SafeWork programmes with ILO technical cooperation.

222. Cooperation with other international and regional safety and health institutions has had significant achievements in a number of areas. This will be reinforced, including in the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), support for national labour inspectorates together with the International Association of Labour Inspection, and the organization of the ILO/ISSA World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health and International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases.

223. The InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment concentrates on protecting workers in hazardous occupations through preventive policies and programmes as well as extending the coverage of such protection to vulnerable groups of workers. It also has a capacity-building component aimed at enabling tripartite constituents to address these issues more adequately. Raising awareness about the linkages between social and economic policies and improved occupational safety and health, is another key function of the Programme. All ILO regions recognize the importance of improved safety and health at work for member States.

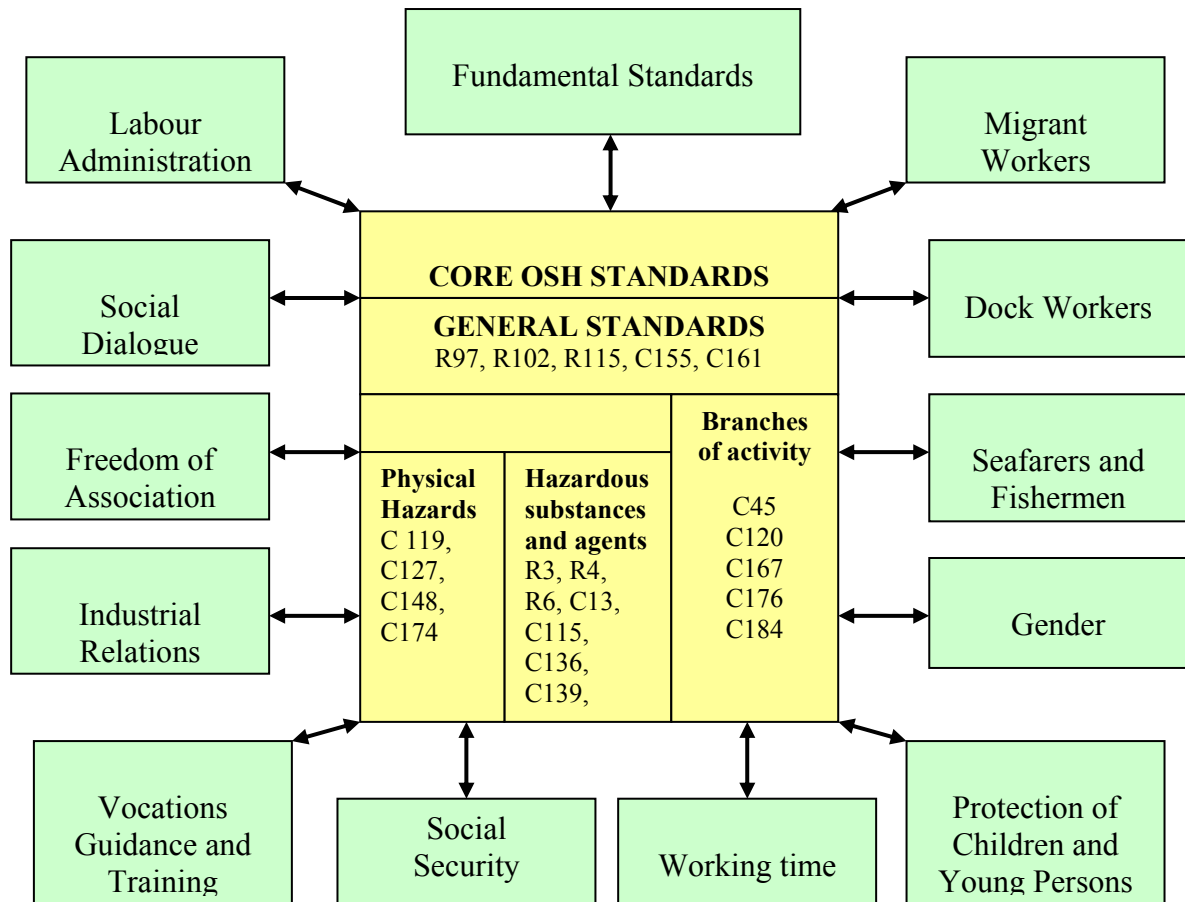
Conclusions and areas for future collaboration

125. The areas of concern for OSH have expanded from a workplace, sectoral and national focus to the global arena. OSH is firmly embedded in the concept of decent work and also represents a platform for action to contribute to the development of a global consensus on how to integrate social, economic and environmental policies, in order to achieve globally sustainable development. In this context, there is a strong link between poverty alleviation and OSH. Safety and health at work is an urgent concern in all regions of the world and there are indications that the levels of occupational accidents and diseases are on the increase.
126. This overview represents the collective action taken by the ILO that is devoted wholly or in part to the promotion of ILO values and standards in the area of OSH and provides a measure of the importance of achieving safe and healthy working conditions and environment as a major ILO objective in the context of the Decent Work Agenda. A number of the cross-cutting themes identified, which have strong links with the objectives of the ILO in the area of OSH (including hazardous child labour, work in the informal economy, OSH in small and medium-sized enterprises, the role of collective bargaining in promoting OSH standards, the role of employers and workers in building safety cultures, and gender mainstreaming) will need to be taken into account in the elaboration of the future ILO plan of action on OSH as defined by the 2003 International Labour Conference in its recommendations concerning an integrated approach to standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health (ILC 2003 Recommendations on OSH).
127. In achieving a successful implementation of these recommendations, the collaboration with WHO will be essential. In critical areas where there has been a clear convergence of objectives and a basis for developing synergies, particularly in the areas of occupational health and chemical safety, this collaboration has been effective and fruitful in terms of achievements.

- 128.** As highlighted in different parts of the present report, and as a follow-up to the recommendations of the 2003 International Labour Conference concerning occupational safety and health, the ILO will focus on developing new standards and instruments, methodology, information and other tools designed to assist its constituents in promoting the establishment and maintenance of preventative safety and health cultures, both at the national level and in the enterprise as the only effective means of reducing on a sustained basis occupational accidents and diseases.

Annex 1

Relation between the core OSH standards and other ILO standards and areas of action



Annex 2

ILO Field capacities in the area of Occupational Safety and Health

The following table shows availability of OSH and standards experts as of December 2002. Contact information is available on the ILO web site at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/sitemap.htm>

Region	Location of ILO Office	OSH expertise	Standards expertise
Central Africa	Yaoundé	No	Yes
West Africa (French-speaking)	Abidjan and Dakar	Yes	No
East Africa	Addis Ababa	Yes	Yes
North Africa	Cairo	Yes	No
Southern Africa	Harare	Yes	Yes
East Asia	Bangkok	Yes	Yes
Arab States	Beirut	Yes	Yes
Central and Eastern Europe	Budapest	Yes	No
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Moscow	Yes	Yes
Andean	Lima	Yes	Yes
South-East Asia and the Pacific	Manila	No	Yes
South Asia	New Delhi	Yes	Yes
Caribbean	Port-of-Spain	No	Yes
Central America	San José	Yes	Yes
Southern Americas	Santiago	Vacant	Yes

Annex 3

Codes of practice, technical guidelines and key publications developed since 1995

Codes of Practice and Guidelines

- Recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, 1995
- Management of alcohol- and drug-related issues in the workplace, 1996
- Protection of workers' personal data, 1997
- Safety and health in forestry work, 1998
- Technical and ethical guidelines for workers' health surveillance, 1998
- Safety in the use of radiofrequency dielectric heaters and sealers, 1998
- Accident prevention on board ship at sea and in port, 1996
- IAEA Safety Standards Series - Occupational Radiation Protection, 1999 (IAEA-ILO)
- IAEA Safety Standards Series – Assessment of occupational exposure due to intake of radionuclides, 1999 (IAEA-ILO)
- IAEA Safety Standards Series – Assessment of occupational exposure due to external sources of radiation, 1999 (IAEA-ILO)
- Use of synthetic vitreous fibre insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool, slag wool), 2000
- Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems, 2001
- Ambient factors in the workplace, 2001
- Safety and health in the non-ferrous metals industries, 2001
- HIV/AIDS and the world of work, 2001
- IAEA Safety Standards Series – Preparedness and response for a nuclear or radiological emergency, 2002 (FAO, IAEA, ILO, OECD/NEA, PAHO, OCHA, WHO)
- ILO International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses (2000 Edition)
- UN Globally harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), 2003 (ILO, UNECE, OECD)

Recent ILO publications related to OSH

- Ergonomic Checkpoints. Practical and easy-to-implement solutions for improving safety, health and working conditions (1996)
- Your Health and Safety at Work: A modular training package (1996)
- Work Organization and Ergonomics (1998)

- The Future of Urban Employment (1998)
- Decent work. Report of the Director-General to the International Labour Conference, 87th Session 1999 (1999)
- Youth Unemployment and Employment Policy. A global perspective (2001)
- The World Employment Report 2001: Life at work in the information economy (2001)
- Fundamental principles of occupational health and safety (2001)
- Labour inspection. A guide to the profession (2002)
- Work in the World. A teachers' guide to work issues (second edition; 2003)
- Global Employment Trends (2003)
- Employment Stability in an Age of Flexibility. Evidence from industrialized countries (2003)
- Jobs and Incomes in a Globalizing World (2003)
- Alcohol and Drug Problems at Work. The shift to prevention (2003)
- Time for Equality at Work (2003)
- Working out of Poverty. Report of the Director-General. International Labour Conference 91st Session 2003 (2003)
- ILO Standards-related Activities in the Area of Occupational Safety and Health (2003)

Annex 4

ILO Meetings of Experts and Sectoral Activities meetings convened since 1995

Occupational Safety and Health

- Meeting of Experts on Workers' Health Surveillance (Geneva, 2-9 September 1997)
- Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in Forest Work (Geneva, 23-30 September 1997)
- Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Occupational Injuries (Geneva, 30 March-3 April 1998)
- Meeting of Experts on Labour Inspection and Child Labour (Geneva, 27 September-1 October 1999)
- Meeting of Experts on Ambient Factors at the Workplace (Geneva, 27 January-2 February 1999)
- Meeting of Experts on Safety in the Use of Insulation Wools (Geneva, 17-26 January 2000)
- Meeting of Experts on Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems (Geneva, 19-27 April 2001)
- Tripartite Meeting of Experts on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work (Geneva, 14-22 May 2001)
- Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in the Non-ferrous Metals Industries (Geneva, 28 August - 4 September 2001)
- Meeting of Experts on Working and Living Conditions of Seafarers on board Ships in International Registers (Geneva, 6-8 May 2002)

Sectoral Activities

- Improving the Conditions of Employment and Work of Agricultural Wage Workers in the Context of Economic Restructuring (1996)
- The Globalization of the Footwear, Textiles and Clothing Industries: Effects on Employment and Working Conditions (1996)
- Effects of New Technologies on Employment and Working Conditions in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector (1997)

- Employment and Industrial Relations Issues in Oil Refining (1998)
- Technology and Employment in the Food and Drink Industries (1998)
- Terms of Employment and Working Conditions in Health Sector Reforms (1998)
- Human Resource Development in the Public Service in the Context of Structural Adjustment and Transition (1998)
- Voluntary Initiatives Affecting Training and Education on Safety, Health and Environment in the Chemical Industries (1999)
- Safety and Health in the Fishing Industry (1999)
- Information Technologies in the Media and Entertainment Industries: Their Impact on Employment, Working Conditions and Labour-Management Relations (2000)
- Lifelong Learning in the Twenty-first Century: The Changing Roles of Educational Personnel (2000)
- Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Impact of Globalization in the Manufacture of Transport Equipment (2000)
- Moving to Sustainable Agricultural Development through the Modernization of Agriculture and Employment in a Globalized Economy (2000)
- Employment Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions in the Banking and Financial Services Sector (2001)
- Human Resources Development, Employment and Globalization in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector (2001)
- Social and Labour Dimensions of the Forestry and Wood Industries on the Move (2001)
- Impact of Decentralization and Privatisation on Municipal Services (2001)
- The Construction Industry in the Twenty-first Century: Its Image, Employment Prospects and Skill Requirements (2001)
- Civil Aviation: Social and Safety Consequences of the Crisis subsequent to 11 September 2001 (2002)
- The Evolution of Employment, Working Time and Training in the Mining Industry (2002)
- Social Dialogue in the Health Services: Institutions, Capacity and Effectiveness (2002)

Annex 5

International collaboration in the area of OSH

Name	Partners/aims/activities/outputs
Intergovernmental organizations	
International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)	ILO, UNEP, WHO partnership since 1980 Focus on risk assessment, harmonization of methodologies and information dissemination ILO contribution Manages and oversees production and translation of ICSCs Ensures participation of employers and workers Manages jointly the IPCS 1,300 ICSCs available on the Internet in 14 languages
Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)	Partners include FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO Created in 1995 to coordinate and foster joint planning of chemical safety activities of member organizations related to the implementation of UNCED's recommendations on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals Provides technical and policy input in all areas of action ILO contribution Promotes ILO chemical safety standards Ensures participation of employers and workers in activities under the umbrella of the IOMC Production of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Joint management of ILO/UNITAR programme on chemical hazard communication
Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)	Established by the 1994 International Conference on Chemical Safety in Stockholm to set priorities for member states in implementing UNCED's recommendations on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals ILO contribution Contributes to overall IOMC input in IFCS activities Promotes ILO chemical safety standards Ensures participation of employers and workers IFCS priorities for action include calls for ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 170 and 174 and national implementation of the GHS by 2008
Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health	Governed by a general ILO/WHO agreement since 1950 Elaborates periodically recommendations on inter-agency collaboration, policy and priorities for action in occupational health ILO contribution Close collaboration with WHO collaborating centres network Joint ILO/WHO action on OSH in Africa Joint International Programme on Global Elimination of Silicosis Key recent ILO contribution is the revised International classification of radiographs of pneumoconioses (2000) Promotion of ILO standards (Conventions Nos. 155, 161, 162, 176) and relevant codes of practice
Interagency Committee on	Includes European Commission, FAO, IAEA, ILO, OECD/NEA, PAHO, UNSCEAR, WHO; ICRP, ICRU, IRPA and ISO have observer status

Name	Partners/aims/activities/outputs
Radiation Safety (IACRS)	<p>Inter-agency consultation and collaboration in radiation safety matters Elaboration and publication of radiation safety standards and methodology; international conferences and meetings</p> <p>ILO contribution Provides input on policy and technical matters and ensures participation of employers and workers Promote ILO standards related to ionizing radiation safety Key instrument for the ILO is the International basic safety standards for protection against ionizing radiation and for the safety of radiation sources</p>
United Nations Drug Control Programme	<p>IGOs involved in drug control activities include ICAO, IMO, WHO. Key instrument is the 1998 Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.</p> <p>ILO contribution Provides policy and technical input Promotes the ILO code of practice on the management of alcohol- and drug-related issues in the workplace</p>
Safety and Health in Ship Breaking	<p>Includes International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), ILO, International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), IMO, International Transport Federation (ITF), UNEP (Secretariat of the Basel Convention) and the World Bank</p> <p>ILO contribution Lead role the development of a Global Programme and strategies (ongoing) Development of ILO technical guidelines to be completed at end of 2003</p>
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	<p>Serves as the WHO Regional Office for the Americas and as the health organization of the Inter-American System</p> <p>ILO contribution Joint activity with ILO Lima Office to establish and support a regional OSH virtual network that counted in 2002 800 members from 40 countries</p>
Regional organizations	
Andean Community of Nations (CAN)	<p>Regional intergovernmental organization created in 1997 with the aim to enhance economic and social integration of countries in the region Key instrument is the Cartagena Agreement of May 1999 on labour aspects, including working conditions and OSH</p> <p>ILO contribution Technical assistance in developing an Andean standard on working conditions and OSH</p>
European Commission (EC)	<p>OSH related links include: Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs; European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions; European Agency for Safety and Health at Work</p> <p>ILO contribution Recommendations relating to both EU and ILO principles on OSH Ongoing joint development of an Internet “OSH Portal” with ILO-CIS Coordination of action plans and implementation of projects on employment and social protection particularly aimed at accession countries The ILO is recognized as the lead agency in social protection and employment fields, both of which have strong links with OSH issues Ongoing development of a formal basis for joint consultations on social protection and OSH</p>
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe	<p>Partners are the Council of Europe, ILO, WHO, Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact, WHO</p> <p>Goal is to Implement the Social Cohesion Initiative, including development of action plans in several priority fields: health, housing, social protection, OSH,</p>

Name	Partners/aims/activities/outputs
	social dialogue, vocational training and employment policy ILO contribution Coordination of action plans and implementation of projects on employment and social protection The ILO is the lead institution in social protection and employment which both have OSH components
Non-governmental organizations	
International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA)	Represents 20 national associations with an overall membership of 20,000 OSH professionals and has consultative status with WHO and ILO Aims are to promote and develop occupational hygiene throughout the world Convenes the International Scientific Conference of IOHA every two years Has provided significant input into the elaboration and promotion of the ILO Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems and in the elaboration of a chemical hazard control tool kit intended for SMEs ILO contribution Co-sponsors the IOHA International Scientific Conference Participation of the ILO at IOHA management board meetings OSH professionals recognize ILO as leading IGO in the area of OSH Increased awareness of ILO OSH standards by OSH professions Effective network for the promotion of ILO OSH standards
International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)	Professional society founded in 1906 with the aim to foster the scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and safety in all its aspects Has consultative status with the ILO, ISSA, UNEP, United Nations and WHO Triennial World Congress on Occupational Health 35 permanent scientific committees ILO contribution Membership in the Task Group on Code of Ethics Provides input into the preparation of the World Congress Key ILO role in the elaboration of the ICOH International Code of Ethics for Occupational Health Professionals Input in ICOH committees on respiratory diseases, OSH services and developing countries
International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI)	Partners include governments and (in particular) labour inspectorates of the IALI member countries and the ILO Aims are to provide a professional forum for the exchange of information and experience in labour inspection work, including OSH aspects, and to promote closer cooperation between related authorities and institutions ILO contribution Mutual ILO/IALI support in the organization of events and meetings related to labour inspection issues Strengthening of labour inspection systems worldwide by providing knowledge and resources for policy reform, training needs and data analysis Collaboration, awareness raising and network building with national labour inspection experts in order to promote decent work and the ratification of Conventions Nos. 81, 129 and 184
International Social Security Association (ISSA)	Created in 1927 to bring together national institutions and administrative bodies dealing with one or more aspects of social security ILO contribution Key mechanism for the ILO is the ISSA Special Commission on Prevention Joint organization and co-sponsorship of the triennial World Congress on

Name	Partners/aims/activities/outputs
	Occupational Safety and Health (since 1954) Good forum for publicizing ILO action in the area of OSH Access to national occupational accident and disease data collection systems
International Ergonomics Association (IEA)	Aims are to advance the science and practice of ergonomics Has 21 technical committees on different aspects of ergonomics, including OSH ILO contribution Participation and input into the triennial IEA Congress Development of the ILO publication Ergonomic checkpoints Ongoing preparation of a publication on ergonomic checkpoints for agriculture
Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization (APOSHO)	Objective is to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among the communities in the Asia-Pacific region in the area of OSH through the exchange of information and views ILO contribution Participation in the annual APOSHO Conference Collaboration on information gathering and dissemination Promotion of ILO OSH standards in the Asia-Pacific region
Major international scientific congresses, conferences and symposia	Partners include IGOs (WHO, UNEP, etc), NGOs such as ICOH, IOHA and ISSA, as well as several national specialized institutions in the host countries Events ILO/ISSA World Congress on OSH (triennial) International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (quinquennial) ICOH World Congress on Occupational Health (triennial) IOHA International Scientific Conference on OSH (biennial) World Congress of the IEA (triennial) APOSHO Conference (regional; annual) ILO contribution The ILO is involved in preparing the meetings, and providing input for the themes and agenda, and resources for the participation of developing countries, as well as employers' and workers' organizations

Annex 6

Key ILO knowledge bases on occupational safety and health

Knowledge base	Available formats
<p>ILO codes of practice on OSH ILO codes of practice contain practical recommendations intended for all those with responsibility for occupational safety and health in both the public and private sectors. These codes of practice are submitted to the Governing Body for approval for publication.</p>	<p>The most recent are available on the Internet (free) Priced publications</p>
<p>Database of OSH institutions and CIS centres Provides contact data and summary of activities</p>	<p>Internet (free)</p>
<p>The CIS bibliographic database (CISDOC/CISILO) The CIS bibliographic database exists in English and French and contains about 45,000 citations of documents that deal with occupational accidents and diseases as well as ways of preventing them. Every record contains a detailed bibliographic description, a full abstract and indexing descriptors drawn from the CIS Thesaurus.</p>	<p>Internet (subscription) CD-ROM (priced) Commercial distribution through: CCOHS and SilverPlatter</p>
<p>Safety and health at work – ILO/CIS Bulletin The printed version of the CISDOC/CISILO database is published six times a year in English and French. A Spanish version of this publication is produced by the CIS National Centre for Spain under the title Boletín bibliográfico de la prevención.</p>	<p>Publication (subscription; at a special reduced price for developing countries)</p>
<p>Encyclopaedia of occupational health and safety The new fourth edition, in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, contains over 100 chapters comprising more than 1,000 separate articles covering all aspects of OSH. It is recognized internationally as an authoritative reference for OSH programming.</p>	<p>Internet (subscription) CD-ROM (subscription)</p>
<p>Legislative texts on OSH (LEGOSH) The Database of Legislative Texts on Occupational Safety and Health (LEGOSH) consists of references to more than 3,500 (as of 2001) laws, regulations and international legal instruments dealing with OSH.</p>	<p>Internet (free) CD-ROM (free)</p>
<p>CIS Thesaurus on occupational safety and health The CIS Thesaurus is the trilingual (English, French, Spanish) source of terms used to index the CIS bulletin and database. It can also supply “meta” tags for indexing web pages, and it has been used to organize several national OSH libraries.</p>	<p>Print (1999 edition) Diskette CD-ROM (under development) Priced publication</p>
<p>Occupational safety and health series This series includes 72 publications on various aspects of occupational safety and health. It is printed mostly in English.</p>	<p>Priced publication English</p>
<p>International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) ICSCs summarize essential health and safety information on chemical substances for their use at the “shop floor” level by workers and employers in factories, agriculture, construction and other workplaces. ICSC information is verified and peer reviewed by internationally recognized experts, as well as by employers’ and workers’ organizations</p>	<p>Internet (free; in Chinese, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese) CD-ROM (free)</p>