



## THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Follow-up to sectoral meetings  
held in 2000-01****Introduction**

1. One of the outcomes of the Governing Body's 1995 evaluation of the Sectoral Activities Programme was the decision that "... the Office should report to the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues each biennium on the follow-up action it had taken in each sector. The stimulus for follow-up action by the Office will be the conclusions and resolutions developed and adopted by the meetings themselves".<sup>1</sup>
2. This third report under the system of sectoral meetings adopted in 1995 provides information on follow-up action on the requests made by the meetings held in 2000-01. It also covers some other sector-specific activities, including follow-up to meetings held before 2000.
3. Despite recognition of the importance of follow-up activities in the 1995 evaluation of the Sectoral Activities Programme, such activities could not cover several requests due to budgetary constraints affecting the programme. Furthermore, the programme was responsible during the biennium for the preparation and implementation of 12 regular sectoral meetings, the first meeting of a High-level Tripartite Working Group on Maritime Labour Standards, as well as two emergency meetings to deal with the impact of the events of 11 September 2001 on the hotel and tourism sector and on civil aviation.
4. Requests for follow-up generally fall into one or more of the following categories:
  - (a) the promotion of the ratification and implementation of sector-specific international labour standards;
  - (b) the organization of sector-specific national, regional and interregional meetings;
  - (c) the provision of technical advisory services and technical cooperation in specific areas;

<sup>1</sup> GB.262/STM/1, para. 23.

- (d) research publication and dissemination of the results; and
  - (e) the collection and dissemination of sector-specific information and data.
5. The follow-up activities are implemented either by the Sectoral Activities Department or jointly with other units in the ILO, sometimes in partnership with other United Nations agencies (e.g. UNESCO, WHO, FAO, IMO, UPU), or in partnership with international trade secretariats, employers' organizations and, in some cases, NGOs.
  6. With a view to permitting worldwide access to ILO research on sectoral trends and conclusions on best practices adopted by constituents, the Sectoral Activities Department has developed a web site which includes all reports prepared for sectoral meetings and their related *notes on the proceedings*, as well as information on working papers and on trends in particular sectors following the events of 11 September 2001.<sup>2</sup>
  7. The following paragraphs summarize, as concisely as possible, for each of the sectors (in alphabetical order), the follow-up activities and outputs delivered during the past biennium. The sectors dealing with chemical industries, construction, financial and other professional services, mechanical and electrical engineering, and oil and gas production and oil refining are not included in this survey. A specialist for the chemical industries and the oil/gas production and oil-refining sector was recruited in the course of the biennium and the focus was on the preparation of the meeting for the latter industry which will have been held in February 2002. The same applies to the construction sector for which a meeting took place in December 2001. The *Note on the Proceedings* of this meeting is before the Committee at the present session. As regards financial and other professional services, activities in follow-up to the meeting held in 2001 are planned in 2002. The mechanical and electrical engineering sector had its last meeting in 1998. No further follow-up action was undertaken in 2000-01.

## **Agriculture, plantations, other rural sectors**

8. The *Tripartite Meeting on Moving to Sustainable Agricultural Development through the Modernization of Agriculture and Employment in a Globalized Economy* was held in Geneva in September 2000. In the process of preparing for the Meeting, the Office published a number of working papers on the cut-flower industry (Colombia, Ecuador, the Netherlands, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and globally), agricultural transition (Viet Nam), and structural adjustment and agriculture (Guyana, Uganda).
9. The conclusions of the September 2000 Meeting highlighted the importance of preventing and reducing fatalities, accidents and ill health which affect agricultural workers and farmers by improving training on occupational safety and health. Following the adoption of the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), the Office has supported the development of a workers' training module, which has been successfully field tested and revised for further use. Initial steps have been taken to develop a promotional campaign to encourage ratification of Convention No. 184. The conclusions also urged the Office to continue research on the impact of globalization on the agricultural sector. A study was carried out in cooperation with MULTI on the role of multinational enterprises in the plantation sector in Kenya, which will be published in early 2002.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/sector>

## Basic metal production

10. Following the adoption of a *code of practice on safety and health in the non-ferrous metals industries* by the Meeting of Experts in September 2001 and the subsequent authorization by the Governing Body for its publication (GB.282/10), the Office arranged for its translation into Chinese and Russian and for the printing and distribution of multiple copies. The English, French and Spanish versions have been posted on the Internet and pocket-sized versions in these languages are being prepared. In the meantime, the final text has been widely distributed within the non-ferrous metals industry and to organizations concerned with the sector.

## Commerce

11. Among its conclusions, the *Tripartite Meeting on the Human Resource Implications of Globalization and Restructuring in Commerce*, held in October 1999, requested the ILO to develop, in cooperation with the social partners, a manual to promote social dialogue in commerce. In addition, a resolution of the same Meeting called on the ILO to set up a small tripartite forum to regularly discuss global priority developments in the sector. In accordance with these recommendations, the Office convened an informal tripartite meeting, in November 2001, bringing together representatives from its tripartite constituents in various regions, to review a draft manual it had prepared on social dialogue in commerce. The two-day meeting established parameters for the manual, set a timetable for its completion and resolved that the social partners should have an active role in finalizing the manual in order to give it greater relevance to enterprise-level social dialogue. The manual is expected to be completed in the first half of 2002.

## Education

12. As follow-up to the *Joint Meeting on the Impact of Structural Adjustment on Educational Personnel*, held in April 1996, working papers were published on recruitment of educational personnel, the status of education personnel in higher education and feminization of the teaching profession.
13. As follow-up to the *Joint Meeting on Lifelong Learning in the Twenty-first Century: The Changing Roles of Educational Personnel*, held in April 2000, research has been undertaken and will be completed in February 2002 on improving access to lifelong learning, including the use of distance and open education based on information and communication technologies (ICT), and the roles of teachers. The research is expected to be utilized at a European regional seminar on the subject organized in cooperation with UNESCO and other partners, and to furnish a model for similar work in other regions. In addition, work on the evaluation/validation/recognition of knowledge, skills and competencies is being carried out by IFP/SKILLS.
14. The Office organized the *Seventh Session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel*, held in Geneva in September 2000. The Seventh Session featured the first international review of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel, 1997. As follow-up to the meeting, research will be completed in February 2002 for the expected publication of a major international survey on indicators concerning teachers. In addition, an international working group composed of higher education constituents has been established to assist ILO and UNESCO parallel research and policy advice on security of employment and academic freedom in higher education.

## Food, drink, tobacco

15. To give effect to the resolution concerning the future activities of the ILO in the food and drink industries, adopted by the *Tripartite Meeting on Technology and Employment in the Food and Drink Industries*, held in May 1998, the Office published in 2000 a working paper entitled *The warp and the web: Organized production and unorganized producers in the informal food-processing industry*, which covers bakeries, savouries establishments and fish processing in Mumbai (India). Two other working papers were published on the tobacco sector entitled *Making ends meet: Bidi workers in India today* and *The world tobacco industry: Trends and prospects*.

## Forestry, wood, pulp and paper

16. The *code of practice on safety and health in forestry work*, adopted by a Meeting of Experts in 1997, was translated into Polish and Chinese. Translations into Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese, Mongolian and Slovenian are under way. In Uruguay, where elements of the code had been used to draft national safety regulations with ILO assistance, the Office trained all labour inspectors. As an outcome of this assistance, a project to create a national vocational training system for forestry will start in early 2002. In China and Mongolia, the ILO assisted sectoral constituents to formulate national codes of forest practice in line with the notion of sustainable development. A final draft of the code for China was completed in September 2001. The Mongolian code is expected to be finalized in early 2002.
17. In pursuance of a resolution adopted at an earlier meeting and more recent requests from constituents, the Office prepared a guide on social criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, which was published jointly with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in 2000. The guide draws on ILO Conventions and other relevant texts adopted by ILO constituents. It has since been used extensively at national and international level. All or major parts of the criteria suggested in the guide have been incorporated into the respective standards of the two major international forest certification schemes. These activities are in line with the conclusions and resolutions adopted by the *Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Dimensions of the Forestry and Wood Industries on the Move*, held in September 2001.

## Health services

18. The *Joint Meeting on Terms of Employment and Working Conditions in Health Sector Reforms*, held in September 1998, concluded that health workers are particularly exposed to physical and psychological violence and asked the ILO to provide assistance in efforts to provide a safe work environment. Dialogue with the social partners and cooperation with other international organizations was specifically requested to facilitate such processes. The Office therefore initiated a comprehensive inter-agency programme with the WHO, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and Public Services International (PSI). The purpose was to study the magnitude of the problem, to undertake country studies where data were not available, in particular in developing countries, and to arrive at anti-violence guidelines for the health sector. This joint undertaking together with national partner institutions has produced at the end of 2001 extensive empirical research results at national level to be completed in 2002. Moreover, the research process increased awareness at national and international levels. The whole programme will result in the elaboration of guidelines to combat violence at work in the health sector.

19. Follow-up to the Meeting was also provided by a programme on *Public service reforms and their impact on health sector personnel*, which was carried out with the same partners and additionally the German Foundation for International Development (DSE). In 2000, the results of the programme were published in a report and a “Tool for Action” document was created through critical questions to be raised in reform processes. This tool was translated into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish and widely distributed through the ILO, WHO, ICN and PSI in order to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders in the reform processes.

## Hotels, tourism, catering

20. The *Tripartite Meeting on Human Resources Development, Employment and Globalization in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector*, held in April 2001, requested the Office to act as an observatory on trends on relevant developments concerning human resources policies, to address emerging issues and trends in consultation with the tripartite constituents, to put in place a system for training and skill development among countries, and to help in developing training programmes on HIV/AIDS. The Meeting was also concerned with sustainable development of tourism, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, and combating child labour.
21. To assess the impact of the events of 11 September 2001 on the sector, the Office organized the *Informal Meeting on the Hotel and Tourism Sector: Social Impact of Events Subsequent to 11 September 2001*, held in October 2001. The Meeting reviewed the impact of the events in this sector and the social partners formulated recommendations concerning operational measures for overcoming the crisis which could be considered by governments, the social partners and the ILO. The report of the Meeting, including the Chairperson’s summary, were posted on the Internet as were the Meeting’s briefing paper and three subsequent monitoring reports. The relevant web site is designed as a step towards what will become an observatory of trends in the sector.
22. The Office has continued working towards a labour accounting system in tourism as a supplement to the existing tourism satellite account methodology. To this end it has been cooperating with the World Tourism Organization and has been coordinating a working group on employment of the WTO Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism.
23. In the area of sustainable tourism development, the Office has been cooperating with UNEP and the World Tourism Organization helping the tourism industry to prepare its sectoral report to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002). The Office has also been active in developing indicators for the social dimensions of sustainable tourism development. It has cooperated with an NGO for the publication of a catalogue of sustainability indicators for tourism projects and has been participating in a UNEP working group on guidelines for the tour operator sector to report on sustainability performance.
24. Technical advisory services in the area of vocational training in the sector were provided to Mongolia through a national workshop organized by the Mongolian Employers’ Federation to assess the country’s relevant needs. The workshop also covered the development of human resources in small and medium-sized enterprises in the sector. The Office organized a tripartite subregional meeting in the Caribbean on the impact of human resources development on competitiveness in the sector, and supported a Caribbean workers’ seminar, organized by the Barbados Workers’ Union, on occupational safety and health, environmental concerns, and HIV/AIDS related to the tourism sector.

25. Child labour in the tourism sector, especially its worst forms which include commercial sexual abuse of children, has been addressed by IPEC through a number of action programmes in all regions.

## Maritime, ports, fisheries, inland waterways

26. The 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission, held in January 2001, recommended that the Governing Body convene a Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference in 2005 to adopt a single instrument consolidating as much as possible the existing body of maritime labour standards. It also recommended the establishment of a high-level tripartite working group, to meet in 2001, 2002 and 2003, to assist in this work. The Governing Body accepted these recommendations, and the first session of the High-level Tripartite Working Group on Maritime Labour Standards was held from 17 to 21 December 2001. In its report to the present session of the Governing Body, the Working Group has, inter alia, proposed a first meeting of its tripartite sub-group in June 2002 and a second meeting of the Working Group itself in October 2002.
27. On the basis of other conclusions of the 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission, the Governing Body:
- agreed with the proposal to establish a subcommittee of the Commission for the purpose of updating the basic pay or wages for able seamen. The first meeting of the subcommittee will be held in 2003, with a view to implementing the revised formula as of 1 January 2004;
  - requested the Office to undertake a study on women seafarers, maternity and employment rights before and after childbirth, and other gender-related issues. The study was completed at the end of 2001;
  - agreed to the proposal for a meeting of experts on working and living conditions of seafarers on board ships in international registers, which will be held in May 2002;
  - requested the Director-General to consult with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the possible setting up of a joint working party on the human element in international shipping as well as on the issue of tonnage measurement and the accommodation of crews. The Director-General has since written to the IMO Secretary-General on this matter, and consultations are continuing.

In addition, a subregional tripartite seminar on maritime labour standards was organized in St. Petersburg in May 2001 for Central and Eastern Europe and a similar national tripartite seminar was held in China in August of the same year. The St. Petersburg seminar was followed up by a tripartite meeting in the Russian Federation on the coordination of ship inspection concerning flag and port state control.

28. As follow-up to the *Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Problems caused by Structural Adjustments in the Port Industry*, held in May 1996, further activities were undertaken on the effects on labour of the restructuring of ports in Brazil and South Africa and on responses to safety issues in ports in Mauritius. The Office participated in discussions with workers, employers and government representatives in Brazil on the implementation of structural adjustment in Brazilian ports. Officials of the South African ports organization visited the ILO to receive advice on the restructuring of South African ports. The ILO participated in a workshop organized in South Africa on port productivity and the effects on labour in the restructuring process.

29. The ILO's Portworker Development Programme (PDP) has been introduced in more than 45 educational institutions, port training centres and industry organizations worldwide. The PDP is now available in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese languages. Additional translations of the training material into Portuguese, Arabic, Greek, Bahasa Indonesia and French are under way. Workshops for the implementation of PDP were held at the ILO Turin Centre, Port Sudan, Manila, Panama City and Vera Cruz (Mexico). PDP training has contributed towards the improvement of cargo-handling performance, working conditions and practices, safety and welfare of dockworkers.
30. As follow-up to the *Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health in the Fishing Industry*, held in December 1999, the Office has undertaken a study on working conditions in the fishing industry in southern Africa, the results of which will be presented to a proposed SADC conference on conditions of work in the fishing industry to be held in southern Africa in 2002. The ILO has also, as requested, worked closely with the IMO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to revise the *FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, Part B, Safety and Health Requirements for the Construction and Equipment of Fishing Vessels*.

## Media, culture, graphical

31. The Office organized the 18th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the ILO/UNESCO/WIPO International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (Rome Convention), held in June 2001. The Office published a study by the International Federation of Actors, entitled *Actors and the international audiovisual production industries*, in 2000, and a study by the International Federation of Musicians, entitled *The social situation of musicians in Africa, Asia and Latin America*, in French and English in 2001. It also supported the preparation of a world survey on the employment and working conditions of freelance journalists, by the International Federation of Journalists, published in provisional form in 2000.
32. The Office presented a paper on technological change, restructuring and their effects on the broadcasting industry, at a conference entitled "Dialogue for a New Millennium: Public service broadcasting workers confront the challenges of the digital age", UNI-MEI, Vienna, March 2000; presented a paper on globalization, technology, changes in the global music industry and their impact on employment and social dialogue at the *International Symposium on the Protection of Music Rights*, Beijing, October 2000; chaired a session of *The European meetings for performers: Rights for tomorrow*, ADAMI (Copyright Collecting Society for Actors and Musicians, France), Cabourg, Normandy, November 2000; and actively participated in a workshop organized by the European Communities Institute for Prospective Technological Studies on *Media content industries in the multimedia era: Changing employment and skill patterns*, Barcelona, March 2001.

## Mining (coal and other mining)

33. As follow-up to the conclusions of the *Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Issues in Small-scale Mines*, held in May 1999, the Office's efforts in helping to establish an international group on small-scale mining came to fruition in 2001 when DFID (Department for International Development) agreed to fund such a group for three years and the World Bank agreed to provide the secretariat. The inaugural meeting in March 2001 to establish the Collaborative Group on Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (CASM) included the ILO as one of the sponsors. A web site has been established and the Office is providing information on its activities (mainly IPEC projects to eliminate child labour from small-scale mining). In view of the broader community implications of small-scale

mining and its link to sustainable livelihoods in rural areas, the name of the group has recently been changed to Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM). This broader approach was considered to be more likely to be attractive to donors. The second meeting of CASM will be in mid-2002 in Latin America.

34. In the context of drawing attention to the social and labour issues of small-scale mining and to mine safety and health (particularly Convention No. 176), the Office has participated actively in the work of the mining, minerals and sustainable development project, which is part of the industry-funded Global Mining Initiative. The Office has provided information and expertise to the project team and was involved in developing the scope of these activities. The Office participated in a UN mission to Mali that addressed small-scale mining and sustainable communities, providing technical input to the mission and the follow-up activity.
35. Several papers on mine safety and health that promote Convention No. 176 have been published in journals or presented at international conferences. Workshops were held in India and China with a view to encouraging ratification. The ratification of the Convention by such major mining countries as the Czech Republic, Poland, South Africa, and the United States in 2000-01 was in part due to promotional work by the Office. At the request of the Government of Guyana, following a comprehensive mission, the Office has commissioned the drafting of mine safety and health regulations for use under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (also drafted by the ILO).
36. In view of the focus on safety and health at the Meeting, an illustrated handbook on safety and health in small-scale surface mines was prepared in English, French and Spanish, and published. This free booklet – *Safety and health in small-scale surface mines: A handbook* – is being widely distributed through ILO offices and the CASM network.

## Postal and other communication services

37. As a follow-up to the *Tripartite Meeting on the Human Resources Dimension of Structural and Regulatory Changes and Globalization in Postal and Telecommunication Services*, held in April 1998, the Office organized an ILO-UPU Joint Regional Seminar on Social Dialogue in Postal Services in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in May 2000, in cooperation with the UPU and UNI-Postal. The conclusions of the Seminar covered the impact of structural and legal reform on postal workers, the impact of growth in electronic communications on employment and working conditions, managing change in the postal sector, finance and development in the postal services, the universal postal service, and social dialogue and the role of the ILO. The final report entitled *Social dialogue in postal services in Asia and the Pacific* was published in the Seminar Report Series in early 2001.

## Public Service

38. The conclusions of the *Joint Meeting on Human Resource Development in the Public Service in the Context of Structural Adjustment and Transition*, held in December 1998, contained guidelines for human resource development of the public service. In order to implement these guidelines, the Office (in cooperation with Public Services International (PSI)) initiated with the Turin Centre the revision of their training package on human resource management in the public service with specific attention to gender issues. A specific module on workers' participation in the public service will be added and will be tested in the next biennium.

## Textiles, clothing, leather, footwear

39. As a follow-up to the *Tripartite Meeting on Labour Practices in the Footwear, Leather, Textiles and Clothing Industries*, held in October 2000, particular attention has been given to the promotion of social dialogue in the TCF (textile, clothing and footwear) industries. Research has been undertaken on the impact of multi-stakeholders' voluntary initiatives on the promotion of social dialogue in TCF industries and a working paper (available in English and French) has been published on this subject. Technical advisory services were provided, inter alia, in Morocco for a seminar on the development of human resources in the textile industry held in 2001, in Jordan for a project on the impact of globalization on women workers in the textile industry, and in Nepal for the preparation of a national seminar on competitiveness, productivity and job quality in the garment industry. Preparatory work has been undertaken for the holding of a tripartite national workshop in Morocco on "the restructuring of the textile and clothing sector and the prospects for improving the social conditions of workers" to be held in 2002. An increasing amount of data and technical advisory services has been provided to constituents and other institutions through electronic means.

## Transport (including civil aviation railways, road transport)

40. The conclusions of the *Symposium on the Social and Labour Consequences of Technological Developments, Deregulation and Privatization of Transport*, held in September 1999, called on the Office to enhance the collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant international organizations, to establish a small standing tripartite strategy forum to oversee its activities in the transport sector, and to develop initiatives to promote best practice in the workplace dimension of HIV/AIDS prevention. As a follow-up, several meetings were held with World Bank transport specialists to secure closer cooperation and an active role was played in the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Conference on the Economics of Airports and Air Navigation Services, held in Montreal in June 2000, during which an ILO paper based on the conclusions of the Symposium was presented. In October 2001, a Think Tank Meeting on the Impact of the 11 September Events for Civil Aviation was organized, for which several briefing papers were produced. The Chairperson's summary contains recommendations concerning strategic responses, the role of social dialogue, of governments and of the social partners, and the role of the ILO, which will feed into the *Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Safety Consequences of the Crisis Subsequent to 11 September 2001*, to be held in January 2002. As regards HIV/AIDS prevention, the Office collaborated with and provided financial support to the Department of Transport of South Africa to develop the National Transport Sector HIV/AIDS strategy. A national conference, involving all South African stakeholders and the ILO, adopted this strategy in early December 2001.

## Transport equipment manufacture

41. In response to one of the conclusions of the *Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Impact of Globalization in the Manufacture of Transport Equipment*, held in May 2000, requesting the ILO to prepare a compendium of best practice on safety in ship-breaking, the Office produced a video *The Ship Breakers* and an *issues paper*, which directly led to a series of technical advisory missions (together with SafeWork) to ship-breaking facilities in Chittagong, Bangladesh (March 2001); Gadanni Estate, Baluchistan, Pakistan (March 2001); Mumbai, India (May 2001); Metro Machine, Philadelphia, United States (September 2001); and China (four yards in different parts of the country, October 2001).

In addition, tripartite national workshops on ship-breaking were held in Beijing, Chittagong and Mumbai, as well as an informal exchange of views with the constituents in Baluchistan. The workshop in Chittagong also benefited from the presence of the Chairperson of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Basel Convention (UNEP) and the Chairperson of the IMO Correspondence Group (CG) on Ship Dismantling. As a result of the video, the ILO was invited to speak at the World Bank, at two international conferences in Rotterdam and Philadelphia, as well as at the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) in London. An excerpt of the video was also aired on CNN. A project document was prepared which is in the process of being submitted to multi- and bilateral donors. The first draft of a technical guide on safety in ship breaking was likewise produced which will be tested and revised in the course of 2002. Once the technical guide is finalized, it will complement the work of the TWG of the Basel Convention (Geneva) and of the Marine Environment Pollution Committee of the IMO (London). A web site is also maintained.<sup>3</sup>

## Utilities (water, gas, electricity)

42. To follow-up on the conclusions of the *Tripartite Meeting on Managing the Privatization and Restructuring of Public Utilities*, held in April 1999, the Office held meetings in June 2000 with World Bank officials responsible for utilities to brief them on the ILO Declaration. The Office also participated in October 2000 in a Workshop on the Restructuring of the Power Sector organized by the Government of Bangladesh with the support of the World Bank. The findings of the ILO research and the conclusions of the Meeting were presented and the importance of timely consultations with the trade unions was stressed.
43. During the biennium, working papers were published on *Competition policy and international labour and social relations (postal and telecommunications services, water, gas, electricity)*, on *Democratic regulation: A guide to the control of privatized public services through social dialogue* (which includes case studies on electricity, gas distribution and water companies), and on *Social and labour consequences of the decentralization and privatization of municipal services: The cases of Australia and New Zealand* (which includes case studies on corporatization and privatization of electricity and water companies).

## Other sectors

44. At its 279th Session (November 2000), the Workers' group of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues supported proposals for some smaller meetings in 2002-03, if they could be held in addition to the 12 meetings that were scheduled. The Office, in cooperation with the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM), organized an Interregional Tripartite Workshop on Employment and Working Conditions in the Gemstone Cutting and Polishing Industry that was held in Bangkok in November 2001. The Workshop comprised 29 participants and resource persons from nine countries who discussed issues including child labour, employment, working conditions, safety and health and training. The Workshop concluded by adopting recommendations that call, inter alia, for the issues to be discussed further with the full involvement of all sectors of the industry, from mining through gemstone production to retail sales, including at a meeting for this sector in the programme of

<sup>3</sup> [www.ilo.org/safework/shipbreaking](http://www.ilo.org/safework/shipbreaking)

sectoral meetings for 2004-05. A report of the Workshop, together with the presentations made by the participants, will be published in the near future. A copy of the recommendations, in English only, is on the Internet or can be obtained from the SECTOR secretariat.

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45. The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues is invited to take note of and comment on this information concerning follow-up action carried out in 2000-01 arising from requests of sectoral meetings.

Geneva, 24 January 2002.