



FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy**(e) Proposals for an event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Tripartite Declaration****Introduction and context**

1. During its 292nd Session (March 2005), the MNE Subcommittee recommended that the Governing Body “include in its proposals for use of the Technical Meetings Reserve in 2006-07 a proposal to organize a forum on corporate social responsibility (CSR) on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the MNE Declaration to position the MNE Declaration as a key reference in the CSR debate”.¹ In November 2005, the MNE Subcommittee requested “the Office, in consultation with ACT/EMP and ACTRAV and the respective secretariats, to prepare a proposal for an event to mark the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the MNE Declaration...”.² Such consultations were duly held when preparing this proposal.
2. Furthermore, the proposal takes account of the lessons learned from the organization of the Tripartite Forum on Promoting the MNE Declaration that was held in Geneva on 25-26 March 2002, and the three tripartite subregional symposia to promote the MNE Declaration in 2005.³

Proposed tripartite forum

3. The upcoming 30th anniversary of the MNE Declaration is a timely occasion for the Office to organize an international event to recall the adoption of the instrument and draw

¹ GB.292/11, para. 23.

² GB.294/10, para. 57(d).

³ GB.295/MNE/2.

attention to its current relevance. The forum's goal would be to promote better use of the MNE Declaration in the world of work and to stimulate an innovative discussion among senior-level participants with insight and knowledge of issues involving multinational enterprises.

4. The overall strategy of giving prominence to the MNE Declaration would be to combine a communication strategy with a high-level forum. The communication strategy could include the production of a series of short video news reports and a longer-format video aimed at managers and union representatives in multinational enterprises, the general public, and international media to highlight good practices benchmarked in the MNE Declaration with a view to promote its relevance. The media campaign could be coupled with the dissemination of information and training materials promoting the use of the MNE Declaration. The communication strategy could also include ensuring press and Internet coverage of the forum and would be implemented with the assistance of the Department of Communication (DCOMM).
5. The forum could be held over two days and organized as a high profile advocacy event based on sound technical dialogue. Prior to the forum, the Office would prepare a background paper that would highlight emerging issues and examples of good practices in the areas covered by the MNE Declaration. The positive experience of the contributions made by MNEs to domestic growth and social development in emerging economies (for example, Brazil, China, India and South Africa) through improvement in wages, benefits and conditions of work would be highlighted. Presentation of these positive experiences should be constructed with a view to replication in other countries and should include but not be limited to:
 - Employment and training: how multinationals and foreign direct investment (FDI) have led to positive effects on employment, in particular through transfers of technologies and skills;
 - Conditions of work: how the policies and practices of multinationals have led to improvements in wages and working conditions and the respect of fundamental principles and rights at work in national enterprises and within their supply chain architecture; and
 - Industrial relations: where good industrial relations between multinational companies and workers' organizations have provided a framework for the constructive resolution of disputes and for improvements in working conditions, and recent developments such as international framework agreements.
6. The forum would provide an opportunity for enterprises and workers' organizations to share effective practices that illustrate aspects of the MNE Declaration. In addition concrete strategies to promote a better use of the MNE Declaration in the world of work would be discussed.
7. Participants would include approximately 15 representatives of governments and employers' and workers' organizations (total 45). Furthermore, the Office, in consultation with the Officers of the MNE Subcommittee, could also invite up to ten resource persons from multinationals and global union federations, as well as technical experts on various aspects of MNEs. All abovementioned participants would be funded by the Office. Additional participants at no cost to the Office would be welcome.
8. The output of the forum could be a written report reflecting the major insights presented and a set of recommendations for concrete follow-up work that the ILO could pursue in

this area. Additionally, the communication materials produced in preparation for the forum would be integrated into training and other promotional activities on the MNE Declaration.

9. In order to reduce costs, the forum could be held in Geneva and immediately follow or precede the November 2007 Governing Body meeting. The cost of such a forum is estimated at approximately US\$268,000 and has been included as one of the possible meetings to be financed from the Technical Meetings Reserve.⁴
10. The detailed preparatory work for the forum, including design, agenda, participation and outreach activities, would be carried out by the Office in close consultation with the Officers of the MNE Subcommittee.
11. ***The Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises may wish to express its views on the proposal concerning the forum to promote the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, including its timing, participation and options for follow-up.***

Geneva, 10 February 2006.

Point for decision: Paragraph 11.

⁴ GB.295/PFA/3.