

**Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the Conference
for the year 2000-01**

This report on the work of the Governing Body is submitted to the Conference in accordance with article 14 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. It covers the period since the last general session of the Conference (June 2000), i.e., the Governing Body's 278th (June 2000), 279th (November 2000) and 280th (March 2001) Sessions. It focuses only on the highlights of the Governing Body's year, and does not cover matters that are otherwise before the Conference.

Those seeking more extensive and detailed information on the work of the Governing Body as a whole are referred to the notes at the end of the report. They may also consult the minutes of its 278th and 279th (June and November 2000) Session or the documents submitted to its committees and to the Governing Body itself. Other relevant material, as well as the reports and other Governing Body documents mentioned in the text and in the endnotes are available on the Governing Body Internet site.¹

**I. ILO DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
AND RIGHTS AT WORK****Compilation of annual reports**

In the second annual review under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration, the Governing Body engaged in a discussion on the basis of the compilation of reports prepared by the Office² and the Introduction of the ILO Declaration Expert-Advisers. The Governing Body acted upon a number of observations made by the ILO Expert-Advisers and engaged in a more in-depth discussion of certain aspects of the reports. In particular, it called upon the Office to give priority to the 18 countries that have not yet provided reports under the Declaration follow-up, to offer all countries assistance in overcoming problems in the realization of the fundamental principles and rights at work, and to redouble its efforts to raise awareness about the Declaration. The Governing Body also appealed to governments to use the reporting process as a means of promoting social dialogue, to improve their statistical baselines and to work closely with the ILO. Organizations of employers and workers were encouraged to participate more actively in the follow-up in line with its promotional spirit. Requests for information had formed part of an ongoing dialogue that was intended to promote progress rather than be supervisory and, accordingly, the debate proved useful, multifaceted and rich in suggestions to make the process more fruitful in the future.

The Governing Body also approved a revised report form regarding law and practice relating to efforts made towards the effective abolition of child labour. It decided to defer to a later session the consideration of revised report forms for the other three categories covered by the follow-up to the Declaration.³

Technical cooperation activities

In November 2000, the Committee on Technical Cooperation of the Governing Body examined and approved the "Priorities and action plans for technical cooperation" under the Declaration, the first of which focused on freedom of association and collective bargaining.⁴ Since that time, quite a number of technical advisory services have been carried out and projects launched. These are set out in a brief note that will be made available to delegates at the 89th Conference in its *Provisional Record*.

II. CHILD LABOUR

In November, the Governing Body examined operational aspects of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), on the basis of: an oral report by the Executive Director for Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work on the outcome of IPEC's International Steering Committee meeting; and of a succinct written report in March; both reports were presented to its Committee on Technical Cooperation.⁵

The reports emphasized IPEC's development as an integrated structure, bolstering technical cooperation services with a knowledge base and an advocacy programme, and the rapid increase in ratifications of [Convention No. 182](#). An important aspect of IPEC's work during the year was the development of time-bound programmes to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour within a defined time frame, and to provide children and their families with a sustainable alternative. El Salvador, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania were the first countries to prepare for time-bound programmes for which IPEC had devised a new, integrated methodology. Another important innovation, in the area of knowledge development, was the joint ILO/World Bank/UNICEF child labour research and statistics project in Florence which had significantly contributed to enhanced cooperation among the three agencies.

Also, the number of children reached by IPEC was increasing in comparison with the previous year: a

count of ongoing projects in August 2000 revealed an increase of 200,000 children. The final number of children directly reached would exceed 260,000, the target for the biennium.

III. WORKING PARTY ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALIZATION

Organization, bargaining and dialogue for development in a globalizing world

In November, the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization examined trends in organization, bargaining and dialogue for development in a globalizing world.⁶ A discussion paper, built on the first Global Report to the Conference, prepared under the follow-up to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,⁷ sought to clarify ILO knowledge on the implementation of basic freedoms and rights in the context of development in the global economy. It found that respect for the principles of freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, and the institutions built on these rights, were not barriers to economic performance. Nevertheless, the interaction between institutional arrangements and broader economic factors influenced economic outcomes. The paper could find no evidence of convergence towards any single ideal model of industrial relations as being more conducive than others to economic growth. Respect for and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work was consistent with a variety of industrial relations arrangements. Social dialogue was found to play an important role in consensus building over pro-equity and pro-efficiency policies. Following extensive debate and critical examination of the paper, the Working Party agreed that further research, particularly through country case studies, was required on a number of issues. It also reaffirmed the importance of the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and of continued dialogue with other organizations on the social dimension of globalization.

Poverty reduction and decent work in a globalizing world

In March, the Working Party took up the issue of poverty reduction and decent work in a globalizing world,⁸ identified in its previous meeting as a priority for a preliminary discussion. A background paper examined the particular contribution of the ILO's decent work approach within the strong multilateral drive to achieve international development goals set by the UN Millennium Summit. It highlighted the growing convergence of views about perceptions of poverty and its causes and the need for action within a comprehensive development framework. This was set in the context of the ongoing debate about the relationships between globalization, economic growth and poverty reduction. The forms of action available to the ILO were presented through an illustrative summary of some of its main lines of activity. Five complementary elements for further work were suggested: a more complete "mapping" of ILO work with indications of how different themes related to each other; a parallel exercise aimed at connecting the ILO's work to that of other agencies in a more inte-

grated policy framework; further research on how international processes relate to growth, decent work and poverty reduction; a deepening of the conceptual basis of decent work; and an effort to test the operational value of decent work as a development tool in an integrated policy framework. Following discussion and many detailed comments, especially on the ILO's role in the poverty reduction strategy process, the Working Party reached general agreement on the need to develop the decent work approach with a view to increasing the ILO's effectiveness as a partner in the international community's efforts to achieve agreed developments targets.

Future research

The Working Party reviewed proposals for a programme of research on issues of significance to the social dimension of globalization at both its November and March meetings. Amongst the issues on which research by the ILO was planned were: best national practices with regard to labour institutions in a globalizing economy; the challenge of promoting freedom of association and the effective recognition of collective bargaining in the informal sector; and globalization, employment and poverty reduction. A parallel effort to improve the ILO's statistical capacity relating to workers' and employers' organizations and social dialogue was also supported. A two-stage approach was envisaged based on empirical examination of major trends, including a limited number of country case studies, to be followed by an analysis of causal relationships and options for policy and institutional reform at both national and international levels.⁹

Developments in other organizations

In order to ensure that the Working Party was well informed of developments related to its work in other organizations, a paper providing an extensive review of discussions in the multilateral system was tabled in November. In March, the Working Party held a high-level session with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Rubens Ricupero, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Ruud Lubbers.

Future priorities for the Working Party

At its March meeting, the Director-General proposed that consideration be given to how the presence of the Working Party could be enhanced in international discussions on the capacity of the multilateral system for policy integration. He outlined a number of possible options and it was agreed that he should consult widely on these ideas and prepare a paper for a special meeting of the Working Party during the June 2001 session of the International Labour Conference.

IV. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

Improvements in ILO standards-related activities

The efforts to improve ILO standards-related activities, aimed at increasing their coherence and relevance, intensified throughout the year. On the basis of

continued consultations, the Governing Body discussed this issue at its sessions both in November 2000 and in March 2001. A first step was taken in November 2000 when the Governing Body discussed and approved an Office proposal¹⁰ to adopt a proposed “integrated approach” to ILO standards-related activities. This approach, which implies taking a holistic view of ILO standards-related activities in a given subject area, will be applied for the first time in the area of occupational safety and health.¹¹ In this field, the ILO’s objectives, means of action through standards and other instruments as well as technical cooperation will be examined in order to develop a plan of action to guide future activities. This issue is on the agenda of the 91st Session (2003) of the International Labour Conference. In the ensuing discussion in March 2001, the Governing Body turned its attention to the supervisory system. Based on an Office paper mapping out several avenues for future examination,¹² it was agreed that the Office would develop proposals concerning possible modifications in the reporting modalities for presentation to the November 2001 session of the Governing Body. In this context, and through its Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards and its Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards, the Governing Body also wished to pursue the examination of the merits of developing groups or “families” of instruments at its November 2001 session. The Office was called upon to inform the supervisory bodies of the ongoing discussions in the Governing Body as well as to undertake consultations for the preparation of an overview of the special procedures. The Governing Body also mandated the Office to take the necessary measures for increasing the knowledge of the supervisory system and to specify other questions, such as promotional activities, which should be the object of a future in-depth review.

Revision of standards

The Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards progressed towards a conclusion of its work through the examination of a fourth group of Recommendations and re-examination of a series of instruments, consideration of which had been deferred. The result of the work is summarized in a regularly updated information note.¹³ An overview of the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Working Party was examined in March.¹⁴ As a result of the adoption of the integrated approach, the Governing Body decided that the examination of the methods of revision of instruments concerning occupational safety and health should be conducted in the larger context of the study of standards-related activities relating to occupational safety and health.¹⁵ In addition, the Working Party would initiate its consideration of creating groups or “families” of instruments at its meeting in November 2001.¹⁶ An examination of the instruments on social security, based on written consultations undertaken by the Office, was postponed until November 2001, so that it would follow the general discussion on this issue at this session of the International Labour Conference.¹⁷ In November 2001, the Working Party will also hold a first discussion on possible ways to disseminate the results of its work.

Ratification and promotion of fundamental ILO Conventions

The campaign for the ratification of the ILO’s fundamental Conventions has continued to yield further ratifications of these eight instruments. Since it was launched in May 1995, it has resulted (as per 8 May 2001) in 44 new ratifications of the Conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining (Nos. 87 and 98), 58 new ratifications of the texts on forced and compulsory labour (Nos. 29 and 105), 56 new ratifications relating to discrimination (Nos. 100 and 111) and 129 with regard to child labour (Nos. 138 and 182). The pace of ratification of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), has indeed been the greatest in ILO history. In addition to soliciting information on governments’ intentions to ratify these Conventions, the Governing Body has also examined the technical assistance given by the Office to enable countries to progress towards implementation and ratification.

Freedom of association

The Committee on Freedom of Association continued to receive numerous complaints concerning industrial relations and human rights issues, and examined over 150 cases.¹⁸ A number of cases concerning Colombia, as well as the complaint submitted to the Conference in 1998 under article 26 of the Constitution, were the subject of a separate report to the Governing Body in June 2000, and are discussed below in the section on constitutional procedures.

Constitutional procedures

Report of the Special Representative of the Director-General for Cooperation with Colombia

At its 278th Session (June 2000), the Governing Body requested the Director-General to designate a Special Representative of the Director-General for Cooperation with Colombia to address the complaint concerning the non-observance by Colombia of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

The Director-General appointed as his representative Mr. Rafael Alburquerque, former Minister of Labour of the Dominican Republic, who visited Colombia on several occasions and presented reports to the 279th (November 2000)¹⁹ and 280th (March 2001)²⁰ Sessions of the Governing Body, addressing the general situation in the country with regard to trade union rights and the security of trade unionists, within the scope of the conclusions produced by the direct contacts mission that visited that country in February 2000, as well as in the light of the recommendations by the Committee on Freedom of Association. The Office also opened an ILO desk in Bogotá in November 2000, staffed by a resident official to lend assistance to the Special Representative. Mr. Alburquerque’s final report will be presented to the 281st Session (June 2001) of the Governing Body.

Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

In accordance with the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 88th Session, the 279th (November 2000) Session of the Governing Body had to consider whether the implementation, as of 30 November, of one or more of the measures approved by the Conference to secure compliance with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry had been rendered inappropriate. In considering this matter the Governing Body had before it the report of the ILO technical cooperation mission which visited Myanmar from 20 to 26 October 2000 and subsequent documents provided by the Government.²¹ While noting the information contained in the documents provided by the Government regarding the recent implementation by the Government of various measures, the Governing Body considered that the conditions set out in paragraph 2 of the Conference resolution had nevertheless not been met and that effect should be given to the provisions of paragraph 1 of that resolution. In the light of the discussion, it was however noted that the Director-General should continue to extend cooperation to the Government of Myanmar in order to promote full implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and that he was expected to report to the Governing Body on this matter at its 280th (March 2001) Session.

The provisions contained in paragraph 1 of the Conference resolution therefore came into effect on 30 November 2000, and the Director-General accordingly brought them to the attention of the Organization's constituents, international organizations, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations (with a view to having the matter placed on the agenda of the July 2001 session of ECOSOC).

At its 280th (March 2001) Session, the Governing Body examined and discussed the report presented by the Director-General, concerning the implementation of the measures contained in paragraph 1 of the Conference resolution.²² The Governing Body was also apprised of the efforts made by the Director-General to convince the authorities of the importance of having an objective assessment of the practical implementation and actual impact of the framework of measures which the Government had reported as being in place. The Governing Body requested the Director-General to transmit to the Conference Committee the report that was before it, together with the record of its consideration, as well as any further relevant information.

V. EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

World Labour Report 2000: Income security and social protection in a changing world

In November, the Governing Body discussed the latest issue of the ILO's *World Labour Report* in terms of its implications for policy and ILO activities.²³ The report contained a wide-ranging review of income security issues, in particular of the enormous insecurity arising from gaps in social protection. It recognized that, to succeed in bringing social protection to the billions now excluded, it would be necessary to extend existing schemes for wage earners, to establish schemes concentrating on the priority needs

of other categories of workers, and to find more effective instruments for poverty alleviation. Gender equality represented a major challenge, given the lower coverage and entitlements among women and the persistence of discrimination, especially indirect, in social protection systems. Finally the report showed that high spending on social protection was not at the expense of economic performance. Poor system design could certainly result in adverse economic effects, but well-structured social protection schemes could help market economies achieve significantly higher productivity and growth.

World Employment Report 2001

On the basis of a presentation made during the 280th Session, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy discussed the *World Employment Report 2001*, published by the ILO in January.²⁴ Members of the Committee were informed of the report's overall favourable outlook for global employment growth, despite the persistence of serious flaws, such as the 160 million persons estimated to be openly unemployed at the end of 2000 and the 500 million in the world who make up the working poor, unable to earn enough to keep themselves and their families above the poverty threshold of US\$1 per day. The report's thematic section on information and communication technologies (ICT) presented a thorough review of life at work in the information economy. The Committee was informed of the report's guarded optimism that ICT use results in productivity and employment growth. Still, quality of life at work presented both positive and negative features, and social dialogue regarding ICT should be strengthened to lessen the negative effects of technological change. Moreover, concerted efforts at national and international levels, including a strong focus on education and lifelong learning, would be required if present "digital divides" were to be narrowed. The latter were all the more important as ICT could be a powerful tool for development.

Global Employment Forum

In November 2000, the Governing Body approved the holding of the Global Employment Forum, 2001.²⁵ The objective of the Forum is "to review outstanding issues in the employment field and seek new and innovative approaches to the creation of more and better quality jobs". In March 2001, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy discussed the Office's preparations for the Global Employment Forum, now to be held from 1 to 3 November 2001. Organized around the three themes of people, technology, and trade and investment, the Forum's structure combines opening plenary sessions in which far-thinking views on, or visions of, employment will be articulated by eminent experts with three parallel panel sessions on more specific themes. A series of consultations with the International Organization of Employers and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has further refined the Forum's content and structure.

The Office informed the Committee of the relationship between the comprehensive employment framework paper, with which the Office has been entrusted, and the Global Employment Forum. The

idea for the comprehensive employment framework arose from the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 2000 in which the need to develop a coherent and coordinated international strategy on employment was recognized, so as to increase opportunities for people to achieve sustainable livelihoods through access to employment. The Global Employment Forum will be a major opportunity for consultation on the draft framework paper. Accordingly, the draft framework paper will be presented and discussed on the first day of the Forum, and the results of that discussion will be incorporated into the paper's subsequent revision.

The labour market and employment implications of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

HIV/AIDS is recognized as a major threat to the world of work in terms of its negative impact on economic development, workers' rights, enterprise performance, gender equality and the exacerbation of child labour. At the 280th Session of the Governing Body, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy discussed these specific implications of the epidemic, concluding that a collective effort by governments, workers and employers was essential in combating the spread of the disease, and that education was the key to prevention.²⁶ The Governing Body also formally appointed the participants to a tripartite meeting of experts held on 14-22 May.²⁷

Women 2000 – Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century (New York, 5-9 June 2000)

At its 279th Session, the Governing Body discussed a document prepared by the Office, entitled "Outcome of the Special Session of the General Assembly: Women 2000 – Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (New York, 5-9 June 2000).²⁸ The report covers the ILO's participation in Beijing +5 and proposes a framework for ILO follow-up. The Governing Body approved the follow-up which foresees the incorporation of gender equality concerns, in particular the relevant conclusions and initiatives of Beijing +5 and Copenhagen +5, throughout the process of operationalizing decent work in the four strategic areas.

Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations: World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalizing World (Geneva, 26-30 June 2000)

In November the Governing Body discussed the outcome of the Special Session of the General Assembly, known as "Copenhagen +5".²⁹ The ILO delegation to the Special Session was comprised of the Director-General and the Officers of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body noted the adoption of the outcome document, which includes a political statement³⁰ on the centrality of more equitable, socially just and people-centred societies, an assessment of developments since the World Summit for Social De-

velopment, and a wide array of initiatives; the document also provides strong support for the views and goals of the ILO, as well as reflecting recognition by the General Assembly of the international dimensions of employment. This came largely as a result of the Organization's heavy involvement in the preparations and the fact that ILO constituents from all three groups played a very active part throughout the preparatory process and at the Special Session itself. The Governing Body noted in particular the recognition given by the Special Session to the present and future role played by the ILO in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It requested the Director-General to ensure, where appropriate, with other international organizations, the implementation of the ILO's programme of activities, recognizing their critical role in fulfilling the goals of the Special Session; and it requested him to report to the Governing Body in due course on progress made in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the Special Session.

The integrated approach called for by the Special Session will be channelled mainly through four mutually reinforcing activities: (i) the convening of a Global Employment Forum in November 2001 "to review outstanding issues in the employment field and seek new and innovative approaches to the creation of more and better quality jobs, consistent with the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development";³¹ (ii) the development of a coherent and coordinated international strategy on employment;³² (iii) the initiative to operationalize decent work at the country level through an integrated cross-sectoral exercise; and (iv) in emphasizing the strong link that exists between poverty reduction and employment.

Relations with the international financial institutions

In November the Governing Body examined a paper³³ providing an overview of the most recent policy developments in relation to the Bretton Woods institutions, an outline of the special focus on cooperation in the related comprehensive development framework (CDF) and poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) processes, and progress in other specific areas of collaboration,³⁴ including follow-up on the agreed areas of cooperation with the Bank. The main thrust of ILO efforts in this area is to promote institutional cooperation and coherence with the Bretton Woods institutions in carrying forward the insertion of the ILO's decent work agenda into an integrated approach to economic and social policies, particularly in view of the key role that the institutions play in the multilateral development process.

The progressive convergence of and complementarity between the objectives of the ILO and the Bretton Woods institutions has created increased opportunity for effective cooperation, especially in the CDF/PRSP context, where an important focus has been on the development of effective country ownership and broad-based participation. Here the ILO's two main objectives are to place employment and labour concerns through the decent work agenda at the centre of the strategy, and to strengthen participation and national ownership by working with its constituents to

give more weight to their voices in these national processes. Five countries were selected by the ILO for a special focused approach which was responsive to the need to work in a country-owned context rather than simply concentrating on direct collaboration with the Bank and the Fund.

The Governing Body will continue to monitor ILO cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions in these and in other areas, with continued emphasis on the range of policy issues that are central to strengthening the role of the ILO in an integrated approach to the social and economic issues arising from the globalizing world economy. This emphasis, which directly concerns the ILO's Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization, is in harmony with the new priority being assigned by the Bretton Woods institutions to their role in providing for more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization.

VI. MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy

In November, the Governing Body adopted amendments to the text and annexes of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) to reflect fully the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the corresponding Conventions and Recommendations.³⁵ A new paragraph was incorporated on minimum age and the effective abolition of child labour. Consideration was also given to a number of questions relating to promotion of the MNE Declaration, and to developments in other organizations; it was decided to consider proposals for a tripartite forum on furthering the application of the MNE Declaration, and for other future activities.

Seventh Survey on the effect given to the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy

In March, the Governing Body examined the results of the Seventh Survey on the effect given to the MNE Declaration; this covered developments from 1996 to 1999.³⁶ Participation in the Seventh Survey spanned 100 countries and was higher than in any other survey of its kind, with an increase in each type of respondent participating as well as in the number of countries within each ILO region. Two reports were reviewed: one report provided a synthesis of the perceived consequences of the increasingly important role played by MNEs for development, and in particular for ILO objectives; a second report summarized the replies of 150 respondents by topic and country. Conclusions and recommendations were adopted on key aspects of the ILO's guidelines on the strategies, roles and responsibilities of governments, the social partners, and MNEs, and on the future programme of work. The Governing Body also endorsed the convening of a tripartite forum in 2002 on promoting the MNE Declaration.

VII. SECTORAL ACTIVITIES

Sectoral meetings

In November, the Governing Body approved the recommendations of its Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues, concerning the programme of sectoral meetings for 2002-03.³⁷ In March, it approved the composition and purpose of five sectoral meetings to be held in 2002.³⁸

Through its Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues, the Governing Body, in November and March, took note of the reports of various sectoral meetings and endorsed the recommendations adopted by them.³⁹

29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission (Geneva, 22-26 January 2001)

In March, the Governing Body considered the report of the 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission, which had met in Geneva from 22-26 January 2001.⁴⁰ The report, including 13 resolutions, highlighted the Commission's review of ILO maritime instruments. The Commission considered the significance and impact of these standards and agreed, in line with the integrated approach approved by the Governing Body in November 2000, that the existing ILO maritime instruments should be consolidated and brought up to date by means of a new single "framework" instrument on maritime labour standards. In a resolution, it set out proposed steps for this process, most notably the convening of three meetings of a high-level tripartite working group on maritime labour standards, with the first meeting to be held in late 2001 and the other two in 2002-03. The Governing Body agreed to establish this working group and approved its composition, terms of reference and modalities for its operation, as well as the holding of three meetings, authorizing the first of these to be held in late 2001. The Governing Body approved the report of the Commission and its recommendations and resolutions. In particular, it endorsed the recommendation by the Commission to update the ILO's minimum basic wage for able seamen.

VIII. ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

ILO technical cooperation – Annual report for 1999-2000

The annual report on ILO technical cooperation in 1999-2000⁴¹ was examined by the Governing Body in November. The ILO's technical cooperation programme had undergone major shifts during the preceding 18 months. A new strategic orientation for the programme had been charted. The strategic budgeting process helped ensure a coherent and integrated approach for all ILO activities, regardless of source of funding.

The ILO's move towards greater coherence in resource mobilization through strategic budgeting was highlighted. There had been continued growth in

funding from multi-bilateral partners, with a decline in resources from UNDP. However, emphasizing some positive developments that had taken place, the report maintained that the ILO continued to enjoy fruitful collaboration with UNDP. There had been a significant increase in approvals for work on child labour and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; previously attention had been focused upon unemployment and poverty. The annual report indicated that, among the priorities in the coming years, improvements in the delivery of technical cooperation were of paramount importance.

Implementation plan to give effect to the conclusions concerning the role of the ILO in technical cooperation, adopted by the Conference at its 87th (1999) Session – A progress report

At its 279th (November 2000) Session, the Committee on Technical Cooperation discussed this issue.⁴² The Committee had earlier sought information on the resources allocated to the activities and specific targets to be achieved and on how the activities fitted into the strategic objectives. Given the ongoing work within the Office on defining objectives, indicators and targets, it had not been possible to provide such information in the Office paper. It was understood that the Committee expected a full mid-term review of activities stemming from the conclusions adopted by the International Labour Conference and that it would be presented to the Committee in March 2002.

ILO projects on training for employment – A thematic evaluation

In March, the Committee examined a thematic review on training for employment.⁴³ It was based on 19 projects implemented by the International Labour Office and the Turin Centre between 1992 and 1999. The projects included national and subregional projects from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. The main findings of the evaluation report were presented under project performance in terms of major achievements; and project impact in terms of sustainability, replicability and long-term impact. The factors behind successful projects had also been examined. The Committee stressed the importance of “employability skills development” in the overall mission of the ILO, and the need for more cooperation between the Office and the Turin Centre was stressed.

Report of the on-the-spot review teams for the Americas and Europe

It was recalled that the Governing Body had approved, at its March 2000 session, proposals that on-the-spot reviews of field activities should be conducted in each year of the 2000-01 biennium. Such reviews had been undertaken in Europe (Moscow) and the Americas (San José). Oral presentations made by the six members of the review teams covered sustainability and impact, involvement of the constituents at different stages of implementation of the projects, and cost-effectiveness and quality of outputs. Similar re-

views would be carried out in Africa and Asia in 2001. The Governing Body took note of the reports.⁴⁴

Preparation for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The Governing Body was informed of the developments that had taken place since the beginning of the preparatory process and of the steps that the Director-General had taken in order to ensure an effective role for the ILO during the preparations and at the Conference.⁴⁵

West Bank and Gaza

The Governing Body was provided with an update on a recent multidisciplinary mission to the West Bank and Gaza.⁴⁶

IX. EFFECT TO BE GIVEN TO THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING HIV/AIDS AND THE WORLD OF WORK, ADOPTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AT ITS 88TH SESSION (2000)

In accordance with the resolution concerning HIV/AIDS and the world of work, adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2000, the Governing Body was informed at its 279th (November 2000) Session⁴⁷ that the ILO had established an ILO Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, with the object of protecting the fundamental rights at work of HIV-infected women and men, and persons living with AIDS, and providing HIV/AIDS-related information and education through enterprises, employers' and workers' organizations. A decision was also taken to fast-track the drafting of an ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work. Accordingly, a meeting of experts was held from 14-22 May to review, revise and adopt the code. Thirty-six experts representing all regions and from a wide range of occupations and sectors took part.

X. MAJOR MEETINGS

Sixth European Regional Meeting (Geneva, 12-15 December 2000)

The report and conclusions of the Sixth European Regional Meeting (Geneva, 12-15 December 2000) were adopted by the Governing Body in March 2001.⁴⁸ Discussions at the meeting were structured around the ILO's activities conducted in the region between 1995 and 2000 in response to the four strategic objectives and the decent work agenda in the information economy. The conclusions highlighted the need to reinforce the ILO's assistance to the European Union (EU) accession countries, its contribution to the Stability Pact and to the consolidation of democracy; to strengthen the ILO's relationship with the EU, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); and other regional institutions and to enhance the ILO's response to the challenges and opportunities of an inclusive information society.

**General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS
(New York, 25-27 June 2001)**

The ILO is actively involved in the preparation process for the above meeting; inter alia, it is contributing to the drafting of the Secretary-General's report and background document, which focuses on the economic and social consequences of HIV/AIDS, with particular reference to the labour and economic implications.

The ILO is expected to participate at the highest level in this Special Session of the General Assembly. The recently adopted ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work will be presented by the Director-General to the international community for acknowledgement and endorsement and will be distributed to all delegates and observers at the Special Session as one of the official documents. It is expected that relevant aspects of the code will be incorporated into the "Declaration of Commitment" which will be the final outcome of the Special Session. This event will mark the formal launch of the code, and the beginning of the related promotional work.

Preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 31 August-7 September 2001) ⁴⁹

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will take place between 31 August and 7 September 2001 in Durban, South Africa. The Governing Body has been kept informed of the preparatory process for the World Conference, including the international preparatory meetings, four regional preparatory meetings, a series of expert seminars as well as numerous activities organized by non-governmental organizations, with the ILO making its own contribution.

With reference to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), as the main ILO instrument enshrining the principle of non-discrimination, on the basis inter alia, of race, colour and national extraction, the overall objective of the ILO's efforts has been to ensure that the importance of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance at the workplace, and the economic and social effects of such discrimination, are being appropriately recognized by the preparatory process and the Conference itself.

ILO involvement in the World Conference and its preparatory process is aimed, as appropriate, at providing relevant expertise and the raising of awareness of ILO activities and instruments addressing racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination in employment and occupation. The Governing Body designated a tripartite delegation to attend the World Conference, including Mr. Funes de Rioja as the Employer representative and Lord Brett as the Worker representative. The Government representative is still to be designated.

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Children:
General Assembly Special Session on Children
(New York, 19-21 September 2001)**

At its 280th (March 2001) Session, the Governing Body received information on this Special Session of the General Assembly.⁵⁰ Its main objectives are to review achievements in the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit, to renew commitments and consider future action in favour of children. For the ILO, the Special Session is an opportunity to enhance partnerships in action against child labour, focusing on its worst forms. The firm support demonstrated for this global cause by the unanimous adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and its pace of ratification, should underlie the commitments to be made at the Special Session.

The ILO submitted, as its official contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the Special Session, a document reviewing achievements, during the 1990s, related to the World Summit for Children's Plan of Action in ILO-relevant fields, extending from maternity protection to youth employment, but focusing mainly on child labour. This document was distributed at the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.⁵¹ The ILO's active participation will continue at each stage of the inter-agency and preparatory process including an inter-agency consultation between the formal Preparatory Committee sessions to discuss the draft outcome document entitled *A World Fit for Children*, with a view to ensuring that child labour and other child-related issues in the ILO's mandate are properly reflected in the outcome document.

XII. STRATEGIC BUDGETING
AND THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2002-03

In November 2000, the Governing Body discussed the Strategic Policy Framework for 2002-05.⁵² It also took note of the proposed performance indicators and targets for operational objectives in the Programme and Budget for 2000-01,⁵³ and the Office's evaluation strategy and the priorities for the Programme and Budget proposals for 2002-03.

In March 2001, the Governing Body considered the Director-General's Programme and Budget proposals for 2002-03.⁵⁴ The Director-General committed the Office to ensuring that strategic budgeting cascaded downward in Office structures, thus ensuring the measurement of progress towards the targets, the establishment of workplans and, where necessary, the revision of the indicators and targets to reflect more clearly the qualitative aspects of the Organization's objectives. Following discussion, the proposals were adjusted to increase the provision for employment and to reduce mission credits. The Governing Body appreciated that the Director-General had revised and streamlined the "Decent Work Team" proposal as described in the strategic budget framework. In response to the Governing Body's call for a review of the regions, the Director-General committed the Office to making an analysis of the regional structures; this would concentrate on ways of delivering better services to ILO constituents.

As regards the budget, the Director-General had proposed zero real growth involving US\$7 million in cost increases. This was ultimately reduced to US\$5

million and the Governing Body recommended a budget level of US\$472,488,505 to the ILC, although some countries reserved their positions.

XIII. FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

At its 280th (March 2001) Session, the Governing Body approved proposed amendments to the Financial Rules and the Staff Regulations.⁵⁵

After approving the recommendations of the Joint Maritime Commission, the Governing Body took decisions at its 280th (March 2001) Session on financial arrangements required by certain recommendations of the 29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission.⁵⁶

XIV. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

At its 279th (November 2000) Session, the Governing Body determined the agenda of the 90th Session (2002) of the International Labour Conference.⁵⁷ It also held an initial discussion on proposals for the Conference agenda for the year 2003 on the basis of two documents prepared by the Office.⁵⁸ It selected a shortlist of items for a more in-depth discussion at the 280th (March 2001) Session, and requested law and practice reports, or more detailed proposals, on five subjects: (i) human resources training and development – revision of the Human Resources Development Recommendation, 1975 (No. 150); (ii) the employment relationship (scope); (iii) migrant workers; (iv) ILO standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health: an in-depth study for discussion with a view to the adoption of a plan of action for such activities; and (v) investment and employment.⁵⁹ In November, the Governing Body discussed “Possible improvements in ILO standards-related activities”⁶⁰ and decided to adopt a new integrated approach to these. This new approach would be applied for the first time in the area of occupational safety and health.

In March, the Governing Body decided that the 91st Session of the Conference should open on Tuesday, 3 June 2003, and that it should be held in Geneva. It further decided that, in addition to the standing items that the Conference would have before it, the following items should be placed on the agenda of the 91st Session (2003) of the Conference: (i) human resources training and development – revision of the Human Resources Development Recommendation, 1975 (No. 150) (*standard setting, first discussion*); (ii) the employment relationship (scope) (*general discussion*); and (iii) ILO standards-related activities in the area of occupational safety and health: an in-depth study for discussion with a view to the adoption of a plan of action for such activities (*general discussion*).

XV. OTHER MATTERS

Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (Geneva, 11-15 September 2000)

In March, the Governing Body reviewed the report of the Seventh Session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO

Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000.⁶¹ The Governing Body endorsed recommendations, inter alia, to forward the report to the International Labour Conference at its 89th Session; to approve the change of the official title of the Joint Committee to reflect its new responsibilities in respect of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel; and requested the Director-General to consider proposals made by the Joint Committee in the planning and implementation of future ILO mandate.

Notes

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/public/English/standards/realm/gb/index.htm>

² GB.280/3/2.

³ GB.280/12/1.

⁴ GB.279/TC/3.

⁵ GB.279/15 and GB.280/16.

⁶ GB.279/WP/SDG/2 and GB.279/16.

⁷ *Your Voice at Work*, ILO, 2000.

⁸ GB.280/WP/SDG/1 and GB.280/17.

⁹ GB.279/WP/SDG/3 and GB.280/WP/SDG/2.

¹⁰ GB.279/4.

¹¹ GB.279/5/2 and GB.280/2, paras. 28-33.

¹² GB.280/LILS/3.

¹³ Most recently: GB.280/LILS/WP/PRS/1/2. As in previous years, a further update is submitted for information to the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards.

¹⁴ GB.280/LILS/WP/PRS/1/1.

¹⁵ GB.279/LILS/WP/PRS/3.

¹⁶ GB.280/12/1, para. 87(b).

¹⁷ GB.279/LILS/WP/PRS/2.

¹⁸ 321st Report (GB.278/3/1), 322nd Report (GB.278/3/2), 323rd Report (GB.279/8) and 324th Report (GB.280/9).

¹⁹ GB.279/9 and Add. 1.

²⁰ GB.280/10.

²¹ GB.279/6/1 and Add.1 (Rev. 1), Add.2 and Add.3; GB.279/6/2.

²² GB.280/6 and Add.1 and Add.2.

²³ GB.279/13.

²⁴ GB.280/ESP/4.

²⁵ GB.279/ESP/5.

²⁶ GB.280/ESP/5.

²⁷ GB.280/20.

²⁸ GB.279/13.

²⁹ GB.279/ESP/3 and GB.279/13, paras. 92-110. See also GB.279/WP/SDG/1, para. 6.

³⁰ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/docs/english.pdf>

³¹ GB.279/ESP/5.

³² In November, the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization discussed a framework for studies on integrated policies to achieve a wider sharing of the benefits of globalization. GB.279/WP/SDG/3.

³³ GB.279/ESP/1.

³⁴ These include international labour standards, social security and social protection, labour market policies in Asia, child labour, training and skills development, post-conflict reconstruction and United Nations initiatives concerning the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC III – May 2001) and the International Conference on Financing for Development (Mexico, 2002), and the High-Level Policy Network on Youth Employment.

³⁵ GB.279/12.

³⁶ GB.280/13.

³⁷ GB.279/14, para. 36.

³⁸ GB.280/15, paras. 30-31.

³⁹ These included the Symposium on information technologies in the media and entertainment industries: Their impact on em-

ployment, working conditions and labour-management relations (Geneva, 28 February-3 March 2000, [GB.279/STM/3/1](#)); the Joint Meeting on Lifelong Learning in the Twenty-first Century: The Changing Roles of Educational Personnel (Geneva, 10-14 April 2000, [GB.279/STM/3/2](#)); the Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Impact of Globalization in the Manufacture of Transport Equipment (Geneva, 8-12 May 2000, [GB.279/STM/3/3](#)); the Tripartite Meeting on Moving to Sustainable Agricultural Development through the Modernization of Agriculture and Employment in a Globalized Economy (Geneva, 18-22 September 2000, [GB.280/STM/3/1](#)); the Tripartite Meeting on Labour Practices in the Footwear, Leather, Textiles and Clothing Industries (Geneva, 16-20 October 2000, [GB.280/STM/3/2](#)); and the Second Session of the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on liability and compensation regarding claims for death, personal injury and abandonment of seafarers (London, 30 October-3 November 2000, [GB.280/STM/5](#)). See also [GB.279/14](#) and [GB.280/15](#).

⁴⁰ [GB.280/5](#) and [GB.280/5\(Corr.\)](#).

⁴¹ [GB.279/TC/1](#).

⁴² [GB.279/15](#).

⁴³ [GB.280/TC/1](#) and [annexes](#).

⁴⁴ [GB.280/16](#).

⁴⁵ [GB.280/TC/4](#).

⁴⁶ [GB.280/16](#).

⁴⁷ [GB.279/7](#).

⁴⁸ [GB.280/4](#).

⁴⁹ [GB.280/LILS/12](#).

⁵⁰ [GB.280/8](#).

⁵¹ [A/AC.256/crp.8](#).

⁵² [GB.279/PFA/6](#).

⁵³ [GB.279/PFA/7](#).

⁵⁴ [GB.280/PFA/7](#).

⁵⁵ [GB.280/11/1](#), para. 113.

⁵⁶ [GB.280/11/1](#), para. 127.

⁵⁷ [GB.280/2](#), para. 4.

⁵⁸ [GB.279/5/1](#) and [GB.279/5/2](#).

⁵⁹ [GB.280/2](#), para. 6.

⁶⁰ [GB.279/4](#).

⁶¹ [GB.280/LILS/10](#) and [GB.280/STM/4](#).

CONTENTS

		Pages		Pages	
I.	ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work	1	VII.	Sectoral activities	6
	Compilation of annual reports	1		Sectoral meetings	6
	Technical cooperation activities	1		29th Session of the Joint Maritime Commission (Geneva, 22-26 January 2001) ..	6
II.	Child labour	1	VIII.	Active partnership and technical cooperation	7
III.	Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization	2		ILO technical cooperation – Annual report for 1999-2000	7
	Organization, bargaining and dialogue for development in a globalizing world	2		Implementation plan to give effect to the conclusions concerning the role of the ILO in technical cooperation, adopted by the Conference at its 87th (June 1999) Session – A progress report	7
	Poverty reduction and decent work in a globalizing world	2		ILO projects on training for employment – A thematic evaluation	7
	Future research	2		Report of the on-the-spot review teams for the Americas and Europe	7
	Developments in other organizations	2		Preparation for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	7
	Future priorities for the Working Party ..	2		West Bank and Gaza	7
IV.	International labour standards	3	IX.	Effect to be given to the resolution concerning HIV/AIDS and the world of work, adopted at the International Labour Conference at its 88th Session	7
	Improvements in ILO standards-related activities	3	X.	Major meetings	8
	Revision of standards	3		Sixth European Regional Meeting (Geneva, 12-15 December 2000)	8
	Ratification and promotion of fundamental ILO Conventions	3	XI.	Preparations for major forthcoming global conferences	8
	Freedom of association	3		General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (New York, 25-27 June 2001)	8
	Constitutional procedures	3		Preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 31 August -7 September 2001)	8
V.	Employment and social policy	4		Follow-up to the World Summit for Children: General Assembly Special Session on Children (New York, 19-21 September 2001)	8
	<i>World Labour Report 2000: Income security and social protection in a changing world</i>	4	XII.	Strategic budgeting and the Programme and Budget for 2002-03	8
	<i>World Employment Report 2001</i>	4	XIII.	Financial questions	9
	Global Employment Forum	4	XIV.	International Labour Conference	9
	The labour market and employment implications of the HIV/AIDS epidemic ...	5	XV.	Other matters	9
	Women 2000 – Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century (New York, 5-9 June 2000)	5		Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (Geneva, 11-15 September 2000)	9
	Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations: World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalizing World (Geneva, 26-30 June 2000)	5			
	Relations with the international financial institutions	5			
VI.	Multinational enterprises	6			
	Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy	6			
	Seventh Survey on the effect given to the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy	6			



**Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body
to the Conference for the year 2000-01**

Corrigendum

In section IV (International labour standards), subsection “Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)”, first subparagraph, replace the third and fourth sentences by:

“While noting the information contained in the documents provided by the Government regarding the recent implementation by the Government of various measures, the Governing Body considered that the conditions set out in paragraph 2 of the Conference resolution had nevertheless not been met. In the light of the discussion, it was however noted that the Director-General should continue to extend cooperation to the Government of Myanmar in order to promote full implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and that he was expected to report to the Governing Body on this matter at its 280th (March 2001) Session.”