



Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the Conference for the year 2001-02

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 2001), i.e., the Governing Body's 281st (June 2001), 282nd (November 2001) and 283rd (March 2002) 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 282nd Session (November 2001) 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 third 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.³ The Governing Body acted upon a number of observations made by the Expert-Advisers and engaged in a more in-depth discussion of certain aspects of the reports. In particular, it called upon the Office to initiate a dialogue with the 11 countries that have never provided reports under the Declaration follow-up; to continue the cooperation started with the Governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in relation to freedom of association and collective bargaining; to continue its dialogue with the Government of China in relation to forced labour; and to help the authorities of Afghanistan in their reconstruction efforts.

The Governing Body also approved revised report forms regarding law and practice relating to efforts made concerning freedom of association and collective bargaining, forced or compulsory labour, and discrimination in employment or occupation.⁴

Technical cooperation activities

In November 2001, the Committee on Technical Cooperation of the Governing Body examined and approved the “Priorities and action plans for technical cooperation” under the Declaration, which focused on forced or compulsory labour.⁵ Since that time, quite a number of activities have been launched. These are set out in a brief note that will be made available to delegates at the 90th Conference in its *Provisional Record*.

Discussion of the Global Report

The Governing Body approved ad hoc arrangements for the discussion of this year’s Global Report on 12 June 2002.⁶

II. Child labour

Operational aspects and reporting mechanism of IPEC to its Steering Committee and the Governing Body

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;⁷ and of a comprehensive report on IPEC action against child labour and its future priorities; both reports were presented to its Committee on Technical Cooperation. As part of the continuing integration of IPEC’s work into the ILO mainstream programme a dual reporting system is now in place, ensuring that both IPEC’s Steering Committee, and the Governing Body’s Technical Cooperation Committee are appraised and consulted on the Programme’s progress and course of action.

Achievements of IPEC during 2000-01 as measured against its strategic targets

The reports emphasized IPEC’s progress and constraints in meeting its targets. IPEC surpassed its targets for the biennium on ratification of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and for the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138). In an innovative approach to generate greater public awareness of the problem of child labour, IPEC launched the “Red Card to Child Labour Campaign” during the African Cup of Nations in Mali and numerous other African countries across the continent, the impact of which was substantial, especially in the African countries. Both the quantitative and qualitative information and knowledge-base on child labour were improved. This included improvements to the SIMPOC⁸ data collection instruments, 34 active national child labour surveys, and research on various topics, including the impact of HIV/AIDS and the gender dimension of child labour. Delivery of IPEC’s technical cooperation portfolio expanded threefold between 1999 and 2001 allowing IPEC to exceed substantially its target for the biennium of US\$44 million by spending US\$56.3 million. The rapid expansion of the programme was also reflected in the increasing number of children reached. Compared to the previous biennium IPEC increased the number of beneficiaries of services by close to 150 per cent. An important aspect of IPEC’s work during the last two years was the development of the time-bound programme approach (TBP) – a new implementation

modality to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour within a defined time frame.

Partnership between IPEC and workers' and employers' organizations

The Governing Body re-emphasized the role of the organizations of workers and employers as key partners in the worldwide action against child labour. Their participation helped ensure the broad civil society involvement which lies behind IPEC's success in many countries. Employers' organizations and the private sector are central in many projects on child labour monitoring at the workplace, which are models for worldwide application. Cooperation with trade unions was broadened to include a large number of teachers' organizations as well as regional organizations. Following these discussions IPEC is taking initiatives, including regional consultations with workers' and employers' representatives, to strengthen cooperation with social partners.

III. Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization

Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General of the World Trade Organization

In March 2002, Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), addressed the Working Party on the theme of "How trade liberalization impacts employment".⁹ Mr. Moore endorsed the establishment of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization and the scope it offered for the WTO and the ILO secretariats to continue their existing collaboration. He reiterated the WTO commitment to the observance of internationally recognized labour standards and its belief that the ILO was the competent body to deal with these issues. The WTO's core business was the provision of an agreed set of rules for the orderly conduct of trade, which the launching of the Doha Development Round has advanced significantly. A key condition for successes was improving the capacity of developing countries to participate in the Round through enhanced technical assistance. The WTO believed that, with appropriate domestic policies and institutions, everyone could gain from trade liberalization. After the subsequent discussion and many detailed comments, Mr. Moore agreed that all too often certain groups of workers were carrying the costs of adjustments to trade liberalization and that this problem had to be addressed.

Mr. Alfredo Atanasof, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs of Argentina

At the same session of the Governing Body, Mr. Atanasof, the Argentinian Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs, also addressed the Working Party to present a description of the crisis and the measures taken by the Argentinian Government to address it.¹⁰ Programmes of unemployment protection, training, pensions and action against social exclusion were planned and collective bargaining was a priority. In the course of the following debate many members of the Working Party expressed their concern and solidarity with the people of Argentina and supported the ILO's actions to help the country overcome the crisis.

Trade liberalization and employment

In March 2002, the Working Party examined the issue of trade liberalization and employment.¹¹ A discussion paper prepared by the ILO reviewed recent theoretical and empirical work on the links between trade liberalization and employment and highlighted key policy issues. Representatives from UNCTAD and WTO also presented papers that had been prepared by their respective organizations on the same topic on the basis of a panel discussion that included an ILO official. An extensive debate pointed to the need for more thorough research, especially on the extent to which competition at the lower value added end of international production was adversely affecting working conditions. The debate also posed a clear challenge to the ILO on how to help improve national policies to capture the potential benefits of trade liberalization. Policies relating to social protection, education systems, active labour market policies and the contribution of fundamental workers' rights to good governance were identified as being particularly important.

World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization

In March, the Working Party reviewed the progress to date in the establishment of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.¹² Progress had been rapid, as a balanced Commission of eminent persons had been established, under the joint chairpersonship of the President of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen, and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa. The Working Party appreciated the speed with which such a high-level Commission had been constituted. Views were expressed about the issues before the Commission, its terms of reference and the flexibility of its working methods. The wish was expressed for the Commission to work closely with other interested organizations, to draw on expertise from various sources and to interact and consult with member States. The Director-General encouraged all ILO constituents to contribute on issues on which they had particular experience and knowledge. It was noted that the Commission would prepare its report independently, that the Working Party and the Governing Body would continue to be informed of its work, and that any subsequent ILO action would follow established procedure and would be based upon adequate discussions in the Governing Body and the Conference. The Chairperson of the Working Party conveyed the support of the Working Party to the Director-General and the International Labour Organization in their work in setting up the Commission.

Investment in the global economy and decent work

In March, a paper provided by the Office entitled "Investment in the global economy and decent work" was presented at the Working Party.¹³ The paper reviewed trends in cross-border investments in developing countries over the last decade, discussed their impact on decent work and identified policies for maximizing the benefits from these investments. The Working Party took note of the document and decided to discuss it in November 2002.

IV. International labour standards

Improvements in ILO standards-related activities

The discussions of possible improvements in ILO standards-related activities continued during the November 2001 and March 2002 sessions of the Governing Body. Focus was now on the ILO reporting arrangements and the discussions were carried out in the light of an evaluation of the adjustments to the regular supervisory procedures undertaken in 1993. With the aim of achieving a more manageable workload for member States and the Office, the Governing Body decided to apply a new subject-based approach for reporting.¹⁴ A new two-year and five-year reporting cycle will begin in 2003 with Conventions grouped by subject matter for reporting purposes.¹⁵ In addition, the Governing Body decided to discontinue certain requirements for the submission of detailed reports and to develop, in cooperation with interested countries, country-by-country assistance programmes aimed at resolving persistent problems in the application of Conventions.¹⁶ Furthermore, at its 283rd Session (March 2002), the Governing Body took stock of progress achieved in these discussions, examined possible ways forward, and decided on a tentative work plan, including topics for more detailed discussion in forthcoming sessions of the Governing Body. Accordingly, it was decided to focus the discussions in November 2002 on promotional activities, and in March 2003 on issues related to the drafting and preparation of Conventions and Recommendations, including the improvement in the formulation of questionnaires for the preparation of new standards.

Revision of standards

At the 282nd and 283rd Sessions of the Governing Body, the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards finalized the examination of a series of instruments on night work of women in industry,¹⁷ maternity protection¹⁸ and social security.¹⁹ Thus, the Working Party concluded its case-by-case examination of the ILO Conventions and Recommendations adopted before 1985. The decisions taken by the Governing Body in this context are summarized in the updated information note.²⁰ Accordingly, 71 Conventions and 71 Recommendations have been found to be up to date and should be promoted by the Office. In the context of the follow-up to this work, the Working Party examined a global overview of efforts undertaken at the national level and by the Office in 2001 to implement its recommendations. It also explored ways of promoting them through their integration in publications of the Office and their dissemination to a wider public.²¹ At the 282nd Session (November 2001) of the Governing Body, the Working Party also contributed to the discussion on a subject-based approach to international labour standards.²²

Ratification and promotion of fundamental ILO Conventions

The campaign for the ratification of the ILO's core Conventions, begun in 1995, has continued to stimulate member States to ratify these vital instruments. The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), has achieved the fastest rate of ratification in ILO history, and obtained 122 ratifications. Over this period, the ratifications of the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), increased from fewer than 40 to 117. There are now **74** States that have ratified all eight fundamental labour standards, and **42** that have ratified seven of the eight. This adds up to more than 65 per cent of ILO member States. The campaign continues to draw ratifications at a high rate.

Freedom of association

The Committee on Freedom of Association continued to receive numerous complaints concerning freedom of association, collective bargaining and human rights issues, and examined over 160 cases during the period under review.²³ On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Committee, a tripartite round-table discussion on the impact of the Committee's work on ILO's constituents was held in Geneva²⁴ and a brochure on the impact of the Committee's 50 years of work was published.²⁵

The consolidation of maritime labour instruments

The 283rd Session of the Governing Body had before it a report on the first session of a High-Level Tripartite Working Group on Maritime Labour Standards which met in Geneva from 17 to 21 December 2001.²⁶ The meeting considered proposals made by the Joint Maritime Commission at its 29th Session (January 2001). The Working Group considered the development of a new instrument which would incorporate, as far as possible, the substance of all international maritime labour standards that are sufficiently up to date. The Working Group endorsed the proposals by the Joint Maritime Commission concerning the consolidation of maritime labour standards. It expressed its preliminary thoughts on various points to be taken into account in elaborating the new instrument and made further proposals as to the contents of the draft instrument. It also established a tripartite subgroup and made proposals for its composition and terms of reference. It agreed that the first meeting of the subgroup would take place from 24 to 28 June 2002 and that the second session of the Working Group would be held from 14 to 18 October 2002.

Seafarers' identity documents and maritime security

The 283rd Session of the Governing Body also had before it a report of the Director-General²⁷ responding to a request made by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He requested the Governing Body to place an urgent item on the agenda of the 91st Session (June 2003) of the International Labour Conference concerning improved security of seafarers' identification with a view to the revision of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 (No. 108). The Governing Body considered this report and unanimously agreed to the proposal. It approved the placing of this urgent item on the agenda of the 91st Session of the International Labour Conference (June 2003) and decided that the question would be governed by the single-discussion procedure.

The Governing Body approved a programme for the preparatory stages for the single discussion containing an accelerated timetable for that work.²⁸ The ILO Governing Body also approved a two-day consultation meeting which is due to take place from 9 to 10 May 2002 in Geneva, and opened it to all interested governments, and to representatives of shipowners and seafarers as well as relevant international organizations, in particular the IMO.²⁹ The Governing Body also approved the participation of a high-level tripartite ILO delegation to represent the ILO at the IMO Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Security to be held in London from 4 to 13 December 2002.

Special Technical Cooperation Programme for Colombia

At its 283rd Session the Governing Body took note of the progress report for the Special Technical Cooperation Programme for Colombia. In the discussion of the report the Governing Body expressed support for the programme and asked the governments to contribute to funding.

The Workers' group proposed that a report concerning the situation in Colombia be presented to the next session of the Governing Body. The Workers' spokesperson indicated that in view of the continuous violence against trade union leaders, the Workers' group may request the establishment of a commission of inquiry at the 284th Session (June 2002) of the Governing Body.

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

In November 2001, the Governing Body examined the report of the High-Level Team sent to Myanmar in September-October of that year in order to make an objective assessment of the Government's measures for the elimination of forced labour. The Governing Body acknowledged that the authorities had fulfilled their commitments under the agreement on the sending of this team, which was chaired by Sir Ninian Stephen, former Governor-General of Australia. The Governing Body expressed profound concern regarding the very limited impact of new legislation to date as well as the lack of criminal prosecution of persons who have committed violations. It called for urgent efforts by the Myanmar authorities to rectify the situation. It also wished to have more information regarding certain allegations on action taken against villagers, leading to loss of life.

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to pursue the dialogue with the authorities on the establishment of continued and effective ILO representation in Myanmar. It also asked that assistance be provided for realizing other concrete suggestions put forward by the High-Level Team, and in particular the appointment of a sort of ombudsperson in Myanmar.

In March 2002, the Governing Body examined the report of a technical cooperation mission to Myanmar (February 2002) as well as an understanding signed between the Office and the Government on the appointment of a liaison officer in Myanmar by June 2002. The Governing Body considered that the understanding appeared to be acceptable as a first step which should develop into a full and effective ILO representation in order to achieve the aim of eliminating forced labour, which was stated in the understanding itself. The Governing Body also requested the Office and the authorities to pursue the issue of an ombudsperson institution as well as the allegations referred to at its previous session.

ASEAN member States recommended that an item concerning Myanmar should be placed on the agenda of the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference. However, under article 10(1) of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body the approval of such an item would have called for unanimity which was not obtained, and thus it was noted that the Governing Body could return to this matter in November.

V. Employment and social policy

Global Employment Agenda

As requested by the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, the Office prepared a comprehensive employment framework, entitled a *Global Employment Agenda*. This was submitted for initial consultation to the Global Employment Forum in November 2001. The central premise of the Agenda, highlighted in a shorter paper³⁰ for the Committee on Employment and Social Policy (ESP Committee) at the 282nd Session (November 2001) of the Governing Body, is that if change is managed well through appropriate investment in skills and knowledge development, pursuing active labour market policies to ensure a well-functioning labour market and developing social safety nets, then a country is in a position to tap fruitfully the major forces of change that are driving the global economy, namely trade, technology and entrepreneurship. The discussions in the ESP Committee and a new round of consultations with the ILO's constituents in January 2002 enabled the Office to further refine the key elements of the Agenda. These were discussed by the ESP Committee in March 2002,³¹ and helped sharpen the focus of the Global Employment Agenda as a "living document" with a practical policy orientation sensitive to the diversity of national contexts. The Agenda will be redrafted on this basis and discussed in the 284th Session of the Governing Body.

Policy responses to address the employment and social consequences of the events of 11 September 2001

In March 2001, the Governing Body discussed policy responses to address the employment and social consequences of the events of 11 September 2001.³² While the Global Employment Agenda set out a strategic framework for employment policy, the paper on the policy responses to 11 September 2001 focused on the design of a short-term response, much of which lay within that strategic framework, although it also included elements from each of the ILO's four strategic objectives. The events of 11 September had resulted in widespread employment losses and heightened feelings of insecurity and uncertainty. The economic shock arising from these events had had a significant impact on developing countries. While recovery in the United States economy had been more rapid than expected, there was still a great deal of uncertainty over the recovery of the global economy. There was stress on the importance of global macroeconomic policy coordination and the need to consider the situation of developing countries. The goal should be to spread the process of recovery rapidly throughout the global economy. A short-term stimulus was needed which could be applied in a way that did not endanger the longer term need for macroeconomic stability referred to in the Global Employment Agenda. The Governing Body proposed that the approach to a coordinated global policy response highlighted in the paper be included in the Global Employment Agenda.

Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Management of Disability at the Workplace (Geneva, 3-12 October 2001)

In November 2001, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy considered the report of the above Meeting and the code of practice it unanimously adopted.³³ Based on the principles of equal opportunity, equal treatment, non-discrimination and mainstreaming, the code advocates a broad model of disability management, including

recruitment, promotion, job retention and the return to work of people with disabilities. Underlying the code is the conviction that the obstacles which disabled people face in getting and retaining jobs arise largely from societal barriers. The code provides guidelines intended for implementation in accordance with national law and practice. When adopted, these guidelines should lead to improved employment prospects for persons with disabilities in a safe, accessible and healthy workplace, at minimal cost to employers. The code was welcomed by the Employers' and Workers' groups, and by Government representatives as a valuable instrument not only for employers but also for governments and workers' organizations. The Governing Body recommended that the code be published.

Relations with Bretton Woods institutions

In November the Governing Body examined a paper³⁴ providing an overview of the most recent policy developments in relation to the Bretton Woods institutions, a review of progress in the special focus of cooperation in the related comprehensive development framework (CDF) and poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) processes, and progress in other specific areas of collaboration.³⁵ The main thrust of the 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, so that its main components are mainstreamed in national and international development strategies, while contributing to the internationally recognized millennium development goals.

Convergence and complementarity between the objectives of the ILO and the Bretton Woods institutions, with an increasing focus on the impact of globalization, had provided opportunities for effective cooperation at both the international and country levels. With respect to the latter, emphasis has been placed on effective country ownership, and broad-based participation, providing a more receptive framework for strengthening the role of the ILO's constituents in national development, and in promoting employment and labour concerns through the Decent Work Agenda.

The Governing Body will continue to monitor the relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions in these and other areas, with a view to improving this partnership and strengthening the role and influence of the ILO in an integrated approach to economic and social issues arising from the globalizing world economy.

Global Employment Forum (Geneva, 1-3 November 2001)

At its 282nd Session (November 2001), the Governing Body discussed, in the context of its deliberations on the Global Employment Agenda,³⁶ the outcome of the Global Employment Forum. At this event, some 750 participants – including world political and economic leaders – from over 100 countries, examined the central theme of the Forum – “Creating decent work in the twenty-first century”. The Global Employment Agenda was presented in the form of a discussion paper to the Forum. During plenary round tables and parallel panel sessions, participants discussed issues such as the national and international perspective, the international dimension of technology, governance and trade, country and regional experiences, and entrepreneurship and investing in people. A revised discussion paper as well as a summary of proceedings of the Forum were made available during the 283rd Session (March 2002) of the Governing Body.

China Employment Forum

The Committee on Employment and Social Policy discussed, in March 2002, the follow-up to the Global Employment Forum. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MOLSS) in China and the ILO will organize the China Employment Forum (CEF) in Beijing on 21-23 October 2002.³⁷ The Forum will address the dual challenges of unemployment caused by the restructuring of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), largely in the eastern provinces and the overwhelmingly larger problem of rural surplus labour in central and western provinces, as well as the inadequate functioning of labour markets. The CEF is intended to reach a common understanding on elements of an employment agenda for China, identifying work areas for follow-up.

VI. Multinational enterprises

Follow-up on and promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy

In March, the Governing Body examined an Office paper concerning *Follow-up on and promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy: Promotional and research activities, technical advisory services, and the Tripartite Forum on the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises*.³⁸ The paper reported on activities to: (1) enhance awareness of the MNE Declaration and how to apply it, noting in particular the Forum to be held in Geneva on 25 and 26 March, and a number of recently developed communications tools including a guide to the MNE Declaration; (2) facilitate application of the Declaration at national and regional levels, noting in particular several applied research studies, follow-up seminars and other training activities; and (3) advocate the aims of the Declaration with other international organizations, addressing notably Office contributions within the United Nations system, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission. The Governing Body endorsed the upcoming Multinationals Forum as an opportunity for an open dialogue and exchange of views, and requested the Office to prepare proceedings on the Forum that provided a synopsis of views reflecting the major insights presented. Through its Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises, the Governing Body also took note of the request for further discussion within the Governing Body of an Office paper proposing options for the format and focus of the next survey on the effect given to the MNE Declaration, and forward-looking proposals for possible future Office activities. A broad consensus further supported the beginning of work by the Office to identify technical references in the Declaration that would need updating at the next reprinting of the instrument.

Selected developments in other organizations

In March, the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises examined an Office paper concerning *Selected developments in other organizations*.³⁹ The paper highlighted activities in regional and international organizations that were guided by some form of instrument that directly or indirectly addressed multinational enterprises and their activities, and sought to achieve a diversity of home and host country involvement while avoiding duplication with developments in other organizations reported elsewhere in the Governing Body. Through its Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises, the Governing Body took note of the request that a summary of broad trends and issues arising from

developments in other organizations be included in the next Office paper on the subject with a view to understanding the possibilities for the effective application of the MNE Declaration.

VII. Sectoral activities

Sectoral meetings

In November and March, the Governing Body, through its Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues, took note of the reports of various sectoral and technical meetings and endorsed the recommendations adopted by them.⁴⁰ In November, the Governing Body also endorsed the recommendations made by two emergency meetings on the impact of the 11 September 2001 events: the Informal Meeting on the Hotel and Tourism Sector: Social Impact of Events Subsequent to 11 September 2001 (Geneva, 25-26 October 2001)⁴¹ and the Think Tank on the Impact of the 11 September 2001 Events for Civil Aviation (Geneva, 29-30 October 2001).⁴² In the same session, the Governing Body approved the composition and purpose of the meeting concerning health services to be held in 2002⁴³ and took note of the report of the ILO Working Group on Harmonization of Chemical Hazard Communication and endorsed its work.⁴⁴

Review of the Sectoral Activities Programme

In November, the Governing Body approved the setting up of a small tripartite Working Party to consider the issues related to the review of sectoral activities.⁴⁵ In March, the report of the Working Party⁴⁶ was considered and the Governing Body approved the recommendation of its Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues for a new approach to the sectoral activities programme which would be geared to maximizing impact within the limit of available resources and which could contain both a meeting and non-meeting component, as appropriate. It also decided, to the extent practicable for this biennium, that all interested governments should be invited to participate in sectoral meetings to which the Standing Orders apply, that a further meeting of the Working Party would take place during the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference (inter alia, to make recommendations on the programme for the economic sectors in 2003 for approval by the Governing Body at its 284th Session in June 2002), and that the Office would prepare a further document for consideration in November 2002 on different aspects of the new approach to the sectoral activities programme.⁴⁷

VIII. Technical cooperation

ILO technical cooperation – Annual report for 2000-01

The annual report on ILO technical cooperation in 2000-01 was examined by the Governing Body in November 2001. Recent developments relevant to the ILO's technical cooperation programme were highlighted. A drop in resources from UNDP was offset by substantial increases in multi- and bilateral funding with the approval level from multi- and bilateral sources attaining the US\$120 million level for the first time. The Committee was informed that major efforts by the Office to improve the delivery of technical cooperation were starting to pay off with a reversal in the trend of delivery rates.

The ILO's move toward greater coherence in linking technical cooperation activities to the operational objectives and targets of the Office were enhanced by the gradual establishment of a common programming framework. New partnerships with development partners would enable the ILO to focus on the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) process in least developed countries. The annual report indicated that in the coming years establishing mechanisms for priority setting for technical cooperation activities, further improvement of the delivery rate, decentralization of activities and evaluation and impact assessment concerns would be the major areas of concentration.

Mid-term review of technical cooperation

Following the conclusions adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1999 and based on the implementation of the programme of action, a mid-term review of technical cooperation activities was carried out and presented to the Governing Body in March 2002.⁴⁸ The review found that the Office had been able to implement a growing programme of technical cooperation with increased efficiency and that the plan of action had been implemented to a large extent.

The issues which stemmed from a discussion based on the mid-term review by Governing Body members focused on: (a) participation of the ILO in major international development frameworks (United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), United Nations Global Compact, participation in the PRSP process); (b) programming and resource allocation ensuring coherence in the ILO's strategic programme and budget; (c) needs of constituents and resource and priorities of donors; (d) shifts in the profile of activities from employment-related issues to standards and fundamental rights with a concern for achieving a balance among various sectors; and (e) structural changes at the field level to streamline management for implementation of the technical cooperation programme and decentralization of technical cooperation activities to the field.

A thematic evaluation: Labour administration

At the 283rd Session (March 2002) of the Governing Body the Committee examined a thematic evaluation on labour administration.⁴⁹ The evaluation was based on seven projects of different fields of activity, donor, scope, geographic region and duration. The "Lessons learned" section of the evaluation highlighted many points that could also be valid for technical cooperation in general. Some features particularly essential for the success or failure of technical cooperation work emerged in the course of the evaluation: rigorous design of project documents as well as timely and competent backstopping; attention to sustainability; and evaluations and replicability. Systematic and substantial involvement of social partners was also seen as critical to a successful project. The Committee was assured that concerns expressed about the restructuring that had split the labour administration, labour inspection and employment services would be treated by maintaining the good cooperation with the three sectors involved and that the lessons learned from this evaluation would be incorporated in the future work of the programme.

Report of the on-the-spot review teams for Africa and Asia

It was recalled that the Governing Body had approved, at its 277th Session (March 2000), proposals that on-the-spot reviews of field activities should be conducted in each year of the 2000-01 biennium. In 2000 such reviews had been undertaken in Europe (Moscow) and the Americas (San José, Costa Rica). In 2001 reviews were conducted in Africa (United Republic of Tanzania) and Asia (Nepal) and oral presentations on their

findings were made to the Governing Body in November 2001. The six members of the review teams discussed issues concerning sustainability and impact, involvement of constituents and social partners at all stages of the project implementation cycle. NGOs and grass-roots organizations proved to be reliable partners when they worked in collaboration with the social partners.

Further developments regarding technical cooperation activities in the United Nations system

The report presented to the Governing Body in November provided information on developments regarding operational activities in the United Nations system. The Committee was informed of ILO relations with UNDP and its resource situation and new programming instruments as well as ILO relations with the World Food Programme (WFP). The report also delineated major developments within ECOSOC, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the issue of the UN Resident Coordinator system and summarized the progress of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) based on the evaluation carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Office stated that it would continue to monitor and follow up developments on these issues and ensure that field offices, technical units/InFocus programmes at headquarters were kept informed.

IX. Regional Meetings

Thirteenth Asian Regional Meeting (Bangkok, 28-31 August 2001)

The report and conclusions of the Thirteenth Asian Regional Meeting were adopted by the Governing Body in November 2001.⁵⁰ Tripartite constituents from 30 member States reviewed work in the region during the period 1997-2001. For the first time, the discussions centred on decent work in Asia, in the context of the Director-General's Report. The delegates, while pointing out that globalization can have positive and negative consequences, called upon the Office to urgently help frame guidelines and programmes to address the social and economic impacts of the global downturn on the world of work. They further stressed the "immense" decent work deficit in the region. Creating productive work for all women and men had to be the "central element" of decent work in Asia, and the principal means to reduce poverty. Social protection, recognized as "the greatest deficit" in the region, needed to be improved significantly. Denial of rights at work and shortcomings in social dialogue needed to be remedied and the recognition of these principles and their practice enhanced as the basis for decent work. Moreover, decent work, within an integrated policy framework, had to be recognized as part of the development agenda, involving both national agencies and the broader international community. Among the major conclusions, the Office was called upon to establish, in close consultation with the constituents, national plans of action for decent work across Asia. These plans should define national priorities in the world of work, an implementation timetable, a set of indicators to assess progress, regular reporting and a web site for wider visibility.

X. Major meetings

Second World Assembly on Ageing

(Madrid, 8-12 April 2002)

At its 282nd Session (November 2001), the Committee on Employment and Social Policy had before it a report on the Second World Assembly on Ageing.⁵¹ On the recommendation of the Committee, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to take account, in preparing the ILO's contribution to the above World Assembly, of the opinions expressed by the Committee. These comments, together with the contributions from ILO constituents were included in the final version of the report that was discussed in the March session of the Committee.⁵²

The Second World Assembly on Ageing adopted an International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 which include the concerns expressed by the ILO. The first part of the document entitled "Older persons and development" encompasses the following sections: (i) Work and the ageing labour force; (ii) Access to knowledge, education and training; and (iii) Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention.

During the Assembly, the ILO organized a panel discussion on "Older workers and population ageing: Employment and social protection issues". Panellists included the Executive Directors of the Employment and Social Protection Sectors. The ILO delegation was headed by the Director-General.

International Conference on Financing for Development

(Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002)

At the 282nd Session (November 2001) of the Governing Body, the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization had before it a paper which included a brief report about the preparatory activities for this Conference.⁵³ The outcome of this event was also briefly discussed at the last meeting of the Committee on Employment and Social Policy (March 2002).

The Conference was attended by more than 50 Heads of State, over 300 finance, foreign, trade and development cooperation or other ministers, and a total of approximately 6,000 participants. It stimulated an overall view of not only the many aspects of domestic resource mobilization, foreign direct investment, trade, good governance, official development assistance and debt relief, but also other issues such as, inter alia, financial stability, cooperation about domestic tax matters between countries, and new and innovative sources of financing.

In their final document (called the "Monterrey Consensus"), the Heads of State supported the ILO and encouraged its ongoing work on the social dimension of globalization. In doing so, they recognized the importance of integrating the social dimension into the formulation of economic and financial policies and highlighted, therefore, the need for an enhanced role for the ILO in the governance structure of the global economy. The document also contains many other elements of interest to the ILO. A more detailed description of the outcome of the Conference will be before the Governing Body at its 285th Session (November 2002).

XI. Preparations for major forthcoming global conferences

Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10)

(Johannesburg, South Africa,
26 August-4 September 2002)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will carry out a ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). At its 283rd Session (March 2002), the Governing Body has been informed⁵⁴ of the many meetings and other initiatives related to the preparatory process for the Summit in which the ILO has been actively involved, including the convening of special side events at the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development and acting as the Preparatory Committee for the WSSD at its Third (New York, 25 March-5 April 2002) and Fourth (Indonesia, 27 May-7 June 2002) Preparatory Sessions.

Sustainable development, as highlighted in Agenda 21 in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, requires an integrated and balanced approach to development that emphasizes three pillars: economic growth, environmental protection and social progress. The Governing Body of the ILO has given particular priority to the strengthening of the social pillar and to ensuring that the social dimension of sustainable development is more effectively integrated within future enhanced efforts to implement Agenda 21.

The ILO will be represented at the World Summit by the Director-General and a Governing Body delegation and is expected to host a special tripartite side event at the Summit that will highlight the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

XII. Programme implementation

At its 283rd Session (March 2002), the Governing Body discussed the 2000-01 programme implementation report, which, for the first time, presented a results-based assessment of the ILO's performance within the strategic budgeting framework. The Office was asked to continue improving the process by setting dependable baselines as well as consistent and measurable targets and indicators for all activities in the regions, decent work country programmes, cross-sectoral activities, and management and support services. There were calls for: greater involvement of ILO constituents in the strategic programming and budgeting processes; increased expenditure in regions; visibility of regions in the programming process; integration of regular and extra-budgetary resources when preparing programme and budget proposals; improved strategic evaluation and performance monitoring, including, if necessary, recourse to independent evaluation; more information on lessons learned; systematic gender mainstreaming and donor support for the Office's investment in performance measurement systems.

XIII. Financial questions

At its 282nd Session (November 2001), the Governing Body approved the proposed 2002-03 income and expenditure budget for the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) and the 2002-03 income and expenditure estimates of the

Inter-American Research and Documentation Centre on Vocational Training (CINTERFOR) extra-budgetary accounts.⁵⁵

At its 283rd Session (March 2002), the Governing Body requested the Director-General to propose amendments to the Financial Regulations in order that surpluses may be dealt with in an appropriate manner, taking into account the circumstances under which they have occurred, and proposed that the International Labour Conference adopt a resolution concerning the use of the 2000-01 surplus.⁵⁶

Furthermore, the Governing Body agreed to the proposal to purchase land for the construction of a building to house the ILO Regional Office for the Americas in Lima, approved in principle the preparation of the construction-related plans and cost estimates, and agreed that the cost of the construction of the building, estimated at a maximum of US\$1.75-2 million, be charged to the Building and Accommodation Fund.⁵⁷ The Governing Body also agreed to purchase temporary office buildings at headquarters and agreed that the cost, which is estimated at US\$550,000, be charged to the Building and Accommodation Fund; and requested the Office to make proposals to the 285th Session (November 2002) of the Governing Body concerning the optimal use of existing space in ILO headquarters.⁵⁸

XIV. International Labour Conference

At its 282nd Session (November 2001), the Governing Body requested law and practice reports or more detailed proposals on five subjects to be submitted to its 283rd Session (March 2002).⁵⁹ In order to permit a choice between at least two standard-setting items for the agenda of the 92nd Session (2004) of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body requested the Office to examine the possibility of proposing to the Governing Body at its 283rd Session (March 2002) at least one additional item for standard setting. It further requested the Office to clarify the reasons for which the revision of the Human Resources Development Recommendation, 1975 (No. 150), necessitated a second discussion at the 92nd Session (2004) of the International Labour Conference. It also indicated that research work and consultation should be accelerated on three items.⁶⁰

In March 2002, the Governing Body decided that the 92nd Session (2004) of the Conference should open on Tuesday, 1 June 2004, 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, and taking note of the scheduled second discussion on the item “Human resources and training – revision of the Human Resources Development Recommendation, 1975 (No. 150)”, the following items should be placed on the agenda of the 92nd Session (2004) of the Conference: (i) a comprehensive standard (a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector; and (ii) migrant workers (general discussion based on an integrated approach). The Governing Body also decided to place on the agenda of the 92nd Session (2004) of the Conference an item relating to the withdrawal of Recommendations Nos. 2, 12, 16, 18, 21, 26, 32, 33, 34, 36, 43, 46, 58, 70, 74 and 96.⁶¹

XV. Other matters

Relations with other international or regional organizations

At its 282nd (November 2001) and 283rd (March 2002) Sessions, the Governing Body examined and approved the text of cooperation agreements with three intergovernmental organizations, namely the Organisation internationale de la francophonie, the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund.

Notes

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/gb/index.htm>

² GB.283/3/2.

³ GB.283/3/1.

⁴ GB.283/10/1.

⁵ GB.282/TC/5.

⁶ GB.283/10/1.

⁷ GB.282/11.

⁸ Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour.

⁹ GB.283/15.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ GB.283/WP/SDG/2.

¹⁴ GB.282/LILS/5 and GB.282/8/2.

¹⁵ GB.283/LILS/6 and GB.283/10/2.

¹⁶ GB.282/LILS/5 and GB.282/8/2.

¹⁷ GB.282/LILS/WP/PRS/2, GB.282/LILS/6, GB.282/8/2.

¹⁸ GB.283/LILS/WP/PRS/2, GB.283/LILS/5(Rev.), GB.283/10/2.

¹⁹ GB.283/LILS/WP/PRS/3, GB.282/LILS/WP/PRS/2, GB.283/LILS/5(Rev.), GB.283/10/2.

²⁰ An updated version of GB.283/LILS/WP/PRS/1/2 will, as usual, be prepared for and made available to the members of the Committee on the Application of Standards in June 2002.

²¹ GB.282/LILS/WP/PRS/5, GB.282/LILS/6, GB.282/8/2, GB.283/LILS/WP/PRS/4, GB.283/LILS/5(Rev.), GB.283/10/2.

²² GB.282/LILS/WP/PRS/4, GB.282/LILS/6, GB.282/8/2.

²³ 325th Report (GB.281/6), 326th Report (GB.282/6), 327th Report (GB.283/8).

²⁴ "Voice, freedom, security: 50 years of the Committee on Freedom of Association", Geneva, March 2002.

²⁵ *The Committee on Freedom of Association: Its impact over 50 years*, Geneva, ILO, 2001.

²⁶ GB.283/LILS/7 and GB.283/10/2.

²⁷ GB.283/16/3.

²⁸ *ibid.*

²⁹ GB.283/18(Add.).

³⁰ Global Employment Agenda, GB.282/ESP/1/1.

³¹ GB.283/ESP/1.

³² GB.283/ESP/2.

³³ GB.282/ESP/4.

³⁴ GB.282/ESP/3.

³⁵ These include international labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work, preparation for the Global Employment Forum, HIV/AIDS, child labour, global public goods, employment-intensive investment, post-conflict reconstruction, social protection, capacity building and private sector partnerships.

³⁶ GB.282/ESP/1/2.

³⁷ GB.283/ESP/1.

³⁸ GB.283/MNE/1.

³⁹ GB.283/MNE/2.

⁴⁰ These included the Tripartite Meeting on the Employment Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions in the Banking and Financial Services Sector (Geneva, 5-9 February 2001, [GB.282/STM/3/1](#)); the Tripartite Meeting on Human Resources Development, Employment and Globalization in the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Sector (Geneva, 2-6 April 2001, [GB.282/STM/3/2](#)); the Third 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 April-4 May 2001, [GB.282/STM/5](#)); the Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in the Non-ferrous Metals Industries (Geneva, 28 August-4 September 2001, [GB.282/STM/4](#)), which adopted a code of practice on safety and health in the non-ferrous metals industries; the Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Dimensions of the Forestry and Wood Industries on the Move (Geneva, 17-21 September 2001, [GB.283/STM/4/1](#)); the Joint Meeting on the Impact of Decentralization and Privatization on Municipal Services (Geneva, 15-19 October 2001, [GB.283/STM/4/2](#)); the Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Household Income and Expenditure Statistics and Consumer Price Indices (Geneva, 22-31 October 2001, [GB.283/STM/5](#)); the Tripartite Meeting on the Construction Industry in the Twenty-first Century: Its Image, Employment Prospects and Skill Requirements (Geneva, 10-14 December 2001, [GB.283/STM/4/3](#)); and the Tripartite Meeting on Civil Aviation: Social and Safety Consequences of the Crisis Subsequent to 11 September 2001 (Geneva, 21-25 January 2002, [GB.283/STM/4/4](#)). See also [GB.282/10](#) and [GB.283/13](#).

⁴¹ [GB.282/STM/7/2](#). See also [GB.282/10](#).

⁴² [GB.282/14/6](#). See also [GB.282/PV](#).

⁴³ [GB.282/10](#), para. 50.

⁴⁴ [GB.282/STM/6](#) and [GB.282/10](#), para. 81.

⁴⁵ [GB.282/10](#), paras. 19-37.

⁴⁶ [GB.283/STM/1](#).

⁴⁷ [GB.283/13](#), paras. 2-23 and 36.

⁴⁸ [GB.283/TC/1](#) and [GB.283/14](#).

⁴⁹ [GB.283/TC/3](#) and [GB.283/TC/3\(Corr. and Corr.2\)](#).

⁵⁰ [GB.282/3](#).

⁵¹ [GB.282/ESP/2](#).

⁵² [GB.283/ESP/5\(Add.\)](#).

⁵³ [GB.282/WP/SDG/3](#).

⁵⁴ [GB.283/ESP/4](#).

⁵⁵ [GB.282/7/1](#), paras. 75 and 90.

⁵⁶ [GB.283/9/1](#), para. 96.

⁵⁷ [GB.283/9/1](#), para. 133.

⁵⁸ [GB.283/9/1](#), para. 160.

⁵⁹ [GB.282/2/1](#).

⁶⁰ *ibid.*

⁶¹ [GB.283/2/2](#), para. 8.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I. ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.....	1
Compilation of annual reports.....	1
Technical cooperation activities.....	2
Discussion of the Global Report	2
II. Child labour.....	2
Operational aspects and reporting mechanism of IPEC to its Steering Committee and the Governing Body	2
Achievements of IPEC during 2000-01 as measured against its strategic targets	2
Partnership between IPEC and workers' and employers' organizations	3
III. Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization.....	3
Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General of the World Trade Organization.....	3
Mr. Alfredo Atanasof, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs of Argentina....	3
Trade liberalization and employment.....	4
World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.....	4
Investment in the global economy and decent work.....	4
IV. International labour standards	5
Improvements in ILO standards-related activities	5
Revision of standards	5
Ratification and promotion of fundamental ILO Conventions	5
Freedom of association	6
The consolidation of maritime labour instruments	6
Seafarers' identity documents and maritime security	6
Special Technical Cooperation Programme for Colombia	7
Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).....	7
V. Employment and social policy	8
Global Employment Agenda.....	8
Policy responses to address the employment and social consequences of the events of 11 September 2001.....	8
Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Management of Disability at the Workplace (Geneva, 3-12 October 2001).....	8
Relations with Bretton Woods institutions	9
Global Employment Forum (Geneva, 1-3 November 2001).....	9
China Employment Forum.....	10

VI.	Multinational enterprises.....	10
	Follow-up on and promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy	10
	Selected developments in other organizations	10
VII.	Sectoral activities	11
	Sectoral meetings	11
	Review of the Sectoral Activities Programme	11
VIII.	Technical cooperation	11
	ILO technical cooperation – Annual report for 2000-01.....	11
	Mid-term review of technical cooperation	12
	A thematic evaluation: Labour administration.....	12
	Report of the on-the-spot review teams for Africa and Asia	12
	Further developments regarding technical cooperation activities in the United Nations system	13
IX.	Regional Meetings	13
	Thirteenth Asian Regional Meeting (Bangkok, 28-31 August 2001)	13
X.	Major meetings.....	14
	Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 8-12 April 2002).....	14
	International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002)	14
XI.	Preparations for major forthcoming global conferences	15
	Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10) (Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002).....	15
XII.	Programme implementation	15
XIII.	Financial questions.....	15
XIV.	International Labour Conference	16
XV.	Other matters	17
	Relations with other international or regional organizations	17