



## **Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the Conference for the year 2004-05**

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 2004), i.e. the Governing Body's 290th (June 2004), 291st (November 2004) and 292nd (March 2005) 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 290th, 291st and 292nd Sessions (June and November 2004; March 2005) 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **I. ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work**

#### **Compilation of annual reports**

In the sixth annual review under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration, the Governing Body had a discussion on the basis of the compilation of reports prepared by the Office<sup>2</sup> and the Introduction of the ILO Declaration Expert-Advisers.<sup>3</sup> 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. It took note of the past recommendations of the Expert-Advisers, which remained valid. In particular, the Governing Body called upon the Office to step up its help to countries to assess and monitor their progress in moving towards fuller realization of fundamental principles and rights at work. This would involve reflecting the baseline information on countries and developing it further where required. As a complement, the Governing Body recommended more in-depth case studies of selected volunteering countries to show different approaches and their impact in achieving respect, promotion and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work. It was important that such work be carried out in close collaboration between the Office and the country in question, with all three social partners running and owning the process.

#### **Technical cooperation activities**

In March 2005, the Committee on Technical Cooperation examined and approved the "Priorities and action plans for technical cooperation" under the Declaration, which

---

focused on freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.<sup>4</sup> This action plan, which was submitted by the Office as a follow-up to the second Global Report in this subject, *Organizing for social justice*, aimed at taking further the action plan adopted by the Governing Body on the basis of the Conference discussion of the first Global Report on this subject in June 2000. The main points of the action plan are based on the discussion held at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2004, which supported the four following objectives proposed in *Organizing for social justice*: (1) universal ratification of Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 and the practical application of the principles laid down in them; (2) activities to support organizing and bargaining for the vulnerable groups mentioned in the Report; (3) ways in which freedom of association and collective bargaining could be used to build a framework of labour market institutions that promoted sustainable social and economic development; and (4) deepening of the ILO's knowledge base, including statistics relating to freedom of association and collective bargaining – thus strengthening its advisory services and advocacy.

## Discussion of the Global Report

In March 2005, the Governing Body approved ad hoc arrangements for the discussion of this year's Global Report on 8 June 2005.<sup>5</sup>

## II. Child labour

Through the established practice of dual reporting, the Governing Body examined in March 2005 a report on the operational aspects of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), including a mid-term implementation report on IPEC activities in 2004 and a summary record of the 14th meeting of the IPEC International Steering Committee. The discussions in the Committee on Technical Cooperation focused on the highlights of IPEC action against child labour in 2004-05.

### Achievements of IPEC during 2004-05

IPEC's total expenditure exceeded the target and accounts were closed at US\$56.4 million. This represented an increase of 19.5 per cent over 2003 and constituted a fivefold increase of expenditure during the period 1999-2004. In 2004, three new ratifications of Convention No. 182 were registered (with a total of 150) and four new ratifications of Convention No. 138 were recorded (with a total of 135). Several ratifications of one or the other Convention were being considered or processed by member States. At the end of 2002, five time-bound programmes (TBPs) were fully funded. At the end of 2003, another nine were up and running, a number that more than doubled by the end of 2004 with 19 full-fledged TBPs. This trend clearly showed that countries and donors alike were increasingly recognizing the importance of supporting the TBP approach in combating child labour.

A number of countries were applying similar approaches, without the ILO's technical or external financial support. IPEC's aim of disseminating ILO methodologies, approaches, research and good practices as widely as possible had been pursued vigorously and reports from projects showed that the 2004-05 target of 30 additional countries had already been exceeded. IPEC had completed and published a major research outcome, "Investing in every child: An economic study of the costs and benefits of eliminating child labour", which had been well received and favourably reviewed by constituents, the media and partner organizations such as the World Bank. As regards application of ratified child

---

labour Conventions, 49 countries so far had undertaken, during the present biennium, one or more interventions with ILO support, to ensure full implementation of the provisions of these Conventions.

While data on the number of beneficiaries had been collected on a biennial basis (2004-05), trends by the end of 2004 showed that IPEC would easily achieve the target of 1.3 million children as beneficiaries, directly or indirectly, through services of the IPEC programme. Strategically, IPEC continued to position child labour efforts with the macro-level socio-economic development and political context of member States to encourage mainstreaming and integration of child labour issues and concerns. This effort was undertaken both at the country and global level as part of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. IPEC was also reviewing and implementing the recommendations of a gender audit and a global programme evaluation, both completed in 2004. In total, 42 evaluations of projects, country and thematic programmes concerning child labour were completed during 2004, doubling the review and evaluation outputs of the programme as compared to 2002-03. In the meantime, follow-up action had already been taken for many of the points and proposals made by the members of the Steering Committee.

Activities involving workers' and employers' organizations, nationally and globally, were being reinforced worldwide, at the country level, and through tripartite alliances for certain sectors, including the garment, sporting goods, tobacco and cocoa/chocolate industries. Systematic training had been introduced for project staff, including on the policy and practice of tripartism and labour standards, before posting in the field. Inter-agency cooperation, especially with UNICEF, the World Bank and UNESCO, had been given new impetus in 2004, in several ways: joint promotion of the education-child labour nexus in an Education for All High-Level Meeting in Brasilia in November 2004; continuation of the ILO/UNICEF/World Bank research effort under "understanding children's work"; and a joint event to highlight the lessons learned through the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) project, in September 2004.

## **Child labour and the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization**

The report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization released in 2004 made specific mention of child labour in several contexts. It identified child labour as "a serious problem in its own right and a major factor limiting school enrolment, retention and educational achievement" and saw it as a consequence of poverty as well as a factor in its perpetuation. Regardless of the nature of the relationship between globalization and child labour, "a fair globalization" that is to be the consequence of "creating opportunities for all" must of necessity entail the elimination of child labour – first and foremost in its worst forms. Given the mandate of IPEC, it is reasonable to characterize all IPEC activities as giving effect in some ways to many recommendations of the Commission's report. The evolution of IPEC strategy, in particular, with its dual focus on direct assistance to working children and their families and communities on the one hand, and on creating an enabling environment for the elimination of child labour on the other, is in line with the thrust of the report. IPEC's strategies are putting increasing emphasis on poverty alleviation as well as on expanding and improving institutional mechanisms for education and law enforcement, among others. As such, the work of IPEC also fits into and supports various other frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and the Education for All (EFA) initiative.

---

## **IPEC's intensified response to the child labour problem in Africa**

Any effort to resolve Africa's developmental challenges must come to grips with the problem of child labour in the region and its place in the overall development context. With a view to developing a more coherent and extensive programme in support of the progressive elimination of child labour in Africa, IPEC has been taking stock of the situation in a forthcoming report that explores the problem of child labour in the context of development challenges in Africa. IPEC's activities in Africa have been more limited than elsewhere but are expanding. The dominant trend involves the increasing number of TBPs and subregional programmes. Full-scale TBPs are now operational in three countries (Senegal, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania), and being launched in another three (Ghana, Kenya and Madagascar), with preparatory activities under way in a few more. A larger number of countries benefit from the subregional programmes in limited areas.

## **IPEC's Strategic Programme Impact Framework: Towards a theory of change for the elimination of child labour**

The key to the efficient use of the knowledge base accumulated by IPEC and its partners is to systematize it so that it becomes a tool with which one can analyse the child labour situation in specific contexts and identify the outcomes based on different strategies and at different levels. A theory of change that is presented as a model to help partners analyse and plan interventions in specific contexts can be an effective start to action on child labour. Through an internal global strategic planning exercise in 2003, where the Strategic Programme Impact Framework (SPIF) approach was used, IPEC developed a first version of a general model that, together with a series of more detailed models for specific thematic areas such as education or law enforcement, will need further validation and refining through interaction with partners for use at the country level. The exercise was based on general strategic guidelines for IPEC as set out in the Programme and Budget for 2004-05, but also on its experience of over ten years.

The theory of change on what a country might do to eliminate child labour starts by transforming the multiple factors that cause child labour into a series of positive outcomes leading to the "progressive elimination of child labour, priority given to the urgent action against the worst forms of child labour". The role of the ILO and IPEC in this process would be firstly to facilitate the use of the "theories of change" approach by partners through technical support for developing and using these in specific contexts. Secondly, IPEC should support action against child labour following specific national and global theories of change through capacity building and strengthening of the worldwide movement against child labour. In general the role of IPEC should be one of facilitator, providing technical assistance and building capacity. Specifically, it means identifying with partners the tools and capacities required and then developing and supporting the implementation of relevant tools such as training manuals, guidelines, data collection methodologies, strategic planning instruments, etc.

---

### **III. International labour standards**

#### **Ratification and promotion of ILO fundamental Conventions**

The campaign for the ratification of the ILO's core Conventions has continued to stimulate member States to ratify these vital instruments. Since June 2004, there have been 11 ratifications of ILO fundamental Conventions by eight countries. These ratifications have added six countries to the list of member States having ratified all the ILO's core Conventions.

There are now 109 States that have ratified all eight fundamental Conventions, and 26 that have ratified seven of them. The total number of ratifications obtained for these instruments amounts to 1,236, or 87 per cent of the possible 1,424 ratifications (all numbers as of 29 April 2005).

#### **Complaints under article 26 of the ILO Constitution**

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

In November 2004, the Governing Body had before it reports from the Director-General and from the Liaison Officer ad interim on developments since June 2004. The Governing Body expressed its grave concern at developments in the situation and the continued impunity of those who exacted forced labour. As regards the court case in which certain persons had been sentenced to death for high treason, including on the basis of contacts with the ILO, the Governing Body, while recognizing that the latest judgement by the Supreme Court did answer the fundamental question of the legality of contacts with the ILO, expressed regret at the continued detention of the persons concerned when their guilt had not been established, and called for their immediate release or pardon. A majority of the Governing Body was of the opinion that under the circumstances the reactivation of the measures to be taken under article 33 in accordance with the Conference resolution of 2000 would be fully justified. However, it was considered that in particular because of the sudden replacement of the previous interlocutors of the Organization following changes which had occurred among the Myanmar leadership, an evaluation at the highest political level of the current attitude of the authorities and their determination to effectively address the continuing practice of forced labour was justified. The Director-General was therefore requested to field a "very High-Level Team" to make such a determination, and report the results to the next session of the Governing Body so that it would then be able to determine the necessary consequences on the basis of full knowledge either as regards further action by the Organization under article 33, or for the implementation of the joint Plan of Action. In addition, the Office was requested to provide in March 2005 further information on the actions taken on the basis of the 2000 resolution.

Accordingly, the Director-General constituted a very High-Level Team (vHLT) comprising Sir Ninian Stephen (former Governor-General of Australia); Ms. Ruth Dreifuss (former Federal Councillor and former President of the Swiss Confederation); and Mr. Eui-yong Chung (former Chairperson of the Governing Body, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Uri Party). The vHLT arrived in Myanmar on 21 February 2005. On 23 February, having failed to secure the necessary meetings at the highest level in order to complete its mandate, and having had discussions and made its views known to the Minister for Labour and the Prime Minister, the vHLT decided to leave the country. It handed over to the

---

Minister for Foreign Affairs a statement to this effect, attached to which was an informal aide-memoire setting out the main concrete steps on which it believed progress should be made. It insisted that despite its early departure, the door was still open for further developments.

In March 2005, the Governing Body had before it a report on further action taken pursuant to the 2000 resolution of the International Labour Conference, a report from the Liaison Officer a.i. on his activities together with an addendum setting out the latest developments, and the report of the vHLT. In its consensus conclusions, the Governing Body noted that the most largely shared sentiment was one of condemnation over the failure of the highest authorities to take advantage of the unique opportunity that the visit of the vHLT represented to resume a credible dialogue on the issues of concern, and also the feelings of grave concern over the general situation that this revealed. Although there were indications from the Prime Minister and comments from the Myanmar Ambassador alleging that the necessary political will existed, the credibility of this message and the usefulness of the ILO's present approach had been cast into grave doubt by other indications, including the attitude towards the vHLT. Although some concrete developments appeared to go in the right direction, in particular the prosecutions and punishment of authorities responsible for having recourse to forced labour as well as the establishment of a focal point in the army, in the circumstances the overall assessment fell far short of the Governing Body's expectations. The Governing Body noted the growing feeling that the "wait-and-see" attitude that prevailed among members since 2001 appeared to have lost its *raison d'être* and could not continue. It therefore unanimously agreed to transmit its conclusions to all those to whom the 2000 resolution was addressed – including relevant agencies – with a view to their taking the appropriate action. At the same time, it noted that the ILO was not closing the door to a resumption of positive dialogue with the Myanmar authorities and that any concrete developments should be taken objectively into account by members when deciding on the action they would take. Progress with regard to the strengthening of the ILO presence as well as the other items covered by the vHLT's aide-memoire, including the immediate release of Uhwe Mahn, convicted of high treason, should be a concrete test in this regard.

***Observance by the Republic of Belarus 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)***

In November 2004, the Governing Body took note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry established to examine the complaint concerning the observance by the Republic of Belarus 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), submitted under article 26 of the Constitution by a number of Workers' delegates to the June 2003 session of the International Labour Conference. At the same session, the Governing Body approved the Commission's suggestion that the implementation of its recommendations be followed up by the Committee on Freedom of Association.

---

## ***Observance by the Government of Venezuela 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)***

In November 2004, the Governing Body requested the Government of Venezuela to send its observations on the complaint submitted under article 26 of the Constitution of the ILO by a number of Employers' delegates in June 2004 on non-observance 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), and asked the Committee on Freedom of Association to examine the situation to enable the Governing Body to consider whether the complaint should be submitted to a commission of inquiry.

In March 2005, the Committee on Freedom of Association was unable to examine the situation or formulate recommendations to the Governing Body because the Employer members present at its meeting had signed the complaint in question. The Governing Body thus decided that the complaint should be sent back to the Committee on Freedom of Association once its members had been renewed in June, so that it could be examined in November 2005.

### **Representations under article 24 of the ILO Constitution**

Further to the recommendations of its Officers, the Governing Body decided, in June 2004, that a representation concerning Cuba (Conventions Nos. 95 and 96) was not receivable and in March 2005, it declared receivable a representation concerning Chile (Conventions Nos. 35 and 37) but decided to postpone to its June 2005 session the decision to set up a committee to examine it.

In March 2005, the Governing Body adopted the report and recommendations of the committee it had set up to examine a representation concerning Uruguay (Convention No. 155).

### **Freedom of association**

The Committee on Freedom of Association received a large number of complaints concerning trade union rights and collective bargaining, and examined over 180 cases between May 2004 and March 2005. During the period under examination some progress had been seen as in previous years, such as the release of detained trade unionists, the registration of trade unions, and the reinstatement of trade union leaders and trade unionists dismissed on the grounds of their trade union affiliation or activities.

### **Improvements in the ILO's standards-related activities**

#### ***Progress report***

In March 2005, the Governing Body examined a document setting forth the principal developments and results obtained in respect of standards-related activities since 1994 for the purpose of carrying out an evaluation of progress achieved and to determine the need for and nature of possible further action to be carried out in this area. The document reported on the results of the campaign to promote the ILO's core Conventions; the 1998

---

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up; the conclusions of the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards; the integrated approach to standards-related activities; the preparation of important new instruments, including the consolidation of maritime instruments; and the examination of a certain number of standards-related procedures. The Governing Body invited the Director-General to launch, on a priority basis, a campaign to promote the ratification or acceptance of the Instrument for Amendment of the Constitution of the ILO, 1997. It also invited the Office to prepare for its 294th Session (November 2005) a new document on improvements to standards-related activities setting forth the outline of a future strategic direction for standards and the implementation of standards-related policies and procedures. In view of the usefulness of the information contained in the document submitted in March 2005, it was thought that it should be redistributed in November.

### ***Implementation of the obligation of submission to competent authorities (article 19 of the Constitution)***

In November 2004, the Governing Body examined a revised text of the *Memorandum concerning the obligation to submit Conventions and Recommendations to the competent authorities*.<sup>6</sup> The Memorandum was adopted by the Governing Body in 1954 and revised in 1958 and 1980; it is sent by the Director-General to the governments of member States when communicating, with a view to submission to competent authorities, the texts of new instruments adopted by the Conference. A new version of the Memorandum reflecting the views expressed and amendments proposed during the discussions was examined by the Governing Body in March 2005<sup>7</sup> and adopted with certain amendments.<sup>8</sup> The revised Memorandum reflects recent developments in the observations of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations concerning the obligation of submission to the competent authorities, in particular the increased importance attached by the Committee to informing national assemblies. In addition, two new sections have been added to the Memorandum, one explaining the aims and objectives of the obligation of submission to the competent authorities, the other recalling the importance of tripartite consultations as part of the submission procedure, in the light of the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), and the Tripartite Consultation (Activities of the International Labour Organisation) Recommendation, 1976 (No. 152).

### ***The representation procedure under articles 24 and 25 of the ILO Constitution***

The representation procedure under articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution is governed by the Standing Orders adopted by the Governing Body in 1932 and last revised in 1980. Since 1998, the Governing Body has considered improvements to this procedure on three occasions. In November 2004, it examined the three issues on which a consensus had been reached, namely: the notion of “industrial association” used in article 24 of the Constitution; the issue of prescription; and ways of avoiding repetitive representations concerning the same facts or based on the same allegations.<sup>9</sup> The Governing Body adopted an Introductory Note to the *Standing Orders concerning the procedure for the examination of representations under articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation*, which clarifies certain aspects of the procedure as a whole, including the notion of industrial association of employers or workers and the question of prescription, and an amendment to article 3 of the Standing Orders.<sup>10</sup> As a result of that amendment, in the case of any additional representation on a given subject that is submitted before the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has had an opportunity to examine the follow-up measures adopted by the government concerned,



---

it will be possible to postpone the appointment of the tripartite committee set up to examine the representation pending the report of the Committee of Experts.

## **Follow-up of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), and arrangements and procedures under Article 5, paragraphs 6-8, of the Convention**

The Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), came into effect on 9 February 2005. In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, in March 2005 the Governing Body adopted "Arrangements concerning the list of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements concerning processes and procedures for the issue of seafarers' identity documents". These arrangements are designed to ensure that: there is a reliable, up-to-date list of Members meeting minimum requirements to ensure that seafarers' identity documents ("SIDs") are issued only to persons entitled to them and are not misappropriated; flaws in a Member's issuance system are promptly identified; the position of Members which are not on the approved list or which it is proposed to exclude from the proposed list are considered fairly, impartially and promptly; and this international overview does not involve significant costs.

In line with the resolution concerning technical cooperation, which the International Labour Conference adopted at the same time as Convention No. 185, the Office continued its work with respect to the testing of biometric products for compliance with the requirements of the Convention. In March 2005, the Governing Body took note of the three products that are now included on the ILO list as meeting the requirements of Convention No. 185 and the ILO SID-0002 standard.

## **ILO action concerning discrimination in employment and occupation**

As in previous years, at its March 2005 session, the Governing Body had before it a general status report on ILO action concerning discrimination in employment. The report contained an overview of the ILO's activities during 2004 promoting these standards and instruments, highlighting selected examples of such activities and their impact.

## **Draft consolidated maritime labour Convention: Progress report**

In March 2005, the Governing Body decided that the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference to adopt a consolidated maritime labour Convention replacing almost all the existing maritime labour instruments should take place in February 2006, in Geneva. This session had previously been scheduled for 2005, but had to be postponed to 2006 for budgetary reasons.

The report, including a draft Convention, which will be prepared by the Office, is – in accordance with the Conference Standing Orders – to be drawn up on the basis of the work of a Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference (PTMC), held in Geneva from 13 to 24 September 2004. However, the PTMC had not had time to resolve several points at issue, or to consider proposed amendments, in this very lengthy text. The PTMC accordingly adopted resolutions for an intersessional meeting to be held at no cost to the ILO, to address the unresolved issues and the proposals for amendments. It also set up a small intersessional drafting group. In addition, the PTMC adopted resolutions stressing

---

the need for tripartite representation on delegations to conferences as well as for technical cooperation and support to Members to assist in the implementation of the maritime labour Convention, once it is adopted.

The Intersessional Meeting called for in the resolutions, and subsequently endorsed by the Governing Body in November 2004, took place from 21 to 27 April 2005 in Geneva. Tripartite consensus was reached on all the outstanding issues except for a few items, such as the conditions for entry into force of the Convention, which the Meeting felt could more conveniently be left to the Maritime Session itself. The Office's report to the Maritime Session will reflect this tripartite consensus. It will also provide a summary of additional comments which all constituents will be invited to make (in accordance with the PTMC resolution concerned) with respect to the previously unresolved provisions that were the subject of consensus in the April 2005 Meeting.

## **Practices for the preparation of international labour Conventions: Handbook on good drafting practices**

In March 2005, the Governing Body took note of the document entitled *Manual for drafting ILO instruments* prepared by the Office of Legal Services and reviewed by a tripartite committee of experts.<sup>11</sup> This manual, which is not binding, is intended to facilitate the work of preparing instruments, for delegates and the officials involved, and to help standardize the drafting of such texts. The Governing Body has requested the Office to adapt the reference version in order to allow the different target audiences to use it easily, and to keep it informed of any measures adopted for that purpose.

## **IV. Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization**

### **Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization: Follow-up**

In the year and a half since its release, the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization has received widespread attention in over 70 events at the international level, as well as at regional and national levels the world over. At the international level, the most significant endorsement of the report came in the adoption of a United Nations General Assembly resolution in December 2004. The resolution noted the report's contribution towards a "fully inclusive and equitable globalization" and requested that the Secretary-General take the report into account in his own report to follow up on the Millennium Summit in September 2005. Prior to the resolution, the report had been presented by the Commission's Co-Chairpersons, President Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania and President Halonen of Finland, on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2004. The Presidents of France and Brazil, along with the President of the General Assembly and the United Nations Secretary-General, urged that the United Nations begin discussions on "A fair globalization: Implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration" at a meeting in which 20 other Heads of State participated.

The report's analysis and recommendations have been favourably received by the international financial community as well. The Director-General presented the report to the Ministerial Meeting of the G-24 Finance Ministers, who subsequently welcomed the report in their statement to the annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions in October 2004. The Director-General also presented the report's conclusions to the finance ministers

---

of the African Union at their meeting in August 2004. A particularly strong endorsement of the report was made in Ouagadougou at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Reduction in Africa, where in the final communiqué the report's recommendations were recognized as a framework for action. The OECD's recently published study of trade and structural adjustment endorsed the World Commission's finding that improved working conditions contributed importantly to growth and development.

At the regional level, support for the World Commission's work was expressed in the conclusions of the European Council of Heads of Government in December 2004, as well as in the institutions of the European Union itself, including the European Commission, whose Social Agenda for 2005-10 endorsed the promotion of decent work as a global goal, and in the EU's Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. Symposia and policy dialogues to present the report have been organized in many countries, including Argentina, Chile, France, Germany, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania. In France, the Economic and Social Council examined the report at the request of the Prime Minister. In an extensive publication on the report, the Council unanimously voiced its support and suggested a number of ways in which the report's recommendations could be followed up in France.

Many of the events at the national level have been tripartite in nature. The ILO's constituents have also been active in promoting awareness of the report. A series of seminars on the social dimension of globalization was organized at the World Social Forum in January 2005. The report was also discussed at the IOE General Council in June 2004. The Director-General was invited to address the Confederation of Indian Employers and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the report in November 2004. At the 18th World Congress of the ICFTU in Japan, the report's focus on globalization, decent work and sustainable development was welcomed in the presence of the report's Co-Chairpersons and the Director-General.

### **Statement by Mr. Vladimir Spidla, European Union Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities**

Mr. Spidla addressed the Working Party in March 2005. Introducing him, the Director-General noted the growing convergence between the agendas of the EU and the ILO. Mr. Spidla elaborated on these points, emphasizing that the ILO had a vital role to play in the global political dialogue that was seeking to forge partnerships for greater policy coherence within the multilateral system. Arguing that the confidence of citizens depended on the decision-makers' capacity to reduce the stark inequalities which inadequate global governance of globalization had in part created, he noted that the EU's Council of Ministers had given its full support to the World Commission's efforts to reinforce the social dimension of globalization, and pointed out that the EU embedded a social dimension in its bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The European approach was founded on two main principles which were consistent with the promotion of decent work as a global goal: the need to focus on growth and quality employment, which underlay the revision of the Lisbon strategy; and the effort to modernize social policy through the new European Social Agenda. The Agenda and the ILO's promotion of decent work for all converged in four ways: the need to roll back the informal economy and support the Doha development agenda; the promotion of youth employment; the promotion of fundamental rights and dignity at work; and the continued necessity to combat discrimination. Mr. Spidla held that to achieve these objectives partnerships for a fairer globalization needed to be constructed. Accordingly, he gave his full support to the ILO's follow-up of the World Commission's report.

---

## **Strengthening the social dimension of globalization: The next steps**

### ***Policy coherence initiative (PCI)***

The Working Party as a whole agreed in March 2005 that the ILO should strengthen its partnership with the other agencies of the multilateral system, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, within the respective mandates of each institution. The Working Party was pleased that the first PCI on growth, investment and employment had been progressing with a relatively modest impact on the Office's human and limited budgetary resources. Many of its members wished for additional information on the progress of the PCI. Some Government delegations called for enhanced government involvement in the initiative, while Employer members emphasized that the need for policy coherence remained greatest at the national level. The Working Party encouraged the Office to pursue its efforts on this first PCI, and some members noted that other topics for PCIs were also relevant.

### ***Policy development dialogues (PDDs)***

The policy development dialogues (PDDs) were proposed in the World Commission report as mechanisms for addressing existing policy gaps. The Working Party gave its support to the development of such mechanisms. Worker members noted that the theme of export processing zones would be a relevant topic, as well as the issue of migration. Government representatives felt that the theme of an integrated approach to decent work was promising and that PDDs should be clearly focused on the world of work, including issues relating to migration or to the informal economy. Several members held that the theme of trade policy change in the garment and textile industries was an important one for dialogue.

### ***Globalization policy forum (GPF)***

The Working Party's discussion of a possible GPF revealed that Worker members and many Government representatives were supportive of the idea. Several African Government representatives in particular voiced their support, with one of them stating that a GPF was very much an implied outcome of the Ouagadougou Summit, while another emphasized the need for a GPF to address issues that no country could tackle alone, such as human trafficking. Employer members, however, reiterated in March their point of view expressed at the November 2004 session, that they did not support the proposal for a GPF. Their concerns were based on cost factors and on the relevance of the diverse points of view of those who would be likely to attend. If the Office were to pursue the concept, it should be on the basis of a scaled-back event with very concrete terms of reference which could be examined in November 2005 by the Working Party. Worker members, while voicing their support for a GPF, nonetheless queried how a one-off event could adequately address the concerns of workers and their families. It might be best to set the stage by assembling a group of experts chosen on a tripartite basis to examine the issues relating to globalization at several national levels.

There was a clear consensus in the Working Party on the promotion of decent work as a global goal as the ILO's distinctive contribution to a fairer globalization. The next steps will be for the Office to put forward more concrete proposals in November 2005 on each of the three above mechanisms, taking due account of the March 2005 discussion, and present preliminary reflections on the theme of growth, investment and employment.

---

## **V. Employment and social policy**

### **Implementation of the Global Employment Agenda**

The Committee on Employment and Social Policy discussed the implementation of the Global Employment Agenda (GEA) in November 2004 and March 2005. The focus of the papers before the Committee was on the contribution of the GEA to countries' efforts in placing employment as a central goal in economic and social policy-making. In November 2004, a strong interest was expressed in hearing first-hand country experiences and in March 2005, high-level policy-makers and the social partners from Argentina and Ghana addressed and interacted with the Committee on their efforts to promote decent employment and how the GEA as the employment pillar of decent work had been incorporated in their policy-making framework. The Committee welcomed this direct interaction with the tripartite partners of these countries and asked the Office to continue this dialogue by inviting countries from different regions as an important means of learning from national experiences in promoting decent employment. The Committee also emphasized the importance of the regional and global dimensions of the GEA. In this context it appreciated the support provided by the ILO, drawing upon the framework and main elements of the GEA, to the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation<sup>12</sup> in Africa held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in September 2004 and in the planned follow-up to the implementation at the national and regional levels of the 11-point Plan of Action adopted at the Summit.

### **The minimum wage: Catalyst for social dialogue or economic policy instrument**

In November 2003, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy had requested the Office to focus and strengthen its efforts on the role of minimum wages, with particular emphasis on developing countries. The paper<sup>13</sup> submitted to the Committee in November 2004 provided an overview of the procedures and criteria of adjustment of minimum wage policies around the world before examining the effect of such policies on poverty, wage inequality, inflation and public deficit, and employment level. The Committee welcomed the emphasis on the diversity of national situations and the examples of minimum wage levels provided worldwide, and provided guidance on the Office's future work, such as the role of the minimum wage in the informal economy.

### **Trade, foreign investment and productive employment in developing countries**

In March 2004, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy requested the Office to prepare a paper on the current state of knowledge on the effects of trade and foreign direct investment on employment in developing countries. Accordingly, the Office presented a paper in November 2004, which reviewed the results of research on the subject at the ILO and outside and also considered the implications for future policy at national and international levels. The Committee expressed appreciation for the paper and was in broad agreement with the ideas for future policy noted therein. The Committee also identified some important knowledge gaps and recommended areas for the Office's future research and advocacy work, such as the possible employment and labour market effects of trade liberalization in agricultural products and in services, currently being negotiated under the Doha Round. The Committee also strongly urged the Office to use the results of research in its advisory services and technical assistance programmes to assist member

---

States in developing policies and programmes needed to ensure that the employment and labour market effects of trade liberalization and foreign direct investment were beneficial.

## **Macroeconomic policy for growth and employment**

In November 2004, the Office submitted to the Committee on Employment and Social Policy a paper on “Macroeconomic policy for growth and employment”,<sup>14</sup> one of the ten core elements of the Global Employment Agenda (GEA). The paper pointed out that the design of a macroeconomic policy framework and the choice of policy tools entailed trade-offs between competing objectives, and reviewed the debates over their effects on stability, growth and employment. While some of these trade-offs could not be ruled out, the paper contended that there must be a persistent quest for pragmatism and policy coherence, and that a macroeconomic policy framework ought to set macroeconomic targets that were feasible and flexible within the bounds of alternative growth and employment scenarios.

As had been the case in the course of a preliminary review of the GEA in March 2003, divergent views on what constituted an appropriate macroeconomic policy design for employment, and what the role of the ILO should be in this field.

The Employers’ group found the ILO’s role here somewhat controversial, urging that instead of devoting more resources to research, it would be more useful to support employers’ and workers’ organizations to participate more effectively in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers process. The Workers’ group, on the other hand, maintained that the ILO had a clear mandate and responsibility to participate in macro policy discussion, especially with regard to generating greater fiscal space for growth and employment. The Committee in general underlined the need for continued ILO involvement in the debates on macroeconomic policies, especially with regard to their employment consequences.

## **Tripartite Meeting on Youth Employment: The Way Forward (Geneva, 13-15 October 2004)**

The Tripartite Meeting on Youth Employment: The Way Forward, held from 13 to 15 October 2004, examined a report which reviewed the current debate on youth employment in the context of the Decent Work Agenda, the Global Employment Agenda, and the recommendations of the High-Level Panel of the Youth Employment Network, and reviewed national-level initiatives to promote youth employment. The Meeting unanimously adopted a set of conclusions for action at the national level and for ILO action, pending a more comprehensive discussion of these issues at the 93rd Session (June 2005) of the International Labour Conference.

## **World Employment Report 2004-05**

In March 2005, the Office presented the *World Employment Report 2004-05* (WER) to the Committee on Employment and Social Policy. The main aim of the WER is to explore evidence related to the impact of productivity performance on both employment growth and poverty reduction. The report found that there were trade-offs to be made in striking the right policy balance between employment and income growth, and between productivity growth and poverty reduction. It argued that the focus needed to be on the parts of the economy where the majority of people worked – such as agriculture, small-scale activities in the urban and rural informal economy, and services and manufacturing. The report concluded that bridging the “global productivity divide” was an important

---

channel towards achieving the “fair globalization” called for by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, as well as the chief means towards the reduction of poverty.

During the discussion of the WER, several members of the Committee expressed disappointment that consultation with regard to the content of the WER had not taken place at an earlier stage. The Employers’ group requested that the Office strengthen its advisory role to developing countries, with a particular emphasis on the agricultural sector and on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Workers’ group stated that the report did not deal adequately with distributional issues or policies aimed at enhancing the long-term relationship between productivity improvements, economic growth, employment growth and poverty reduction. The Committee expressed interest in further pursuing several aspects of the report, including examining productivity from a multifactor perspective; encouraging dialogue related to the flexibility-stability debate; exploring the role of active labour market policies in employment generation; and promoting labour-intensive investment, improvements in human capital and the expansion of decent and productive work.

## **Microfinance and decent work**

In March 2005, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy discussed a document on microfinance and decent work,<sup>15</sup> which stressed the ILO’s comparative advantages in the field of microfinance. The Workers’ group expressed the wish to see the Office strengthen its work in this field, especially on microfinance in the context of collective bargaining, on wage guarantee schemes and remittances by migrant workers. The ILO should advise and guide policy-makers to bring out the positive, empowering side of microfinance, including aspects related to the reduction of transaction costs for the working poor. The Office should also make a tangible effort to empower trade unions in the field of social finance and build and strengthen their capacity.

The Employers’ group recommended that the Office contribute particularly in the field of governance to ensure that microfinance programmes were set up appropriately and operated transparently. If appropriate structures existed, the funding of microfinance programmes would be assured by national or international donors. It was suggested that specific proposals be submitted to the Committee in November 2005.

The Government representatives, speaking on behalf of the regional groups, all emphasized the importance of microfinance for generating and maintaining incomes and reducing vulnerability. As several recent regional conferences of labour ministers had showed, there was growing evidence that microfinance contributed to all ILO strategic objectives as well as to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It was a catalyst for social transformation, assisting self-help organizations to emerge, and empowering women. In particular microfinance was a bridge to help informal sector operators get out of informality. Building constituents’ capacities was key to ensuring high-quality and professional advisory and other services by the social partners to their members as regards access to finance and financial policies.

The 2003 Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP) peer review of microfinance in the ILO had called for a shared vision on pro-poor financial services and more internal coherence through a strengthened focal point. This had subsequently been endorsed by an Office internal task force. In the light of this the Committee felt that it was timely and necessary to lay out the ILO’s policy on microfinance: spelling out missions, goals, the link to decent work and the instruments to translate the policy into concrete services to constituents. It therefore requested that a drafting group prepare a text for a

---

draft policy statement to be discussed and adopted by the Governing Body in November 2005.

### **Promoting technological change for higher productivity, job creation and improved standards of living**

In March 2005, the Office presented to the Committee on Employment and Social Policy a paper on “Promoting technological change for higher productivity, job creation and improved standards of living”,<sup>16</sup> one of the core elements of the Global Employment Agenda (GEA). The paper dealt explicitly with technology and the labour market, stressing that benefits of technology and globalization, such as the generation of new employment opportunities and productivity growth, were not automatic, but rather required a sound institutional framework, strong social dialogue, and the promotion of workers’ education and skills.

The Office requested guidance related to the paper, specifically with regard to the future direction of the Office’s work on the topic. The Workers’ group emphasized the need for subsequent work on health-related issues as these related to technology diffusion and advances and requested that the Office play an active role in shaping the elements of an information and communication technologies (ICT) Marshall Plan in order to achieve some of the GEA goals in the context of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). In addition, more work was requested to examine the social dimension of technology and globalization, particularly with regard to increasing insecurity felt by workers in developed countries caused by outsourcing, the need to promote fair labour conditions, such as rights to organize and bargain collectively, and the process to determine appropriate wages. The Employers’ group agreed that technology was the driving force of the future economy, but both developed and developing countries benefited from technology and “global sourcing” in terms of employment creation.

### **Implementation of the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health as adopted at the 91st Session (2003) of the International Labour Conference**

In November 2004, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy acknowledged the progress which had been made in the implementation of the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health covering advocacy, standards, technical cooperation, knowledge management, and international cooperation. The Committee took note of the successful organization of the 2004 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, with activities in over 110 countries. The initiatives for free Internet access to occupational safety and health (OSH) information including the ILO *Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety* were welcomed. The publication of the 2005 International Labour Conference Report IV(1) as the first step for the development of a new instrument on a promotional framework for occupational safety and health was noted. The progress in the formulation of national OSH programmes as well as the implementation of OSH management systems based on the ILO *Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems* (ILO-OSH 2001) was discussed.

### **HIV/AIDS and employment**

In March 2005, the Office submitted a paper on HIV/AIDS<sup>17</sup> to the Committee on Employment and Social Policy, which included an overview of the ILO’s engagement in



---

addressing the employment impact of HIV/AIDS on the four fronts of advocacy; advisory services; education and training programmes; and research and policy analysis. The ILO was pressing for employment growth to be at the centre of national strategies to respond to HIV/AIDS in order to address both the structural causes of the epidemic linked to poverty and the epidemic's effects on achieving sustainable development. Employment growth that included disadvantaged groups such as migrants, youth and women could help mitigate the impact of the epidemic while serving the goal of poverty eradication; employment growth strategies should therefore take account of the value added of addressing the specific implications of HIV/AIDS.

During the discussion, the ILO was requested to: continue to consider the HIV/AIDS epidemic against its broad social impact and implications; pursue collaboration with the other UNAIDS co-sponsors, including UNICEF and WHO; carry on with the approach to mainstream its response to the epidemic, for which a review may become timely; and maintain and assess efforts to combat discrimination and set standards through, for example, the continued dissemination of the ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, already translated into nearly 50 languages. Employer and worker members also drew attention to specific examples of good practices and looked forward to a growing number of partnerships and to the further involvement of the social partners.

## **ILO response to the earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean**

In March 2005, the Governing Body observed a minute of silence to pay tribute to the victims of the tsunami disaster and express its solidarity with the countries affected. It took note of the immediate action undertaken by the ILO in coordination with its subregional and field offices in Asia in response to the dramatic consequences of the Indian Ocean tsunami and earthquake. As reported in a paper<sup>18</sup> prepared by the Office, the ILO worked on the ground for early recovery and reconstruction, providing its services and advice to all actors on job creation, local economic development and social protection – activities all needed to achieve an employment-sensitive recovery and recreate a productive, virtuous circle for decent work. Working as part of the overall United Nations integrated approach, the ILO has played a key role in the definition of the type of relief and reconstruction to be provided.

ILO action, which focused on the revival of local economies and the restoration of livelihoods, launched programmes aimed at boosting new entrepreneurship and employability of the tsunami-affected populations. It also addressed the needs of the most vulnerable against discrimination and abuse and implemented action programmes to avoid forced labour and the exploitation of children. The ILO strategy followed a two-pronged approach, advocating employment-intensive strategies for the early recovery phase and providing policy advice while initiating projects on the ground in selected technical areas. The engagement of the ILO, which will continue during the full recovery and reconstruction phase, was planned and coordinated during the critical relief phase. ILO constituents and partner agencies have recognized this essential role and its uniqueness.

---

## **VI. Multinational enterprises**

### **Promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy**

#### ***Activities report for 2004***

In March 2005, the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises discussed a paper entitled “Promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy: Activities report for 2004”,<sup>19</sup> which outlined the activities carried out by the Office in 2004 to enhance awareness of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration). These included participation by the Office in a wide range of country-level and international meetings on corporate social responsibility issues organized by other bodies; publication of two working papers; collaboration with the InFocus Programme on Social Dialogue in the organization of a tripartite seminar in Azerbaijan; and organization of an information campaign in Italy and Tunisia to promote the MNE Declaration, the Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The Office also strengthened cooperation with other international organizations in the area of corporate social responsibility, in particular with the United Nations Global Compact, the European Union, the World Bank, the OECD, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In this regard, the Subcommittee recommended that the Governing Body express its satisfaction with the work undertaken by the Office that resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the ISO concerning its work in the area of social responsibility and request the Office to communicate its concern to the United Nations Secretariat about the Global Compact’s endorsement of the decision by the ISO to develop a standard in the area of social responsibility before negotiations between the ILO and the ISO on this matter had been concluded; it further requested that the Governing Body enter into discussions with the Global Compact Office to ensure that no further Global Compact inter-agency statements were issued in this context without the ILO’s agreement.

The Subcommittee also recommended that the Governing Body request the Office to remind the OHCHR of the importance of recognizing the ILO’s constituents as the legitimate representatives of employers and workers worldwide in the context of its consultation process on the subject of business and human rights.

#### ***Plan of action for 2005-07***

In March 2005, the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises discussed a paper entitled “Promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy: Plan of action for 2005-07”.<sup>20</sup> It covered the following activities: organization of subregional tripartite symposia in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries; development of a CD-ROM containing information on the MNE Declaration and other relevant activities of the Office, as well as good practice examples; publication of working papers on employment in multinational enterprises, smaller multinational enterprises in Germany, Italy and Japan, case studies and good practice examples in the different areas covered by the MNE Declaration; and organization of an international conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the MNE Declaration in 2007. The Subcommittee

---

welcomed this proposal and recommended that the Governing Body request the Office to include in its proposals for use of the Technical Meetings Reserve in 2006-07 a proposal to organize a forum on corporate social responsibility on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the MNE Declaration.

During 2005, the Office would, in particular, work on the analysis of the replies to the eighth survey on the effect given to the MNE Declaration. The Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises approved the establishment of a working group composed of its Officers to prepare this analysis.

The Subcommittee further recommended that the Governing Body request the Office to assign responsibility for the coordination of its work in the area of corporate social responsibility to the Employment Sector and to ensure that the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises was regularly informed and consulted on the Office's work in this area.

### **Follow-up to the Symposium on the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and related multilateral initiatives**

In November 2004, the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises discussed a paper entitled "Follow-up to the Symposium on the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and related multilateral initiatives".<sup>21</sup> It provided the Subcommittee with the necessary background information on the instruments and activities of the international organizations that had participated in the Symposium held in November 2003, and to indicate possible avenues for closer cooperation. As agreed by the Governing Body in March 2004, representatives of those international organizations attended the November 2004 session as observers. They informed the members of the Subcommittee of the activities they were carrying out in the field of corporate social responsibility and reiterated their willingness to coordinate efforts with the ILO as regards research and promotional activities in that area, in particular at the country level.

### **Composition of the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises**

The Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises recommended that the Governing Body, when deciding on the functioning and size of its committees for the period 2005-08, establish a Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises with a membership of eight titular and eight substitute members from each of the three groups. This expansion of its membership is aimed at enabling more host countries of multinational enterprises to participate in the discussions of the Subcommittee.<sup>22</sup>

## **VII. Sectoral activities**

### **Sectoral meetings in 2004-05**

In November 2004 and March 2005, the Governing Body took note of the reports of various sectoral and technical meetings and endorsed the recommendations adopted by them.<sup>23</sup> At these sessions, the Governing Body also took note of the reports of various

---

joint bodies convened in the framework of the sectoral activities programme and authorized their distribution to member States where relevant.<sup>24</sup>

## **Update on action programmes in 2004-05**

In November 2004, the Governing Body took note of the progress made in implementing the action programmes. Despite delays, steering groups were operating and concrete activities had begun in at least three programmes (agriculture, construction and textiles, clothing and footwear) and in certain components of the cross-sectoral HIV/AIDS programme (i.e. education, health and transport). Firm timelines for the first meetings of the majority of national steering groups (NSGs) had been tabled in at least two other action programmes (education, and hotels, catering and tourism) with sufficient advance planning in some cases to implement rapidly action plans decided at such meetings. One programme (financial services) had experienced the most difficulties in securing the necessary commitment by governments and social partners to its agreed methodology.

## **Proposals for activities in 2006-07**

In March 2005, the Governing Body decided to: continue in 2006-07 whatever current action programmes would be recommended by the sectoral steering groups when they met in September; initiate three new action programmes on the supply side of international migration of health service workers, telecommunication services, and the promotion and strengthening of social dialogue in the public service and public service reform in a changing environment; hold two tripartite meetings of experts to examine instruments, knowledge, advocacy, technical cooperation and international collaboration as tools with a view to developing a policy framework for hazardous substances and to revise the 1984 code of practice on safety and health in coalmines; and hold two tripartite meetings on the labour and social issues affected by problems of cross-border mobility of international drivers in the road transport sector and on commerce. The nature of the activities in two remaining sectors – mechanical and electrical engineering and the food and drink industry – would be decided later.

## **Proposed Meeting on Promoting Fair Globalization in Textiles and Clothing in a Post-Multifibre Agreement Environment**

In March 2005, the Governing Body also approved, in response to a request, the holding of a meeting to make a rapid assessment of the impact of the phase-out of quotas and focus on the elaboration of appropriate strategies that could be adopted, as on similar occasions in the past. Since these strategies would need to be implemented at the national level, the Office suggested participation of national tripartite delegations.

## **VIII. Technical cooperation**

### **The ILO's technical cooperation programme for 2003-04**

In November 2004, the Committee on Technical Cooperation was informed about the manner in which ILO technical cooperation was evolving in the context of a broader effort by the international community to improve the outreach and focus of development

---

cooperation. The Committee was provided with statistics pertaining to trends and implementation of ILO technical cooperation during 2003-04. Total expenditure in 2003 had been US\$138 million compared to US\$121.7 million in 2001. Funding from the United Nations system continued to decline while funding from multi-bilateral and trust funds continued to rise. Delivery rates increased from 64 per cent in 2002 to 69 per cent in 2003. The Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Sector had the highest expenditures, followed by the Employment Sector, the Social Dialogue Sector and the Social Protection Sector. The African region continued to receive the highest proportion of expenditures, followed by the Asia and Pacific region, the Americas, Europe and the Arab States.

### **Special technical cooperation programme for Colombia**

The Governing Body regularly examined progress achieved in the implementation of the special technical cooperation programme for Colombia. Further to the decision of the Officers of the Governing Body that progress in the programme should be examined by the Committee on Technical Cooperation, in March 2005, the members of the Committee, and subsequently those of the Governing Body itself, stressed the importance of the special technical cooperation programme for Colombia, and supported the reinforcement and maintenance of activities aimed at improving industrial relations and respect of freedom of association and collective bargaining. They requested the Office to examine means of funding the programme, and called on governments, especially the United States Government whose important contribution through its USDOL project was unanimously recognized to consider possible ways of contributing to sustaining the programme. While stressing the efforts made by the Office and the results obtained, they were concerned at the massive dismissals of workers in retribution for their attempts to defend their rights. Severe restrictions had been imposed on the rights to organize, to bargain collectively and to strike. This necessitated renewed efforts by the ILO and the international community to put pressure on the Colombian Government, if the trade union movement was to survive in the country.

It was also stressed that there had as yet been no success in finding and punishing persons guilty of crimes against trade unionists and directors of enterprises, and the Government of Colombia was called on to take all the measures required to bring these criminals to justice. Finally, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to maintain the special technical cooperation programme for Colombia by all necessary means, and in particular by strengthening social dialogue, improving labour relations and promoting freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; to implement an effective resource mobilization strategy in order to continue and strengthen the programme, and to keep the Governing Body regularly informed on the implementation of the programme and on results achieved.

### **Enhanced Programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories**

In November 2004, the Governing Body examined a progress report<sup>25</sup> on the activities undertaken by the ILO under this programme. As reflected in the paper, the ILO has pursued its long-running efforts in contributing to the achievement of socio-economic development in the conflict-stricken West Bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore, since the rising conflicts in 2001, an enhanced programme of technical cooperation has been implemented. It mainly centres on strengthening the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations and the Ministry of Labour, promoting social dialogue as a requirement to peace, and establishing the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection (the

---

Fund) as a future umbrella for the coordination of all financial and technical assistance for employment creation and income-generating programmes.

The establishment of the Fund has been given particular importance as an effective tool to face the rising problems of poverty and unemployment. To this end, and with financing from the 2000-01 cash surplus to launch the start-up activities, the Fund is expected to implement three core programmes which take into account existing activities, namely the *Community Infrastructure Development Programme*, the *Enterprise Development Programme*, and the *Human Resource Development Programme*. It will promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity within the framework of a coherent employment strategy. So far, and through its board of directors and the signing of the Grant Agreement with the Palestinian Authority, the Fund is now staffed and equipped, and is raising funds for the implementation of its programmes. Most recently, it has launched three projects whose activities are expected to be completed by December 2005. These include “Support for Palestinian small and medium enterprise development: Emergency assistance to EMPRETEC Palestine” (US\$139,000), “Vocational graduates job placement” (US\$134,000), and “Emergency assistance to employment generation and job placement programme” (US\$128,400).

ILO technical assistance to the occupied Arab territories has also included technical advisory services and capacity-building activities for employers’ and workers’ organizations and the Ministry of Labour which would enable them to better address the challenges facing the Palestinian people. Specifically, and with initial financing received from Saudi Arabia, a proposal has recently been formulated for the establishment of a vocational training centre in Ramallah. The proposal came as a response to a request made by the Ministry of Labour. The ILO has also provided technical assistance in legal aid counselling services to Palestinian workers employed in Israel, and made an assessment of the social security needs with a view to establishing the Palestinian Social Security Institute in the occupied Arab territories.

## **Office-wide implementation of the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue**

The follow-up to the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue, adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2002, is intended to increase the extent to which tripartism and social dialogue are mainstreamed throughout the Office and in its work. In response to a request made by the Committee on Technical Cooperation in November 2004, an internal review was undertaken and a paper produced to summarize the ongoing efforts by all ILO departments and field offices to mainstream social dialogue. The paper outlined the major strengths and weaknesses in the Office’s efforts to mainstream tripartism and social dialogue, providing suggestions on how such efforts could be improved.

The Committee on Technical Cooperation welcomed the document, noting that it provided a useful stocktaking exercise on a subject of great importance. Committee members recognized that while efforts had been made to involve the social partners in the work of the Office, there was a need to improve performance and overcome constraints in this regard. In view of the unique roles of ACTRAV and ACT/EMP in the Office, it was recommended to strengthen these bureaux. On the problem of weak institutions and lack of capacity of constituents, the Committee recommended that these problems be seen as opportunities to build capacity and prioritize activities. Addressing both internal and external obstacles to mainstream tripartism in the work of the Office was seen as a high priority, and one which would require significant efforts in both the regular and extra-budgetary work of the ILO. Particular importance was attached to the need to understand

---

better how to engage in effective consultations between technical departments and the bureaux.

## **Thematic evaluation report: Gender issues in technical cooperation**

The “Thematic evaluation report: Gender issues in technical cooperation”<sup>26</sup> presented to the Committee on Technical Cooperation in March 2005 was based on evaluation reports of 34 programmes and projects that made efforts to mainstream gender into the programme or project or that were “gender or women specific”. Overall the report found that while there were examples of genuine efforts to make projects more gender sensitive and integrate gender concerns throughout the project cycle, there were still too many projects that were gender blind.

Following the recommendation of the Committee on Technical Cooperation, the Governing Body requested<sup>27</sup> the Director-General to undertake the following activities within existing resource levels: work with constituents, donors and beneficiaries so that all future ILO technical cooperation programmes and projects systematically mainstreamed gender throughout the project cycle; work with donors so that all future ILO technical cooperation partnership agreements made specific provisions to guarantee and support gender mainstreaming in all the programmes included in the agreement; increase through technical cooperation the capacity of constituents and implementing partners to implement gender equality in the world of work.

## **Development cooperation: Donors’ perspective**

In November 2004, the Committee on Technical Cooperation heard an oral presentation from Ms. Alison Scott, senior social development adviser in the International Division of the Department for International Development (DFID, United Kingdom). Ms. Scott stressed that the ILO’s technical cooperation should link to national policy frameworks and should demonstrate how it was working within its own comparative advantage. The ILO was privileged with its unique tripartite structure, labour standards mandate and Decent Work Agenda, and its technical cooperation had an important part to play in supporting this role in development. She cautioned against the risk of fragmentation that could result from reliance on extra-budgetary funding and stressed the need for core funding, outside of the regular and extra-budgetary funds, and to link the strategic framework for technical cooperation and the overall ILO policy framework. Ms. Scott confirmed that DFID would continue to support the ILO both centrally and at the country level, providing core extra-budgetary funding.

## **On-the-spot review in Europe**

A tripartite review team, composed of three members of the Governing Body, undertook an on-the-spot review on two technical cooperation projects in Central and Eastern Europe. The team found both projects technically sound and of high quality and that their implementation had been smooth and on schedule. However, the team had reservations on the availability of time for the conduct of the review exercise (the review had overlapped with the European Regional Meeting) and suggested that the methodology needed to be re-examined.

---

## **The Committee on Technical Cooperation: Modalities for improved functioning**

During the November 2002 session of the Governing Body, the IMEC group presented a discussion paper on improving the functioning of the Committee on Technical Cooperation to the Officers of the Committee. Subsequently, the views of the Employers' and Workers' groups, as well as Governments through their regional coordinators, were requested.

The report<sup>28</sup> submitted to the Committee in March 2005 outlined the main issues addressed by the three groups and was intended to facilitate discussions and provide a basis for the Committee to agree on the specific changes to be introduced in the functioning of the Committee and their order of priority; indicate the measures that should be implemented immediately and over time, taking into consideration their feasibility and resource implications; and identify the changes that would require consideration in the broader context of the rules and procedures governing the functioning of the Governing Body and its committees. It was agreed that the necessary arrangements would be made in line with the decisions of the Committee; for example, committee sessions could be conducted in a more interactive way. It was pointed out, however, that some of the issues discussed and positions taken went beyond the scope of the Committee on Technical Cooperation and were to be examined in the larger perspective of the overall functioning of the Governing Body.

## **IX. Financial questions**

### **Programme implementation in 2004**

In March 2005, the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee noted with satisfaction the progress made in the format of the report on programme implementation which, according to one speaker, gave life to the work of the ILO. Several members requested more detailed financial information as well as more in-depth analysis of the impact of ILO interventions.

### **Strategic Policy Framework 2006-09**

In November 2004, the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee examined the Strategic Policy Framework for the period 2006-09 with the overall aim of making decent work a global goal. The Committee took note of the document, together with the views expressed during the discussion and the closing remarks of the Director-General.

### **Project IRIS**

In November 2004, the Governing Body considered a paper which included information on changes effected in IRIS since March 2004, progress and milestones, project status and planning, as well as project budget and costs. In March 2005, the Governing Body received a further update on the status of IRIS which covered system development and testing, transition to production, training and support, and budget and cost.



---

## Evaluation of InFocus programmes

In November 2004, the Governing Body discussed summary evaluation reports of the InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability and of the InFocus Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

## Use of the 2000-01 surplus

In November 2004, the Governing Body received a status report of the approval and delivery of the 2000-01 surplus funds approved by the International Labour Conference in June 2002 and decided that all remaining exchange gains on the 2000-01 surplus should be allocated to the Information Technology Systems Fund to fund project IRIS.

## ILO accommodation strategy and current construction projects

In November 2004 and March 2005, the Governing Body received updates on the building projects in Santiago and Dar es Salaam, as well as details of a proposed accommodation strategy which would include the headquarters building and field offices. It was also informed of the extensive refurbishment that was required for the headquarters building, which was estimated to cost some US\$75-85 million. The Office was requested to carry out a comprehensive study of the current state of the headquarters building and the work required for its renovation.

## Audits

In March 2005, the Governing Body took note of the report of the Chief Internal Auditor for 2004, and two reports on follow-up action taken by the Office on the report of the Chief Internal Auditor for 2003 and the report of the External Auditor on the accounts for 2002-03.

## X. Decision-making bodies of the ILO

### The International Labour Conference

#### ***Follow-up to the resolutions adopted at the 92nd Session (2004) of the International Labour Conference***

Resolution concerning a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy

At its 92nd Session (June 2004), the International Labour Conference adopted the resolution concerning a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy, which called upon the Governing Body to review periodically the progress made in implementing the conclusions and plan of action on a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy and to consider the need to establish a permanent committee on migration of the Governing Body. The resolution also invited the Governing Body to give due consideration to the conclusions in planning future action on migrant workers and requested the Director-General to take these conclusions into account both when preparing the Programme and

---

Budget for the 2006-07 biennium and allocating such other resources as may be available during the 2004-05 biennium.

The resolution called upon the ILO and its constituents to carry out the plan of action in partnership with other relevant international organizations, and stated that the plan of action should include, inter alia, the development of a non-binding multilateral framework for a rights-based approach to labour migration which took into account labour market needs, proposing guidelines and principles for policies based on best practices and international standards, as well as mechanisms to ensure Governing Body follow-up of the plan of action and ILO participation in relevant international initiatives concerning migration.

In November 2004, the Governing Body discussed a document<sup>29</sup> which listed follow-up action to the resolution on migrant workers by the Office and invited its members to consider convening a tripartite meeting of experts to evaluate and discuss in depth the suitability of the guidelines on best practices for inclusion in a draft non-binding multilateral framework for a rights-based approach to labour migration. The Governing Body approved the holding of this tripartite meeting of experts before the guidelines were presented to it. It was thus agreed to convene a Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration towards the end of 2005 in order to finalize the framework on labour migration to be presented in March 2006.

#### Resolution concerning the promotion of gender equality, pay equity and maternity protection

In November 2004, the Governing Body examined a report<sup>30</sup> on the effect to be given to the resolution on gender equality, pay equity and maternity protection adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 92nd Session (2004). The report provided examples of the approach being taken by the Office to give effect to the resolution.

The Governing Body noted the activities already undertaken and requested the Director-General to: communicate the resolution to the governments, employers' and workers' organizations of member States and ask for information on action taken to implement the appropriate recommendations in that resolution; take full account of the resolution when preparing ILO activities; give priority to the recommendations when implementing the 2004-05 and 2006-07 programmes and allocating resources that might be available in the 2004-05 biennium and in preparing future plans and programmes and budgets for the 2006-07 biennium, in particular the High-level Tripartite Experts Meeting on Equal Remuneration between Sexes and Racial/Ethnic Groups; ensure that information was provided on how the resolution and its follow-up was being implemented; and consider as a possibility proposing gender equality in the world of work as an agenda item for the 95th Session (2007) of the International Labour Conference.

#### ***Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector as a follow-up to the first discussion on the fishing sector held at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference***

At the 92nd Session (June 2004) of the International Labour Conference, the Committee on the Fishing Sector called for consultations, through an appropriate mechanism, between the end of that session of the Conference and the 93rd Session (June 2005), to assist the Office with the development of the provisions of the proposed Convention concerning accommodation on board fishing vessels. As a result of this request, the Governing Body agreed, at its June 2004 session, that the ILO should hold a Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector from 13 to 17 December 2004, for the

---

purpose of reviewing and formulating provisions on accommodation and dealing with other pending issues identified by the abovementioned Committee.

The Meeting of Experts was held under the auspices of the Sectoral Activities Programme. An oral report of the Meeting was made to the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues in March 2005. The report of the Meeting has been included in *Work in the fishing sector*, Report V(2A), for the 93rd Session of the Conference.

### **94th (Maritime) Session (2006): Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference and follow-up**

The Governing Body decided in March 2005 that the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference should take place from 7 to 23 February 2006,<sup>31</sup> in Geneva. The single item placed on the agenda will be the adoption of an instrument to consolidate maritime labour standards. In accordance with the Standing Orders, the Director-General's Report will deal with the activities of the Organization in the maritime sector and recent developments affecting that sector.

The Office's report on the item placed on the agenda will be drawn up on the basis of the work of the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference, held in September 2004, taking account of the tripartite consensus reached in the Tripartite Intersessional Meeting on the Follow-up to the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference, held in April 2005,<sup>32</sup> as well as the comments of constituents on the provisions on which tripartite consensus was reached.

### **96th Session (2007)**

After an initial discussion in November 2004 on the agenda of the 96th Session (June 2007) of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body selected three of the four proposals submitted for a more in-depth examination in March 2005. It also invited the Office to develop further proposals on the employment sphere (in respect of the promotion of sustainable enterprises and skills for better productivity, employment growth and development) and on an item that would enable the Conference to examine whether and in what manner it would be appropriate to reaffirm, by updating them in the light of the concept of decent work, the essential missions of the ILO in order to enhance their relevance and impact in the current context of economic globalization; consultations would have to be held on this last item.

In March 2005, the Governing Body considered that consultations should continue with a view to finalizing the proposals relating to this last item and therefore deferred until November 2005 the decision concerning the items that would complete the agenda of that session of the Conference. It also decided that the 96th Session of the Conference would be held in Geneva. With reference to the scheduling of that session of the Conference, the Governing Body was informed that a definite proposal would be submitted to it in due time, given the need to secure cost efficiencies through careful planning.

### **Proposals to improve the functioning of the Conference**

The Governing Body continued to discuss possible improvements in the functioning of the International Labour Conference at its November 2003, March 2004 and March 2005 sessions, on the basis of papers prepared by the Office and the results of two informal consultations held in September 2003 and February 2004. The importance of the

---

Conference as the highest decision-making body of the Organization was reconfirmed, with discussion focusing on practical measures which could be taken to better ensure its smooth running. Many of the suggestions were adopted and have either been introduced or are in the process of being introduced. These included the introduction of the new electronic voting system, the use of technology to support committee debates, time management, and training and guidance for Conference and committee Officers and first-time Conference participants.

While the value of the plenary debate is clearly recognized, much discussion has taken place, with no clear resolution at this stage, on how that debate could be organized so as to ensure continued relevance with increased delegate involvement. Similarly, no solution has been identified towards balancing the conflict between the need for sufficient time for technical committees to do their work and the difficulty for delegates of being away from their normal duties for three weeks. The Director-General has sought input on these issues in his Report to the present session of the Conference.

## **The Governing Body**

### ***Proposals to improve the functioning of the Governing Body***

Again as part of the continuous improvement process, this subject has been discussed at a number of Governing Body sessions over the past two years and has been dealt with in both Office papers and informal consultation within the Governing Body groups. The central importance of the governance role of the Governing Body has been strongly reconfirmed and its structures reviewed to ensure that it is able to meet its obligations in this regard. To this end, the decision has been taken to increase the membership of the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises<sup>33</sup> to ensure appropriate representation, and the incoming Governing Body, which will be elected in June 2005, will be asked to consider broadening the mandate of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues to encompass activities related to Social Dialogue. The new Governing Body will also be asked to consider the establishment of an Information and Communication Technology Subcommittee of the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee. Again, reference was made to the importance of time management as a tool for achieving increased efficiencies, and the Office has been instructed on an appropriate documents policy, including a move towards summary records and electronic distribution, as appropriate.

### ***Consolidation of rules applicable to the Governing Body***

The work of the Governing Body is governed by a body of complex rules contained in different texts and publications, as well as a range of long-standing practices and informal arrangements. Following the Governing Body's decision to consider the principle of consolidating the rules applicable to it, it examined, in November 2004, a document setting out the existing rules and proposing a number of ways in which they might be consolidated.<sup>34</sup> The option chosen by the Governing Body was a compendium of existing rules, including the current Standing Orders and the other sets of rules (subject to any amendments that might be necessary) and prefaced by an explanatory note reflecting certain current practices but without fixing them as a legal rule.<sup>35</sup> In March 2005, the Governing Body approved the plan and the main elements of the future compendium, which will be examined at its November 2005 session.<sup>36</sup>

---

## **XI. Regional meetings**

### **Seventh European Regional Meeting (Budapest, 14-18 February 2005)**

The report and conclusions of the Seventh European Regional Meeting (ERM) were discussed and adopted by the Governing Body in March 2005.

The participation in the Seventh ERM of the Prime Ministers of Hungary, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg and Malta, the EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs and a large number of ministers of labour, as well as leading representatives of workers' and employers' organizations including from the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), reaffirmed the central importance of genuine social dialogue in meeting the challenges of globalization. The relationship between the ILO and the EU in particular was highlighted.

The Regional Meeting, which received high media attention, benefited from an innovative format with a Prime Ministers' Panel, interactive parallel sessions addressing key transitions in life and work (youth employment, flexicurity, labour migration and security in old age) and an Informal Ministerial Meeting chaired by the Chairperson of the Governing Body which discussed the follow-up to the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.

The Regional Meeting adopted conclusions focusing on the ILO's role in Europe and Central Asia, life cycle and work transitions, good governance in the world of work and decent work country programmes.

## **XII. Other major meetings**

### **Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, 3-9 September 2004)**

The Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 8-9 September 2004. It was preceded by an innovative Social Partners Forum (3-4 September), as well as by an Enlarged Executive Council (5-6 September). A delegation of the Governing Body attended the three events.

The Summit placed employment and the ILO Decent Work Agenda at the highest political level. In the official documents adopted (Declaration, Plan of Action and follow-up mechanisms), Heads of State and Government made the commitment, inter alia, to place employment at the centre of socio-economic policies, promote the ILO Decent Work Agenda and support and implement the recommendations of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.

The holding of this Summit and its follow-up provided the ILO with an opportunity to provide its support to African Union member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union Commission in promoting decent work as a global objective and an instrument in poverty reduction strategies, including the Millennium Development Goals, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Poverty Reduction

---

Strategy Papers (PRSPs), etc. The African Union, in collaboration with RECs and member States, was the driving force for implementing the Summit's decisions, and ILO support to the follow-up was demand-driven. The Issues Paper that was developed during the preparation of the Summit as a concrete example of policy coherence by the ILO in collaboration with 15 United Nations institutions provides a blueprint for the ILO to work within United Nations country teams and with governments to provide coherent support to national policies/strategies/action plans. This is particularly important in light of the development of decent work country programmes as a framework for ILO activities in the countries concerned.

### **XIII. Relations with other international organizations**

#### **Developments in the United Nations system**

During the reporting period, the Governing Body continued to be kept fully informed of ILO involvement in major events within the multilateral system, as well as in the most important international development initiatives and trends in the United Nations system. These included in particular the preparations for the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005 and the Office's work to advance concerns regarding employment and decent work in this context and to promote awareness of the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which the General Assembly has decided to use as a reference document for that review.

#### **Major events of relevance to the ILO**

The Governing Body was also informed of other forthcoming major events of relevance to the ILO. The focus of ILO efforts in external relations has been to emphasize the importance of incorporating the Decent Work Agenda, including the promotion of a tripartite approach to the formulation of international policies, in the international development agenda at all levels. The Governing Body demonstrated growing interest in this area of ILO activities and in having more in-depth discussions on ILO involvement in external relations and partnerships.

\* \* \*

#### **Notes**

<sup>1</sup> <http://mirror/public/english/standards/relm/gb/index.htm> .

<sup>2</sup> The compilation of annual reports by the International Labour Office, March 2005, can be consulted on the Declaration Programme's public web site: [www.ilo.org/declaration](http://www.ilo.org/declaration) .

<sup>3</sup> GB.292/4.

<sup>4</sup> GB.292/TC/5.

<sup>5</sup> GB.292/LILS/2(& Corr.).

<sup>6</sup> GB.291/LILS/1.

---

<sup>7</sup> GB.292/LILS/1.

<sup>8</sup> GB.292/10.

<sup>9</sup> GB.291/LILS/1.

<sup>10</sup> GB.291/9.

<sup>11</sup> GB.292/LILS/4 and GB.292/10.

<sup>12</sup> See also section XII.

<sup>13</sup> GB.291/ESP/5.

<sup>14</sup> GB.291/ESP/1.

<sup>15</sup> GB.292/ESP/4.

<sup>16</sup> GB.292/ESP/3.

<sup>17</sup> GB.292/ESP/5.

<sup>18</sup> GB.292/16/4.

<sup>19</sup> GB.292/MNE/1.

<sup>20</sup> GB.292/MNE/2(& Corr.).

<sup>21</sup> GB.291/MNE/1.

<sup>22</sup> GB.292/MNE/4.

<sup>23</sup> These included: the Tripartite Meeting on the Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society: The Media, Cultural, Graphical Sector, Geneva, 18-22 October 2004 (GB.292/STM/2/1); the Tripartite Meeting on Employment, Social Dialogue, Rights at Work and Industrial Relations in Transport Equipment Manufacture, Geneva, 10-12 January 2005 (GB.292/STM/2/2); the Meeting of Experts to Develop Guidelines for Labour Inspection in Forestry, Geneva, 24-28 January 2005 (GB.292/STM/3/3); and the Meeting of Experts to Develop a Revised Code of Practice on Safety and Health in the Iron and Steel Industry, Geneva, 1-9 February 2005 (GB.292/STM/3/3).

<sup>24</sup> These included: the report of the Joint ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident (GB.292/STM/6/1(& Corr.)); a report on the Development of a Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Code and Voluntary Guidelines on Safety and Health in Fishing Vessels (GB.292/STM/4); and the report of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping, London, 15-17 February 2005 (GB.292/STM/5).

<sup>25</sup> GB.291/4.

<sup>26</sup> GB.292/TC/1.

<sup>27</sup> GB.292/14(Rev.).

<sup>28</sup> GB.292/TC/3.

<sup>29</sup> GB.291/3/1.

<sup>30</sup> GB.291/3.

---

<sup>31</sup> See also, under section III, the paragraphs related to the draft consolidated maritime labour Convention.

<sup>32</sup> *idem*.

<sup>33</sup> See also, under section VI, the paragraph related to the composition of the Subcommittee.

<sup>34</sup> GB.291/LILS/3.

<sup>35</sup> GB.291/9.

<sup>36</sup> GB.292/LILS/4 and GB.292/10.



---

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I. ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work .....	1
Compilation of annual reports .....	1
Technical cooperation activities .....	1
Discussion of the Global Report .....	2
II. Child labour .....	2
Achievements of IPEC during 2004-05 .....	2
Child labour and the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization .....	3
IPEC's intensified response to the child labour problem in Africa .....	4
IPEC's Strategic Programme Impact Framework: Towards a theory of change for the elimination of child labour .....	4
III. International labour standards.....	5
Ratification and promotion of ILO fundamental Conventions .....	5
Complaints under article 26 of the ILO Constitution .....	5
Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).....	5
Observance by the Republic of Belarus 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).....	6
Observance by the Government of Venezuela 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).....	7
Representations under article 24 of the ILO Constitution .....	7
Freedom of association .....	7
Improvements in the ILO's standards-related activities .....	7
Progress report.....	7
Implementation of the obligation of submission to competent authorities (article 19 of the Constitution).....	8
The representation procedure under articles 24 and 25 of the ILO Constitution .....	8
Follow-up of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), and arrangements and procedures under Article 5, paragraphs 6-8, of the Convention.....	9
ILO action concerning discrimination in employment and occupation.....	9
Draft consolidated maritime labour Convention: Progress report .....	9
Practices for the preparation of international labour Conventions: Handbook on good drafting practices.....	10

IV.	Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization.....	10
	Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization: Follow-up .....	10
	Statement by Mr. Vladimir Spidla, European Union Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities .....	11
	Strengthening the social dimension of globalization: The next steps .....	12
	Policy coherence initiative (PCI).....	12
	Policy development dialogues (PDDs).....	12
	Globalization policy forum (GPF).....	12
V.	Employment and social policy.....	13
	Implementation of the Global Employment Agenda .....	13
	The minimum wage: Catalyst for social dialogue or economic policy instrument.....	13
	Trade, foreign investment and productive employment in developing countries .....	13
	Macroeconomic policy for growth and employment .....	14
	Tripartite Meeting on Youth Employment: The Way Forward (Geneva, 13-15 October 2004) .....	14
	World Employment Report 2004-05.....	14
	Microfinance and decent work.....	15
	Promoting technological change for higher productivity, job creation and improved standards of living .....	16
	Implementation of the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health as adopted at the 91st Session (2003) of the International Labour Conference .....	16
	HIV/AIDS and employment .....	16
	ILO response to the earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean.....	17
VI.	Multinational enterprises .....	18
	Promotion of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.....	18
	Activities report for 2004 .....	18
	Plan of action for 2005-07 .....	18
	Follow-up to the Symposium on the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and related multilateral initiatives .....	19
	Composition of the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises .....	19
VII.	Sectoral activities .....	19
	Sectoral meetings in 2004-05.....	19
	Update on action programmes in 2004-05 .....	20
	Proposals for activities in 2006-07 .....	20
	Proposed Meeting on Promoting Fair Globalization in Textiles and Clothing in a Post-Multifibre Agreement Environment.....	20

VIII.	Technical cooperation.....	20
	The ILO's technical cooperation programme for 2003-04 .....	20
	Special technical cooperation programme for Colombia.....	21
	Enhanced programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories .....	21
	Office-wide implementation of the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue .....	22
	Thematic evaluation report: Gender issues in technical cooperation .....	23
	Development cooperation: Donors' perspective.....	23
	On-the-spot review in Europe.....	23
	The Committee on Technical Cooperation: Modalities for improved functioning.....	24
IX.	Financial questions .....	24
	Programme implementation in 2004.....	24
	Strategic Policy Framework 2006-09 .....	24
	Project IRIS .....	24
	Evaluation of InFocus programmes .....	25
	Use of the 2000-01 surplus .....	25
	ILO accommodation strategy and current construction projects .....	25
	Audits.....	25
X.	Decision-making bodies of the ILO.....	25
	The International Labour Conference.....	25
	Follow-up to the resolutions adopted at the 92nd Session (2004) of the International Labour Conference.....	25
	Resolution concerning a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy .....	25
	Resolution concerning the promotion of gender equality, pay equity and maternity protection.....	26
	Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector as a follow-up to the first discussion on the fishing sector held at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference.....	26
	94th (Maritime) Session (2006): Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference and follow-up .....	27
	96th Session (2007) .....	27
	Proposals to improve the functioning of the Conference .....	27
	The Governing Body .....	28
	Proposals to improve the functioning of the Governing Body .....	28
	Consolidation of rules applicable to the Governing Body.....	28
XI.	Regional meetings.....	29
	Seventh European Regional Meeting (Budapest, 14-18 February 2005) .....	29

---

XII. Other major meetings.....	29
Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, 3-9 September 2004) .....	29
XIII. Relations with other international organizations .....	30
Developments in the United Nations system .....	30
Major events of relevance to the ILO .....	30