



**Sixth item on the agenda:
The role of the ILO in
technical cooperation
(general discussion)**

**Report of the Committee on Technical
Cooperation**

1. The Committee on Technical Cooperation, set up by the Conference at its first sitting on 31 May 2006, consisted of 141 members (72 Government members, 26 Employer members and 43 Worker members).¹ In addition, a number of non-governmental international organizations were represented.²
2. The Committee elected its Officers as follows:

Chairperson: Mr. B. Bitonio (Government member, Philippines) at its first sitting
Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. A. Jeetun (Employer member, Mauritius) and Ms. H. Yacob (Worker member, Singapore) at its first sitting
Reporter: Ms. U. Hiveluah (Government member, Namibia) at its fifth sitting
3. At its fifth sitting the Committee appointed a Drafting Group to draw up a draft resolution and conclusions based on views expressed during the plenary discussions, for consideration by the Committee. The Drafting Group was composed as follows:

¹ The modifications were as follows:

- (a) 1 June: 177 members (87 Government members entitled to vote with 200 votes each, 40 Employer members with 435 votes each and 50 Worker members with 348 votes each);
- (b) 2 June: 176 members (93 Government members entitled to vote with 574 votes each, 42 Employer members with 1,271 votes each and 41 Worker members with 1,302 votes each);
- (c) 9 June: 139 members (102 Government members entitled to vote with 10 votes each, 17 Employer members with 60 votes each and 20 Worker members with 51 votes each);
- (d) 12 June: 142 members (104 Government members entitled to vote with 357 votes each, 17 Employer members with 2,184 votes each and 21 Worker members with 1,768 votes each).

² For the list of organizations, see the report of the Selection Committee, *Provisional Record* No. 3.

Ms. J. Barrett (Government member, United States), Mr. A. Ebrahim (Government member, Bahrain), Mr. M. Palai (Government member, Botswana), Mr. V. Rodrigues (Government member, Netherlands), Ms. R. Steffens (Government member, New Zealand) and Mr. E. Varela (Government member, Argentina); Mr. M. Al Khor (Employer member, Bahrain), Ms. J. Coke-Lloyd (Employer member, Jamaica), Ms. R. Goldberg (Employer member, United States), Mr. A. Jeetun (Employer member, Mauritius), Mr. M. Lambert (Employer member, United Kingdom) and Mr. P. O'Reilly (Employer member, New Zealand); Ms. A. Nitoslawska (Worker member, Canada), Mr. A. Palanga (Worker member, Togo), Mr. J. Svenningsen (Worker member, Denmark), Mr. P. van Durme (Worker member, Belgium), Ms. A. van Wezel (Worker member, Netherlands) and Ms. H. Yacob (Worker member, Singapore); and *ex officio* Mr. B. Bitonio as Chairperson and Ms. U. Hiveluah as Reporter.

4. The Committee held eight sittings.
5. The Committee had before it Report VI, prepared by the Office on the sixth item on the agenda of the Conference: *The role of the ILO in technical cooperation*.

Introduction

6. The representative of the Secretary-General welcomed the members of the Committee, the representatives of other organizations and observers attending the Committee and congratulated the Officers on their election. The review of the ILO's technical cooperation programme was both timely and important. Since the previous discussion of technical cooperation at the Conference in 1999, far-reaching changes had occurred in the international arena, including the growing emphasis on the ILO's strategic objectives and the Decent Work Agenda (DWA), endorsed by both the Conference and the Governing Body. Over the previous seven years, the international community and regional organizations had recognized the value of decent work and were now actively engaged in incorporating its principles and components in development policies. ILO constituents in member States had accepted and adopted, and were actively pursuing, the DWA. The ILO's technical cooperation programme would build on these foundations.
7. The work of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization and the Outcome Document of the World Summit in September 2005 had given further encouragement to orient technical cooperation activities towards the fundamental values and core mandate of the Organization. The quality and effectiveness of the ILO's technical cooperation had been boosted, resulting in greater demand for ILO services and a considerable increase in financial support from donors. The stagnation reported to the Conference in 1999 had definitely been overcome as early as the 2000-01 biennium. Figures for 2005 reconfirmed this upward trend in delivery and new approvals for ILO activities.
8. The ILO had not only kept pace with, but had taken initiatives to advance the development agenda and environment. Its technical cooperation programme was increasingly harmonized with and complementary to national development efforts, and was integrated with the support structures of United Nations (UN) funds, programmes and agencies. Partnerships were a key feature of the report. By virtue of its structure, the ILO and its member States were well placed to understand and to work through partnerships. As a result, international labour standards and tripartism had developed and were now utilized to promote decent work worldwide. UN programmes and agencies had also learned to work in partnerships over the years. The ILO was reinvigorating its partnerships with many other UN agencies to serve the DWA. Partnerships with donor agencies had proved fruitful in securing support for ILO programmes and for piloting the approaches and tools

needed to establish sound Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). The report suggested that the Conference explore the potential of public-private partnership (PPP) formulas to pursue the DWA in a way that brought out the ILO's comparative advantages and strengths.

9. In the context of UN reform and in a world whose problems were increasingly complex, the ILO had an opportunity to show how it had and would continue to innovate, for the benefit of all its constituents and in accordance with its constitutional mandate and operating principles. Quality services and innovation were essential to pursue the ILO's strategic objectives effectively. The report demonstrated concrete and sustainable results by the ILO, and drew attention to the policy advice and other tools developed and their impact.
10. Choices, opportunities and challenges lay ahead, and the next five to ten years would see major changes in the technical cooperation arena. The questions asked in the report offered the Committee an opportunity to provide guidance to the Office on key issues of relevance to its future in development assistance and the promotion of decent work, and advice would hence be extremely valuable.

General discussion

11. On behalf of his group, the Employer Vice-Chairperson pointed out that technical cooperation was a fundamental mechanism to attain the Organization's four strategic objectives. The ILO technical cooperation programme contributed to the creation of enterprises and employment, development of an entrepreneurship culture, acceleration of economic growth, upgrading of skills and competencies, productivity and competitiveness. The effectiveness of ILO technical cooperation was of prime importance to all constituents, since its ultimate objective was to improve the standard of living of millions of people in the world through the creation of productive employment, which was a prerequisite for the elimination of poverty.
12. The Committee had the mandate to review the ILO technical cooperation programme, to assess how it responded to the changing environment so as to increase its relevance in today's world of development cooperation, and to provide guidance on the way forward. The Employer Vice-Chairperson hoped that the Committee would deliver clear guidance to the ILO as to how best to respond to the needs of constituents. In accordance with the resolution adopted at the 73rd Session (1987) of the International Labour Conference, the ILO should ensure the regular review, at least every five years, of the technical cooperation programme.
13. One of the main priorities of the ILO should be to build strong, independent and representative organizations of employers and workers, particularly in developing countries, countries in transition and those emerging from conflict. Social partners should be provided with capacity-building support to strengthen their representation, provide value added services to their members and use their influence to articulate issues of concern. He hoped that the Committee would call on the ILO to seek innovative ways to strengthen tripartism and social dialogue, in accordance with the resolution on tripartism and social dialogue adopted by the 90th Session (2002) of the International Labour Conference.
14. The Employers further wished to stress the need for employment creation to be at the heart of the ILO's work, as it was a prerequisite for poverty alleviation and attainment of the other strategic objectives. While this position had already been adopted in the resolution concerning technical cooperation (1999), it was not reflected in the current trends of

expenditures for technical cooperation. The decline of the share of the employment sector was regrettable and incompatible with the recognition of the key role of employment as advocated in the Summit of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and the Fourth Summit of the Americas on Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance. The ILO needed to recognize that, in addition to international labour standards, tripartism and social dialogue, it had a comparative advantage in the area of employment promotion and creation, and entrepreneurship.

15. Furthermore, there was a clear need for improved coordination and synergy to address the development agenda within the UN system. The DWCPs, as the framework for delivering technical cooperation programmes to countries, provided the ILO with an excellent opportunity to engage with, and influence, the UN at the country level. These programmes were also a way to channel resources and expertise to implement country-driven and constituent-driven technical cooperation programmes. The challenge was for the ILO to ensure that its core mandate and competencies were not diluted within the wider UN system, and that cooperation with other institutions was developed on a basis of reciprocal benefits.
16. The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that, as regards resource mobilization, the ILO needed to develop a sound, ambitious and realistic strategy to attract additional sources of funding for technical cooperation programmes. An in-depth reflection on the possibilities for cooperation and financial contributions through (PPPs) was essential.
17. DWCPs provided an excellent opportunity to mobilize resources at the country level using the ILO's field offices. In this context, the ILO should consider how to confer on the social partners a more important role in the development of programmes, both in donor and beneficiary countries. The necessary capacity building of the social partners in this area could be provided by the ILO International Training Centre in Turin.
18. Given that donors called for results-based management, the ILO needed to demonstrate positive results, both quantitative and qualitative, a principle which the Employers fully endorsed. In practice, this meant monitoring of technical cooperation programmes and ensuring proper governance, in particular of DWCPs. Also, publicizing and communicating results and lessons learned would validate advocacy efforts and contribute to the knowledge base of the ILO.
19. In conclusion, the Employer Vice-Chairperson felt that the discussion could with relevance concentrate on the following ten key issues: building strong independent and representative employers' and workers' organizations; promotion of employment creation; role of the ILO within the context of UN reform; DWCPs; ILO global programmes and products; resource mobilization; results-based management; centralization and decentralization of technical capacities; mandate and comparative advantages of the ILO; and PPPs.
20. On behalf of her group, the Worker Vice-Chairperson underlined that technical cooperation was an important lifeline. The ideals of equality and social justice enshrined in the Declaration of Philadelphia as integral parts of sustainable development and lasting peace had been made operational through international labour standards, and technical cooperation represented an important means of promoting international labour standards and workers' rights. She highlighted the DWCPs as a key mechanism to deliver technical cooperation at country level and to ensure a people-centred development strategy, in line with the recommendations made by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization. Technical cooperation needed to keep pace with current negative developments in the world of work while continuing to tackle issues such as child labour, forced labour, occupational illness and accidents, and discrimination.

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- 21.** Commenting on the first of four proposed points for discussion, the Worker Vice-Chairperson believed that UN reform might, if properly implemented, help the ILO be more effective and raise its profile in technical cooperation. While other UN agencies had to involve civil society in their decision-making processes to ensure greater legitimacy and effective implementation, the ILO enjoyed the comparative advantage of its tripartite structure. With regard to the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), however, the Workers feared that tripartism would be undermined at national and international level, since the ILO did not have country offices everywhere.
 - 22.** To ensure that the views of the social partners in technical cooperation would not be diluted, the Worker Vice-Chairperson called for the involvement of workers and employers in all aspects of technical cooperation, from the project formulation stage to design, implementation and evaluation. There should also be more discussions within the ILO on the UN reform process and its impact on technical cooperation. In addition, she called for clear guidelines as to the functioning of UNDAF and its effect on the work of the ILO at country level. It was unclear whether the important role of the UN Resident Coordinators in UN Country Teams (UNCT) would lead to greater efficiency or undesirable rigidity.
 - 23.** The Workers supported the Director-General's statement at the 295th Session of the Governing Body (March 2006), according to which the tripartite structure gave the ILO an authority in the world of work that could not be replaced, should not be diluted, and would be of great service to the UN system. When cooperating with other UN agencies, the ILO should retain its added value, namely the promotion of social justice, tripartism and the establishment and supervision of labour standards.
 - 24.** Technical cooperation was a crucial tool to achieve decent work, and the implementation of trade union rights should be one of its core elements, since the objective of decent work could not be achieved without respect for freedom of association or the right to collective bargaining. A key role of technical cooperation should also be to assist member States in ratifying and effectively implementing international labour standards.
 - 25.** With regard to the second proposed item for discussion, the Worker Vice-Chairperson stressed the need for capacity building of the social partners, which would enable them to contribute more effectively to the formulation, design, implementation and evaluation of technical cooperation projects. She noted with great concern that the share of technical cooperation expenditure for strengthening tripartism and social dialogue had declined. Sufficient funds needed to be allocated for strengthening the capacities of trade unions, in order to ensure that workers' concerns were effectively addressed. In this context, the ILO International Training Centre in Turin played an important role and should receive more funds. Modern means of information and communication technology should be explored to better inform the members of the ILO Governing Body Committee on Technical Cooperation.
 - 26.** On the third point, the Worker Vice-Chairperson considered that the increase of extra-budgetary resources led to certain constraints in that donors preferred to choose certain projects to support, which could be detrimental to other objectives of the ILO. For example, the vast majority of funds for the promotion of labour standards went to the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), and only a small sum was allocated to the promotion of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). She therefore called for greater regular budget allocations for technical cooperation projects and activities, and for an increase in the regular budget contribution by governments.

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27. The Workers also expressed concerns about the decrease in expenditure on technical cooperation in some regions, specifically in Africa. This region deserved more support considering the intensity of the problems faced on the continent. To facilitate an effective and fair allocation of resources for ILO technical cooperation projects, the Worker Vice-Chairperson called upon all donors to engage in discussions with the ILO on long-term funding arrangements, similar to the agreement recently concluded between the ILO and the European Union (EU).
 28. Supporting the move towards PPPs, the Worker Vice-Chairperson requested that the Conference or the Governing Body establish clear criteria for the establishment and operation of such partnerships, which fully took into account the ILO's tripartite structure and its normative system. Private partnerships should at least be committed to respecting core labour standards and to involving trade unions in decision making. It should be ensured that the internal ILO procedures for accepting funds for PPPs served not only the agenda or commercial interests of the funding agent.
 29. With regard to the fourth point for discussion, the Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed to research and analysis on the economic benefits of decent work, provided that this would not lead to a situation where the ILO would have to justify the need for the DWA. Core labour standards did not need any such justification, as they were fundamental human rights.
 30. Finally, concerning the importance of poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), the Workers reaffirmed their position that the Global Employment Agenda of 2003 was a comprehensive blueprint for technical cooperation strategies, which countries should adopt in addressing the challenges of poverty alleviation and job creation. The Worker Vice-Chairperson also sought clarification on ILO policy concerning technical cooperation in cases of crisis, such as in Iraq and the occupied Arab territories.
 31. Following the comments of the two Vice-Chairpersons, the Committee continued the general discussion of the issues raised in the report. All members of the Committee endorsed ILO technical cooperation as being a fundamental tool for achieving decent work. There was also general agreement that the unique tripartite structure of the ILO and international labour standards constituted comparative advantages that should be maximized to raise the organization's profile within the UN system. Several Governments joined the Employers' position as to the outstanding importance of employment creation. The concern of the Workers about the decrease of expenditure on technical cooperation in Africa was shared by many Governments requesting that this be redressed.
 32. In addition, the Government member of Austria, speaking on behalf of the Governments of Member States of the EU,³ supported the effective implementation of the DWA. Following the 2005 World Summit on the Social Development Agenda, decent work had been included among the objectives of national and international policies of EU Member States, as well as of national development strategies. Moreover, the European Consensus on Development (2005) highlighted the multi-dimensional aspect of poverty reduction, including decent work and job creation, and the role of employers, workers and other members of civil society in development. The EU was committed to an in-depth reform of the UN system, including long-term predictable financing of UN specialized agencies as well as the harmonization of their agenda and joint programmes at country level. The ILO

³ Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

should develop a structured response to UN reform, focusing on the establishment of achievable milestones. The EU strongly supported the DWCPs, as they should reflect national priorities and thus could strengthen local ownership. He urged the ILO to pursue those efforts in close cooperation with other UN bodies.

- 33.** The Government member of Mexico said that it was necessary for investments in technical cooperation to be allocated equally among each of the ILO strategic objectives. Technical cooperation should be mainly implemented through DWCPs, which were geared to the specific needs of each country. Her Government supported the need to strengthen technical cooperation through extra-budgetary resources. In agreements with external donors, funding should not be made conditional upon compliance with existing standards. She emphasized that the best way to achieve decent work was through technical cooperation.
- 34.** In view of current efforts by the UN to improve its competitiveness in attracting extra-budgetary funds, the Government member of Argentina felt that the challenge for the ILO would be to increase the attractiveness of its technical cooperation programme for both donors and beneficiaries while maintaining its identity and objectives. Such attractiveness would depend on three main factors: the unique ILO structure and mandate; the quality of its products; and its ability to generate and transmit useful knowledge. He cautioned, however, that the lack of ILO representation in many countries represented a disadvantage with respect to other UN agencies and could affect the ability to attract funds for technical cooperation when defining national programmes within the context of UNDAF. Another difficulty, the weakness of ministries of labour as compared with other government ministries, could be overcome by general recognition of decent work as a global goal. Among the ILO strategic objectives, standard setting had received the greatest share of funds. Although he recognized the importance of standards, he believed that the three other strategic objectives should be allocated an equivalent level of resources. With reference to the ILO Global Employment Agenda he requested that donor countries take into consideration the outcome of the discussion on employment strategies for DWCPs by the Governing Body Committee on Employment and Social Policy. The increase in technical assistance provided to the Latin American and Caribbean region in the past few years was commendable.
- 35.** The Government member of Egypt indicated that donor countries needed to improve the efficiency of technical cooperation, especially the management of development programmes. In the light of widespread unemployment, ILO technical cooperation needed to maintain the right balance of resources among the various sectors. It should focus on areas where the Organization enjoyed a comparative advantage, such as the ratification of international labour Conventions, so as to encourage their full implementation, and the promotion of tripartism. Also, the ILO should contribute to the economic and social development of least developed countries.
- 36.** The Government member of Namibia emphasized that technical cooperation was a fundamental tool for building capacity among the social partners. It was important to carefully examine the question of extra-budgetary funding, as well as the implementation of the resolution and conclusions adopted in 1999. The volume of technical cooperation in Africa unfortunately had decreased and this, she hoped, would be improved as soon as possible.
- 37.** The Government member of Japan expressed his appreciation for the ILO's four strategic objectives and stressed the importance of reviewing carefully donors' policies vis-à-vis technical cooperation and the involvement of beneficiaries, with a view to respecting the characteristics of the ILO and the best possible balance between regions and sectors.

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- 38.** In order to ensure that technical cooperation was directed at the needs of the member States of the ILO, the Government member of Indonesia considered that the programme of activities should be decided at national level by the constituents. He supported capacity building among the social partners, emphasis on the DWA and high priority given to employment promotion.
- 39.** The Government member of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the Governments of the Industrialized Market Economy Countries (IMEC),⁴ observed that since the last discussion on technical cooperation in 1999, the environment in which the ILO operated had changed dramatically. The ILO's technical cooperation activities were crucial to enhancing its role in the modern world and pursuing its four strategic objectives. It was essential to ensure the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of ILO technical cooperation activities so that it could best fulfil its mission to improve living and working conditions worldwide. In this context, she emphasized the crucial link between the ILO's technical cooperation programme and its standard-setting activities.
- 40.** Technical cooperation activities should be more closely linked to those of other UN agencies, and for this purpose the ILO needed to participate more closely in joint national development programming exercises, including through the UNDAF process: DWCPs addressing national priorities would be a valuable contribution to both the poverty reduction strategies (PRS) and UNDAF processes. Collaborating with other multilateral and bilateral development agencies while remaining responsive to the needs and priorities of its constituents was a major challenge. The reform of UN system operational activities would benefit the system as a whole as well as the ILO. The ILO must integrate successfully into the new arrangements. UN reform was gathering pace, and it was important that the ILO position itself well, in order to make the greatest possible contribution through its DWA. It should also demonstrate the added value of tripartism in development efforts, which was at the heart of the Organization's mandate, through practical action.
- 41.** The Committee had a useful role to play in providing guidance on innovative approaches to increase the relevance and effectiveness of ILO technical cooperation. Evaluations of delivery would serve to inform improvements in the DWCPs. Measurable performance targets, monitoring and evaluation were critical. Efforts towards results-oriented planning and budgeting should continue, and the relation between technical cooperation and the regular budget should be more clearly articulated. In this connection, she requested information on how the review of the field structure would be conducted.
- 42.** Finding resources for technical cooperation was a challenge. The ILO must develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy, including an intensified and more strategic dialogue with key donors and a more proactive stance. Unearmarked resources would nevertheless continue to be welcome.
- 43.** The value of PPPs was recognized, and innovations in this area would be welcome, but they should be accompanied by careful planning and clear guidelines, which should be subject to discussion and decision making in the Governing Body.

⁴ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

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44. While the focus of international development policy had changed since the last Conference discussion, the Government member of Canada found that many areas addressed in the conclusions of 1999 were still relevant. The Committee needed to consider how ILO technical cooperation activities could best contribute to the realization of the Organization's strategic objectives and how their management and delivery could be improved through a long anticipated review of the field structure. Measurable performance targets, monitoring and evaluation were critical elements in determining and increasing the effectiveness of technical cooperation, and that could only be achieved through results-based management. The Government member of Canada expressed her country's support for DWCPs as well as the efforts to identify linkages and funding opportunities within the UN system. It was crucial for the ILO to be an actor in the reform process and focus on areas where its expertise and tripartite structure could bring added value.
45. The Government member of the United States emphasized that the ILO should concentrate technical cooperation on its four strategic objectives, rather than seeking to cover too many issues, which detracted from its impact and visibility. The DWCPs targeted measurable results and would represent a valuable contribution to the development framework of UNDAF and PRSPs. It was essential for the ILO to be a full participant in the ongoing reform of the UN system and to take advantage of the "Three Ones" principle, so as to enhance its effectiveness and benefit from such cost-saving measures as shared space and administrative staff. In this connection, she noted that the ILO must ensure that its field structure allowed for the most effective and efficient delivery of services. She also underlined the importance of good governance, national ownership and monitoring. If ILO technical cooperation activities were to flourish in an increasingly competitive multilateral environment, it was critical that feedback from evaluation exercises be used to demonstrate to recipient countries, donors and development partners the impact of its programmes. Similarly, the ILO needed to show the international community that its tripartite structure offered added value that other agencies involving civil society could not provide. With regard to resource mobilization, she encouraged the ILO to broaden its awareness of the interests and priorities of donor agencies, to support local resource mobilization and explore private sector, foundation and NGO funding. The resource mobilization strategy should follow a realistic and coordinated approach and continue to allow for both multi- and single-year funding. In conclusion, she urged the ILO to concentrate its efforts on doing well what it did best, good performance and accountability being the best marketing tools.
46. The Government member of Germany considered that the report should have provided more specific guidance on technical cooperation. She reiterated the call for capacity building of the social partners and encouraged PPPs and extra-budgetary funding in view of the excellent experience in these areas. In view of the increase in extra-budgetary contributions, there was a need to focus on the four strategic objectives of the ILO, concentrate on selected products and ensure coherence between programmes. When doing research on the economic benefits of decent work, the ILO should concentrate on practical examples, thus facilitating the communication to the general public of its comparative advantages and achievements.
47. The Government member of the Netherlands stressed the importance of promoting decent work through technical cooperation, in particular via DWCPs. In this connection, he informed the Committee that his Government had just concluded a new cooperative agreement with the ILO, providing funding amounting to €32 million. Technical cooperation should be mainly applied to support the standard-setting function of the ILO; themes such as tripartism and employment were also of special interest within the context of technical cooperation programmes. His Government recognized the responsibility of donors to encourage ownership of resources by the ILO so that it could design and carry out its programmes. He hoped that the new technical cooperation policy would lead to a

more visible needs-based ILO presence in the field and to more cooperation with other UN agencies.

- 48.** The Government member of Botswana commended the ILO for its efforts to pioneer change in terms of developing the DWA and emphasizing the social dimension of globalization. The ILO had also been successful in building consensus on issues such as the worst forms of child labour and HIV/AIDS in the world of work, which had enabled it to secure valuable extra-budgetary support from international donors. It was advisable for the ILO to focus its technical cooperation programme on areas in which it had a comparative advantage, rather than to spread its resources too thinly. Promotion campaigns to ratify ILO Conventions needed to be accompanied by efforts aimed at capacity building to implement the Conventions and fulfil reporting obligations. Lastly, the ILO technical cooperation programme needed to target more intensively poverty reduction and job creation and to devote greater attention to equity between and within regions as regards spread of resources.
- 49.** The Government member of Belgium was disappointed that the report did not give enough information on the operational side of ILO technical cooperation. His Government supported the reform of the UN system for the purpose of improving aid effectiveness. DWCPs, which played a crucial role in planning ILO technical cooperation activities at country level, should be integrated into PRS and UNDAF, while avoiding duplication and ensuring coherence. Technical assistance responding to local needs would facilitate the implementation of international labour standards in member States. His Government attached great importance to the follow-up and evaluation of funded programmes, and thus welcomed the project steering committees set up by the ILO and the efforts aimed at results-based management, which required projects to be formulated on the basis of realistic and measurable objectives. His Government stressed the significance of programmes aimed at fulfilling the main strategic objectives of the ILO and urged the ILO to seek additional donors for its Programme for the Promotion of Social Dialogue in French-speaking Africa (PRODIAF) and Strategies and Tools against Social Exclusion and Poverty (STEP), by inviting potential donors to participate in the project steering committees.
- 50.** The Government member of the United Kingdom felt encouraged by the support for UN reform and DWCPs. The latter would increase participation of local ILO constituents and provide a valuable contribution to UNDAF and PRS.
- 51.** The Government member of New Zealand suggested that the Committee should take into account three points when providing strategic guidance for the ILO technical cooperation programme: (i) efforts should be concentrated on those areas in which the ILO had a clear mandate and comparative advantage; (ii) the provision of development assistance should be guided by national development priorities; and (iii) the implementation of ILO technical cooperation programmes should be accompanied by effective monitoring mechanisms. Adherence to those principles would enhance the effectiveness of ILO technical cooperation and the willingness of donors to contribute extra-budgetary resources.
- 52.** The Government member of China welcomed the considerable progress made in the last ten years by the ILO technical cooperation programme in fulfilling the Organization's strategic objectives and commended the ILO for its efforts, particularly in the areas of employment promotion, elimination of child labour and poverty reduction. To ensure continued success, the ILO should place greater emphasis on developing countries in Asia and Africa, give more attention to the immediate needs of member States and attempt to diversify its sources of extra-budgetary financing. His Government wished to increase its participation with the ILO and other developing countries in the field of technical cooperation.

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- 53.** The Government member of the United Arab Emirates, speaking on behalf of the Governments of Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council,⁵ indicated that ILO technical cooperation had helped to bring national laws in the region into conformity with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The ministries of social affairs and labour of the Council countries had established a number of action plans, which had, inter alia, resulted in the publication of the Declaration and the establishment of a regional database. He drew attention to a number of suggestions for improving technical cooperation in the region: (i) ILO technical assistance in labour matters should take into account local contexts and needs; (ii) the Regional Office in Beirut should be strengthened and supplied with more Arabic-speaking staff; and (iii) assistance should be provided to countries in the region in fulfilling their obligations under ILO Conventions and improving local working conditions.
- 54.** The Government member of Honduras requested that technical cooperation expenditure be distributed more equitably between the regions and agreed that the African region deserved special attention. Latin America needed technical cooperation as a vehicle for promotion and proper implementation of international labour standards. Considerable progress had been made in this regard in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and in job creation. She hoped that technical cooperation in Latin America would continue to be strengthened.
- 55.** The Government member of South Africa reiterated the importance of expanding the extra-budgetary resource base through PPPs; strengthening the capacity of the social partners; allocating adequate levels of extra-budgetary resources for developing countries, and for Africa in particular; and implementing results-driven technical cooperation programmes and projects. National ownership and sustainability of projects should be strengthened.
- 56.** The Government member of Sweden endorsed the IMEC statement. The integration of the ILO in the UN system was a process of key importance. In playing an active part in this process, the ILO should take advantage of its added value, in particular its normative role and unique tripartite structure. The ILO would have to demonstrate the importance of these values to the rest of the UN system to enhance its visibility vis-à-vis other UN agencies. In doing so, the forthcoming ECOSOC High-Level Segment in Geneva, on the creation of an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all and its impact on sustainable development, would be an important event.
- 57.** The representative of the European Commission echoed the statement by the Government member of Austria, speaking on behalf of the Governments of Member States of the EU. The discussion on the role of the ILO in technical cooperation was very timely in view of the outcome of the World Summit of September 2005, the ongoing UN reform process, and preparations for the forthcoming ECOSOC High-Level Segment in July 2006. He welcomed the references to increased cooperation between the Commission and the ILO in the report submitted to the Conference, and briefly reviewed the process that led the ILO and the Commission to sign a strategic partnership in the field of development on 15 July 2004. The European Commission had signed such partnerships with a selected number of UN organizations and agencies.
- 58.** In the report submitted to the Conference, some of the figures for contributions had, however, confused resources from the EU and the Commission. The figures for 2000-04

⁵ Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

were for European Commission funds, while other figures were based on a number of EU budgets and programmes. Such contributions reflected the relevance of ILO technical cooperation activities to a large number of European Commission policies and to its cooperation with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin. The combined European Commission and EU contributions to the ILO amounted to over 40.8 per cent of extra-budgetary resources.

- 59.** Referring to a recent Communication on the EU contribution to the implementation of the DWA, the European Commission reaffirmed its support for the goal of decent work for all. The Communication highlighted the importance of DWCPs, which could help mobilize resources, strengthen policy coherence, improve the involvement of the social partners and other relevant stakeholders, better identify and address country priorities, strengthen ownership and sustainability, enhance the integration of decent work in PRS and facilitate cooperation with other donors and the wider UN system.
- 60.** The European Consensus on Development, presented to the ILO Governing Body in March 2006 by the European Commissioner for Development, Mr. Louis Michel, recognized employment, social cohesion and decent work as areas for action by both the European Community and EU Member States. The European Commission would focus on decent work initiatives as part of its thematic programming and of country and regional programming in the framework of its financial perspectives for 2007-13. The Commission fully acknowledged the social partners as key actors in development, and would support work to strengthen the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations.
- 61.** As regards results-based management, he reaffirmed the willingness of the Commission to cooperate with the ILO and others to develop indicators for measuring and assessing the implementation of decent work. He hoped that the general discussion would result in technical cooperation that would strengthen the impact of decent work on poverty reduction.
- 62.** The Government member of Italy considered that DWCPs represented an important planning tool that would help identify priorities at country level. The achievement of decent work through such programmes called for better coordination with other multilateral and bilateral development agencies and for more effective and unified action within the UN system. Furthermore, in order to achieve policy coherence at national level, it was essential to ensure that governments had at their disposal the appropriate policy option, instruments and resources to assist them in achieving their national development objectives. The recognition of productive employment and decent work for all as central to the development vision of the UN, constituted a unique opportunity to raise the profile of the ILO, building on its comparative advantage of tripartism and international labour standards. In this respect, an important role could be played by the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, which for years had demonstrated its ability to strengthen the capacity of activists of employers' and workers' organizations and to address specific needs of constituents, institutions and individuals.
- 63.** The Government member of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela called for assistance to the working men and women of Afghanistan and Iraq, countries emerging from conflict. He expressed concern about the trade and financial policies in effect, which, given the conclusions of the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the March 2006 report of the Governing Body Committee on Employment and Social Policy, exacerbated extreme poverty and precarious employment.
- 64.** The Government member of Barbados, speaking also on behalf of the Government members of Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, strongly supported ILO technical cooperation, which had helped promote decent work and

occupational safety and health, fight HIV/AIDS and harmonize labour legislation in the region. An increase in extra-budgetary resources for the ILO was necessary, since middle income countries and developing countries in general needed technical cooperation in order to strengthen their capacity to ensure that DWCPs were effectively implemented. Future technical cooperation initiatives in the Caribbean States would be vital for achieving the four strategic objectives and enhancing competitiveness.

- 65.** The Government member of India considered that technical cooperation was the main delivery mechanism of the ILO and felt encouraged by the recognition of national ownership as central to its success. This was in line with the latest UN initiative, which envisaged a comprehensive and complementary framework of UN agencies to support national development strategies. Programmes could only respond to national needs if national priorities were decided in consultation with governments. In this context, the ILO needed to strengthen the capacity of national governments. Besides, technical cooperation had undergone a paradigm shift, which called for targeted interventions in clearly defined areas. More emphasis should be put on imparting skills to workers, employment services, migration, etc. Delivery mechanisms at country level also needed to be more inclusive, with special attention to new, emerging sectors without organized structures or institutions. The ILO should therefore try to develop suitable mechanisms that could strengthen its tripartite structure by co-opting other partners as well. While recognizing the necessity of an integrated international policy framework to facilitate coherence in the programmes of different multilateral and bilateral agencies, partnerships of the ILO with other organizations should be viewed with caution given the important differences in mandate and constituency. Issues related to the workforce were solely the domain of the ILO, and the ILO should not compromise on its core competency when entering into alliances.
- 66.** The Government member of Cuba stated that the ILO was called upon to play a major role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular, the elimination of poverty, through the global promotion of productive duly remunerated employment as a vital component of sustainable development. ILO technical cooperation had been very helpful to Cuba. In order for it to be most effective, priority needed to be given to the specific context of each recipient country, as well as balanced and transparent interaction between the ILO and the social partners. The direct benefits of technical cooperation granted to the economically active population constituted the best means of enhancing the ILO's profile. At the multilateral level, coordination between the ILO and other UN bodies would give greater visibility to the ILO's best practices. Although the promotion of international labour standards was an important objective of technical cooperation, others, such as job creation, occupational safety and health, gender equality and the protection of migrant workers should also be pursued. In view of the decrease in technical cooperation resources for African countries, he urged the major donors to increase extra-budgetary funding for that region, but without establishing conditions which would result in diverting ILO technical cooperation from its main objectives. As regards countries affected by war, natural disasters and epidemics, the ILO's role was one of capacity building, not of humanitarian assistance, and its efforts needed to be conducted in a favourable environment, free of military occupation and foreign interference. Missiles and bullets should therefore be replaced by technical cooperation to ensure economic development and social justice. He finally stressed that developing countries could only face the challenges of job creation and decent work if their burden of external debt was relieved and official development assistance (ODA) obligations met. In addition to its commitment, the international community needed to increase resources for technical cooperation.
- 67.** The Government member of Chad found that the discussion should not be confined to decent work and fundamental rights and principles at work, as the main cause for the deplorable situation of workers was poverty and economic migration. His country was

counting on the ILO's technical support in the search for funding for its national employment and poverty-reduction plan. If the spectacle of mass migration was to be avoided, technical cooperation should focus first and foremost on the elimination of poverty.

- 68.** The Government member of Tunisia believed that the promotion of employment, workers' rights, social protection and social dialogue would reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth and bring about a more equal distribution of wealth. Her country fully endorsed the priority given to decent work in the global strategic approach endorsed by the international community, since it emphasized the role of the ILO within the UN system. The pursuit of that objective as an essential factor in poverty reduction, employment creation and social protection could contribute significantly to a more human and equitable globalization. Technical cooperation should explore new ways to make decent work more palpable.
- 69.** The Government member of Mozambique said that ILO technical cooperation was an indispensable tool to fight poverty. His country had a very positive experience of ILO technical cooperation, especially in the areas of employment and vocational training. More resources were needed, however, to bring the country closer to the achievement of the MDGs. Capacity building was crucial to enable the social partners to defend the values of tripartism, and efforts should focus on this issue.
- 70.** The Government member of Sweden stressed the importance of gender equality as a key factor in poverty reduction, being not only a human right but also an issue of major relevance to social development. The issue of youth employment also deserved to be addressed as part of the development agenda since it had a bearing on the future of all societies. In conclusion, productive and decent employment was of vital importance for material welfare and poverty reduction. The ILO had a key role to play through its mandate and structure, and its tool was the DWA.
- 71.** The Government member of Honduras drew attention to the frequent duplication of effort and squandering of scarce resources in technical cooperation projects. The ILO should focus its projects and liaise more with other agencies and financial institutions, in order to avoid such situations, which undermined the credibility of technical cooperation and reduced the availability of donor resources.
- 72.** The Government member of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the IMEC Government members, agreed with others on the crucial role of DWCPs, which should seek to translate the four strategic objectives into reality at country level and integrate the DWA into PRS and national development agendas. National ownership was a key concept in this respect, and the value of tripartism and social dialogue in priority setting at national level could not be overestimated. In order to achieve efficient and effective implementation of DWCPs, and quantitative and qualitative measurable outcomes, it would also be important to ensure effective management and review the field structure. She further emphasized that it was critical for the ILO to articulate its comparative advantage in relation to the rest of the international development community. Linking the work of the ILO closer with other international agencies working on similar questions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, would enhance the fulfilment of its specific mandate. The ILO Liaison Office in New York had a key role to play in this regard. Finally, she referred to the recent ILO guidance note on DWCPs, which highlighted the commitment of the ILO to a more coherent and effective UN system and considered that UN reform offered new opportunities to promote the DWA by building strategic partnerships and anchoring DWCPs in Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and UNDAF. The IMEC Government members neither believed nor wished that UN reform would weaken the institutional strength and uniqueness of the ILO, but, on the contrary, considered that it would offer an

opportunity for mutual complementarity and enhanced visibility of the ILO's mandate and structure.

- 73.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson endorsed the statement by the Government member of the United States that ILO technical cooperation should focus on its strategic objectives. The promotion of tripartism and of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and employment generation, were the top priorities. Many countries across the globe were striving to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurs and enterprises, for job creation was crucial: the ILO approach to working out of poverty was a means of improving standards of living everywhere. Work on the Global Employment Agenda had given the ILO rich experience and a wealth of products and tools that could be replicated elsewhere, and many case studies were available. The ILO's Start and Improve Your Business modules, which had been implemented in 90 countries over the past three decades, were a good example. Activities on training and upgrading skills had also brought competitive and productivity improvements.
- 74.** As regards enhancing the ILO's profile, he supported the view of the United States that the ILO should concentrate on what it did best, and the rest would follow. Results were the best way of raising profiles, and the ILO should showcase its many success stories in areas where it had achieved proven results, working with the social partners and tapping their expertise and knowledge of local workplace issues. The Employers welcomed the statement by the European Commission that the social partners were active partners in development, and that it was important to strengthen their capacity to act in this role.
- 75.** Ensuring the equitable distribution of technical cooperation across regions remained a priority, but Africa should receive greater attention. Certain countries in Latin America also required special attention, as did countries emerging from conflict, which urgently needed support for peacebuilding, building labour market institutions, and promoting youth employment. PPPs were an important means of expanding the resource base of the ILO, and proper guidelines for mobilizing such resources for ILO technical cooperation were required. He supported the view expressed by the Government member of Germany regarding research, which should focus on practical issues.
- 76.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson was reassured by the government statements, in particular those by Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden, who had called for ILO technical cooperation to support its standard-setting role. This included both ratification and implementation, which was central to efforts to ensure an equitable marketplace and improve living and working conditions. Other work to enhance social dialogue, mainstream gender considerations and support for the least developed countries was also important. Employment creation was an integral part of decent work: all jobs should be decent.
- 77.** She was alarmed at the claim by some speakers that the ILO needed to prove the added value that tripartism brought to the UN system. The ILO was an institutionally independent organization with its own objectives established by its own stakeholders and constituents, and this should be respected. It was essential to retain its tripartite identity in any reform of the UN system, to which it could also contribute usefully. In this regard she paid tribute to the observation by the representative of the European Commission that the social partners were actors in economic development, demonstrating recognition of their value to socio-economic development.
- 78.** She recalled comments by the Director-General at a meeting of the Workers' group of the Conference that morning, where he had pointed out that the ILO had embarked on reform long before the UN's recent efforts. The ILO had been the first agency to introduce strategic budgeting, and had adopted performance indicators. While current talk concerned reform of the UN, it was equally pertinent to give attention to the reform of other key

multilateral institutions, in particular the World Trade Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions, whose work affected the lives of billions of people worldwide.

- 79.** Duplication of resources should be avoided and the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes should be increased, but not if this meant that the ILO would be subsumed into the UN. Decentralization should be aimed at national ownership of programmes, which would ensure their sustainability, and programmes should pursue the four strategic objectives through tripartism. Extra-budgetary assistance should be driven not only by donor preferences, but mainly by nationally identified priorities.
- 80.** As regards results-based management, while the value of systematic evaluation was recognized, it should be realized that not everything was quantifiable, not even some of the most important ILO activities. The ILO was a value-based organization and not a company. The jargon of marketing was inappropriate if it meant labelling all ILO activities as “products”. How could the action of trade unions to obtain their rights be measured? How could performance in capacity building be quantified? The ability of employers’ and workers’ organizations to articulate their concerns was part of the democratic process whose justification was self-evident. Ultimately any assessments of such activities could only be subjective, and quantifying them was meaningless, or at best irrelevant. It was hence important to choose carefully the parameters used in measuring results, and to define their meaning accurately.
- 81.** As regards PPPs, while they were a potential source of significant resources, the ILO must ensure that its credibility was not compromised. It must choose its partners carefully, and avoid entities that did not respect the principles underlying its work. Clear guidelines were necessary, and trade unions should be involved at the country level in order to ensure that core values were upheld.
- 82.** She welcomed comments supporting the mainstreaming of gender issues and the need to pay more specific attention to the needs of the least developed countries. In both these areas more resources were needed, and she thanked the European Commission for its extra-budgetary assistance here.
- 83.** Replying to a question by the Worker Vice-Chairperson concerning activities for Iraq and the occupied Arab territories, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that the ILO’s technical cooperation programme in Iraq was an integral part of the UN Country Team Assistance Programme. The ILO had provided support to the National Development Strategy, in particular for developing and diversifying the private sector, mitigating the social impact of the economic reform process, improving social security coverage and strengthening tripartism as part of civil society. The outcome of the ILO-organized International Employment Conference in December 2004 provided, through the Amman Declaration and Action Plan for Employment Creation, a coherent framework addressing economic and social needs. ILO assistance also included technical advisory services on a labour code and social security legislation, and a project on vocational training, training activities on employment intensive public works, and labour market information. A project was under way for the development of free, democratic and representative workers’ organizations. The ILO had also intensified its fund-raising efforts for its work in Iraq.
- 84.** The ILO had continued its efforts to contribute to socio-economic development and to improve the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories. He referred to the report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the current session of the Conference (*Provisional Record* No. 1), which stated that the technical cooperation programme in 2005-06 had centred on strengthening the institutional capacity of employers’ and workers’ organizations and the Ministry of Labour, promoting social dialogue as a requirement for peace, and establishing the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection. The

Fund focused on three core elements – the Community Infrastructure Development Programme, the Enterprise Development Programme and the Human Resources Development Programme. It should be recognized that the ILO’s technical cooperation programme was continuing its efforts to contribute to socio-economic development in the occupied Arab territories in obviously very difficult circumstances, which involved major obstacles to its work.

Discussion of specific questions

85. The Chairperson proposed that the suggested points for discussion circulated in document C.C.T./D.1, based on the questions asked in Chapter 6 of Report VI, be used as a basis for the Committee’s further discussion. It was so decided.

1. **How can the ILO most effectively promote its mandated task of promoting labour standards and the Decent Work Agenda, retain control of its distinct contributions and remain directly responsive to the needs and priorities of its constituents under the new conditions for coordination and programming of United Nations system operational activities for development? What is the best strategy to raise the ILO’s profile and ensure the ILO is better understood in the international community?**

86. The Employer Vice-Chairperson considered that global programmes and products were relevant and could help to focus ILO technical activities. Programmes such as the IPEC, ILO/AIDS and the World of Work had helped to increase the visibility of the ILO. Moreover, global programmes and products must have a clear country-level focus in terms of use and applicability. Lessons learned from country-level programmes on small enterprise development, such as Start and Improve your Business, Expand your Business, Know about Business and others, were important. The potential of other programmes like that on Women’s Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality (WEDGE) to yield positive results should be explored and should be allocated additional resources.

87. The Bureau for Employers’ Activities (ACT/EMP) and the Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV) should have adequate resources to support meaningful consultations and respond to the needs of constituents. Capacity building for the employers’ training programme at the International Training Centre in Turin was important and needed to be strengthened; the Turin Centre was recognized by other international institutions and was a good example of the ILO’s comparative advantage.

88. Youth employment was another area where the ILO should increase its involvement in programmes at the country level; this correlated with the general objective of collaboration and synergy within the UN system. It was a good example of where the ILO was able to work with other institutions, in particular in efforts to attain the international development goals, including the MDGs. The Conference had in 2005 adopted a resolution concerning youth employment, and much had been done in that area at the policy and advocacy level, and at the highest tripartite level. An action programme was needed in order to deliver products and services at the country level, and the ILO was well equipped to deliver them. That was supported by paragraph 223 of Report VI, which stated that “... youth employment remains a major challenge for all regions”. He echoed the view of the

Government member of the United States that organizations were known by the quality of their work.

- 89.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that there was a need to ensure that the views of the social partners, and of ACT/EMP and ACTRAV, were not diluted in the process of coordinating and programming UN system operational activities for development. There must be clearer guidelines on how UNDAF was to function and how it related to the work of the ILO. If the focus was to be on creating greater synergy and flexibility within the UN system, that meant taking advantage of the ILO's tripartite expertise and of the many changes that had taken place in the Organization in recent years. Reform should be based on a dialogue, for the UN system could learn much from the ILO's recent reforms. Engaging in the reform agenda of the UN should not have the effect of weakening or undermining the ILO, which should continue to explore ways of involving the social partners at the country level.
- 90.** Technical cooperation played a very important role in the promotion and ratification of the ILO's core Conventions, and should continue to do so. The major contribution that the ILO had made to the reduction of child labour worldwide showed how effective such promotional activities could be and argued in favour of the ILO's stepping up its efforts in favour of the other core Conventions as well. The promotion of ILO Conventions should also include assistance to countries to fulfil their commitments under Conventions that they had ratified, as well as to countries that were not yet in a position to ratify them, so that they could understand the principles involved and work towards their general acceptance. Here greater attention should be given to work to promote the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), a core Convention, which had received only 17 further ratifications in the period under review, compared with a total of 317 new ratifications of other core labour standards.
- 91.** As to the best strategy for raising the ILO's profile and ensuring that it was better understood in the international community, she strongly endorsed the proposal, in paragraph 330 of Report VI, that targeted discussions be held with major international organizations on how greater account could be taken of the ILO's tripartite constituency in their activities and what added value ILO constituents could bring to external partners' activities, in particular in terms of national ownership of development policies and frameworks underlying technical cooperation strategies. The Turin Centre, too, was well placed to raise awareness of international labour standards, and its training activities in that area should be expanded. Training was also needed in gender mainstreaming and in the formulation of national employment strategies within the context of the Global Employment Agenda, special attention being given to youth employment. In the interests of greater coordination and synergy, the ILO should encourage the creation of tripartite steering committees on DWCPs to ensure that the external partners and donors understood the role that the social partners were called upon to perform. The whole purpose of reform was to make more effective use of available resources, and that included the input of both employers and workers.
- 92.** The Government member of the United States reiterated her previous comments. She suggested that by focusing on its core mission and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its programmes, the ILO would prove its competence through the identification and application of good practices.

2. How can tripartism be best utilized in the delivery of technical cooperation? What new machinery or processes would help increase the impact of employers' and workers' organizations on decent work?

- 93.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson emphasized the need to build strong and representative employers' and workers' organizations. Without the capacity to articulate their members' needs or to provide them with adequate services, they would have no voice in national development policy formulation. He welcomed the recognition by the Government members of EU Member States that the social partners were development actors, confirming their relevance to national policy issues. There was an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations to contribute effectively to policy discussions, and many donors would support such work. Labour market institutions were essential factors in development, and the ILO's support for the social partners should be increased. The Employers called for further implementation of the 2002 Conference resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue in all four ILO Sectors, and for tripartism to be effectively mainstreamed in the Office's work both at headquarters and in the field.
- 94.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson considered that much scope still existed to enhance and strengthen tripartism within the ILO. That could be accomplished by allocating additional resources to ACT/EMP and ACTRAV, strengthening the capacity of the social partners, and increasing the level of their involvement in policy making. Tripartism should be strengthened at the country level, in particular through campaigns to raise awareness of the meaning of tripartism and social dialogue. It was important for tripartism to be seen as a process that produced results and concrete outcomes, not merely a formality. In general, a dramatic increase was needed in the allocation of resources aimed at improving social dialogue. Hence capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations was crucial, in some cases essential to enable them to take the first steps in participating in national dialogue on development policy. Without such experience, they would remain excluded and voiceless.
- 95.** The Government member of Morocco said that the role of the ILO in technical cooperation should be viewed in the context of globalization. Here the need was to safeguard workers' rights and strengthen tripartism at both national and international levels. In the UN reform process, the ILO should resist efforts by other organizations to encroach on its areas of competence. In carrying out its supervisory functions, the ILO should take account of differing levels of economic development. Lastly, national tripartite bodies should be involved in development projects at every stage, from design through to implementation. The tripartite steering committees of DWCPs would be a useful means of pursuing that goal.
- 96.** The Government member of Iraq considered that there was a discrepancy between the ILO's tripartite structure and the way in which development projects were handled in reality. All three social partners should be involved in the formulation of national development plans, and all three should share responsibility for conforming to ILO principles. Given the uneven level of implementation of the DWA in ILO member States, priority for technical cooperation should be given to the least developed countries, which needed it most. Particular attention needed to be given to countries affected by war or whose infrastructure had been destroyed, as was the case in Iraq.
- 97.** The Government member of Sweden asserted that her country's role as a donor Government was to support the ILO in its efforts to facilitate constituent-driven DWCPs implementing the strategic objectives. The increasing focus on PRS in defining priorities

for resource allocation at country level made it essential for the ILO to engage in and influence those processes in order to better promote the DWA in national strategies. Tripartism and social dialogue enabled the ILO to elaborate international labour standards, build consensus and address social concerns, thereby making a unique contribution to PRS. The benefits to be gained from tripartism in the development process were illustrated by the adoption of the labour market dialogue approach in Sweden, meaning that Swedish social partners entered into dialogue with their counterparts in developing countries to meet development goals.

98. The Government member of Botswana felt that making the best use of tripartism in the delivery of technical cooperation required more direct dialogue with the social partners to identify their needs and set priorities accordingly. His Government therefore supported ILO initiatives to increase both regular and extra-budgetary resources aimed at furthering social dialogue and capacity building. Finally, DWCPs would provide an excellent vehicle for enhancing the ILO's image, if positive results were widely disseminated.

3. What strategy should the ILO pursue in utilizing partnerships to mobilize financial resources, including through constituents?

99. The Employer Vice-Chairperson regretted that the report did not propose a clear resource mobilization strategy. Existing possibilities for technical support, assistance and funding should be fully explored. In view of declining resources and increasing demand, the ILO had to tap new sources of funding in order to meet its strategic objectives. PPPs were a promising source that already existed in many member States and, to a limited extent, at the ILO. At national level, the private sector was a partner of governments in the areas of investment, training and skills development, in addition to participating in charities, establishing foundations and fulfilling its corporate social responsibilities. Within the ILO, alliances with the private sector already existed on an ad hoc basis (e.g. child labour in Bangladesh, soccer ball stitching in Pakistan, tobacco and cocoa industries and small-scale mining). The private sector, as an engine of development and creator of wealth and employment, was in a position to play a major role in technical cooperation. Procedures should therefore not be too cumbersome, or they would deter companies from providing assistance through financial funding, technical support, scholarships or human resources development. The Employers were in favour of the systematic use of PPPs under proper guidelines and in conditions of transparency. The Office should thus prepare a document for the consideration of the Governing Body Committee on Technical Cooperation, outlining different options, aspects and procedures for engaging in such partnerships. It was essential for the ILO to be able to identify potential partners, funding agencies and priorities to attract resources. The implementation of PPPs might be a long process and steep learning curve, but the ILO could learn from successful national models. In so far as sustainable projects developed jointly with companies were crucial for the success of PPPs, the ILO should also encourage the development of partnerships between employers' organizations and enterprises. In this context, it should seek to address the imbalance between the financial resources available for its four strategic objectives, since the social dialogue sector had suffered greatly from the shortage of resources, and the ILO needed to convince donors of the importance of institution building. Finally, evaluation of the effective use of resources under the overall responsibility of the Governing Body should be an integral part of the system, as it would raise the credibility and profile of the Organization.

100. The Worker Vice-Chairperson considered that the broader issue at stake was that of resource mobilization: how was the ILO to mobilize adequate resources to support its technical cooperation activities; and how could the resources mobilized be better used?

The current situation regarding resources was not encouraging; while levels of ODA were rising, this was largely the result of currency fluctuations and the increase in humanitarian programmes in recent years. Little of the increase in ODA had fallen to the specialized agencies; the UN system had received direct less than 10 per cent of all development financing. In addition, the new resources were largely in the form of bilateral assistance or the new global funds. It was necessary to reconsider the focus of field activities, especially with regard to standards.

- 101.** The ILO's extra-budgetary income had steadily grown, but the DWA had received little attention from donors. The unpredictability of funds made long-term planning difficult. Many donor countries had failed to reach the promised target of 0.7 per cent of GNP to go to ODA, and not all pledges had been honoured, for example in response to recent disasters. More money was needed for both regular budget and extra-budgetary technical cooperation. Extra-budgetary resources were insufficient and unpredictable, and she called on the representatives of donor governments present in the Committee to impress on their governments the importance of ILO technical cooperation and the need to expand it. Employers and workers could also draw attention to this need.
- 102.** Donors should make multi-annual funding arrangements with the ILO to run in parallel with the four-year cycle of the Strategic Policy Framework. More agreements were needed like the EU/UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement, which had led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the European Commission in 2004 and focused on five areas of cooperation.
- 103.** She called the Committee's attention to the last sentence of paragraph 335 in the report which read: "To the extent possible new partnership initiatives should aim ultimately to be self-financing, but adequate resources must be earmarked at the outset to make the partnerships work." It would be interesting to learn how many of the governments urging PPPs had in fact earmarked funds for ILO technical cooperation. Strategic planning was not possible without predictable financial resources. A report on this should be submitted regularly to the Governing Body Committee on Technical Cooperation.
- 104.** Despite significant improvements over the last few years, the ILO still needed to promote itself more effectively to obtain further funding. Greater opportunities to address policy coherence through funding decisions would be available with the reform of the UN field system and through UNDAF. One recurrent problem was that the International Labour Conference was primarily attended by officials of ministries of labour, while aid contributions and priorities were ultimately decided in other ministries. However, since reform called for improved synergies in project delivery at the country level and the DWCPs were tailored to individual countries' needs, there were stronger arguments for coherence at the individual donor country level, and ministries of labour should hence have more say on funding. The ILO should initiate wider policy discussion with donor countries, involving all relevant ministries and the social partners concerned.
- 105.** A number of pilot projects under the DWCPs could provide examples of good practice that could be used to garner more and continued support. The ILO and beneficiary countries should do more to showcase successful projects.
- 106.** She drew the attention of Government members who had referred to the need for evaluation to the existing assessments of technical cooperation performance conducted by the Governing Body Committee on Technical Cooperation, involving not only donors and beneficiary countries, but also Workers, who also upheld the principle of accountability. Moreover, the Governing Body Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee assessed overall performance against a set of indicators and strategic objectives established some time ago by the Governing Body. Evaluation arrangements should be included at the

design stage so that projects could be monitored throughout their lifespan. Workers' organizations should be involved at the design stage to aid in this process and in monitoring throughout the project.

- 107.** PPPs were acceptable as an opportunity to broaden the ILO's resource base, but they should be managed on the basis of suitable guidelines approved by the Governing Body Committee on Technical Cooperation. The involvement of workers' organizations in the formulation and implementation of such partnerships was essential.
- 108.** The Government member of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated a point made earlier by the Government member of Chad and the Worker Vice-Chairperson on the importance of having an impact in tackling poverty. The President of his country had called for the establishment of an international fund to fight poverty, which might be subsidized, for example, by a percentage of national defence budgets, money confiscated from the illegal drugs trade, or a tax on speculative financial transactions.
- 109.** Replying to the discussion, the Employer Vice-Chairperson reiterated the Employers' keen interest in PPPs. Business thrived best in a stable political and economic environment, and prospered when consumers prospered and workers were healthy and able to work to their full capacity. Workers should enjoy appropriate education, training, and health facilities, and it was in the interests of technical cooperation to contribute to activities that furthered these objectives. HIV/AIDS was an obvious example of such a partnership, as Employers had through the ILO workplace programme contributed to a healthy and productive workforce.
- 110.** The Government member of Germany reiterated the importance of PPPs in technical cooperation, and said that her Government would be happy to give support to such programmes in view of its own positive experience, particularly in relation to the coffee trade. While workers were not in a position to contribute to programmes financially, such partnerships might be designed to encourage their full participation in other ways, and this merited discussion.
- 111.** The Government member of New Zealand urged the ILO to develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy that focused on more than just marketing and was driven by good results. Good performance brought the confidence of beneficiaries, and donors would have the platform needed for sound funding decisions. The ILO should have appropriately trained staff where they were most needed to deliver its programmes.
- 112.** The Government member of Sweden felt that the ILO should, in the light of UN reform, develop new partnership models in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the technical cooperation funding mechanism and lower transaction costs for the benefit of its constituents. Given the rise in development funding programmes from private sources worldwide, it would also be worth exploring the potential of PPPs to pursue the DWA.
- 113.** The Government member of China considered that technical cooperation was a valuable vehicle for pursuing the ILO's strategic objectives. In order to obtain the support of donors and enhance the ILO's profile, technical cooperation programmes should ensure they focused on priority issues. In line with the ILO's mandate, the MDGs and the 2005 World Summit, emphasis should be placed on reducing poverty and improving working conditions in developing countries.
- 114.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson pointed out that while workers did not contribute financially to such partnerships, they contributed with their work, which generated company earnings. Workers were also taxpayers, but did not enjoy the preferential treatment accorded to business in national fiscal policy. Alongside governments and employers, workers had a

role as important stakeholders in such partnerships. Clear guidelines were needed from the Office, for approval by the Governing Body through its Committee on Technical Cooperation, on the framework for such agreements.

115. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported this statement, and said that PPPs could be designed to include both companies and workers.

4. What is the best strategy to develop the ILO's research base so as to produce convincing arguments and more empirical evidence demonstrating that respect of fundamental rights at work, and execution of the Decent Work Agenda as a whole, also bring economic benefits and more sustainable socio-economic development? How can the ILO stimulate the examination and dissemination of such findings by others?

How would the ILO's technical capacities be best integrated in technical cooperation to produce more coherent products and outcomes? What kind of products should the ILO develop for strategic productive sectors that will drive some of the Decent Work Country Programmes so as to bring more focused ILO technical capacity in those sectors?

116. The Employer Vice-Chairperson wondered whether this question related to all ILO research, or only to research linked to technical cooperation. The Committee should only discuss the latter category.

117. Research should be driven by the needs of constituents; it should assess the impact of technical cooperation activities, be customer focused, of high quality, practical in nature, highlight best practices, and concentrate on practical issues. It should be widely disseminated among constituents and donors, which would also serve to raise the profile of the ILO.

118. ILO products to support DWCPs should focus on a wide range of subjects, including small and medium enterprise development; microfinance; the informal economy; entrepreneurship; the creation of an enabling environment for enterprises; youth employment; child labour; productivity; capacity building of constituents; support for the employers' and workers' liaison bureaux; Turin Centre training courses – in particular for business leaders and entrepreneurs; human resources development; occupational safety and health; and HIV/AIDS. In determining specific products and priorities, the views of the social partners should be taken into account, given their proximity to the workplace and central roles in the world of work.

119. The Worker Vice-Chairperson emphasized that much research was already being done at the departmental level in the ILO and in its International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS) on a variety of topics, including research on the positive impact of collective bargaining. The real issue was how to draw appropriate conclusions from research materials, and how the ILO could make the work of IILS more relevant to the DWA and

support the ILO's four strategic objectives. Research could also be carried out jointly with donor countries and agencies, drawing on the resources of labour institutes in developing countries. This would help the ILO to reduce costs and anchor research in local realities.

- 120.** Research was also an opportunity to highlight the many examples of how technical cooperation projects had benefited the poor and improved lives. With regard to projects where unions had been involved, it would not be difficult to show a correlation between the effort made and the economic benefits to countries and peoples, and such examples should be documented and used as reference materials when negotiating with donor agencies. Unions today were themselves big donors in some countries, and better endowed unions helped those with fewer resources in such areas as minimum-wage campaigns, awareness raising, and negotiating collective agreements, which had benefited not only union members but also entire sectors and industries. The ILO should publicize the direct links between strong trade unions and poverty alleviation, and between labour standards and economic benefits, pointing out that well-paid workers were less dependent on governments for social assistance and were able to purchase more and hence stimulate the economy and generate wealth and employment. An important element in economic growth was also the role accorded to women. Countries that denied women access to decent work were thereby depriving themselves of valuable human skills.
- 121.** Empirical evidence was essential to credible research, but certain things did not require proof. The intrinsic, self-evident value of democracy was disputed by no one, and no democratic country would abandon democracy simply because research claimed that alternatives were economically more successful. The same applied to industrial democracy: its value was self-evident, and needed no empirical justification. The dark ages of exploitation and abuse of the first industrial revolution, where trade unions had been the single most important factor in improving working and living conditions and alleviating poverty, provided sufficient empirical evidence – were any needed – of the importance of freedom of association and collective bargaining as core standards to be protected and promoted. Tripartism and social dialogue – part of the ILO's comparative advantage – had provided valuable platforms to define development strategies and combat poverty.
- 122.** The Government member of Finland endorsed the IMEC views. She emphasized that the monitoring and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative objectives were essential elements of technical cooperation programmes. Self-evaluation could be a useful tool, but independent external evaluations were also needed at both the country and the project level. Part of the role of the ILO should be to gather evidence of the impact of DWCPs on productivity and economic benefits, which could be crucial in convincing policy makers. It should also identify good practices and arrange for seminars and databases that could be shared with constituents with similar backgrounds or facing similar problems.
- 123.** The Government member of Switzerland endorsed the IMEC views. Her Government urged the ILO to participate in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system, and supported the reforms that were being introduced under the principle of the "Three Ones". The UNDP was currently making major adjustments in order to be able to serve the interests of all UN agencies, and the Office should enter into discussions with it in order to conclude memoranda of understanding similar to those already concluded with UNEP and UNIDO. The ILO could then participate actively in UN teams in the field, to which it could contribute its own particular areas of expertise so as to ensure more efficient use of extra-budgetary resources. The mobilization of those resources would be facilitated if the United Nations Resident Coordinator was able to assure potential donors that the activities planned by the ILO were an integral part of the UN framework. Finally, the ILO should focus on action research for field projects, on the basis of which it could more easily identify good practices for use in national, regional and global projects.

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- 124.** The Government member of the United States endorsed the IMEC views. Her Government had repeatedly urged the Office to develop a sound and integrated research policy agenda and to strengthen its capacity to produce authoritative research, involving peer review, the participation of researchers in professional conferences, making data and supporting documentation available to the public and providing fellowships to independent researchers. However, she endorsed the statement by the Employer Vice-Chairperson that the Committee on Technical Cooperation was not the right forum for a discussion on ILO research policy in general.
- 125.** Credible, independent monitoring and evaluation, including longitudinal studies to determine long-term impact, should reveal how the ILO's technical expertise could improve technical cooperation activities. The ILO already had some excellent programmes, such as IPEC and ILO programmes on labour administration, among others. The development of new ILO products and technical cooperation initiatives should be driven by the priorities established by constituents through the DWCP process.
- 126.** The Government member of Portugal supported the IMEC views. Reaching the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and combating poverty were the main targets of technical cooperation. Governments, the social partners and civil society organizations had a crucial role to play, not only in defining national priorities, but also in implementation at the field level. ILO programmes, such as that on STEP, had achieved valuable impact and yielded useful lessons, which should be disseminated to others.
- 127.** The Government member of Argentina drew attention to the need for the ILO to develop its own practical and theoretical knowledge base relating to its technical cooperation activities, including the social and economic factors that determined the fulfilment of the DWA. Practical research was of indisputable value, but this did not mean that the ILO should totally abandon higher level analysis. Decent work was the ILO's responsibility, but other organizations may well have useful research that could be used to further its aims.
- 128.** The Government member of the United Kingdom endorsed the IMEC views. He encouraged the ILO to develop plans for the full integration of regular and extra-budgetary funding so as to avoid the high transaction costs entailed by numerous bilateral partnerships, which were often driven by donor – rather than country – priorities. With regard to social protection, he welcomed and encouraged the ILO's increasing focus on extending social protection to the informal economy, as well as its integration into DWCPs. Social protection was increasingly recognized by international development agencies and developing countries as an important policy option in tackling poverty and inequality. The ILO, with its long-standing commitment to social protection as part of the integrated DWA, was well placed to support such moves. The ILO's technical expertise in that area had been used by his Government to develop its own thinking on social transfers as a response to chronic poverty.
- 129.** The Government member of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considered that, in view of the proliferation of bilateral funding, steps were needed to strengthen multilateral technical cooperation. There was a dangerous trend towards earmarking technical cooperation funds, which had the effect of reducing the transparency that should characterize such transactions. He called for the establishment of a fund with clearly stated rules that would serve to provide a global response to global problems.
- 130.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson remarked that the development of an ILO-specific knowledge base should be linked to technical cooperation and constructed on the basis of its experience with various programmes. The Office should avoid spreading its resources

too thinly, and should provide more training for its staff. For this purpose it should make full use of the Turin Centre. In relation to UN reform, the ILO should ensure that its policy was aimed at its full inclusion in the new arrangements, that its expertise was acknowledged and influenced policies, and that its values were effectively promoted.

- 131.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted a recurrent theme in the governments' statements – the need for the ILO to focus on combating poverty. Poverty alleviation was, in fact, one of the core missions of the ILO and a key element of the DWCPs. In that regard, it would be useful for the ILO to consider including the impact of external debt and debt repayments, which represented a heavy burden for many developing countries, among the topics for research in view of its relevance to capacity for poverty alleviation. Regarding the question of whether the UNDP could represent the ILO at the country level, she recalled that while the ILO did not have offices in every country, workers were to be found in all countries, and their organizations could be involved in ILO activities. Although the issue of research was indeed important, she cautioned that there was no need to justify labour standards or DWCPs in terms of their economic benefits. In the context of UN reform, the ILO should ensure its influence was not weakened and that it profited from the new arrangements in terms of increased funding.
- 132.** The Government member of the United States, supported by the Employer Vice-Chairperson, emphasized the need for concrete conclusions to provide guidelines on how the ILO could continue to ensure the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of its technical cooperation programme.

Consideration of the draft resolution and conclusions prepared by the Drafting Group

- 133.** At the close of the general discussion the Committee assigned to its Drafting Group the task of preparing a draft resolution and conclusions based on the views expressed during the Committee's discussions. The Drafting Group held eight sittings.
- 134.** At the Committee's sixth and seventh sittings, it accordingly discussed the draft text prepared by the Drafting Group, together with some 53 written amendments received from its members by a stipulated deadline (32 from Governments; 12 from Employers; and 9 from Workers). The following is a summary of the discussions on amendments that involved substantive issues.

Paragraph 1

- 135.** An amendment submitted by the Government members of Sweden and the United Kingdom (D.39) proposed to begin the first paragraph of the conclusions by the following sentence: "Full and productive employment and decent work are a central driver of development and therefore a priority objective of international cooperation." Presenting the amendment, the Government member of Sweden described the current context of development efforts and the recognition now given to decent work by the international community, and this repetition of text resulting from the Ministerial Panel on "Decent Work as a Global Goal: the Role of Development Cooperation", held during the Conference on 6 June, echoed the outcome of the World Summit of 2005 and would provide useful input to the forthcoming High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council. The Employers and Workers welcomed the proposal, and the amendment was adopted.

Paragraph 8

- 136.** An amendment proposed by the Government members of Canada, Czech Republic, Sweden and the United Kingdom (D.43) sought to insert the phrase “to become more integrated into and” into paragraph 8 after the words “it should seek” in the first sentence. Presenting the amendment, the Government member of Sweden explained that the intention was to ensure full ILO involvement in the UN reform process so that it could influence UN system country programmes and national development strategies. The amendment was supported by the Government members of Belgium, Germany and Italy.
- 137.** The Workers, supported by the Government members of Argentina, Bahrain and Brazil, considered that the amendment would detract from the main focus of the paragraph, which was the promotion of the DWA and DWCPs and the role of the social partners in such efforts. Moreover, paragraph 20 already addressed the issue of UN reform, which was in any case not an issue limited to technical cooperation. Nor was the delivery of UN programmes an issue for the Committee, but that of the ILO’s projects.
- 138.** The amendment was withdrawn.

Paragraph 17

- 139.** The Government members of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (D.46) which sought, in the last sentence of paragraph 17, to replace the words “To this end” by “On the basis of a clear demonstration of the effective use of resources,”. Presenting the amendment, the Government member of Sweden stated that the aim was to draw attention to the importance of achieving positive results for resource mobilization.
- 140.** The Workers, supported by the Government member of Botswana, felt that the addition was inappropriate in a sentence concerning priorities for resource allocation, particularly since this issue was already addressed in paragraph 29. The Government member of Sweden accordingly proposed a subamendment to the effect that the original should instead be modified to state that the ILO “should invite and motivate donors to increase their contributions ...”. This proposal was however opposed by the Workers, and the subamendment was withdrawn. In the absence of a consensus, the amendment was withdrawn.
- 141.** The Government member of Barbados placed on record his wish for the paragraph to include a reference to small island developing States after “especially Africa,” in the sixth line. Practical difficulties had prevented him from submitting an amendment to this effect. The Chairperson explained that, for procedural reasons, it was not possible to introduce the amendment after the deadline had passed, but stated that the request would be noted.

Paragraph 20

- 142.** The Government members of Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (D.52) by which they sought, in the third sentence of this paragraph, to replace the word “consider” by “pay due attention to”, and add the word “consider” after “Coordinator system, and”; and replace the words “strengthen the Office’s representation and” by “improve”. Presenting the amendment, the Government member of Belgium explained that the intention was to address the current context of UN reform, which was of major importance for the pattern

of UN system technical cooperation. The Government member of Sweden emphasized the importance of the UN reform process, whose aim was to remove duplication of effort and improve coordination, and increased field representation by individual agencies was not in line with this aim: rather, the need was to pool administrative and related functions, which would strengthen the technical capacity of the agencies. The Government member of the United Kingdom stressed that it was essential for the ILO to embrace reform, including in technical cooperation, and to ensure its participation in the UNDAF process.

143. The Employers and Workers opposed the amendment, which, in their view, would weaken a text that was the result of long discussions in the Drafting Group. The amendment might also give rise to ambiguity. The Employers considered that the current wording captured all the concerns of the Government sponsors. The Workers observed that UN reform was a very broad issue, and it was inappropriate to address it solely in the context of ILO technical cooperation; nor would the amendment strengthen the ILO's field capacity.
144. The Government member of Sweden, seconded by the Government member of the United Kingdom, offered a subamendment proposing to replace the original words "strengthen the Office's representation and" by "reinforce the ILO's" in the second sentence.
145. The proposed subamendment and amendment D.52 were withdrawn by their authors on the understanding that those who had opposed its adoption would agree to a separate amendment submitted by the same authors (D.51), with modified wording.
146. The Government members of Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (D.51) whereby they sought, before the last sentence of paragraph 20, to add the following new sentence: "The ILO should engage in further United Nations system-wide integration that leads to greater coherence and effectiveness of the ILO and of the United Nations system as a whole.". Referring to the agreement on the previous amendment, the Government member of Sweden proposed to subamend amendment D.51 so as to read: "The ILO should continue its engagement in United Nations system-wide reforms that may lead to greater coherence and effectiveness of the ILO and of the United Nations system as a whole, stressing the ILO's specific mandate, unique tripartite structure and its focus on social dialogue as essential contributions to this ongoing process." The subamendment was adopted, and the amendment was adopted as subamended.

Paragraph 29

147. The Government member of Spain, seconded by the Government member of Portugal, submitted an amendment (D.37) which sought to insert the following sentence at the beginning of paragraph 29: "Donor contributions will be based on the assessment of results of ILO technical cooperation programmes." Presenting the amendment, she explained that the intention was to ensure that proper external assessments of technical cooperation programmes were carried out showing tangible results, which would win donors' approval of ILO activities. The Government member of Morocco supported the amendment. The Employers and Workers observed that donors were capable of making their own assessments, and that such conditionality was inappropriate. The amendment was withdrawn by its author.
148. The Employers submitted an amendment (D.13) whereby they sought, in the first sentence of paragraph 29, to insert the words "time-bound" after "quantitative". Explaining the amendment, the Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that without a time frame for results, project implementation could be ineffective. The Government member of the United States felt that the proposed wording would limit the paragraph's scope unjustifiably, and that

time-bound considerations were not appropriate to all types of project evaluations. The amendment was withdrawn.

Paragraph 30

149. The Government members of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (D.57) to add, at the end of paragraph 30, the following sentence: “This focus should include the study of socio-economic benefits associated with decent work.” The Government member of France found that it would be positive and constructive to support by studies the idea that the implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work was of benefit to all stakeholders. Practical examples of enterprises applying the concept of decent work should be examined to challenge the trend in favour of a race to the bottom. The Employers and Workers disagreed, considering that the role of ILS was well-defined and the amendment would restrict its area of research. Bearing in mind that research undertaken by the Institute should be independent and objective, and that the DWA should not solely be measured in terms of socio-economic benefits, they felt that the issue was appropriately reflected in paragraph 28 of the draft conclusions. In the absence of sufficient support, the amendment was not adopted.

Paragraph 31

150. The Employer Vice-Chairperson submitted an amendment (D.15) proposing to replace paragraph 31 with the following text: “The design and implementation of technical cooperation programmes should take full advantage of the expertise, facilities and training capacity available at the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre). The ILO should use the Turin Centre to build the capacity of constituents and its programmes should reflect their growing needs. It should also use the Turin Centre to ensure that all ILO staff are familiar with the principles, aims and operations of the technical cooperation programme as set out in these conclusions. Where possible, the Turin Centre should collaborate with national and regional training centres with similar objectives.” The Employers explained that the rearrangement of the paragraph was intended to emphasize that capacity building of constituents constituted the primary priority of the ILO International Training Centre in Turin. The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Government members of Ecuador and Italy supported the amendment for the purpose of fully integrating the Turin Centre in technical cooperation. The Government member of the United States concurred, on the understanding that the term “constituents” referred to governments and employers’ and workers’ organizations. The Committee adopted the amendment.

Paragraph 37

151. The Government member of Spain, seconded by the Government members of Cyprus and Portugal, submitted an amendment (D.38) referring to migration for employment which sought, at the end of the paragraph, to insert the words “, which is increasingly becoming a major issue in the global agenda”. Presenting the amendment, she explained that migration was increasing in importance as an issue in international debate. The amendment was supported by the Workers and by the Government members of Chile, Ecuador, Morocco, Portugal and Senegal. The Government members of Canada and the United States preferred the text proposed by the Drafting Group. The Government member of Algeria observed that migration was not a problem, since it was a source of wealth to all concerned, but was a serious issue that required international solutions, especially with regard to clandestine migration. The Government member of Bahrain, speaking on behalf

of the Governments of Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, opposed the amendment.

- 152.** The Employers proposed to separate the references to the ILO's work on problems in the informal economy from the reference to migration. The Employer Vice-Chairperson accordingly proposed a subamendment which consisted in placing a full stop after "informal economy" in the last line, and replacing "migration for employment" by: "Migration for employment, which is increasingly becoming a major issue in the global agenda, should also be addressed." The subamendment was adopted, and the amendment was adopted as subamended.

Adoption of the report including the resolution and conclusions

- 153.** At its eighth and final sitting, the Committee examined the draft report and the resolution and conclusions. Several members submitted amendments to paragraphs summarizing their statements. The Committee concluded by adopting its report and the resolution and conclusions concerning the role of the ILO in technical cooperation.
- 154.** The Chairperson paid tribute to the positive spirit that had prevailed in the Committee, which had succeeded in adopting a text without a single vote. This illustrated the dynamism of tripartism and bode well for the future of cooperation between ILO constituents. He thanked the other Officers for their help and cooperation, and the Reporter for her work.
- 155.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson concurred that the discussion had been fruitful and that its work would send an important message on the prerequisites for the effectiveness of technical cooperation. Tripartism had been confirmed as a central concern of special relevance to the DWCPs, and the conclusions on PPPs would break new ground in operational modalities for ILO technical cooperation. The role of the ILO International Training Centre in Turin had been clearly described in terms of services to constituents, ILO staff and other organizations and institutions. The need to disseminate research and good practices was highlighted, as was the requirement for a solid knowledge base. All this would provide useful guidance for the future. He thanked the Reporter for producing a faithful account of the Committee's work, and the Governments and Workers for their constructive approach. Not a single vote had been needed, and this alone showed the cooperative atmosphere that had prevailed.
- 156.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that the Workers had welcomed this opportunity to debate the future of ILO technical cooperation after the major changes of the past few years. The DWA was now the focal point for all future development efforts, and the conclusions highlighted the role of the social partners in supporting national development in terms of both policy and implementation: the increased involvement of employers' and workers' organizations would be crucial to the success of ILO technical cooperation programmes. The ILO's own internal reforms had stood it in good stead and enabled it to contribute its own constructive experience to UN reform. The Committee could be proud of its work, and she paid tribute to the spirit of collegiality that its members had all shown. Technical cooperation was not only about processes: it addressed the needs of human beings, helped people escape poverty, and gave them hope of a better life. In conclusion, she thanked the Employer Vice-Chairperson for his cooperation, and the Governments for the useful ideas they had proposed. Her thanks also went to the secretariat and interpreters.

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- 157.** The Government member of Algeria thanked all members of the Committee for the positive and valuable outcome. It had outlined a strategy for future technical cooperation to promote decent work, combat poverty and increase employment. Demand for technical cooperation was high, and so was the supply from many different sources. The ILO must now focus its technical cooperation on training, the modernization of institutions, and labour legislation. Africa had rightly been identified as deserving priority attention, and concrete efforts should follow in this regard. Her own Government drew on tripartite bodies to help formulate policy on key issues, and the ILO model was appreciated.
- 158.** The Secretary-General of the Conference expressed his warm thanks to the members of the Committee for their extremely valuable work. The text would now orient future ILO technical cooperation along clear lines that gave expression to the growing momentum of decent work in the international development policy debate. The first sentence of the conclusions was crucial, reflecting as it did the outcome of the World Summit of 2005 and further consolidating decent work as a global goal. This was a major move in international policy, and would bring ministers responsible for development cooperation closer to the DWA, while decentralized decision making would help their local representatives to refer to decent work. Regional organizations were also rallying to the decent work cause: the Communication by the European Commission had already been noted, and the presence of Commissioner Louis Michel at the Governing Body confirmed the EU's support.
- 159.** The ILO was following the UN reform agenda closely, both at headquarters and in the field, and the move towards promoting decent work in national policies and implementation was encouraging, since it would provide employers' and workers' organizations with greater opportunities to voice their concerns and to strengthen their role. This would in turn demonstrate the value of tripartism at the national level, and was hence extremely propitious. Paragraph 47 of the World Summit Outcome document could only be implemented effectively through such arrangements. UN reform was not simply a managerial issue concerning efficiency and effectiveness: it was ultimately about the content of policies that could help countries and people in concrete terms. The lessons of past errors – conditionality, externally imposed agendas – had been learnt. The outcome was promising, and national ownership must now be made a reality, through tripartism in particular.
- 160.** For its part, the Office would take full account of the Committee's conclusions. Of particular importance was the forthcoming High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, which had power to mainstream the DWA into the work of the UN system as a whole. The High-Level Segment had chosen for its theme: "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development", and this meant that for the first time, ministers of labour, in some cases accompanied by employers' and workers' representatives, would address the Council. This recognition of ILO values was highly significant, and should bring positive results that would guide reform. In conclusion, he thanked the Committee for its valuable work and for the positive spirit of cooperation in which it had worked. This was encouraging.

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- 161.** The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, offered thanks to the secretariat and interpreters for their work and cooperation.
- 162.** The Committee's report, including the resolution and conclusions on the role of the ILO in technical cooperation, as adopted by the Committee, are submitted to the Conference for consideration.

Geneva, 12 June 2006.

(Signed) B. Bitonio,
Chairperson.

U. Hiveluah,
Reporter.

Resolution concerning the role of the ILO in technical cooperation

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, meeting at its 95th Session, 2006,

Having undertaken a general discussion on the basis of Report VI, *The role of the ILO in technical cooperation: Promoting decent work through field and country programmes*,

1. Adopts the following conclusions; and

2. Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to give due consideration to them in planning future technical cooperation action and to request the Director-General until the Conference next reviews the subject in 2011 to take them into account both when preparing the Programme and Budget for future biennia and when allocating such other resources as may be available during the 2006-07 biennium.

Conclusions concerning technical cooperation

I. Introduction

1. Full and productive employment and decent work are a central driver of development and therefore a priority objective of international cooperation. Since the Conference discussion at its 87th Session in 1999, the process of change in the international environment and, as a consequence, the rapid evolution of national needs have continued unabated, bringing in their wake new challenges and opportunities. The ILO's proactive reaction to these changes has resulted in the recognition by the international community, including at the 2005 United Nations World Summit, of the importance of the Decent Work Agenda (DWA).
2. Technical cooperation must continue to be a major instrument and a fundamental means of action of the ILO in the fulfilment of its mission and the realization of its objectives. The ideals of equality and social justice embodied in the Declaration of Philadelphia have been made operational through international labour standards, and technical cooperation is an important means of promoting and implementing those standards and the workers' rights they promote. Technical cooperation is fundamental to the attainment of the four strategic objectives of the Organization, namely the promotion of standards and rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue, as well as the cross-cutting issue of gender equality. This will also contribute towards the alleviation of poverty and the improvement of the lives of vulnerable workers. Technical cooperation programmes also contribute to employment promotion and enterprise development, job creation, the upgrading of skills and competencies, and the promotion of workers' rights and gender equality.
3. Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), developed through tripartite consultations at the national level, are a key mechanism for delivering technical cooperation at the country level. The challenge of delivering decent work through technical cooperation calls for appropriate involvement and partnership with constituents, and with other multilateral and bilateral development agencies, the establishment of effective partnerships with other development actors and the mobilization of financial and human resources including from the public and private sectors as well as allocating funds to the ILO regular budget for technical cooperation (RBTC) as approved by the Governing Body. This should be based on a sound policy which embodies the ILO's values and principles, with clearly defined operational guidelines developed and regularly reviewed as deemed necessary by the Governing Body.

II. Integration of the Decent Work Agenda into the programming framework of the United Nations system

4. The DWA has received worldwide recognition, and the United Nations World Summit of 2005 identified full and productive employment and decent work for all as a global goal and an essential element in national development strategies. The ILO is the forum in which to make the relationship between employment creation and quality jobs, on the one hand, and rights at work and economic progress, on the other, truly operational. The DWA embodies the ILO's mandate and provides a sharp focus for its technical cooperation activities at the national, regional and global levels. This mandate and focus should be the basis for cooperation with United Nations agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and other development actors both inside and outside the United Nations system, in order to

influence the broader multilateral system effort, through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) and Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS).

5. The DWA calls for the elaboration and implementation of programmes at the national level which will promote the four strategic objectives of the ILO in an integrated manner. Tripartism and social dialogue as well as gender equality are both a means and an end in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes.
6. The ongoing discussions on reforms in the United Nations provide an opportunity for the ILO, with its distinct tripartite structure, to influence outcomes positively at both the national and international levels and to ensure a more focused and effective technical cooperation programme. This will also help raise the ILO's profile, visibility and weight among the international agencies.
7. By focusing on areas within its mandate where it enjoys a comparative advantage, the ILO will be able to contribute more effectively to the United Nations reform process, thus rendering the contribution of the United Nations system to national development strategies more relevant, more coherent and better coordinated. This will also increase the ILO's impact and improve its cost-effectiveness. The ILO should explore the potential of the United Nations reform process to facilitate ILO's international and in-country activities, enhance their effectiveness through coordination and collaboration, and increase overall efficiency.
8. Within the framework of the reforms in the United Nations system, the ILO should remain focused on the promotion of the DWA – particularly as regards the preparation and implementation of DWCPs – in accordance with its mandate and its comparative advantages; at the same time, it should seek to influence the United Nations system framework and to contribute to comprehensive national development strategies. Social partners are key actors in social and economic development, and their role and capacity should be strengthened, and therefore the ILO should facilitate the involvement of its tripartite constituents in national, regional and United Nations programming processes. The ILO should also mobilize national and international support and resources for the goals and objectives of the DWA.
9. In pursuing the DWCPs, the ILO will be able to make a distinct contribution to the broader effort of the United Nations and other development partners to tackle the main development challenges of countries, as articulated in UNDAF, PRS and national Millennium Development Goal action plans. It is important to secure the involvement of tripartite constituents in the consultative processes leading to the formulation of national development plans. ILO calls upon donors to provide support to the strengthening of ILO constituents' capacity to participate in, and have access to consultative processes on national development priorities.
10. The ILO should systematically assist countries in integrating the DWA into national development strategies through the preparation of DWCPs. The DWCP approach provides the ILO with a results-based policy and management framework with which to make a unique contribution to national development plans, based on the ILO's mandate and competence and on dialogue with its tripartite constituents.

III. Tripartism and social dialogue in the delivery of technical cooperation

11. Tripartism in relation to technical cooperation in the ILO involves cooperation among governments, employers' and workers' organizations at the national, regional and

international levels and the search for consensus on the priorities for action by the Organization in order to implement the DWA and the four strategic objectives. At the country level it implies ongoing cooperation and consultation among national social partners. In accordance with the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2002, technical cooperation programmes and other mechanisms should be developed with the social partners and governments to help strengthen their capacities, services and representation.

12. National tripartite steering committees or other national tripartite consultative mechanisms could be established and/or strengthened, having regard to the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), the Tripartite Consultation (Activities of the International Labour Organisation) Recommendation, 1976 (No. 152), and the 2002 ILC resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue, and can play a useful role in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of DWCPs. Due regard should be given to the need for men and women to be represented on an equal footing.
13. The ILO should, within the multilateral system and in the context of UNDAF and PRS, show through good practices, the advantages of involving the social partners, in the design, implementation and sustainability of technical cooperation programmes. The ILO should facilitate collaboration between other international agencies, donor agencies, and employers' and workers' organizations, with regard to the attribution of development aid and programmes.
14. The Bureau for Employers' Activities and the Bureau for Workers' Activities have an important role to play in building the capacity of social partners and developing and implementing technical cooperation activities. The ILO should make every effort to ensure that the Bureau for Employers' Activities and the Bureau for Workers' Activities have the resources required to meet agreed objectives.
15. In countries in which there is no ILO office, the active involvement of employers' and workers' organizations is especially important. In this role, their participation is complementary to the involvement of the ILO and other development agencies.
16. In the identification of national technical cooperation priorities, due attention should be given to issues that may be raised by governments or by employers' or workers' organizations in the procedures for the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work or regarding ILO Conventions. Technical cooperation can play a complementary role to the ILO supervisory mechanism. Governments and employers' and workers' organizations should take advantage of the opportunities offered by the follow-up to the Declaration and supervisory procedures to draw the ILO's attention to problems of implementation which call for action in the form of technical cooperation.

IV. Developing partnerships and mobilizing resources for technical cooperation

17. Recalling the outcome of the United Nations World Summit of September 2005, there is a need for the ILO to develop a sound, ambitious and realistic strategy for resource mobilization. Key elements in the strategy will need to ensure that additional resources would be forthcoming and that resources should be channelled to the different strategic areas of ILO's technical cooperation and regions as needed. The specific needs of countries in particular regions, especially Africa, the least developed countries and countries in crisis, as well as poor and vulnerable groups in other countries, should receive greater attention and resources and be integral components of the strategy. To this end, the

ILO should invite donors to increase their contributions to the ILO's technical cooperation programme.

- 18.** There should be stronger links between the regular budget programmes of the ILO and those undertaken with extra-budgetary resources. Each should complement the other, and there should be flexibility in allocation modalities to ensure balanced development and execution of technical cooperation in all four strategic areas of the ILO. Therefore, the role of the Governing Body in setting up priorities for technical cooperation should be strengthened.
- 19.** Development cooperation activities are increasingly being concentrated at the country level. There, ILO programmes need to be based on national priorities established by governments, employers and workers, all of whom need to have full ownership of the technical cooperation programmes.
- 20.** There is an urgent need for the ILO to undertake a comprehensive field structure review. The results of that review should inform Office decisions regarding distribution of resources to the field. The Office should also consider the ongoing discussions on United Nations reform and on the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, and the need to strengthen the Office's representation and operational capacity at the country level in order to ensure that DWCPs make a significant contribution to the planning, negotiation and implementation of national development processes, such as UNDAF and PRS. The ILO should continue its engagement in United Nations system-wide reforms that may lead to greater coherence and effectiveness of the ILO and of the United Nations system as a whole, stressing the ILO's specific mandate, unique tripartite structure and its focus on social dialogue as essential contributions to this ongoing process. To this end, strategic partnership with national tripartite constituents, United Nations agencies and bodies, regional organizations, donor agencies and development partners is essential.
- 21.** In order to increase the resource base and foster ILO/donor agency partnering for the purpose of funding the ILO's operational programmes, it is necessary to examine new methods of working that meet beneficiaries' and donors' expectations of complementary and coherent approaches, and at the same time to address national priorities and those of the tripartite constituents effectively. Partnerships must therefore be developed between ILO constituents and with major development actors, alongside greater coordination with United Nations agencies and bodies and other development actors. Furthermore, the ILO should foster and support technical cooperation among developing countries both at the national and regional levels.
- 22.** The ILO should continue to encourage multi-year partnership agreements with donor agencies consistent with the ILO's own programming cycles, strategic priorities and rules, while at the same time recognizing the need to incorporate single-year funding when available. It should also actively promote the mainstreaming of gender equality in donor partnership agreements; design technical cooperation proposals supporting the development of employers' and workers' organizations and tripartite activities; upgrade the capacity of ILO field offices to mobilize additional resources from donor representatives; streamline internal priority setting and resource allocation mechanisms; and facilitate greater coordination among ILO donors.
- 23.** The ILO should continue with its gradual move towards a common programming framework with the donor community by endeavouring to harmonize the various agreements with individual donors, so as to ensure greater stability, predictability and consistency and to reduce the transaction costs of ILO's technical cooperation programme.

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24. The ILO and its tripartite constituents should raise the awareness of development agencies and institutions of the need for the DWA and of the comparative advantages of the ILO in the context of joint cooperation.
 25. The ILO is encouraged to develop innovative approaches that will strengthen the DWCP and attract increased donor funding. The ILO needs to make an effort to diversify its sources of funding in accordance with ILO's values.
 26. Public-private partnerships have potential as a source of funding. The use of such funds should be in accordance with ILO principles and values. The Governing Body should establish and monitor the implementation of clear guidelines and criteria for such partnerships. The ILO, in its partnerships for technical cooperation, should make use of the expertise and contributions of private enterprises in creating decent and productive jobs, and also make use of the important role of trade unions in promoting decent work.

V. Implications for the ILO technical cooperation programme

(a) *Enhancing the knowledge base*

27. The ILO should enhance its knowledge base so as to improve the focus and effectiveness of its technical cooperation programme. Research will draw on practical experience in the ILO and in other agencies within the multilateral system.
28. Such research should enable the Office to obtain, on the one hand, an overview of individual countries' needs in relation to the ILO's mandate and, on the other, an analysis of countries' experience in addressing such needs and a catalogue of good practices and lessons learned. It should thus facilitate the comparison of needs and experience within and across regions.
29. Clearly defined and measurable qualitative and quantitative performance targets, monitoring, and credible, transparent, independent evaluation (internal as well as external) are critical to assess the impact of ILO technical cooperation programmes and identify and replicate good practices. They are also essential to strategic and results-oriented budget planning. This should provide the basis for the ILO Governing Body to fulfil its oversight role.
30. The International Institute for Labour Studies should, together with technical and field units of the ILO and taking into account the advice of beneficiaries and donors of technical cooperation, focus on the DWA with a view to supporting the work described above.
31. The design and implementation of technical cooperation programmes should take full advantage of the expertise, facilities and training capacity available at the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre). The ILO should use the Turin Centre to build the capacity of constituents and its programmes should reflect their growing needs. It should also use the Turin Centre to ensure that all ILO staff are familiar with the principles, aims and operations of the technical cooperation programme as set out in these conclusions. Where possible, the Turin Centre should collaborate with national and regional training centres with similar objectives.

(b) ILO's technical capacities, products and services

32. The success of ILO technical cooperation is dependent on having the right human and financial resources in the right places and at the right time.
33. Technical cooperation should take account of the need for gender analysis of programmes, so as to ensure equal opportunities for women and men to participate in the programmes and provide equal access to the benefits. This will give full weight to equal opportunities and treatment for women and men in training, employment and occupation.
34. Given that economic growth is essential but not sufficient to ensure equity, social progress and the eradication of poverty, and given the ILO's role in promoting strong social policies, justice and democratic institutions, the ILO should, as indicated in the preamble to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted in 1998, ensure that its working methods "draw upon all its standard-setting, technical cooperation and research resources in all its areas of competence, in particular employment, vocational training and working conditions, to ensure that, in the context of a global strategy for economic and social development, economic and social policies are mutually reinforcing components in order to create broad-based sustainable development".
35. Every assistance should, as a priority, be given to member States to promote the universal ratification and implementation of all eight Conventions relating to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work adopted in 1998. The ILO should provide technical cooperation requested by countries which experience problems of implementation identified by the ILO supervisory bodies.
36. The ILO's technical cooperation in relation to employment should include entrepreneurship development, enterprise development, productivity and skills development, especially for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and for formalization of the informal economy, having due regard to the Job Creation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Recommendation, 1998 (No. 189), the Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), and the Global Employment Agenda. It should continue to focus on the elimination of child labour, and on the promotion of youth employment, in the light of the very positive performance and results achieved under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), and the Youth Employment Network (YEN) in the light of the MDGs. Technical cooperation in the field of human resource development should take account of the Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No. 142), and of the Human Resources Development Recommendation, 2004 (No. 195).
37. Attention is drawn in this respect to the areas in which the ILO has developed particular expertise in its global programmes and products (for example, IPEC, the ILO Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work (ILO/AIDS) and the ILO Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SAFework)). There is also a need to address pressing problems relating to precarious and low-quality work, including in the informal economy. Migration for employment, which is increasingly becoming a major issue in the global agenda, should also be addressed.
38. Given that freedom of association and the right to organize are at the heart of the fundamental rights of all workers, and that strong and independent employers' and workers' organizations are of vital importance in development, as illustrated above, it is essential for the ILO to make a strong effort to ensure that its technical cooperation programme provides the resources required to meet agreed objectives relating to strengthening the capacity of national organizations of employers and workers to meet the needs of their members and to participate in collective bargaining and in the conception

and execution of technical cooperation, having regard to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), and the Tripartite Consultation (Activities of the International Labour Organisation) Recommendation, 1976 (No. 152).

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