The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

Considering that all forms of asbestos, including chrysotile, are classified as known human carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a classification restated by the International Programme on Chemical Safety (a joint Programme of the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme),

Alarmed that an estimated 100,000 workers die every year from diseases caused by exposure to asbestos,

Deeply concerned that workers continue to face serious risks from asbestos exposure, particularly in asbestos removal, demolition, building maintenance, ship breaking and waste handling activities,

Noting that it has taken three decades of efforts and the emergence of suitable alternatives for a comprehensive ban on the manufacturing and use of asbestos and asbestos containing products to be adopted in a number of countries,

Further noting that the objective of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention 2006 is to prevent occupational injuries, diseases and deaths,

1. Resolves that:
   (a) the elimination of the future use of asbestos and the identification and proper management of asbestos currently in place are the most effective means to protect workers from asbestos exposure and to prevent future asbestos related diseases and deaths; and
   (b) the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162), should not be used to provide a justification for, or endorsement of, the continued use of asbestos.

2. Requests the Governing Body to direct the International Labour Office to:
   (a) continue to encourage member States to ratify and give effect to the provisions of the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162), and the Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139);
   (b) promote the elimination of future use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials in all member States;
   (c) promote the identification and proper management of all forms of asbestos currently in place;
   (d) encourage and assist member States to include measures in their national programmes on occupational safety and health to protect workers from exposure to asbestos; and
   (e) transmit this resolution to all member States.

1 Adopted on 14 June 2006.
II

Resolution concerning the employment relationship

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its 95th Session, and

Having adopted the Recommendation concerning the employment relationship,

Noting that Paragraphs 19, 20, 21 and 22 recommend that Members should establish and maintain monitoring and implementing mechanisms, and

Noting that the work of the International Labour Office helps all ILO constituents better to understand and address difficulties encountered by workers in certain employment relationships,

Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to instruct the Director-General to:

1. Assist constituents in monitoring and implementing mechanisms for the national policy as set out in the Recommendation concerning the employment relationship;

2. Maintain up to date information and undertake comparative studies on changes in the patterns and structure of work in the world in order to:
   (a) improve the quality of information on and understanding of employment relationships and related issues;
   (b) help its constituents better to understand and assess these phenomena and adopt appropriate measures for the protection of workers; and
   (c) promote good practices at the national and international levels concerning the determination and use of employment relationships;

3. Undertake surveys of legal systems of Members to ascertain what criteria are used nationally to determine the existence of an employment relationship and make the results available to Members to guide them, where this need exists, in developing their own national approach to the issue.

III

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.

1 Adopted on 14 June 2006.
2 Adopted on 15 June 2006.
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.

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).

IV

Resolution concerning an amendment to the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,
Recalling the power of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to make decisions regarding requests from non-governmental international organizations for an invitation to be represented at the Conference,
Noting that the present rules do not enable the Governing Body to exercise this power effectively in all circumstances,
Decides to amend article 2, paragraph 4, of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, so as to read as follows:

Requests from non-governmental international organizations for an invitation to be represented at the Conference shall be made in writing to the Director-

1 Adopted on 14 June 2006.
General of the International Labour Office and shall reach him at least one month before the opening of the session of the Governing Body preceding the session of the Conference. Such requests shall be referred to the Governing Body for decision in accordance with criteria established by the Governing Body.

V

Resolution concerning the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2004-05

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

VI

Resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Azerbaijan

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,
Having regard to paragraph 7 of article 10 of the Financial Regulations, Accepts the arrangement proposed by the Government of Azerbaijan for the settlement of its arrears of contributions due for the period 1992-2005 to the effect that:
(a) in 2006, the Government of Azerbaijan will pay in full its contribution for the year 2006;
(b) in subsequent years, the Government of Azerbaijan will continue to pay its current contribution in full in the year for which it is due; and
(c) the Government of Azerbaijan will settle arrears that have accumulated up to and including 31 December 2005, amounting to 3,539,188 Swiss francs, by payment, beginning in 2006, of 20 annual instalments in accordance with the following schedule:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Annual instalment (in Swiss francs)</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-08</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>35,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-12</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>70,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>141,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>176,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-20</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>247,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-25</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>283,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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Decides that Azerbaijan shall be permitted to vote, in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 13 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, after the conclusion of the present business.

1 Adopted on 14 June 2006.
VII

Resolution concerning the scale of assessments of contributions to the budget for 2007

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

Decides that, in accordance with the established practice of harmonizing the rates of assessment of ILO Members with their rates of assessment in the United Nations, the scale of assessments for 2007 be adopted as set out in Appendix II to this report.

VIII

Resolution concerning the composition of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization.

Expresses its profound appreciation to Mr. James K. Hugessen for his contribution to the international community as a judge of the ILO Administrative Tribunal, for the last nine years;

Decides, in accordance with Article III of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization, to renew the term of office of Mr. Seydou Ba for three years and to appoint Ms. Dolores Hansen (Canada) and Mr. Giuseppe Barbagallo (Italy) as judges of the Administrative Tribunal for a term of three years with effect from 1 August 2006.

1 Adopted on 14 June 2006.
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