

Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance

▶ Questionnaire

At the first meeting of the Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD), which was held on 11 December 2020, it was agreed that the members of the working group would be invited to express their views on the understanding and scope of the notion of democratization of the ILO's governance for the purpose of informing the discussions of the second meeting of the working group to be held in January 2021 and developing a possible programme of future work.

Accordingly, the Office has prepared the following questionnaire, bearing in mind that the Centenary Declaration and its accompanying Resolution are the framework within which the TWGD should carry out its work. The Office would be grateful if the replies could be sent by Wednesday 6 January 2021 to JUR@ilo.org.

1. Do you consider that the notion of democratization refers to aspirations of Member States regarding specific aspects of the functioning of governance organs, such as composition, decision-making, voting power, organization and access to meetings? Please elaborate and provide concrete examples.

Yes. The notion of democratization shall be related to certain aspects of the functioning of governance organs, primarily related to the composition of such bodies, decision making and voting powers. In this aspect, the democratization shall be implemented through more representative membership of governance organs based on geographical, economic and social aspects. All member states of the ILO shall have equal starting opportunity to obtain membership and to participate in the governing body organs of the ILO. The allocation of the number and structure of governments seats divided in four geographical regions presents a good compromise that should move us forward in order to accomplish more representative, transparent and democratic system of ILO governance. Although the aim of the 1995 Amendment to the Standing Orders of the ILC have implemented some aspects of the 1986 Amendment such as enlarged number of tripartite membership but still many issues remained unsettled and even more some amended parts such as deputy membership included additional ambiguity and obstacles to achieve democratized membership. All government members shall be elected on the same principals and have memberships that would constitute same voting powers, other rights and obligations. It shall be taken into account that obsolete parts of the 1986 Amendment provisions primarily related to the notion of socialistic states of Eastern Europe constitutes legal and constitutional obstacles for the ratification of mentioned amendment for many countries from Eastern Europe. As provided in earlier documents, the solution to this problem might be seen in declaration or resolution of the ILC declaring obsolete and inactive terminology that could be accepted by all member states at the ILC.

2. Do you consider that 'democratization of tripartite governance' concerns the ILO Governing Body only or should also cover the International Labour Conference and other aspects of ILO governance?

The democratization of tripartite governance shall be primarily focused to the ILO Governing Body due to its current composition and voting rights that has to be amended in order to achieve full essence of the democratization and aspirations set out in the Centenary Declaration.

3. Based on the above, which aspects of democratization – in addition to those addressed in the 1986 constitutional amendment – would you consider the TWGD should examine in priority? Please specify.

The prioritization shall be given to the composition and voting power of the GB members since they present the most essential aspects of the democratization.

4. In your view, which are the core principles that should be guiding ILO's action towards democratization of its governance? Please specify.

Principle of fair representation of all members states from all regions and equality among all member states.

5. Do you have any concrete proposals for the second meeting of the TWGD and/or its future programme of work?

From our perspective there is a high need for concrete proposals as basis for further guided discussions at the second meeting of the TWG. Although we have stated that equal and more representative membership of the GB should be accomplished by Amendment 1986, we are also open for other constructive and innovative proposals with the same goal to achieve democratized ILO governance.