

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.

The Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, adopted by the ILO Conference in 2019 gives expression to the desire of the ILO tripartite constituency “to democratize ILO governance by ensuring a fair representation of all regions and establishing the principle of equality among member States”, while the operative part of the Declaration provides that “the full contribution of the ILO's constituents to [achieving social justice in all regions] can be assured only through their full, equal and democratic participation in [the ILO's] tripartite governance”.

Somali government and its social partners fully support this notion of democratization within the ILO governance or decision-making process. There is an urgent need to democratise ILO governance structures and provide all member States of the ILO an equal and fair representation in voting, access, decision-making and participation.

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?

Somalia considers that the ILO Governing Body where particular countries have reserved or permanent seats and will not be contesting for membership should be reformed and all seats in the ILO Governing Body should be contested by all good standing member states. There should be internal democracy within the ILO governing body, and Africa should have fair and equal representation like other continents. In our considered view, the democratisation should only target the ILO Governing Body.

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.

Somalia is favourably considering for the ratification of the 1986 constitutional Amendment – the abolition of the nonelective seats of the Governing Body. We believe this is long overdue. In the

meantime, TWGD should as a matter of urgency develop a mechanism of making the ILO Governing Body more democratic as the ILO family awaits for this constitutional amendment to take effect.

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

The universal principles of fairness, equality and equitable representation should evenly be applied to all ILO Member States.

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

As we all strive to ensure tripartism, fair labour relations and workplace democratization, the TWGD should swiftly develop a guidance to the ILO structures to ensure fair representation and participation of meetings and activities.