



FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Purpose, duration and composition of the activities to be held in 2008–09 and new proposals for 2008–09**

1. At its 298th Session (March 2007) and its 300th Session (November 2007), the Governing Body took decisions on the 2008–09 programme of sectoral activities.<sup>1</sup>
2. In view of the Committee's November 2007 discussion,<sup>2</sup> the Governing Body decided that additional proposals by the Office be discussed in the March 2008 session of the Governing Body, following advisory body consultations.
3. The proposals in this paper for additional main activities for 2008–09, as well as a proposal on the date, duration and composition of the global forum, are based on informal consultations and advisory body meetings.
4. Remaining available resources will be allocated at the next session of the Committee for proposed activities that the Office could be able to carry out before the end of the biennium.

**Duration and composition of activities to be held in 2008–09**

**Global dialogue forum on decent work in local government procurement for infrastructure provision**

5. At its last session, the Governing Body had agreed to a proposal<sup>3</sup> to hold a global dialogue forum on decent work in local government procurement for infrastructure provision.

<sup>1</sup> A table outlining the decisions taken at these sessions is appended to this paper.

<sup>2</sup> GB.300/16, paras 4–29.

<sup>3</sup> GB.300/STM/1, paras 21 and 22.

6. Taking into account informal consultations held in early 2008, it is proposed that, after consultation with their respective groups, six Employer and six Worker participants be invited to attend the forum. Other interested Employer and Worker participants could also attend at no cost to the Office. By analogy to the decision concerning government participation in sectoral meetings,<sup>4</sup> the governments of all member States would be invited to nominate participants to attend the forum. The Office proposes that the forum last two days and be held on 17–18 February 2009.

## **New proposals for activities in 2008–09**

### **Regional tripartite workshop on improving safety and health in mining for selected Asian countries**

7. Following consultations with the social partners and governmental regional coordinators, a meeting of the advisory body for the mining and energy grouping was held on 30 January 2008. Taking into account the recommendations made at that meeting, it is proposed to hold a tripartite workshop on improving safety and health in mining for selected Asian countries.
8. The Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), is central to achieving decent work in an industry which has occupational safety and health as its main challenge. This sectoral standard provides the necessary basis for a sustainable mining industry that ensures that its workers return safe and healthy from their workplaces and that companies can attract and retain workers.
9. The ratifications of Convention No. 176 are still low (21).<sup>5</sup> A number of countries have ratified, but many other member States have not.
10. Despite an unprecedented mining boom and the industry's importance for a number of Asian countries, the only Asian member State that has ratified the Convention is the Philippines. Given the trend for some Asian mining companies to invest outside of their countries of origin, the ratification of Convention No. 176 would not only benefit the national industry but have an indirect effect on mining practices in the countries of investment.
11. It is therefore suggested that a two-day workshop be held in the region that would provide an overview of good practices for safe mining, familiarize the participants with the principles of the Convention, allow tripartite delegations jointly to identify barriers to ratification and introduce them to solutions. In preparation for the workshop, participants would be required to provide overviews of their national law and practice vis-à-vis the Convention.
12. It is also suggested that three to four Asian countries be selected, taking into consideration the importance of the mining industry for the economy, and their safety and health records and regulatory background. In order to allow for optimal use of funds, it is proposed that the workshop be held in a participating country with an ILO office.

<sup>4</sup> GB.298/PV, para. 256.

<sup>5</sup> Albania, Armenia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Lebanon, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

13. A proposed list of countries will be presented orally to the Committee in March 2008, following consultations with the ILO regional office and governments concerned, based on advisory body consultations.

### **Workshop to promote ratification of the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)**

14. It is proposed to hold a tripartite workshop intended to promote ratification of Convention No. 181 by selected ILO member States, taking into account the advisory body consultations on private services,<sup>6</sup> based on a proposal developed by the International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies (CIETT) and Union Network International, relating to the temporary employment agencies' global forum included in the November 2007 Governing Body document.<sup>7</sup> This workshop would raise awareness of the Convention's importance among governments, workers and employers; exchange views on its benefits; present good practice from States having ratified it; and encourage further ratifications.
15. Private employment agencies have an important role in several sectors, including construction; financial and professional services; forestry; health services; hotels, catering, tourism; media, culture, graphical; mining; shipping and fishing; and transport. The Convention establishes principles for effective regulation of private employment agencies, especially temporary work agencies; promotes greater efficiency of labour markets by allowing private actors to help match labour supply and demand (including migrant workers); fosters cooperation between public and private employment agencies to assist unemployed workers to find jobs; and encourages reliable professional human resources service providers to predominate, thereby discouraging unfair practices. This workshop would demonstrate that ILO constituents have a common interest in promoting Convention No. 181, which could advance the Decent Work Agenda by improving quality standards in private employment agencies, and ensuring protection of agency workers' rights and working conditions. Twenty countries have ratified the Convention,<sup>8</sup> including ten European Union States.
16. It is proposed that the duration, dates and composition of the workshop would be decided following consultations with the constituents. This event would be organized in cooperation with a number of departments of the Office.
17. *The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that it endorse:*
  - (i) *the composition, duration and dates of the global dialogue forum on decent work in local government procurement for infrastructure provision as proposed;*

<sup>6</sup> 19 Feb. 2008.

<sup>7</sup> GB.300/STM/1, para. 24.

<sup>8</sup> Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Spain, Suriname and Uruguay.

- (ii) the proposal to hold a regional tripartite workshop on improving safety and health in mining for selected Asian countries; and*
- (iii) the proposal to hold a workshop to promote ratification of the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181).*

Geneva, 28 February 2008.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 17.

## Appendix

### Sectoral activities for 2008–09

Grouping	Governing Body decisions (March 2007)	Governing Body decisions (November 2007)	Dates	Number of participants
<b>Agriculture and forestry</b>	Meeting of experts to adopt a code of practice on safety and health in agriculture		22–30 September 2009	Eight Governments Eight Employers Eight Workers
<b>Energy and mining</b>	Tripartite meeting on promoting social dialogue and good industrial relations from oil and gas exploration and production to oil and gas distribution		11–14 May 2009	12 Employers 12 Workers All Governments <sup>1</sup>
<b>Manufacturing</b>		Action programme on transport equipment manufacturing – the employment relationship, rights at work and social protection	n.a.	n.a.
	Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping: Third Session		Proposed: 29–31 October 2008 (GB.301/STM/6)	Proposed: Five Employers Five Workers at no cost to the Office (GB.301/STM/6)
<b>Infrastructure, construction and related industries</b>		Global dialogue forum on decent work in local government procurement for infrastructure provision	Proposed: 17–18 February 2009 (para. 6)	Proposed: Six Employers Six Workers (para. 6)
		Proposal for training material on occupational safety and health and project management for different actors	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Transport</b>	Meeting of experts to adopt guidelines on port State responsibilities for the inspection of labour conditions on board ships		Proposed: 22–26 September 2008	Proposed: Ten Governments Ten Employers Ten Workers
	Meeting of experts to adopt guidelines on flag State responsibilities under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006		Proposed: 15–19 September 2008	Proposed: Ten Governments Ten Employers Ten Workers
	Further implementation of the road map for the establishment of a border-monitoring tool and facilitation bodies (follow-up activity)		n.a.	n.a.

Grouping	Governing Body decisions (March 2007)	Governing Body decisions (November 2007)	Dates	Number of participants
<b>Private sector services</b>	Global dialogue forum on vocational education and skills development for commerce workers		24–25 November 2008	Six Employers Six Workers <sup>2</sup>
	Follow-up to the action programme on skills and employability in telecommunications services in Africa		n.a.	n.a.
<b>Public services and utilities</b>	Follow-up to the action programme on the international migration of health service workers: the supply side		n.a.	n.a.
		Action programme on strengthening social dialogue in the utilities sector	n.a.	n.a.
		Additional follow-up activity on public services	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Education and research</b>		Human resource “tool kit of good practices” and training programme	n.a.	n.a.

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Governing Body's decision in March 2007, all governments will be invited to sectoral meetings at their own cost.

<sup>2</sup> Six Employers and six Workers will be invited at the expense of the Office; interested Governments and additional Workers or Employers can attend at no cost to the Office.