



## FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Dates, duration and composition  
of activities to be held in 2009***Addendum***Sectoral responses to the financial  
and food crises**

1. The current crisis in the international financial system has grave consequences for enterprises, workers and families around the world. Coming on top of still high food and fuel prices, its effects are provoking a slide into recession that, unless averted by prompt and coordinated action, could be severe, long lasting and global.<sup>1</sup> Employment in many sectors is being adversely affected as the crisis spreads into the wider economy from its epicentre in the financial services, housing, construction and related industries. Underlying these has been an ongoing crisis of continuing massive poverty worldwide and growing social inequalities in industrialized, emerging and developing countries. Increasingly, the effects of a crisis in one sector of activity are evidenced in others.
2. ILO constituents have requested the Office to urgently convene tripartite forums in which the impacts of the financial and food crises on decent work as well as the appropriate policy responses can be discussed and developed. The following proposals should be viewed as components of an overall Office-wide response.

**Tripartite global dialogue forum on the  
impact of the financial crisis**

3. At the time of writing this document, the Office was engaged in consultations with constituents concerning the organization of a tripartite global dialogue forum on the impact of the current financial crisis on the economy and particularly on financial services jobs to be held during the first quarter of 2009. The proposed meeting is part of an integrated ILO approach to developing short- and long-term responses to mitigate the social impact of the financial crisis. The proposed title, dates, composition and purpose of the global dialogue forum will be submitted orally for discussion by the Committee.

<sup>1</sup> See also GB.303/WP/SDG/1.

## **Tripartite technical workshop on the impact of the food price crisis on decent work**

4. On 28 April 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General established, under his chairmanship, a High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis composed of the heads of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, Bretton Woods institutions and relevant parts of the UN secretariat. The primary aim of the task force was to promote a unified response to the global food price challenge, including by facilitating the creation of a prioritized plan of action and coordinating its implementation. The ILO was not enlisted among the initial members of the Task Force.
5. The plan of action, known as the Comprehensive Framework for Action, was presented at the Rome High-level Conference on World Food Security (June 2008). The Comprehensive Framework for Action is intended to be a catalyst for action and a synthesis of policies and priorities. It sets out objectives and outcomes for the short and long term, accompanied by recommended sets of action. It will be periodically updated and country-specific plans of action will be developed.
6. The 97th Session of the International Labour Conference (June 2008) adopted a resolution concerning the role of the ILO and its constituents in tackling the food crisis. The resolution called upon the Office to convene a tripartite technical workshop on the global food crisis and its impact on decent work. The purpose of the workshop would be: to take account of the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; to share with other UN agencies the expertise of the ILO tripartite partners on rural employment and poverty reduction; and to contribute to an informed discussion within the United Nations on the social and employment impact of food prices on decent work.
7. Following consultations with constituents representing agriculture and the food sector, the Director-General proposes that, after consultations with the Employers' and Workers' groups, eight participants representing each group be nominated to attend the technical workshop, which would last two days and would be held in the first quarter of 2009.
8. The Director-General also proposes to invite the regional coordinators of the Governing Body to attend the workshop.
9. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may therefore wish to recommend:*
  - (a) *that the Governing Body authorize the holding of a tripartite global dialogue forum on the impact of the financial crisis on the economy and particularly on financial services jobs, with the title, dates, composition and purpose of the forum as determined by the Committee;*
  - (b) *that the Governing Body authorize the holding of a tripartite technical workshop on the impact of the food price crisis on decent work in the first quarter of 2009 composed of eight Employer and eight Worker participants and the five Government regional coordinators of the Governing Body; and*

- (c) that the purpose of the workshop be: to take account of the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; to share with other UN agencies the expertise of the ILO tripartite partners on rural employment and poverty reduction; and to contribute to an informed discussion within the UN on the social and employment impact of food prices on decent work.*

Geneva, 3 November 2008.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 9.