



Governing Body

316th Session, Geneva, 1–16 November 2012

GB.316/INS/8

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 23 October 2012

Original: English

EIGHTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Latest developments in Fiji in light of the resolution of the 15th Asia–Pacific Regional Meeting

Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information and provide guidance as to any further steps it considers should be taken in relation to this matter (see paragraph 4).

Relevant strategic objective: Promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work.

Policy implications: None at this stage.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: Depending on the Governing Body's guidance.

Author unit: International Labour Standards Department (NORMES).

Related documents: Reports of the Committee on Freedom of Association (GB.316/INS/9/1 and GB.316/INS/9/2).

1. When the Governing Body considered the report of the 15th Asia–Pacific Regional Meeting (2011) during its 313th Session in March 2012,¹ it was requested to place an item on the agenda of its November 2012 session to discuss the latest developments in Fiji in light of the resolution adopted at the Asia–Pacific Regional Meeting. This resolution invited the Governing Body to instruct the Director-General to:
 - (a) closely monitor the situation in Fiji and to intervene to safeguard the human and labour rights of Fijian workers;
 - (b) ensure that the recommendations of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association on Case No. 2723 are fully implemented, in particular by urging “the Government to accept a direct contacts mission to the country in order to clarify the facts and assist the Government in finding, together with the social partners, appropriate solutions in conformity with freedom of association principles”;
 - (c) press for the travel restrictions imposed on Mr Felix Anthony to be removed immediately for him to attend meetings related to trade union activities as espoused in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights which allows for everyone to leave and return to his own country.
2. As regards point (b) above, the Prime Minister of Fiji wrote to the Director-General on 23 May 2012, indicating his Government’s acceptance of a direct contacts mission. The ILO first discussed the modalities for this mission with the Government representatives to the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference. Further preparations for the mission were subsequently followed-up by the Director of the ILO Country Office for South Pacific Island Countries in Suva. A direct contacts mission was scheduled to take place from 17 to 21 September 2012. Although the mission did begin its schedule of meetings on 17 September, it was not able to pursue its mandate beyond the first courtesy meeting with the Minister of Labour. The mission has submitted a report to the Committee on Freedom of Association within the context of its consideration of Case No. 2723 concerning Fiji. The Committee’s examination of this case can be found in GB.316/INS/9/1.
3. As regards point (c), the Governing Body may wish to note that Mr Felix Anthony was the Workers’ delegate on the Fijian delegation to the 101st Session of the Conference. Moreover, it would appear that Mr Felix Anthony has been able to leave and re-enter the country on trade union matters freely since that time.

Proposed point for discussion

4. The Governing Body is invited to consider the information above and in related documents and to provide guidance as to any further steps it considers should be taken in relation to this matter.

¹See GB.313/INS/5 and GB.313/PV, paras 76–103.