SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Agenda of the International Labour Conference (2017–19)

Purpose of the document
To enable the Governing Body to consider proposals to implement a strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the agenda for the 106th (2017), 107th (2018) and 108th (2019) Sessions of the Conference, in accordance with the decision taken at its 322nd Session (November 2014) (see the draft decision in paragraph 33).

Relevant strategic objective: All four strategic objectives.

Policy implications: Implications for the Conference agenda for 2017 and beyond.


Financial implications: Those arising from the placing of items on the Conference agenda and from any preparatory meetings proposed.

Follow-up action required: Any implications relating to follow-up will be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration at its 325th Session (November 2015).

Author unit: Departments in the Policy Portfolio and in the Field Operations and Partnerships Portfolio.

Related documents: GB.322/INS/PV/Draft (paras 8–17; 18–27 and 309–330); GB.322/INS/2; GB.322/INS/3; GB.322/INS/4/1; GB.322/WP/GBC/1; GB.320/PV (paras 6–42 and 342–351); GB.320/INS/15/2; GB.320/INS/13; GB.320/WP/GBC/1; GB.320/POL/3; GB.319/INS/2; GB.319/PV (paras 5–35); GB.319/WP/GBC/1; GB.319/INS/13(Rev.).
Introduction

1. The agenda of the International Labour Conference is the most significant and visible expression of the actions of the ILO in carrying out its mandate to assist its Members in giving effect to the Organization’s constitutional objectives. The members of the Governing Body have regularly emphasized that the setting of the Conference agenda is one of the key processes through which constituents agree on the subjects to be discussed by the Conference, identify broad ILO policy priorities and decide on common action. This is vital for the effectiveness of the ILO and its ability to respond to the needs of its tripartite constituents in addressing critical issues relating to the world of work.

2. At its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Governing Body approved the concept of a strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda for the 106th (2017), 107th (2018) and 108th (2019) Sessions of the Conference. The Governing Body agreed that the elements highlighted by the Office should be taken into account in coordinating to the fullest extent possible the agendas of the Conference sessions in the lead-up to the centenary session in 2019. In particular, the longer-term focus involved in this approach would help in enhancing the linkages between the Conference agenda, the preparation of the Strategic Policy Framework for 2018–21, the follow-up to the evaluation by the Conference in 2016 of the impact of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 (the Social Justice Declaration), and the centenary initiatives. In this respect, ensuring tripartite ownership and retaining sufficient flexibility in the selection of Conference agenda items will be vital.

Overview of the Conference agenda-setting process

3. The applicable rules concerning the agenda of the International Labour Conference are set out in the ILO Constitution, the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference and the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. The agenda of the Conference consists of standing and ad hoc items.

4. The following standing items are required to be included by the Governing Body on the Conference agenda each year:

- reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General;
- financial and budgetary questions; and
- information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.

1 See Appendix I for the full text of the Governing Body’s decision.

2 GB.322/PV/Draft, para.17 and GB.322/INS/2, paras 11–19.


4 Articles 14(1) and 16(3).

5 In particular, articles 7, 7bis, 8 and 12.

6 Section 5 and article 6.2.
5. It has become the practice to include on the Conference agenda three additional ad hoc items, with a view either to a general discussion or to standard setting. For standard-setting items, while a double discussion remains the norm, the Governing Body may decide to hold a single discussion. The ad hoc items to be placed on the Conference agenda are considered at two successive sessions of the Governing Body. In accordance with current practice, the Governing Body holds its first discussion of proposed items for future sessions of the Conference at its November session.

6. The Social Justice Declaration and its follow-up introduced a scheme of recurrent discussions by the Conference so as to better understand the diverse realities and needs of its members with respect to each of the ILO’s strategic objectives, respond more effectively to them by using all the means of action at its disposal, and adjust its priorities and programmes of action accordingly. Recurrent discussions are intended to play a key role in the setting of the overall Conference agenda. The Governing Body decided at its 304th Session (March 2009) that these recurrent discussions would follow a seven-year cycle, with employment, fundamental principles and rights at work, and social protection being discussed twice, and social dialogue being discussed once, according to the following sequence: employment (first recurrent discussion, 2010); social protection (social security) (first recurrent discussion, 2011); fundamental principles and rights at work (first recurrent discussion, 2012); social dialogue (first recurrent discussion, 2013); employment (second recurrent discussion, 2014); social protection (labour protection) (second recurrent discussion, 2015); and fundamental principles and rights at work (second recurrent discussion, 2016).

7. This sequence was subsequently adjusted following the Governing Body’s decision to place the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration on the agenda of the 105th Session (2016) of the Conference, and to defer the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work from the 105th Session (2016) to the 106th Session (2017).

8. Section A of this paper provides preliminary indications on how the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda might unfold for the period 2017–19, which includes the three existing proposals for Conference agenda items, the consideration of which was postponed by the Governing Body at its 322nd Session (November 2014). Section B outlines a procedural roadmap for the setting of the Conference agenda from 2017 to 2019, ensuring full tripartite ownership and adequate flexibility.

---

7 Social Justice Declaration, Part II(A)(i), and Annex, Part II(B)(i).

8 Under Part II(B) of the Annex to the Declaration, the modalities of recurrent discussions are agreed by the Governing Body.

9 GB.304/PV, para. 183(b).

10 GB.320/PV, para. 351. See also GB.322/INS/3.
A. Implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda (2017–19)

9. The ad hoc items already selected for the Conference agenda for 2015, 2016 and 2017 will address some of the important issues of current relevance for the labour market. Thus joint consideration of the agendas of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference would be reinforced through appropriate linkages with the discussions and outcomes of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 sessions of the Conference. In 2015, the Conference will hold a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection, focusing on labour protection. This recurrent discussion will address issues such as wages, working time, occupational safety and health and maternity protection. Following the abovementioned evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration in 2016, this will be followed in 2017 by the final recurrent discussion of the current seven-year cycle, which will be on fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW). In view of this, as well as the role played by recurrent discussions in the Conference agenda-setting process, the outcomes of the 2015 and 2017 recurrent discussions, together with any follow-up decided upon by the Governing Body, are likely to feed into the Conference discussions that would pave the way for the centenary session in 2019.

10. The implementation of a coherent and strategic approach will also facilitate stronger linkages between Conference agenda items and the ILO’s research work and statistics. In particular, the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) will provide analytical background for key items on the agenda of the Conference.

11. As noted during the discussion at the 322nd Session (November 2014) of the Governing Body, the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach will depend largely on the progress made to date and outcomes of a number of forthcoming discussions by the Governing Body and the Conference. Consideration will also have to be given to the three proposed items which are referred to in paragraphs 12 to 13 below.

---

11 See Appendix II for an overview of the ad hoc items selected for the Conference agenda since 2010 (the appendix was originally included in GB.322/INS/2).

12 The conclusions of the Meeting of Experts on Non-standard Forms of Employment in February 2015 may also inform the preparation of the 2015 recurrent discussion on labour protection. Non-standard forms of employment, report for discussion at the Meeting of Experts on Non-Standard Forms of Employment, Geneva, 16–19 February 2015, para. 4.

13 As emphasized by the Social Justice Declaration, FPRW are of particular significance both as rights and as enabling conditions for the full realization of all the Organization’s strategic objectives.

14 GB.322/INS/2, paras 15 and 19; and GB.322/PFA/1, para. 178.
Current proposed items for the agenda of future sessions of the Conference and coherence with other processes

12. The Governing Body decided at its 322nd Session that further consideration would be given to three proposals at its 323rd Session (March 2015). Having regard to the preliminary indications highlighted below concerning the strategic and coherent approach, the Governing Body may therefore wish to decide on the action to be taken with regard to these proposals:

(i) Effective ILO development cooperation in a changing global context (general discussion) (Appendix III.1);

(ii) Violence against women and men in the world of work (standard setting, double discussion) (Appendix III.2);

(iii) Labour migration (general discussion) (Appendix III.3).

Preliminary elements on the linkages between these proposals and the centenary initiatives are reflected hereafter and should be read in conjunction with the elements in paragraphs 17 to 29 below.

13. During the 322nd Session of the Governing Body (November 2014), it was suggested that the proposed item “Effective ILO development cooperation in a changing global context (general discussion)” could be selected as a possible agenda item in the context of the follow-up to the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration. 15 It should be noted that this item would also be relevant to the role of the ILO in implementing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The timing of the discussions on the proposed items on “Violence against women and men in the world of work” and “Labour migration” would need to be taken into account in the context of the women at work and the future of work centenary initiatives, respectively. If the Governing Body were to consider that the proposed standard-setting item on “Violence against women and men in the world of work” would enhance ILO action in the framework of the women at work initiative, 16 consideration could be given to the inclusion of this standard-setting item on the ILC agenda of the 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Conference. The proposal for a general discussion on “Labour migration” suggests that it could be included on the agenda of the 2018 session of the Conference.

Coherence with the new Strategic Policy Framework 2018–21

14. Members of the Governing Body have emphasized the need to link the selection of Conference agenda items with the Strategic Policy Framework.

15. In terms of process, the preparation and implementation of the Strategic Policy Framework for 2018–21, to be adopted in 2017, will coincide with the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda up to the centenary session in 2019. In terms of substance, both processes will have the same drivers, in particular the implementation of the centenary initiatives and the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration, contributing to coherence between the two processes.

15 GB.322/PV/Draft, para. 15 (Government of Turkey).

16 See paras 27 and 28 below.
16. This coherence will also be important in ensuring that the outcomes of the Conference discussions from 2017 to 2019 will contribute to the development of the ILO’s programme and budget for the respective planning periods and beyond.

What linkages could be established with the ILO centenary initiatives?  

The governance initiative

17. Due account will need to be taken of the reform of the Conference, and particularly the two-week session, which will be implemented on a trial basis at the 104th (2015) Session of the Conference. In particular, consideration will need to be given to the implications of the reform of the Conference on any decision the Governing Body may take on the number and nature of Conference agenda items, and on the preparatory steps and modalities of Conference discussions.  

18. The conclusions drawn from the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration by the Conference in 2016 could assist in the determination and implementation of the ILO’s future strategic orientation, with implications for the setting of the Conference agenda beyond 2017, in particular with regard to the sequence and frequency of future recurrent discussions. These implications would be determined by the Governing Body at its November 2016 session.

The standards initiative

19. The standards initiative is currently the subject of a separate process in the Governing Body.  Pending decisions on the modalities of recurrent discussions, the topics of the General Survey to be prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in 2015 and 2016 have been selected on an ad hoc basis. General Surveys, together with their discussion by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards, should continue to inform broader discussions, including those on items placed on the Conference agenda.  More generally, as emphasized in previous discussions by the Governing Body on the Conference agenda, appropriate coordination between the ILO standards policy and the setting of the Conference agenda is important to ensure the topicality and pertinence to the rapidly changing world of work of the standards discussed and adopted by the Conference.

17 See GB.322/INS/13/2 for information on all the centenary initiatives. See also GB.322/PV/Draft, paras 309–330.

18 GB.319/WP/GBC/1, para. 15. See GB.322/PV/Draft, para. 8 (Employers’ comments), para 11 (comments made by IMEC).

19 GB.322/INS/2, para. 11.

20 The General Survey to be prepared in 2015 on labour migration would feed into the proposed general discussion on the same topic. The General Survey to be prepared in 2016 on the occupational safety and health (OSH) instruments could contribute to ILO standards policy by paving the way for the promotion, review and possible consolidation of the OSH instruments, within the framework of the Standards Review Mechanism (SRM) when it is launched; see GB.322/LILS/4, para. 3. The Workers’ group has also proposed a comprehensive General Survey on the working-time instruments in 2017, as this would be timely in view of the centenary in 2019 of the Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1); see GB.322/PV/Draft, para. 521.
The enterprise initiative

20. The objective of this initiative is to realize the full potential of the ILO to engage with enterprises for the achievement of its goals. The Governing Body agreed at its 321st Session (June 2014) on the modalities of such wider ILO engagement with the private sector and decided that a progress report on implementation would be submitted to its 326th Session (March 2016). Linkages with the setting of the Conference agenda may be established in this light, as well as from the follow-up to the general discussion on small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation and the general discussion on decent work in global supply chains at the 2015 and 2016 sessions of the Conference, respectively.

The end of poverty initiative

21. The objective of the end of poverty initiative is to bring together all the relevant areas of ILO action to maximize the Organization’s contribution to ending world poverty. The process of elaborating the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) provides an important opportunity for the realization of this objective. The synthesis report of the UN Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda emphasizes that eradicating poverty by 2030 is the overarching objective of the sustainable development agenda. It is entirely possible that the promotion of decent work, the reduction of inequality and the linkage between employment and social protection could form part of a comprehensive and universal package of economic, social and environmental goals for 2030. The ILO has made a distinctive contribution to the work on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in line with the decision adopted at the 316th Session (November 2012) of the Governing Body, which mandated the Director-General to work for the inclusion of decent work and social protection as self-standing goals.

22. The General Assembly will adopt the post-2015 sustainable development agenda in September 2015. At its 325th Session (November 2015), the Governing Body will therefore be in a position to assess the outcome and in particular to decide how the end of poverty initiative should be used to define the ILO’s contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, including the relevant SDGs.

23. In addition to reviewing ILO action to combat poverty in light of its constitutional mandate and the unique advantage of its tripartite structure and standards system, a number of options could be explored for a future Conference discussion. For example, if employment, decent work and social protection are deemed to be among the global priorities of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, the relationship between employment and

---

21 GB.322/INS/13/2, para. 6.

22 GB.322/INS/13/2, para. 7.

23 The ongoing process relating to the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) clearly emphasizes that ending poverty, which is enshrined in SDG1, “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, cannot be achieved in isolation and should therefore be part of a broader sustainable development agenda.


26 GB.322/INS/13/2, para. 10.
social protection could be examined. The preparatory work could take into account the conclusions of the general discussion of the Conference at its 102nd Session (June 2013) concerning employment and social protection in the new demographic context which highlighted the need for integrated, intergenerational perspectives on policy options for promoting employment and social protection over the life cycle. Account would need to be taken in this regard of the impact of the Global Jobs Pact and the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). Addressing inequality and the world of work would also contribute to the end of poverty initiative.

24. Entrepreneurship offers significant potential, not only in terms of working conditions and employment, but also effective action to combat poverty. This element should be included in the preparation of a Conference discussion on the end of poverty theme, based in particular on the Office’s substantial work on enterprise creation, including its cooperation with a number of partners.

25. The end of poverty theme could be addressed in the framework of a discussion by the Conference of the ILO’s role in promoting the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, taking due account of the three dimensions – economic, environmental and social – reflected in the 17 proposed SDGs. Such a Conference debate, in the form of a general discussion, would need to be framed in terms of the United Nations follow-up plan, which will already be established by then, and include the ILO’s role in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Concrete proposals concerning the abovementioned elements could be developed for the consideration of the Governing Body at its 325th Session (November 2015).

The green initiative

26. The objective of this initiative is to equip the ILO to play its full role in facilitating the transition to a low-carbon sustainable development path through the integration of a practical decent work dimension. Implementation has focused to date on the strategic action plan adopted following the general discussion on sustainable development, decent work and green jobs at the 102nd Session (June 2013) of the Conference. The initiative will also need to take into account the outcome of the Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris in 2015. Possible linkages with the agenda-setting process may therefore emerge during the implementation of the initiative, as well as from the outcome of the Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Development, Decent Work and Green Jobs to be held in October 2015.

The women at work initiative

27. The objective of this initiative is to undertake a major stocktaking of the status and conditions of women in the world of work, with a view to identifying innovative action to give new impetus to the ILO’s work in accordance with its constitutional mandate to

27 The Workers’ group has indicated that the end of poverty initiative could be a relevant Conference agenda item in 2017 in light of the follow-up to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (see GB.322/PV/Draft, para. 9).

28 GB.322/INS/13/2, paras 11–14.

29 It should be recalled that the Meeting of Experts is linked with one of the options for future sessions of the Conference concerning transition of the world of work to a low-carbon economy. This is one of the topics that has been temporarily removed from consideration by the Governing Body pending further work by the Office: see GB.322/INS/2, para. 25 and GB.322/PV/Draft, para. 8 (Employers’ group) and para. 9 (Workers’ group).
promote full and lasting gender equality and non-discrimination. In order to develop a comprehensive and strategic approach to the ILO centenary in 2019, the initiative would need to be pursued through three tracks: policy-oriented research; consultations with constituents and relevant stakeholders to identify obstacles to gender equality and innovative actions to overcome them, focusing on what works; and advocacy and support to constituents for the implementation of action identified as key to the attainment of gender equality.  

28. The women at work initiative will also constitute a significant component of the discussions leading up to the 2019 centenary session. Pending the completion of the stocktaking, which is planned for 2017, and any appropriate course of action that may be decided upon by constituents on that basis, the Governing Body may therefore wish to give further consideration to the proposed item relating to violence against women and men in the world of work with a view to standard setting referred to in paragraphs 12 to 13 above (see Appendix III), as it is likely to be an important issue in the women at work and the future of work initiatives.

The future of work initiative

29. Broad support has been expressed in the Governing Body for the idea that a major part of the agenda of the centenary session in 2019 should be devoted to consideration of the issues arising out of the future of work initiative. The centenary session of the Conference is expected to be designed around this initiative as an “umbrella topic”, which would be prepared in particular through the discussions and outcomes of the 2015 to 2018 sessions of the Conference. The Report of the Director-General to the 104th Session (2015) of the Conference on the future of work will offer constituents the opportunity to provide their views on this initiative.

B. A procedural roadmap for the setting of the Conference agenda from 2017 to 2019

30. Throughout the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach, consultations will be held and the views of constituents will be sought on a number of elements, including the links to be established between the agenda-setting process and other ongoing processes, the content of the proposed items and the expected outcome of the respective Conference discussions.

31. An important aspect of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda is that constituents continue to put forward proposals for future Conference agenda items. It is also important to ensure that the approach is anchored in a clear understanding of the appropriate division of work between the various bodies. The building of tripartite ownership will therefore need to reflect the responsibilities exercised by the Governing Body, the Conference, the Office and constituents in this respect.

30 GB.322/INS/13/2, paras 16 and 19.

31 GB.322/INS/2, para. 14 and GB.322/INS/13/2, para. 19. See GB.322/PV/Draft, para. 310 (Employers’ group); para. 311 (Workers’ group); para. 315 (ASPAG); para. 317 (IMEC); para. 327 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran); para. 328 (Government of Brazil).
32. In this context, it is proposed that a procedural roadmap for a coherent and strategic approach to setting the Conference agenda from 2017 to 2019 would encompass the following main stages in the Governing Body, on the understanding that they may have to be adjusted as required to reflect new developments:

- **323rd Session (March 2015) of the Governing Body**: the Governing Body would provide guidance on the overall process of setting the Conference agenda in 2017–19, as well as on the action to be taken regarding the three proposed items in Appendix III. Consideration will also need to be given to the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts concerning Convention No. 185 and their possible implications for the Conference agenda.  

- **325th Session (November 2015)**: the Governing Body would give consideration to the setting of agenda items for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference and would assess the implications on the setting of the Conference agenda of: (i) the discussions and outcomes of the 104th Session (2015) of the Conference, and particularly the discussion of the Director-General’s Report on the future of work, the outcomes of the recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection) and of the general discussion on SMEs and decent and productive employment creation; (ii) the decision taken by the General Assembly on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda; and (iii) the experience of the two-week session of the Conference in 2015.

- **November 2016**: the Governing Body would give consideration to the setting of agenda items for the 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference and would assess the implications on the setting of the Conference agenda of: (i) the outcome of the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration by the 105th Session (2016) of the Conference and the general discussion on decent work in global supply chains; and (ii) the progress made on the follow-up to the future of work initiative, paying particular attention to coordination with the preparation of the new Strategic Policy Framework (2018–21).

- **November 2017**: the Governing Body would assess the implications on the setting of the Conference agenda of: (i) the outcome of the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work at the 106th Session (2017) of the Conference; (ii) the stocktaking undertaken in the framework of the women at work initiative; and (iii) the progress made on the follow-up to the future of work initiative. The agenda of the 2019 centenary session would be the main focus of attention.

**Draft decision**

33. The Governing Body is invited to:

(a) provide guidance on:

(i) the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the agenda of the Conference for the 106th (2017), 107th (2018) and 108th (2019) Sessions as set out in paragraphs 9 to 29 above;

32 GB.323/LILS/4.
(ii) the action to be taken with regard to the following three proposed items set out in Appendix III:

- Effective ILO development cooperation in a changing global context (general discussion);
- Violence against women and men in the world of work (standard setting, double discussion);
- Labour migration (general discussion);

(iii) the procedural roadmap referred to in paragraphs 30 to 32 above;

(b) request to place this item on the agenda of its 325th Session (November 2015).
Appendix I

Decision on GB.322/INS/2

The Governing Body:

(1) adopted a strategic and coherent approach to setting the Conference agenda for the 106th (2017), 107th (2018), and 108th (2019) Sessions of the Conference;

(2) agreed that the elements contained in paragraphs 11 to 19 of document GB.322/INS/2 should be taken into account in the setting of the Conference agenda for the period 2017–19;

(3) provided guidance on:

(a) the removal from its consideration of the proposal concerning building a diverse and inclusive world of work;

(b) the action to be taken regarding the proposal concerning the public sector;

(c) the temporary removal from its consideration, pending further work from the Office, of the following four subjects: resolution of labour disputes; transition of the world of work to a low-carbon economy; non-standard forms of employment; long-term unemployment;

(d) the arrangements to be made to enable constituents to submit further suggestions for the Conference agenda;

(4) postponed, to its 323rd Session (March 2015), consideration of the following three proposed items:

- effective ILO development cooperation in a changing global context (general discussion);
- violence against women and men in the world of work (standard setting, double discussion);
- labour migration (general discussion);

(5) requested the Director-General to Report on the agenda of future sessions of the Conference to its 323rd Session (March 2015), and to engage in consultations to that end.
## Appendix II

### Overview of the ad hoc items selected for the Conference agenda (2010–19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Ad hoc items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100th (2011)</td>
<td>Decent work for domestic workers – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion). Labour administration and labour inspection – general discussion. A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (social security), under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103rd (2014)</td>
<td>Supplementing Convention No. 29, to address implementation gaps to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, to effectively achieve the elimination of forced labour – standard setting, single discussion. Facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy – standard setting, double discussion (first discussion). Second recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of employment, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration. Approval of amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as adopted by the Special Tripartite Committee established under Article XIII of the Convention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104th (2015)</td>
<td>The transition from the informal to the formal economy – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion). Small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation – general discussion. A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (labour protection), under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Ad hoc items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106th (2017) (To be completed)</td>
<td>Decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience: Revision of Recommendation No. 71 – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion). A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107th (2018) (To be completed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108th (2019) (To be completed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix III

Three proposed items for the agenda of future sessions of the Conference

1. Effective ILO development cooperation in a changing global context (general discussion)

Nature and context of the proposed item

1. With the shaping of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, new approaches and trends in the area of development cooperation are at the heart of discussions in international forums, involving a range of development actors from the public and private sectors and civil society. In line with the global development debate within the United Nations and beyond, the Office now refers to “development cooperation”, a term that reflects new ways of building partnerships that go beyond the provision of technical expertise and knowledge by “developed” to “developing” countries. It also includes South–South cooperation.

2. It is important for the ILO and its constituents to foster an ILO-specific approach to development cooperation that reinforces the Organization’s strategic position in the international development arena. This approach should take into account new global aspects, such as the sustainable development goals, development cooperation trends and partnership modalities, within the setting of the ILO’s new Strategic Policy Framework and Office reforms.

3. This proposal was considered by the Governing Body at its 317th, 319th and 320th Sessions. 1 At the 322nd Session (November 2014), the Workers’ group reiterated that the proposed item should be discussed by the Governing Body rather than by the Conference. The Government members of France, Japan and Turkey were in favour of retaining the proposed item for future consideration and decision by the Governing Body in the context of the Conference agenda. The Government member of Turkey suggested that one way to accommodate the possible outcomes of the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration might be to include this issue as a topic for a general discussion, preferably at the centenary session in 2019. 2

4. In November 2014, the Governing Body discussed the ILO’s technical cooperation strategy, focusing on 2015–17. Further discussions and the decisions that will be taken could prepare the ground for a possible general discussion by the Conference in 2017.

5. Development cooperation is an important means of action for the ILO. Voluntary funding accounts for over 40 per cent of the total resources available to the ILO and enables the Office to enhance the capacity of constituents, support the achievement of the ILO’s strategic objectives, including operational outcomes and areas of critical importance, and implement Decent Work Country Programmes. Guidance on this topic from the Conference is therefore important, in the same way as for the use made of assessed contributions. Development cooperation is central to the programme of action of most United Nations organizations, and the raison d’être of many of them.

---

1 See GB.317/INS/2(Rev.), Appendix I, paras 41–46; GB.319/INS/2, Appendix III; GB.320/INS/2, Appendix II.

6. The proposed general discussion is also linked to the item on the Conference agenda in 2016 and 2017 concerning the revision of the Employment (Transition from War to Peace) Recommendation, 1944 (No. 71), particularly in the light of the increased attention given by the ILO to fragile States. Moreover, it could build on the outcomes of the general discussion on decent work in global supply chains and the evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration, which are both on the Conference agenda for 2016.

Constituents’ needs and realities in light of the ILO strategic objectives

7. Constituents have frequently stressed the importance of development cooperation for capacity building and the achievement of the Organization’s objectives. The proposed general discussion would enable the Office to align its current and future development cooperation programme more closely with the requirements and realities of the tripartite constituents, and with the renewed focus on development effectiveness, as emphasized by developing countries and development partners alike.

Added value of a Conference discussion

8. The last general discussion on the role of the ILO in development cooperation took place at the 95th Session (2006) of the Conference, when a resolution was adopted calling for a review of the subject five years later. That review has still not been carried out and is now long overdue.

9. The proposed general discussion would situate the ILO’s development cooperation programme within a changing internal and external context, and provide guidance on its scope, size and effectiveness and its alignment with the new Strategic Policy Framework (2018–21).

10. During 2013, in the context of the Director-General’s reform agenda, the Office undertook internal reviews of field operations and development cooperation which have a direct bearing on the proposed general discussion. Decisions resulting from the reviews relate, among other matters, to improving the effectiveness of development cooperation through ILO presence and partnerships, the importance of quality service delivery, and the need for strategic management and programming, including for voluntary funding. In addition, in 2016 and 2017, the Governing Body will discuss the ILO’s new Strategic Policy Framework (2018–21), which will define the high-level priorities for the ILO’s development cooperation programme and strategy.

11. Four principal external factors underline the importance and timeliness of the proposed general discussion:

(1) The sustainable development goals, which are expected to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, will provide the framework for the ILO’s development cooperation programme in the years to come. A general discussion on development cooperation in 2017 would therefore be very timely.

(2) The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, launched in Busan, Republic of Korea, in December 2011, sets the parameters for a more transparent, accountable, visible, results-based and effective development partnership. The ILO is a member of the partnership through its participation in the United Nations Development Group.

(3) The principle of United Nations system-wide coherence and its application in a growing number of “Delivering as One” countries is having a considerable impact on the ILO’s operational activities in the field.
(4) The rapidly evolving development environment is characterized by greater complexity and heterogeneity. Former recipient countries have become donors; the private sector, including foundations, is playing an increasingly important role in development cooperation; and civil society and local authorities have become active players in this field. This trend is reflected in the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which calls for a new global partnership involving these players and emphasizes the need to transform economies through jobs and inclusive growth.  

Expected outcome

12. The proposed general discussion would review the ILO’s development cooperation strategy, adopted by the Governing Body in November 2009, in light of the internal and external developments outlined above, and building on the Governing Body discussion in November 2014, which will focus on the period 2015–17. It could provide guidance beyond 2017 and longer term direction and support for the ILO development cooperation strategy. It would take into account new elements, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Office objectives for resource mobilization, the outcome of the Third Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, 13–16 July 2015), substantive and financial delivery, development partnership diversification, alignment with the priorities set by constituents in the strategic policy framework, the programme and budget and Decent Work Country Programmes, reporting and visibility, and development effectiveness. The strategy would be complemented by a plan of action aimed at enhancing the scope, size and effectiveness of the ILO’s development cooperation programme.

Preparation of the Conference discussion

13. The report to be submitted to the Conference would be based on the reviews carried out in the context of the Office reform, as well as on analyses of existing evaluations, and would include a survey to enable beneficiaries, constituents, donors, partners and implementing ILO units and offices to express their views on the relevance and effectiveness of the ILO’s development cooperation programme. It would draw on the outcomes of a series of Governing Body discussions, including those on regional development cooperation perspectives. The report would be prepared by regular ILO staff and would not require additional resources.

2. **Violence against women and men in the world of work (standard setting, double discussion)**

Nature and context of the proposed item

14. This proposal was originally made as follow-up to the resolution concerning gender equality at the heart of decent work, adopted by the Conference at its 98th Session (2009), which recognizes that “[s]exual harassment and other forms of harassment are serious forms of discrimination across the world that undermine the dignity of women and men,

---


4 These include discussions concerning Africa (315th Session of the Governing Body), Asia (318th Session), the Americas (319th Session) and Europe (320th Session), South–South and triangular cooperation (315th and 316th Sessions), public–private partnerships (316th and 320th Sessions), ILO technical cooperation in fragile States (320th Session) and the ILO’s future technical cooperation strategy (322nd Session).
negate gender equality and can have significant implications”. The resolution calls for the prohibition of gender-based violence in the workplace and for policies, programmes, legislation and other measures to be implemented to prevent it. It acknowledges the workplace as a privileged entry point for prevention and highlights the importance of addressing such violence “through social dialogue, including collective bargaining where applicable at the enterprise, sectoral or national level”.

15. The proposal was considered at the 316th, 317th, 319th, 320th and 322nd Sessions of the Governing Body. While the discussion at the 322nd Session (November 2014) was of a more procedural nature, and did not call for views to be expressed on the specific proposals, the Workers’ group reiterated its support for a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation, and the Government members of France and Canada also supported the proposal as a standard-setting item.

16. Violence in the world of work comes in many forms, including harassment, bullying and mobbing, human trafficking and forced prostitution, and assault. The ILO is regularly requested to provide advice and assistance on this issue, in particular concerning sexual and other forms of harassment. While some harassment may fall within the realm of criminal law, it generally focuses on sexual assault and not the full range of behaviour that constitutes harassment in employment and occupation. Promoting laws and policies to prevent and protect against harassment and other forms of violence in the world of work, as well as establishing complaints and monitoring mechanisms to protect workers against them, are an integral part of the ILO’s mandate. Under the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), sexual harassment is addressed as a serious manifestation of sex discrimination; the HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2010 (No. 200), calls for action to prevent and prohibit violence and harassment in the workplace; the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), calls for protection against sexual harassment; and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), requires effective protection against all forms of abuse, harassment and violence, while its accompanying Recommendation stresses the importance of mechanisms to protect domestic workers in this regard. Most recently, the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203), calls for effective protective measures, including special rehabilitative measures for victims of forced or compulsory labour, including those who have also been subjected to sexual violence.

The Office has also developed and disseminated sectoral tools on workplace violence, such as: the code of practice on workplace violence in services sectors and measures to combat

5 Para. 5. See also para. 54 of the resolution.
8 ibid., para. 789.
9 Para. 14(c).
10 Article 20(3)(d).
11 Article 5.
12 Para. 7.
13 Para. 9(c).
this phenomenon; the Framework guidelines for addressing workplace violence in the health sector; a paper on violence and insecurity in education workplaces; and a working paper on violence at work in hotels, catering and tourism. These reflect the need of constituents for guidance and could inform a standard-setting discussion.

17. There is also increased focus in the international arena on violence and the world of work. During its 26th Session (2014), the United Nations Human Rights Council considered a report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice and a report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The synthesis report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the post-2015 agenda, released in December 2014, makes several references to ending violence against women and ensuring zero tolerance of violence against women. The recent United Nations regional Economic Commission conferences on Beijing +20 have also adopted declarations and conclusions highlighting the urgent need to address violence against women, which was also the priority theme of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and has been a focus of the post-2015 development agenda discussions.

Constituents’ needs and realities in light of the ILO’s strategic objectives

18. Violence has a high cost for workers, employers and society in general. It is a violation of human rights, affects the dignity of workers and can lead to significant stress, loss of motivation and heightened vulnerability to HIV infection, accidents, disability and even death. It disproportionally affects women and severely undermines their economic

---

14 Prepared jointly in 2002 by the ILO, the International Council of Nurses, the World Health Organization and Public Services International.


18 op.cit.

19 The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in November 2014 adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which reaffirms the commitment of governments to address the 12 critical areas of concern, including by taking strategic action on violence against women and girls. The Special Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on Beijing +20 in Latin America and the Caribbean, in November 2014, reaffirmed all its international commitments, especially to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Pará). The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Beijing +20 Regional Review Meeting, in November 2014, also focused on violence against women. The Meeting made a number of policy recommendations, including a call to develop comprehensive strategies and policies to prevent violence against women and girls; initiate specific actions to fight against trafficking of women and domestic violence, and improve cross-regional cooperation and the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the implementation of legislation and polices aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.
empowerment. For enterprises, violence leads to lower productivity, increased absenteeism, higher turnover and reputational risks. The impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces is a recent and expanding area of research, which points to staggering costs for employers. Social dialogue, including collective bargaining, is increasingly being recognized as a means of addressing these issues.

**Added value of standard setting with reference to the existing body of standards**

19. The issue of violence in the world of work is increasingly being recognized as a major challenge in the world of work that needs to be addressed, both as a rights issue and as a workplace efficiency and profitability issue. As a result, ILO constituents regularly call for tools and advisory services to address this issue. While a range of ILO standards address certain aspects of violence at work, including with respect to discrimination, forced labour, child labour, freedom of association, labour inspection, indigenous and tribal peoples, migrant workers and domestic workers, important gaps remain. The full range of manifestations of violence now recognized as affecting the world of work are not covered, and clear and authoritative ILO guidance is lacking on how to delineate and address the issue.

**Expected outcome**

20. The proposed instrument(s) could take the form of a Convention addressing issues of definition and scope, and could set out the forms of violence covered, as well as broad principles for addressing and preventing such violence, including through laws, policies, collective bargaining and dispute resolution mechanisms. The Convention could be complemented by a Recommendation providing more detailed guidance. The instrument(s) would provide a solid foundation for policy development and action by governments, employers and workers and their organizations.

**Preparation of the Conference discussion**

21. The preparations would be undertaken in coordination with work to address gender equality and non-discrimination in the areas of critical importance and the outcome areas that are being developed for the 2016–17 biennium, including the protection of workers against unacceptable forms of work. The issue is also likely to be central to the Director-General’s centenary initiative on women at work, as well as the future of work, as it is a major obstacle to decent work for women and men. The preparatory work would be informed by research, studies of good practices and data collection. Tripartite preparatory meetings could inform the scope and content of the future instruments, provide inputs from tripartite constituents and promote ownership of the outcome. Regional workshops and consultations within the United Nations system and with other international organizations would also be important components of the preparatory process.

3. **Labour migration (general discussion)**

**Nature and context of the proposed item**

22. At its 320th Session (March 2014), the Governing Body requested the Office to submit to its 322nd Session (November 2014) a proposal concerning the possibility of selecting an item relating to labour migration with a view to a general discussion at a future session of

---

20 A 2014 study from New Zealand, for example, estimates that domestic violence costs employers 368 million New Zealand dollars (NZD) a year, with a projected cost of NZD3.7 billion over the next ten years. Similar studies have been undertaken in Australia and the United Kingdom.
the Conference. The Director-General’s Report to the 103rd Session (2014) of the Conference, on setting an ILO agenda for fair migration, was well received. A proposed item on labour migration with a view to a general discussion was submitted to the Governing Body at its 322nd Session (November 2014).

23. The proposal builds on the comments made on the Director-General’s Report, the conclusions of the Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration (November 2013) and recent Governing Body discussions and decisions. It builds on the discussion at the 92nd Session (2004) of the Conference and the subsequent tripartite meeting of experts, which adopted the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration. The promotion of fair and effective labour migration policies has also been identified as an outcome area in the preparation of the programme and budget proposals and the transitional strategic plan for 2016–17.

24. A general discussion could be considered in 2018 focusing on two elements of the ILO agenda for fair migration that are interrelated and that constituents have identified as priority areas for action, namely:

(a) Instituting fair recruitment processes; and

(b) Supporting fair and effective governance of labour migration and mobility at the bilateral and regional levels.

25. The Office is already undertaking work in these areas. However, there is still a need for more concerted action and further guidance from constituents on the protection of migrant workers and the governance of labour migration in light of the post-2015 development agenda.

26. A Conference discussion on labour migration in 2018 would have strong synergies with the deliberations on and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants” as a target in SDG Goal 8, which also refers to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all. Moreover, in his synthesis report on the post-2015 agenda, the Secretary-General emphasizes that migrants belong to those groups that must not be “left behind” in the agenda. There are clear linkages with the end of poverty and future of work initiatives, with the latter likely to frame the discussions at the centenary session of the Conference in 2019, as well as with the other two proposed Conference agenda items (development cooperation in a changing global context and violence against women and men in the

21 GB.320/PV, para. 426.


world of work). With regard to the future of work, the Director-General’s Report on the centenary initiatives, submitted to the 102nd Session (2013) of the Conference, observes that “differentiated demographic and income trends are already adding to migratory pressures, and these pressures will become even stronger”. 28 The Social Justice Declaration considers the “movement of persons, especially working women and men”, as one of the characteristics of globalization that is “reshaping the world of work in profound ways”. 29

Constituents’ needs and realities in light of the ILO strategic objectives

27. At the 103rd Session (2014) of the Conference, many constituents emphasized the importance of regulating recruitment and placement services to prevent malpractices and serious abuses of migrant workers’ rights, and of ensuring a greater role for the social partners in migration-related policy decisions. Bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding have been adopted by a large number of countries in important migration corridors. Labour mobility is a growing feature and governance challenge for most regional integration processes, especially in countries that were formerly countries of origin and are now also countries of destination, for example in the global South, where cross-border labour flows have intensified over the past decade. Increasing support was expressed for a Conference discussion of these issues during the 322nd Session (November 2014) of the Governing Body.

28. The proposed general discussion would build on the ILO’s work as Chair of the Global Migration Group in 2014, and particularly the ILO’s Fair Recruitment Initiative under the Task Force on Migration and Decent Work, and its collaboration with the World Bank Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development. The Partnership involves workers’ and employers’ organizations and is developing and testing good practice in pilot countries with a view to improving the implementation of international labour standards in the recruitment of migrant workers. It seeks to measure and reduce the cost of labour migration for migrant workers by developing practical guidance on how to improve their protection through bilateral labour migration agreements. The ILO is also supporting tripartite processes on labour mobility in regional economic integration frameworks, including in the context of the Ouagadougou +10 Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, the Southern African Development Community, the Labour Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic Community of West African States. These efforts address key priorities identified by the ILO Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration (2013), the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in October 2013, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Secretary-General’s eight-point agenda for action. The general discussion would benefit from the results of the capacity-building work carried out by the Office to help social partners engage in labour migration policies at the regional level, including in the framework of a number of areas of critical importance.

Added value of a Conference discussion

29. A Conference discussion would provide an opportunity to exchange information on good practices across regions, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the ILO’s work and propose additional tools and guidance to enable the ILO agenda for fair migration to


29 Social Justice Declaration, Preamble, first recital.
become a reality. The discussion would also draw on the outcome of the General Survey on the labour migration instruments to be prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and discussed by the Conference in 2016.  

Expected outcome

30. The proposed general discussion would provide guidance with a view to strengthening the ILO’s work and impact in the field of labour mobility and the recruitment of migrant workers, and enhancing the capacity of labour ministries and workers’ and employers’ organizations to influence policy discussions and engage in the promotion of fair migration. Possible follow-up action by the Conference and the Governing Body could include the development of guidance or an action plan on fair recruitment and on bilateral and regional cooperation on labour migration and mobility.

Preparation of the Conference discussion

31. A report would be prepared by the Office, drawing on the results of the ILO work and research that is now under way on fair recruitment and bilateral agreements. The costs for the Office would be those associated with the preparation of Conference discussions.

30 GB.321/PV, para. 78.