



# Governing Body

340th Session, Geneva, October–November 2020

Policy Development Section

POL

Social Dialogue Segment

**Date:** 2 November 2020

**Original:** English

Fourth item on the agenda

## Sectoral meetings held in 2020 and proposals for sectoral work in 2021

### Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the report of the only meeting held in the first half of 2020, to authorize the respective follow-up (see the draft decision in paragraph 18) and to select the theme for a possible additional meeting under the programme of sectoral meetings for 2020–21. The Governing Body is also invited to take note of the support that the Office has provided to assist the tripartite constituents in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Relevant strategic objective:** Social dialogue and tripartism.

**Main relevant outcome:** Outcome 1: Strong tripartite constituents and influential and inclusive social dialogue; outcome 3: Economic, social and environmental transitions for full, productive and freely chosen employment and decent work for all; and outcome 7: Adequate and effective protection at work for all.

**Policy implications:** None.

**Legal implications:** None.

**Financial implications:** None.

**Follow-up action required:** The Office would be required to follow up as proposed.

**Author unit:** Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR).

**Related documents:** GB.325/INS/2; GB.328/INS/3; GB.328/POL/8; GB.329/POL/4; GB.329/PV; GB.334/POL/3; GB.335/POL/3; GB.337/POL/2; GB.337/POL/PV; GB.338/POL/3(Rev.1); GB.338/PV(Rev.4); GB.340/INS/21.

## ▶ I. Meeting held in the first half of 2020

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### Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport (20–22 January 2020)

1. In accordance with earlier decisions by the Governing Body,<sup>1</sup> the Forum was held in Geneva from 20 to 22 January 2020.
2. The Forum was chaired by Ambassador Michael Gaffey (Ireland). The three Vice-Chairpersons were: Ms Manon Post (Netherlands) from the Government group; Mr Mthunzi Mdwaba<sup>2</sup> from the Employers' group; and Mr Jonas Baer-Hoffmann<sup>3</sup> from the Workers' group.
3. The Forum was attended by 125 participants, including 51 Government representatives and advisers and 16 Government observers from 48 Member States, as well as 10 Employer and 28 Worker representatives, and 20 observers from intergovernmental organizations and invited international non-governmental organizations. Eighteen persons also registered as members of the general public.
4. The purpose of the Global Dialogue Forum was to discuss current and emerging issues related to the promotion of decent work in the world of sport. An issues paper<sup>4</sup> had been prepared by the Office and served as the basis for the discussions. The summary record of the proceedings summarizes the Forum's discussions,<sup>5</sup> which were concluded with the adoption of the points of consensus.<sup>6</sup>

## ▶ II. Upcoming meetings

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### (a) Meetings scheduled to be held in 2020 and 2021

5. At its 337th Session (October–November 2019),<sup>7</sup> the Governing Body adopted a preliminary programme of sectoral meetings for 2020–21. Taking into account travel limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic, a revised programme was later adopted by correspondence in the context of the 338th Session (March 2020) of the Governing Body.<sup>8</sup>
6. As proposed in document GB.340/INS/21 (Composition, agenda and programme of standing bodies and meetings), the programme of official meetings requiring the

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<sup>1</sup> GB.334/POL/3; and GB.329/PV, para. 512.

<sup>2</sup> Mr Mdwaba was replaced as Employer Vice-Chairperson for the final sitting of the Forum by Mr Paul Mackay.

<sup>3</sup> Mr Baer-Hoffmann was replaced as Worker Vice-Chairperson for the final sitting of the Forum by Mr Brendan Schwab.

<sup>4</sup> GDFWS/2020.

<sup>5</sup> GDFWS/2020/8.

<sup>6</sup> GDFWS/2020/7

<sup>7</sup> GB.337/POL/2; and GB.337/POL/PV, para. 41.

<sup>8</sup> The 338th Session, originally scheduled for 12–26 March, did not take place in view of the restrictions on meetings and travel in place as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. A number of decisions were however made by correspondence following consideration by the Officers of the Governing Body and the Tripartite Screening Group (see GB.338/POL/3(Rev.1) and GB.338/PV(Rev.4)).

physical presence of participants will be suspended until travel, health and safety conditions allow for meetings to be held under normal circumstances.

7. The list of global tripartite sectoral meetings postponed from 2020 or initially envisaged for 2021 is shown in the appendix, in the order in which the Office proposes they be held. The number of meetings that it will be possible to hold and their exact dates and formats will be decided as soon as conditions allow the programme of official meetings to be resumed.

## **(b) Additional meeting to be included in the programme of sectoral meetings in 2020–21**

8. As decided in the context of the review of the Sectoral Policies Department,<sup>9</sup> resources are being kept in reserve to allow for one additional meeting per biennium on an emerging sectoral issue of interest to constituents that requires a lighter than usual preparatory stage. In order to initiate preparations for this additional meeting in the 2020–21 biennium, the Governing Body was invited in March 2020 to select a sector-specific issue to be discussed in a technical meeting or meeting of experts.<sup>10</sup> It was decided, however, to defer a decision in this regard to a later stage, once face-to-face meetings could be resumed and there was more certainty about the number and dates of official meetings to be held until the end of the biennium.<sup>11</sup>
9. Should the rescheduling of official meetings in 2020 and 2021 make it still possible to organize an additional sectoral meeting, the Governing Body would have to select an item: either one proposed earlier (namely the protection of whistle-blowers, or independence and protection in the public service – fight against corruption), or a new item, such as those suggested within the Screening Group in the context of the 338th Session (March 2020) of the Governing Body.
10. The protection of whistle-blowers has been on the list of possible items for the agenda of future sessions of the International Labour Conference since November 2015.<sup>12</sup> The document submitted to the Governing Body in November 2016 suggested that the topic should first be examined by a meeting of experts.<sup>13</sup> Following the recommendation by the sectoral advisory bodies in January 2017, the Office undertook research on the topic and published a working paper on law and practice on protecting whistle-blowers in the public and financial services sectors.<sup>14</sup> The Governing Body, at its 337th Session (October–November 2019), considered that the topic, if limited to public services, was now considered sufficiently mature for examination by a meeting of experts. A meeting or event on one of the other suggested sectors would require preparatory work to start without delay.

<sup>9</sup> GB.328/POL/8, Appendix II, recommendations concerning meetings, as confirmed at the January 2017 session of the sectoral advisory bodies.

<sup>10</sup> GB/338/POL/3(Rev.1).

<sup>11</sup> GB.338/PV(Rev.4), para. 53.

<sup>12</sup> The Governing Body was informed in November 2015 that a proposal from Public Services International had been received for an item on the Conference agenda with a view to standard-setting to ensure the independence, impartiality and protection of certain categories of public service workers, notably through the fight against corruption (see GB.325/INS/2, para. 31).

<sup>13</sup> GB.328/INS/3.

<sup>14</sup> ILO, "Law and practice on protecting whistle-blowers in the public and financial services sectors", Working Paper No. 328, 2019.

11. It is therefore important that the selection of the theme for a possible additional meeting in the programme of sectoral meetings for 2020–21 is made at the present session of the Governing Body.

### ► III. COVID-19: Sectoral impact and responses

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12. In light of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sectors and industries and since the programme of sectoral meetings has been put on hold, the Office has refocused its sectoral work on providing support to constituents' efforts to respond to the pandemic.
13. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic differs greatly from sector to sector and has highlighted the importance of proactive and well-designed sectoral policies in response to the crisis. The ILO's Member States have taken unprecedented measures to strengthen their [health sector](#) and [public emergency services](#). Many are specifically targeting support for [tourism](#), [civil aviation](#), [media and culture](#), [agriculture and food security](#), [the automotive industry](#), [the textiles and clothing industries](#), [road transport](#), [maritime shipping and fishing](#), [food retail](#) and other hard-hit sectors in their stimulus packages and [country policy responses](#), which the Office has been compiling and sharing.
14. The Office has prepared a series of [17 sectoral briefs](#) to assist its constituents in assessing the impact of the pandemic in specific sectors and to highlight existing [ILO sectoral tools and instruments](#) to help sustain enterprises and protect workers. [Sector-specific guidance and checklists](#) have been developed to prevent and control COVID-19 in the sectors of agriculture; education; health services; mining; shipping; textiles, clothing, leather and footwear and tourism, often in collaboration with partners.
15. Sectoral organizations of employers and workers contributed to the preparation of these briefs and tools, which serve as a repository of good practices and lessons learned to help "build back better". Global union federations and sectoral employers' associations continue to use ILO sectoral instruments, tools and guidance to assist their members including as regards knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.
16. Employers' associations and workers' organizations in many different sectors have developed [joint statements and calls for action](#) to protect workers and support enterprises. Notably, the International Organisation of Employers, the International Trade Union Confederation and the IndustriALL Global Union issued a [call for action in the Global Garment Industry](#), which has been endorsed by more than [125 brands and manufacturers, employers' and workers' organizations, and governments](#). The Office has also continuously consulted with the Special Tripartite Committee (STC) of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended. This led, inter alia, to the issue of the [Statement of the Officers of the STC on the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#).
17. The ILO has furthermore addressed the COVID-19 pandemic through its [partnerships with other agencies of the United Nations and the multilateral system](#):
  - (a) As part of the ILO–OECD–WHO [Working for Health](#) programme's COVID-19 response, the ILO developed a [practical tool to be applied in health facilities](#) to protect health personnel.

- (b) The Office actively participated in the extraordinary G20 Tourism Ministers' meetings, as well as in the Global Tourism Crisis Committee established by the World Tourism Organization. The Office also contributed to the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on [COVID 19 and Transforming Tourism](#).
- (c) Work was undertaken with the secretariats of the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Health Organization (WHO) to eliminate restrictions on crew changes on ships and fishing vessels, and to prepare [guidance](#) on the prevention and management of COVID-19 cases on ships and fishing vessels, as well as on [promoting public health measures](#) in response to COVID-19.
- (d) A joint call to action by the ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the WHO on COVID-19 and its impact on livelihoods and food security was also issued.

## ▶ Draft decision

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### 18. The Governing Body, by correspondence:

- (a) **took note of the report of the Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport and authorized the Director-General to publish the final report;**
- (b) **requested the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for future work, the recommendations for future action by the ILO made by the Forum;**
- (c) **took note of the series of tools on sectoral impact and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and requested the Director-General to continue to support sectors responding to the pandemic and building back better; and**
- (d) **decided that, should it be agreed to include an additional meeting in the programme of global sectoral meetings for the biennium 2020-21, the resources kept in reserve be used for a technical meeting or meeting of experts on either the protection of whistle-blowers (or independence and protection in the public service - fight against corruption), or another sectoral issue.**

▶ **Appendix****List of global tripartite sectoral meetings for the biennium 2020–21**

<b>Date (to be confirmed)</b>	<b>Title of meeting</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>2020</b>		
20–22 January	Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport	Geneva
<b>2021</b>		
13–15 January	Sectoral advisory bodies	Geneva
First quarter (25–29 January tbc)	Technical meeting on the future of work in the automotive industry	Geneva
First quarter (8–12 February tbc)	Technical meeting on the future of decent and sustainable work in urban transport services	Geneva
First quarter (1–5 March tbc)	Technical meeting on the future of work in the education sector in the context of lifelong learning for all, skills and the Decent Work Agenda	Geneva
Second quarter (12–16 April tbc)	Technical meeting on the future of work in aquaculture in the context of the rural economy	Geneva
Second quarter (26–27 April)	Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission	Geneva
Second quarter (17–21 May tbc)	Technical meeting on the impact of digitalization in the finance sector	Geneva
Third quarter	Meeting of experts to discuss and adopt a code of practice on safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear	Virtual?
October	Joint ILO–UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART)	Virtual?
Fourth quarter	Meeting of experts to produce joint ILO–IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers	Virtual?
Fourth quarter	Meeting of experts to revise the 1992 code of practice on safety and health in construction	Virtual?
Fourth quarter	Additional meeting	Geneva