



SIXTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Committee on
Technical Cooperation**

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1. The Committee on Technical Cooperation met on 19 March 2001, chaired by Mr. Aboye (Government, Ethiopia). The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons were Mr. Hoff and Mr. Agyei, respectively.
2. The Committee had the following agenda:
 - I. Thematic evaluation: ILO projects on training for employment.
 - II. Report of the on-the-spot review teams for the Americas and Europe.
 - III. Operational aspects of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).
 - IV. Other business.

I. Thematic evaluation: ILO projects on training for employment

3. A representative of the Director-General (Mr. Trémeaud, Executive Director for the Regions and Technical Cooperation) introduced the Office report. He noted that there had been innovations in the development of the report to address specific previous requests of the Committee. As a result, the report was a more analytical and less descriptive document. In addition, both the activities of the Office and the Turin Centre were covered, in order that the relationship between the two entities could be examined. He requested to know whether these innovations responded to the earlier requests of the Committee.
4. A second representative of the Director-General (Mr. Hultin, Executive Director of the Employment Sector) continued the introduction by discussing how technical cooperation fitted into the broader strategic framework of the Employment Sector. He described the trends that shaped the Sector's strategic policy framework, including: (1) globalization; (2) labour market changes; (3) the impact of information and communications technologies on the structure of work; and (4) the lack of focus on employment in development agendas. He continued by noting that links to technical cooperation had been made in the following five areas: (1) policy formulation (Country Employment Policy Reviews, Comprehensive Employment Framework); (2) employment promotion (IFP/SEED, cooperatives promotion, and the More and Better Jobs for Women activities); (3) training and skills development to address the digital divide (World Employment Report); (4) training and skills development to address lifelong learning (MES vocational training and improved employment service programmes); and (5) improved outreach to constituents and partners in all activities. Last of all, Mr. Hultin noted that the Sector was very interested in a closer partnership with the Turin Centre, including joint programming opportunities and a more coordinated approach in resource mobilization.
5. The Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Hoff, stressed the importance of employability skills development to the overall ILO mission. He noted that the job of this Committee was twofold: (1) to assess what was happening in the thematic area under review; and (2) to assess how well the process of technical cooperation was being conducted. He noted that the three major points of the November meeting were the importance of tripartism, the value of constituent ownership of projects, and the value of employer involvement. He appreciated both the November report and this one for their honest and simple accounting of the successes and failures of projects. He noted that the lessons learned were very important and that a system should be developed to incorporate the lessons into future planning to avoid duplicating poor practices. He also stated that there should be more

scrutiny of whether to initiate projects in the first place. It would be important for the Employers' group to hear about efforts made in these areas in the future and also about the Task Force on Delivery that was being established. He also expressed regret that there was not more involvement of employers' organizations in the projects. He noted the need for demand-driven training with proper labour market needs assessment as well as clear project indicators. Noting the weak link that might exist between school systems and vocational training, he stated that attention should be given to this area as well.

6. The Worker Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Agyei, also stressed the importance of training in relation to the Decent Work Agenda. He stated that a more policy-oriented approach in the writing of the paper would have been useful. He regretted that the paper only focused on training and SMEs and put no emphasis on labour standards. He was quite concerned with the absence of trade unions among the recipients and in the design and the implementation of the projects. He asserted that this shortfall was undermining the role of the workers' constituents in the ILO. Noting that the role of NGOs was much more prominent than the role of trade unions in these projects, he firmly asked for this situation to be redressed urgently by the Office. He suggested that – as already decided by the IFP/SEED – all technical cooperation projects be posted on the ILO website (including clear references to the main indicators such as recipients, funds, time for execution, evaluation), in order to make the work in the TC field more transparent. In addition, ACTRAV and ACT/EMP should be more involved in the project design. With specific reference to the Turin Centre, ACTRAV was developing a new approach in training and distance learning, for example, that could be useful. MDTs, especially through workers' experts, should be more actively involved in the project design, implementation and evaluation, and more efforts were needed to improve Office-Turin cooperation. More attention should be placed upon long-term evaluation. In addition, while supporting Jobs for Africa and projects addressed to women, he stressed the importance of constituents and capacity building. He also stressed that the quality of TC delivery was as important as the rate of delivery. Lastly, he mentioned that the major lesson to be drawn from this evaluation was that ILO constituents – trade unions, governments and employers' organizations – who were the intended beneficiaries of advisory services and projects, had to be involved in their design and implementation and activities had to be felt to be “owned” and sustained by them.
7. The representative of the Government of Canada, speaking for the IMEC group, said that there was a great improvement in this report compared with former reports. He noted that the conclusions from the analysis of ILO projects were sometimes obvious but were welcomed if they strengthened Office staff training in project design and evaluation. Only very few projects systematically included labour market information. He supported the efforts by IFP/SEED and IFP/SKILLS to improve their work and stressed the need for more cooperation between the Office and the Turin Centre; the model to follow here would be the Poland project. He would also envisage a briefing from Regional Directors in November. He said that his group was sceptical about the usefulness of tripartite evaluations and would prefer independent ones.
8. The representative of the Government of Ethiopia, speaking for the African governments, noted that the ILO and its technical cooperation was vital to the countries in the region. The African governments called on the ILO and the donors to assist them in resolving two key problems that were identified: the failure of countries to deliver the necessary local inputs for projects and the transfer of staff inside government institutions. Financial sustainability and replicability of projects depended not only on the success of the project but also on socio-economic conditions. The importance of labour market information was mentioned, but a number of African countries did not have the economic means to collect the necessary data. He also stressed the importance of evaluation and the feedback of the evaluation results into the projects.

9. The representative of the Government of Malaysia, speaking for the Asian and Pacific governments, asked that the ILO give highest priority to employment creation. The ILO should give attention to basic skills for unskilled and semi-skilled workers. She particularly appreciated training courses in English at the Turin Centre. She also requested that the tripartite evaluation process be reviewed.
10. The representative of the Government of India congratulated the ILO on the report and stressed the importance of prior consultation with beneficiary countries on project objectives and methodology. He also highlighted the need for labour market needs assessment and ex-post evaluation. He noted the need for governments to avoid the transfer of staff trained in these projects. One possibility for increasing sustainability and government ownership would be gradually to diminish financial support in projects so that governments could take over responsibility more gradually.
11. Mr. Anand (Employer member) complimented the paper and noted that decent work should be treated without a compartmentalized tripartite approach. More links with traditional industries were needed to improve training methodologies. He also asked that traditional sectors of employment at region and country levels also be strengthened and not only ICT-related sectors. Technical cooperation also needed to create an environment that promotes job creation. The number of poor people in the Asia-Pacific region justified more – and specific attention from the ILO. CEPRs needed to be made public and accessible. The important role of the Turin Centre as a centre of excellence was noted, with the suggestion that efforts continue to maintain the fine reputation they had established. The new programme to establish links with alumni and trained persons and participants was welcomed and he hoped details would be worked out urgently.
12. Mr. Glélé (Employer member) was concerned about low workers' and employers' organizations' participation. He questioned whether there were projects in Central Africa and wanted to know more about the criteria for choosing the direct recipients in projects.
13. Mr. Trotman (Worker member) strongly asserted the importance of job creation for poverty alleviation and the important role of trade unions in the negotiation for job creation. He criticized the low participation of workers' and employers' organizations in projects and pointed out that trade unions were involved in the creation of employment in several countries. By not training employers and trade union organizations, the ILO was also undermining the sustainability of projects. He cited the International Labour Conference of 1999, where emphasis had been placed on the need to do more in technical cooperation and to improve coordination and integration of the tripartite structures. He said that social partners should not be bypassed in favour of NGOs.
14. The representative of the Government of France highlighted and appreciated the role of the Turin Centre. He suggested that they made additional efforts to link their activities to the training activities of universities and other training institutions in recipient countries.
15. The representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggested that the best assessment criterion should be the real increase of decent work. He praised the Turin Centre's significant role in the development of training methodology, but stressed the need for the adaptation of methodologies to recipient countries where accessibility to modern technologies was limited. Project design needed to be improved and better mechanisms to include lessons learned would have to be developed.
16. The representative of the Government of the Slovakia voiced appreciation for the efforts of the ILO in her region in various areas (social dialogue and labour inspection). She also thanked the Turin Centre for planned collaboration to develop trainer capabilities in new information technologies in her country.

17. The representative of the Government of China noted that employment-related training was considered very important by his Government. The importance of preliminary evaluations was asserted; it should be conducted in a systematic way in the future. He also noted that modules of employability skills (MES) training should be further updated to the new technological requirements of constituents.
18. The representative of the Government of Italy stressed the need for a tripartite approach in all geographical regions. He also requested that the methodology for evaluating technical cooperation projects be discussed at the next session of the Governing Body.
19. The representative of the Government of Switzerland commended the report but suggested that future reports should include an executive summary, place summary tables in the body of the text and include evaluation terms of reference in an annex. He noted the importance of quality project design and stated that it should involve all partners at an early stage. More information was needed on the cost and impact of training. A streamlined and economical approach to assessing these factors should be developed. In addition, he asserted that the goal of training in small enterprises should be poverty reduction; this had not been systematically addressed until now.
20. The representative of the Government of the United States noted that this report was a major step forward but asked after the volume of training projects from which the 19 were chosen. She also emphasized the importance of more long-term evaluation and impact assessment. Independent external evaluations were also supported. She requested a further discussion of these topics at the November meeting.
21. The representative of the Government of Namibia referred to the need continuously to improve project implementation through evaluations. Country objectives should be taken into account when projects were designed. She also noted that sustainability could be reached through cost-sharing of projects. In conclusion, she remarked that there would have been more appropriate tripartite involvement in the Namibian project if the Government had been more actively consulted.
22. The representative of the Government of Portugal praised the ILO for moving in the direction of more analytical, strategic reviews that were based upon internal and external evaluations. But he also noted the absence of terms of reference or criteria for selection of projects as well as efficiency information that took cost factors into account. He requested more impact evaluation that drew conclusions on programme effectiveness.
23. The Employer Vice-Chairperson praised the Turin Centre, in particular, its efforts to coordinate with the Office and its recent establishment of a programme on employers' activities.
24. In response to the various comments, Mr. Hultin noted that the projects reviewed had been active in the period 1992-99 and planned before that time. Since then, many of the suggestions made in this meeting had already been taken into account in new projects. However, the involvement of social partners needed to be improved in the future. He also noted that work on impact assessment was under way. Regarding the question on the criteria for development of technical cooperation projects in general, he explained that it depended on a combination of three factors: (1) relevant expertise (knowledge and tools) in the ILO; (2) recipient needs; and (3) donor priorities.
25. Mr. Aro, Director of the IFP/SKILLS, noted that previous discussions of technical cooperation at sessions of the International Labour Conference had been taken into account in the development of technical cooperation activities in this programme. He pointed out that the report was honest about the lessons learned in the Namibia project. There had been

projects with active participation of the social partners, including the one in Poland and a more recent effort (not reviewed) in Palestine; in addition, all new project development sought the contributions of the social partners. Labour market analysis was also taken into account when designing new projects. Modules of employability skills (MES) training were being continuously updated on the basis of experience, and there would be a new generation of MES tools this year. Last of all, he pointed out that a summary of IFP/SKILLS projects was accessible on the Internet.

- 26.** Ms. Evans-Klock, Director of the IFP/SEED, referred to three areas: impact assessment, relationship to labour standards and collaboration with social partners. In the area of impact assessment she stated that the title of the InFocus Programme on Boosting Employment through Small Enterprise Development, was being taken seriously by the members of the programme and that a clear investment was being made to assess the impact of the programme on employment creation. Donor investments had allowed IFP/SEED to hire an expert in impact evaluation and to pilot test the impact assessment methods in several projects. She noted that the programme also planned to develop a tool that could be used routinely in new technical cooperation projects. IFP/SEED had also been active in the Donor Committee on Small Enterprise Development, contributing to the development of the Guidelines for Business Development Services for SMEs that cover sustainability, gender and demand-driven training. These guidelines and lessons from project evaluation were now being internalized and showed clearly in the new project design. Concerning the relationship to labour standards, she said that IFP/SEED had been working actively to address improvements in working conditions in their small enterprise training projects. The approach was being implemented in Viet Nam in the Start and Improve Your Business (SIB) project. Regarding cooperation with the social partners, there were additional examples of close collaboration in IFP/SEED, for example, in projects in Africa and the Philippines, in the case of workers, and in Bangladesh, Palestine and Viet Nam, in the case of employers. In addition, IFP/SEED was actively engaging employers' and workers' organizations in country-level work on the policy environment for SMEs.
- 27.** Mr. Lenglet, Director of the Training Department of the Turin Centre, noted that Turin learned from experience through: (1) inclusion of an evaluation budget line in budget proposals to donors; (2) careful attention to preliminary project analysis; (3) constant improvement of training methods and materials; (4) course evaluations at the close of training, which might be accompanied by follow-up evaluation of the application of the training received; and (5) special efforts to ensure that participants in training of trainers had the instruments and possibility to use the skills developed during the course. He continued by stressing that there was a commitment from the Turin Centre to find a judicious mix of face-to-face training at the Turin campus, face-to-face training in the field, and training using distance learning methods. He concluded by commenting that, in the Third Five-Year Development Plan, the Centre had opted for a strategy of active collaboration with partner training institutions, including universities in developed and developing countries. These partner organizations provided resources and knowledge to the Centre. Also, while adopting Centre programmes as their own, they helped in extending the Centre's reach. A good example of this concept was the current cooperation between the Centre and the University of Bologna (Italy), the University of Castilla la Mancha (Spain) and nine Latin American universities.
- 28.** Mr. Trémeaud closed the Office comments by noting that requests and comments would be taken into account in next year's thematic evaluation. In addition, an ILO handbook for the management of technical cooperation was under development and the comments on the involvement of the social partners and the incorporation of lessons learned would be addressed. Regarding poverty alleviation, the Office would be involved in the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries to be held in Brussels in May.

29. The Employer Vice-Chairperson concluded with the request that the Committee's report on this agenda item reflect the concrete requests for information and action of the Committee members and that the Office should report back to the Committee at its November meeting.

II. Report of the on-the-spot review teams for the Americas and Europe

30. Introducing the second item on the agenda, the representative of the Director-General, Mr. Trémeaud, informed the meeting that there would be two sets of oral presentations of on-the-spot reviews. Since there was no written report on this item and it was a "first of its kind" to be presented to the Committee, Mr. Trémeaud provided an extended brief on how this exercise had come about, the terms of reference, the current status and future activities envisaged; he also drew attention to the availability of an in-session information note on the exercise that had been prepared and distributed at the request of the Officers of the Committee.
31. Mr. Trémeaud recalled the Governing Body's approval, at its 277th Session (March 2000), that on-the-spot reviews of field activities should be conducted in each year of the 2000-01 biennium. These would be undertaken in conjunction with a regional or other meeting. Each review would be conducted by three members of the Governing Body, one from each group, who would be participating in the relevant meeting, from the regions concerned. Reviews would be carried out in Europe and the Americas in 2000 and in Africa and Asia in 2001. The reports of the four reviews would be consolidated during a two-day meeting in Geneva of the members of all four review teams immediately before the 282nd Session (November 2001) of the Governing Body.
32. The major review issues would include: pertinence of the project; coherence and quality of technical services provided; implementation process – maintaining schedule and other aspects of delivery including the role of ILO offices; and sustainability and ownership of projects, including involvement of constituents. The criteria established for the selection of programmes and projects were as follows:
- The exercise was to be conducted in a country where an area office or MDT was located.
 - Programmes and projects would be selected from those budgeted for more than US\$250,000.
 - National projects (should regional or subregional projects be selected, the exercise would be limited to the national level only – i.e. the focus would not be on assessing regional or subregional impact).
 - The project or programme should have been operational for more than two years and have had at least one internal or external evaluation.
33. Mr. Trémeaud informed the members of the Committee that as per schedule, two of the on-the-spot reviews had already been undertaken in Moscow and San José. The reviews in Africa and in Asia would be undertaken during the course of the year and there would again be oral presentations on the experience and findings during the November 2001 session of the Committee on Technical Cooperation.

34. A synthesis of the reviews undertaken in all the four regions would be made and presented to the March 2002 session of the Committee as part of the mid-term review on technical cooperation that had been called for by the International Labour Conference in 1999.
35. The introduction was followed by six oral presentations of on-the-spot reviews in Europe and the Americas.
36. For Europe, a Moscow-based vocational training project entitled “Further development of modular skill training programmes in Russia” had been visited from 12-16 February 2001. Oral reports covering different aspects of the project and findings were presented by Ms. Quintavalle (Government, Italy), Ms. Horvatic (Employers) and Lord Brett (Workers).
37. For the on-the-spot reviews in the Americas, two projects had been visited in San José from 12 to 16 February 2001: one on the development of micro-enterprises (*Proyecto Centroamericano de Apoyo a Programas de Microempresa (PROMICRO)*) and a second on strengthening labour administration (*Modernización de los Ministerios de Trabajo de Centroamérica y Panamá (MATAC)*). Oral presentations on findings and observations were made by Mr. Núñez (Government, Dominican Republic), Mr. Oliveira (Workers) and Mr. Durling on behalf of Mr. De Arbeloa (Employers).
38. All the six members of the review teams made detailed presentations, providing the Committee with information and views on the functioning of the projects visited. Issues covered included sustainability and impact, involvement of the constituents at different stages of implementation of the projects, and cost-effectiveness and quality of outputs. A large number of recommendations were also made.
39. Given that the discussions on the first agenda item in the Committee and detailed presentations on the on-the-spot reviews had taken up much more time than had been envisaged, and that two further agenda items still remained to be covered, the Chairperson agreed to the suggestion from the Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Hoff, that the floor would not be opened for discussion on the on-the-spot reviews.
40. Following a brief discussion on how the oral presentations should be recorded in the Committee report, it was agreed that the Office would, on the basis of the individual presentations and written contributions from members of the review teams, prepare a summary working document for each of the two regions. That document would be used by the teams for their deliberations and finalization during their own meetings during the ILC in June in preparation for the meeting in November.
41. There was also a suggestion that the Office should provide a common outline for the structure and presentation of the individual regional reports; the teams for Africa and Asia could follow that outline which would help ensure that the oral presentations at the Committee’s meeting in November could be briefer. Similar to the two reviews concerning Moscow and San José, the oral reports from Africa and Asia would not be opened for discussion during the Committee’s meeting in November.
42. The Committee also requested that the outline be used as a basis for the summary report to be presented to the March 2002 session of the Governing Body, as part of the mid-term report on technical cooperation as called for by the ILC in 1999. As agreed earlier, an exchange of views of the four teams would take place during a two-day meeting in November, but the exact dates would have to be reviewed in the light of the meetings scheduled at that time.

III. Operational aspects of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

43. The representative of the Director-General (Mr. Tapiola) reviewed IPEC achievements in 2000. He noted 52 ratifications of Convention No. 182 in 2000, and 19 ratifications of Convention No. 138. Complete reports for 24 child labour surveys would be available by the end of 2001. Time-bound programmes would be launched in Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania and El Salvador. IPEC had achieved US\$22.8 million of expenditure in 2000, a 98 per cent increase compared to 2000, pushing the delivery rate up from 39 per cent to 54 per cent. He referred the Committee to Annex I and *IPEC Highlights 2000* for full information on IPEC.
44. Mr. Hoff (Employer Vice-Chairperson) thanked 25 IPEC donors and said that the best way of thanking was by performing well. Efforts to address governance of IPEC needed examination: the programme was still not fully accountable to the Governing Body, as was borne out by the fact that the present report was only submitted for information and the confusion regarding to which Governing Body Committee IPEC should report. Employers had continuously supported the fight against child labour, because it stole a person's childhood, and hollowed out a nation's human resource base. Linking up with other strategic ILO objectives was, however, indispensable: first, poverty eradication and employment creation, which required IPEC to design a mandatory structure guiding children onto a useful track after they had been withdrawn from work; secondly, with efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, a scourge leaving many orphans in its wake who easily fell victim to child labour. The Employers' group took note of the fact that the country programme management review in 15 countries had been instrumental in increasing the delivery rate, and strongly recommended that such reviews be carried out in all countries with an IPEC programme.
45. Mr. Agyei (Worker Vice-Chairperson) expressed appreciation of, and commitment for, the programme and thought it useful for IPEC to receive guidance from the Governing Body twice a year. He expressed satisfaction with the achievement of IPEC under the current operational objectives and indicators expressed in Box 1 of the document. With respect to indicator 1, the fact that 67 countries had ratified Convention No. 182 so far and 104 countries had ratified Convention No. 138 showed that a dynamic ratification campaign did lead to success in obtaining ratifications of international labour Conventions. The information provided with respect to indicator 5 was vague and the result rather disappointing. He would have appreciated an overview of the direct impact including statistics country by country, with information on follow-up after children had been withdrawn from work. He believed it would be useful for this information to be published on the ILO website. There was a need to develop consistency in methodologies and to double check statistics. The report indicated that there was an increase in the number of child labour surveys. The document did not sufficiently mention the role of social partners in national policy. Several trade unions had hinted that IPEC did not facilitate enough trade union participation. In some cases, NGOs were preferred for IPEC funds (such as in Latin America). Workers firmly requested a review of the National Steering Committee composition with a view to ensuring trade union participation and to considering training of the members. MDTs should also be more closely involved. Regarding IPEC initiatives on innovation and quality improvement, the synergy between the InFocus programme, time-bound programmes and interventions at the national level was not clear. There was a need to improve the mechanisms for disseminating information. The Workers believed that IPEC could further benefit from expertise of ILO constituents, including with respect to SIMPOC methodologies. IPEC should consider funding international trade union secretariats instead of leaving this just to ACTRAV. New efforts aimed at strengthening

the involvement of the social partners should be made. On the delivery, organization and management issues, he noted with great interest IPEC success in improving delivery. The increase from US\$11.5 million in 1999 to US\$22.8 in 2000 was impressive. He would like the Office to explain in more detail how this result was achieved, how resources were allocated, what means were used for publications or other campaigns, which projects were already in the pipeline. When would it be possible to see full operation of projects, what was the expenditure on personnel and what kind of contractual arrangements were in place? He was encouraged to hear about the planned review of current IPEC personnel policy. Regarding project approval, he reported that it was still quite laborious and there were instances of such approval taking as long as two years. On the positive side, a programme in Pakistan was finally taking off after a long delay: next November, concrete results should be reported. Efforts should also be made to coordinate the IPEC field structure, ILO field structure and ACTRAV and to raise the level of trade union participation. The donor list at the end of the first part of the document should also include a subdivision by recipient countries as in the October highlights report. Finally, the most important issue from the Workers' point of view was the need to stress the synergy between IPEC and objectives and activities relating to core ILO standards listed in the Declaration. There were still too many IPEC projects operating in a situation where human rights were violated by some employers who were involved in project implementation. There were still some governments that were not fully taking responsibility for the link which needed to be established between the fight to alleviate poverty and efforts to eliminate child labour, as well as between the promotion of democracy and trade union and human rights. Finally, he wanted to underline the importance of labour inspection in the prevention of child labour. Decent work for adults could only be ensured when there was no child labour. Although he appreciated the need for increased donor support, it was also necessary to recognize that poverty was at the root of the problem. Consequently, efforts needed to be made towards poverty eradication.

46. The spokesperson for the African group thanked the secretariat for the written report and was confident that the secretariat would provide similar reports in the future. The group was favourably impressed by the continued expansion of IPEC, including management and operational aspects. He encouraged IPEC to enhance synergies with other ILO activities. Increased decentralization would improve the quality of delivery. The ongoing work of the office to develop time-bound programmes should be viewed from the wider objectives of development policies aimed at eradicating poverty and promoting social development. Close links with HIV/AIDs should be secured.
47. The representative of the Government of India stated that since 1992 to date, the funds allocated to India amounted to US\$6.5 million, of which only US\$4.5 million was spent. Only US\$0.6 million had been provided from the core budget. He proposed that allocations be increased. As far as operational aspects were concerned, a national programme manager had been appointed recently. He felt that any assessment of the programme's results should be based on the number of children effectively withdrawn from work. The programme had been operating in India since 1992, so that the country constituted an ideal choice for independent evaluation. He believed that any input from such evaluation would strengthen the programme. He stated that the ratification of Convention No. 182 was under discussion. Special legislation needed to be adopted as India did not have a comprehensive law with respect to minimum age. Seven important new projects had been approved on 15 March 2001 when the National Steering Committee met.
48. The representative of the Government of Germany stated that the increase in the delivery rate was positive, but 54 per cent was still too low to convince Parliament to invest more funds in the programme. Paragraph 192 of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2002-03 mentioned that child labour specialists would be included in the MDTs. This would contribute to a further improvement of the rate of delivery. However, a few white spots on

the world map needed to be filled: Eastern Europe, Turkey, Arab States, where the posting of such specialists was not foreseen. Perhaps, this could be done in the medium or long term.

- 49.** The representative of the Government of Bangladesh expressed appreciation for the excellent report and endorsed the proceedings of the latest National Steering Committee. He stated that the Government was firmly committed to IPEC's aims, as shown in Bangladesh's recent ratification of Convention No. 182. Bangladesh was formulating a child labour policy and some time-bound programme projects with the support of the United States Department of Labor and USAID. He drew attention to the fact that the plight of poverty-stricken countries must not be forgotten, and that child labour (with 8 million working children) was not an isolated issue. There was a need to develop modalities that took account of the general economic situation of the country and to find technical advisers for moderate pay so that more funds could go to projects. He thanked the donors for their support.
- 50.** The representative of the Government of Italy first spoke about the time needed to implement activities. While appreciating efforts to increase efficiency, he drew attention to the need to accelerate time for project implementation. It was also necessary to ensure a constant exchange of information between key actors. He believed that it was essential for the ILO to have an overall communications strategy so that all partners received regular information on IPEC activities. As regards the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children, the accent was on UNICEF rather than on IPEC. He did not wish to see the ILO marginalized in this process, nor did he wish to see the child labour issue addressed in a superficial manner. It was essential to have a communications strategy with all partners, including within the UN system.
- 51.** The representative of the Government of Namibia, while subscribing fully to the statements on behalf of the African group, wished to put forward some comments. She was happy to note the inclusion of the activities of Namibia. An active regional public information campaign had been launched there. It had 435,000 children, a total of 72, 405 of which had been found to be working, 69,050 in rural areas. She noted the presence of child labour, though not rife, and none of the worst forms had been found. Continued ILO assistance remained necessary to eradicate child labour completely. She inquired about the meaning of the target of 130,000 children to benefit from ILO assistance. This was expected to double in the current biennium. In this connection, her Government wanted to know more about the meaning of the term "children reached".
- 52.** The representative of the Government of the Netherlands expressed appreciation for the work done by IPEC. While the quantitative side was important, she felt that the qualitative results should also be looked at. It was important to emphasize evaluation. She welcomed the inclusion of the gender dimension and thus would like to see gender-disaggregated data. IPEC's involvement in the children's summit was crucial to emphasize the links between child labour, poverty alleviation, fundamental rights in the world of work and AIDS. She stressed the importance of involving all possible partners including non-governmental organizations. She concluded by asking for further information on innovative actions.
- 53.** The representative of the Government of Portugal agreed with Germany on the importance of integrating child labour specialists and further improving delivery, and with Italy on the importance of a communications strategy. He thanked IPEC for the excellent cooperation with Portugal on the recent conference on child labour in the developed economies.
- 54.** The representative of the Government of Canada commended the work of IPEC, which was making a significant contribution to the elimination of child labour. Canada welcomed

more focus and information on outcome levels. She encouraged the ILO to identify more clearly the ultimate results of IPEC work so that Canada had a better understanding of its impact on children.

- 55.** The representative of the Government of Nigeria thanked Mr. Tapiola for the sound work done in preparing the report, and the United States for providing funds for IPEC activities in Nigeria. While supporting the intervention of the African group, he commented on delivery and improved efficiency, and on more government participation in implementation. Some funds were released even before the National Steering Committee meeting. He expressed displeasure with the appointment of the Country Programme Manager without any consultations with the Government. He expressed the hope that more children would benefit from the programme in 2002.
- 56.** The representative of the Government of the United States was encouraged by the success of the monitoring programme and recognized that SIMPOC had great potential. The information was fundamental to project design and efforts to eliminate child labour. SIMPOC could benefit greatly from the advice of a panel of experts to look at the methodology (including questionnaires and training of staff of statistical offices). The SIMPOC programme could be strengthened by this.
- 57.** The representative of the Government of the United Arab Emirates thanked the ILO for its excellent efforts within this project as well as with regard to the ratification and application of Convention No. 182. He noted that the UAE had ratified Convention No. 138 and was taking measures to ratify Convention No. 182, since the worst forms of child labour and child labour as a whole were contrary to human rights. He called upon specialized agencies to intensify efforts and to increase resources to ensure better education and preparation for the labour market. He noted the reports about child trafficking in the UAE and that steps had been taken to tackle this problem, which he felt was not as serious as alleged. He believed that the Gulf region did not suffer from any real problem with regard to child labour and did not need a regional consultant. This would, however, be necessary in the neighbouring areas where the practice was much more current. A consultant would have to analyse the economic and social realities and this should not be done on a subjective basis. The specificities of each region should be taken into consideration.
- 58.** Mr. Anand (Employer member) congratulated Mr. Tapiola and Mr. Röselaers on the report submitted. He felt happy that the report acknowledged that the number of working children was so high that they could not be removed from work and reintegrated quickly, especially in countries with weak education systems and scarce resources. The education system needed to be linked with vocational education in order to ensure that child labour did not re-emerge. Finally, IPEC had to recognize voluntary private initiatives, such as the action taken by the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry, and bring them within its ambit.
- 59.** In response to the questions raised, a representative of the Director-General (Mr. Tapiola, Executive Director of the Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights Sector) thanked, on behalf of the IPEC team in Geneva and in the field, all speakers who had expressed appreciation of the team which consisted of hardworking and dedicated colleagues. With respect to IPEC's reporting procedure, he clarified that, currently, the IPEC Steering Committee met once a year in November, prior to the Governing Body session, and that at that meeting an oral report was presented to the Committee on Technical Cooperation of the Governing Body. In March, a written report was submitted which was the one presently under discussion. He agreed that the Steering Committee had to discuss further its role and functions. It had met in its new tripartite setting only once so far. Several members of the Committee had pointed to the need for integrating IPEC with other ILO activities, in particular employment schemes. IPEC did work with other ILO

departments, but efforts to institutionalize such cooperation had advanced most with DECLARATION, ACTRAV, ACT/EMP, the Employment and Enterprise Sector, the Gender Promotion Programme, and the HIV/AIDS Programme. With reference to the Director-General's introduction, he recalled that IPEC aimed at mainstreaming and decentralizing its procedures. With respect to the country programme management reviews being limited to only 15, the resources, time, urgency and size of programme had not made it possible to include more countries as yet. Several staff members had to work a few weeks on each review. These reviews had also helped to increase delivery. Mr. Tapiola confirmed the importance of statistics and the need to publish them. Trade unions participated in IPEC activities in two ways: as members of the National Steering Committees and through projects which trade union organizations were carrying out. There was clearly room to improve and further develop participation particularly with respect to time-bound programmes. It should not be forgotten that, in the context of Convention No. 182, employer and trade union members were statutory participants in all consultation processes. There was much scope to step up work with both the trade unions and employers' organizations. Finally, he noted that a 54 per cent delivery rate was impressive but still not good enough. One should realize, however, that this had been achieved at the same time as carrying out the External Auditor's recommendations. These recommendations had also helped in increasing the delivery rate. At present, IPEC was active in about ten European countries and interested in closer cooperation within the Arab region.

60. Mr. Röselaers, Director of the InFocus Programme on Child Labour, answered specific questions on how many children IPEC reached. A count of ongoing projects last August revealed an increase of 200,000 children compared to last year. The final number of children reached would definitely exceed the target for the biennium of 260,000. Box 11 of *IPEC Highlights 2000* listed the various categories of children reached, and these were the ones counted as benefiting directly. With the time-bound programmes and the programme expansion towards 2002-03, the number of children reached would increase to 1 million. IPEC would easily achieve, and go beyond, the delivery target of US\$44 million set for the 2000-01 biennium. Last year, the figure had been US\$22.8 million, and the final figure for the biennium might be in the order of US\$55 million. For the 2002-03 biennium, IPEC was confident of reaching a total of US\$60 million, i.e. a delivery rate of 60 per cent. The most important innovative change was the development of time-bound programmes, which several countries were now preparing for. The methodology was being fine tuned: two weeks ago, extensive consultations had taken place on this before sharing it with partners in three countries as of the third week of April and the first week of May, and testing whether constituents were ready to work with it. As regards resource allocation, expediency was important, but so too was ownership. A balance had to be struck between shared methodologies and shared vision, on the one hand, and expediency on the other. Another important innovation had been the ILO/World Bank/UNICEF research project in Florence. He had most recently received a letter from Mr. Holzmann, the new chief of the World Bank child labour programme, referring to this project. These partnerships had not gone unnoticed, and he hoped to receive more support in strengthening them. This would help in reviewing SIMPOC methodology, learning from the World Bank's experiences with poverty reduction surveys as well as from UNICEF's household surveys. He concluded with a final remark on international forums and policy dialogue. The ILO was facing problems in securing proper treatment of child labour in the draft outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children. Even the latest draft received last week had been disappointing in that respect.

IV. Other business

Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC III)

61. The Chairperson for the rest of the meeting, Mr. Hoff, stated that the objective of the short paper presented to the Committee¹ was to inform the Governing Body of the developments that had taken place since the beginning of the preparatory process and of the steps that the Director-General had taken in order to ensure an effective role for the ILO at the Conference as well as in the preparations for it. The Chairperson also informed the Committee of the Director-General's intention to represent the ILO at the Conference and of the possibility that he might be accompanied by a tripartite delegation. The Committee took note of the paper before it.
62. The Worker Vice-Chairperson understood that discussion on this item could not take place due to time constraints, but requested that a short statement be annexed to the report, given the importance of the subject.

Palestine

63. The representative of the Director-General (Mr. Trémeaud) provided an update on the recent multidisciplinary mission to the West Bank and Gaza. He stated that, at the initiative of the Director-General of the ILO, a high level ILO multidisciplinary mission visited the West Bank and Gaza from 31 January to 11 February 2000. In consultation with the Palestinian Authority, the workers' and employers' organizations, and several local and international development partners, the ILO developed 18 project proposals for around US\$20 million over four years.
64. There were initial delays in the approval of projects; subsequent developments in the peace process throughout the year 2000 meant that only a few of the projects could be funded or implemented.
65. A meeting was held in Geneva at the end of November 2000 between the Director-General and the Minister of Labour of the Palestinian Authority and the President of the Palestinian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to review the status of technical cooperation and develop an emergency employment programme.
66. Following upon the Director-General's initiative to establish a task force on Palestine in November 2000, the ILO fielded a mission with the participation of the Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) and headquarters in March 2001.
67. The objectives of the mission were: to assess the priority needs in the current situation; ascertain the relevance of the package of proposals prepared by the ILO for an emergency programme; and explore the prospects for funding as well as partnerships with other emergency programmes.
68. The discussions were positive with respect to partnership with UNDP in making a joint submission to the Islamic Development Bank, as well as with the World Bank. There were consultations on the ILO's current and proposed programmes, such as the development of

¹ GB.280/TC/4.

technical colleges funded by Italy, women entrepreneurs funded by the Wallon Community, the Palestinian employment programme funded by the United Arab Emirates, the vocational rehabilitation centre in Nablus funded by Sheik Khalifa Ben Zayed (United Arab Emirates) and the PGFTU workers' education project funded by the Italian bank workers' union (UILCA).

- 69.** There was agreement that the areas of future focus would include: employment creation and income generation through multi-component support; vocational rehabilitation training; and combating child labour. France had already indicated its interest in funding a social protection proposal.
- 70.** Mr Trémeaud concluded by informing the meeting that the immediate follow-up activities would include: finalization of the ILO emergency package of proposals; preparation of the terms of reference for the ILO technical presence in Jerusalem which would be funded by UNDP; the dispatch of an expert on employment-intensive construction programmes to PECJAR for a rapid review of their job creation programme; and the preparation for a donors' conference scheduled to take place in April 2001 in Brussels.
- 71.** Given the time limitations, a decision was taken by the Chairperson of the session not to entertain a discussion on the items presented under "other business". A statement from a representative of the Arab Labour Organization who sought the floor at that stage would be annexed and the Committee's report would indicate that the members of the Committee had not heard the contents of the statement. A representative of the Government of Libya contested this decision, saying that the Arab group had rescheduled several meetings in order to be in attendance during this agenda item and regretted that there would be no debate.
- 72.** The Chairperson informed the Committee that in accordance with the standard procedures, the report of the meeting would be approved on its behalf by the Officers of the Committee. They would also agree on the agenda for the next meeting.

Geneva, 23 March 2001.

Appendix

The following statements were not read out in the Committee's meeting on account of the shortage of time and the fact that discussions were not planned under agenda item 4. The Committee members, therefore, were not aware of the contents.

Statement by the Workers' group on LDC III

The Workers' group welcomes the active contribution of the ILO in the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries especially as leading agency for the thematic session on "human resources development and employment".

We hope that, through this Conference, the industrialized countries will engage in real, balanced partnership with the LDCs in order to apply a new long-term programme of action.

Governments, the ILO, IMF and the World Bank should engage in discussing the social aspects of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) as well as the links between world trade and respect for fundamental workers' rights with the WTO. These questions are essential for contributing to the eradication of poverty, the strengthening of economic and social infrastructures and the improvement of human conditions in these countries.

We urge governments from industrialized countries to draw up a timetable for increasing official development aid in order to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product, and to act immediately concerning debt reduction or cancellation conditions towards those countries which respect fundamental human rights and give priority to services such as education and health.

LDCs which respect human rights, including fundamental workers' rights, should have fair and open access to industrialized countries' markets.

The ILO has to become the active agency to work together with these countries in order to formulate coherent policies for job creation and the protection of workers in informal employment. As mentioned in the previous points under the agenda of this Committee, this will happen only if freedom of association is in place and if trade unions fully participate in the process.

Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Arab Labour Organization

I was scheduled to take the floor this morning, since my statement is related to items 1 and 2 of the agenda.

I would like to congratulate the ILO, on behalf of the Arab Labour Organization, for its excellent and continuous efforts in the Arab region, particularly for ILO work in the area of training for employment, the preparation of the necessary relevant documentation, the thematic evaluation and follow-up action.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the ILO, in particular, Mr. Trémeaud, Executive Director responsible for Regions and Technical Cooperation, and Director of the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, as well as Mr. Hultin, and their technical teams for the work carried out, which contributes effectively to the improvement of the ILO's performance.

However, I would like to emphasize the utmost importance of taking the technical needs of the Arab region into consideration, particularly in the area of technical cooperation. A quick glance at the documents submitted in the area of developing knowledge and skills, promotion of training for employment, particularly in the area of technology and information technology, indicates that these projects do not, to a large extent, address our region and that there is an urgent need for coordination and consultation in this regard.

The Arab Labour Organization would like to recommend that the International Labour Office further promote its fundamental role in the area of training and capacity building in order to adapt to the needs of the tripartite constituents and current requirements of Arab States.

The Arab Labour Organization considers the inclusion of a large number of Arabic-speaking officials in training for employment programmes as a *fait accompli*, and would encourage the ILO to consider this aspect and also the translation into Arabic of the abundant documents containing information, data and statistics which are of major interest for officials, researchers and students in the Arab States. The installation of an Arabic web page, covering technical cooperation in particular, and public information programmes, as is the case for other languages, in order to extend the expected benefits to all parties concerned, is an urgent and legitimate need, especially as the Arabic web page would not involve major expenditure. Such an initiative would enable the constituents in Arab countries to be acquainted with ILO activities, their follow-up and interaction.

The ILO has done a great deal so far and we are grateful; the ILO International Training Centre in Turin also has a major role to play in the region; it is urgent to promote necessary existing cooperation, including the setting up of a complete multidisciplinary advisory team to service the constituents in the Arab region.

The ILO should be commended for sending a multidisciplinary advisory team to follow up the ILO technical programme in the West Bank and Gaza. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform you of recent developments: the ILO Director-General received a delegation from the Arab Labour Organization at ILO headquarters on 22 December 2000 and decided thereafter to send a multidisciplinary advisory team to examine and evaluate technical needs and provide urgent technical assistance to the Palestinians; he issued a formal statement on technical capacity building, particularly in the area of training for employment of Palestinian workers and their families who are experiencing a tragic situation, calling on all of us here, in this large house, to take a stand in their defence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Statement in connection with the submission of the mission report of the multidisciplinary advisory team

The Arab Labour Organization would like to put on record its appreciation for the efforts made by the ILO to accelerate dispatching a multidisciplinary advisory team to the West Bank and Gaza, in accordance with the promises made, and would urge the ILO to continue its efforts; it also emphasizes the urgent need for this technical team to reach concrete conclusions which would benefit Palestinian workers directly, contribute to the improvement of their situation, alleviate their daily suffering and their difficult living conditions, not just limiting these efforts to developing technical programmes and their evaluation and re-evaluation but also ensuring that they are of benefit to those concerned.

The Arab Labour Organization would also like to highlight the importance of the ILO's current efforts to obtain access to financial resources, from various sources, in order to contribute to the implementation and support of ongoing projects, in addition to new projects serving workers' interests.