



SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Developments concerning the question  
of the observance by the Government of  
Myanmar of the Forced Labour  
Convention, 1930 (No. 29)**

**Further developments**

***Addendum 2***

1. Since the printing of document GB.286/6/1, a further exchange of correspondence has taken place, which is reported to the Governing Body in the attached appendices.

Geneva, 25 March 2003.

## Appendix 1

Communication dated 13 March 2003 from Mr. K. Tapiola, Executive Director, ILO, to Mr. U Tin Winn, Minister for Labour, Myanmar.

Dear Minister,

As you are aware, the report of the Liaison Officer under the item Development concerning the question of the observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), has already been made available as GB.286/6. It refers to the successive draft plans of action presented respectively on 12 December 2002, 26 December 2002 and 6 February 2003 by the authorities and discussed with the Liaison Officer in Yangon.

This report is going to be shortly complemented by an addendum covering subsequent developments including the formal submission of a plan of action by the authorities on 23 February 2003 and the account of a meeting which the Liaison Officer had at her request with you on 5 March 2003 to express her concerns about the situation.

It is clear from the above that contrary to mistaken information which has been given, in particular in a recent article published in the *Myanmar Times*, 10-16 March, there is no agreement at this stage on any plan of action between the authorities and the ILO, as some key elements are missing, in particular an understanding on the parameters for the establishment of a "mediator" or an equivalent institution.

I would like to emphasize, on behalf of the Director-General of the ILO, that this situation is very serious. The lack of progress in recent months is liable to undermine the confidence in the real commitment of the authorities to eradicate forced labour, as well as the credibility of the step-by-step approach which seemed to have so far produced some results. Needless to say, however, that the Liaison Officer and the Office remain ready, at any time, to continue the discussions.

Yours sincerely,  
(signed) Kari Tapiola.

## Appendix 2

Communication dated 21 March 2003 from Soe Nyunt, Director-General, Department of Labour, Myanmar, to Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General, ILO.

Excellency,

I acknowledge receipt of Mr. Kari Tapiola's letter of 13 March 2003, addressed to His Excellency U Tin Winn, Minister of Labour, concerning the Plan of Action for the elimination of forced labour practices in Myanmar.

With reference to the abovementioned letter of Mr. Kari Tapiola and the discussions between His Excellency U Tin Winn, Minister of Labour and Madame Hong-Trang Perret-Nguyen on the Plan of Action at the Minister's Office in Yangon on 5 March 2003, I wish to inform you that the Myanmar side is ready to continue further consultations with the International Labour Office on the abovementioned Plan of Action, regarding the elimination of forced labour.

Concerning the article in the *Myanmar Times*, 10-16 March, that was mentioned in that letter, the newspaper is private-owned one and has the right to freedom of press and the content of the article was their own views and opinion.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) Soe Nyunt.