



SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Standing Orders of the Conference:
Practical arrangements for the discussion,
at the 91st Session (June 2003) of the
International Labour Conference, of the
Global Report prepared under the follow-up
to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental
Principles and Rights at Work**

1. The Global Report is one of the two aspects (the other being the Annual Report) of the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which is intended to allow the identification of areas in which the assistance of the Organization through its technical cooperation activities may prove useful to its Members to help them implement these fundamental principles and rights. The Report is prepared under the responsibility of the Director-General.
2. This Report is submitted to the Conference for tripartite discussion “during a sitting devoted entirely to this report, or in any other appropriate way”. The Conference is not required to adopt conclusions or take decisions on the Report. In the light of the discussion at the Conference, the Director-General should be able to identify conclusions for the preparation of the Report to be submitted to the Governing Body; it will then be for the Governing Body to draw conclusions from this discussion “concerning the priorities and plans of action for technical cooperation to be implemented for the following four-year period”, in keeping with the promotional nature of the follow-up to the Declaration.
3. The examination of the Global Report at the last session of the Conference (June 2002) led to a discussion of the principal elements of the Global Report as part of a general discussion¹ and of the points suggested by the Director-General under a thematic discussion.² The plenary session of the Conference devoted to the general discussion enabled representatives of the regional groups, Employers’ and Workers’ groups, ministers attending the Conference, government representatives, employers and workers, as well as observers from other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to

¹ ILO: *Provisional Record 13*, International Labour Conference, 90th Session, Geneva, 2002.

² *idem*, *Provisional Record 14*.

put forward their views on all the questions covered by the Global Report. A number of speakers highlighted the interactive nature of the thematic discussion which was chaired by the Director-General. This approach was well received by the participants.

4. In the light of this experience, it is proposed that the provisional ad hoc arrangements adopted at the 90th Session of the Conference for the discussion of the Global Report (suspension of article 12, paragraph 3, and article 14, paragraphs 2 and 6, of the Standing Orders of the Conference) should be continued for the 91st Session. It is also proposed that a thematic discussion similar to the one held in June 2002 should be arranged within the context of the debate on the Global Report in June 2003.
5. ***The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that it invite the Conference, at its 91st Session, to adopt the provisional ad hoc arrangements set out in the appendix concerning the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.***

Geneva, 14 January 2003.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.

Appendix

Ad hoc arrangements for the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the Declaration at the 91st Session of the International Labour Conference

Principle of the discussion

Having regard to the various options referred to in the annex to the Declaration, the Governing Body recommends that the Global Report submitted to the Conference by the Director-General should be dealt with in plenary sittings, separately from the Director-General's reports under article 12 of the Conference Standing Orders.

Timing of the discussion

Two sittings on the same day should be convened for the discussion of the Global Report, with the possibility, if necessary, of extending the sitting or convening a further sitting on the same day or on a different day, as appropriate. In order to take account of the programme of work of the Conference and of the fact that a number of ministers who usually are present during the second week of the Conference may wish to take the floor, the discussion of the Global Report should be held during the second week of the Conference. The date will be determined by the Officers of the Conference.

Procedure for the discussion

The separate discussion of the Global Report recommended above implies in particular that the statements made during the discussion of the Global Report should not fall under the limitation concerning the number of statements by each speaker in plenary provided for in article 12, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders, and that the discussion should not be governed by the provisions of article 14, paragraph 6, concerning the time limit for speeches. Furthermore, exchanges of views on the suggested points for thematic discussion should not be subject to the restrictions laid down in article 14, paragraph 2, concerning the order in which speakers are called. These provisions should accordingly be suspended under the procedure provided for in article 76 of the Standing Orders to the extent necessary for the discussion of the Global Report. The Officers of the Conference will take any decision necessary concerning the conduct of the discussions, including allowing the participation of the Director-General in the thematic discussion.

In order to allow a maximum number of constituents to express their views in the general discussion, a speech by a visiting minister pursuant to article 12, paragraph 3, of the Conference Standing Orders should not be additional to that by a government delegate of the Member concerned.

Organization of the discussion

Special arrangements should be worked out for the organization of the general discussion and the thematic discussion.

The general discussion (opening statements by spokespersons of non-governmental and regional groups, delegates' statements) should take place in the first sitting according to the arrangements agreed upon for the previous discussions. The second sitting should begin with the thematic discussion, for a limited period of time (two hours, for example). It should continue with closing statements by group spokespersons and, if possible, by delegates, which may be preceded by statements that could not be made during the first sitting.