



## THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Standing Orders of the Conference:  
Practical arrangements for the  
discussion, at the 92nd Session  
(June 2004) 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, prepared under the responsibility of the Director-General, 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. In accordance with the provisions of Part III.B.2 of the annex to the Declaration, it is submitted to the Conference for tripartite discussion, and the Conference “may deal with this report separately from reports under article 12 of its Standing Orders ... during a sitting devoted entirely to this report, or in any other appropriate way”.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Part III.A.1 of the annex, the report must: (a) provide a dynamic global picture relating to each category of fundamental principles and rights noted during the preceding four-year period; (b) serve as a basis for assessing the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the Organization; (c) serve as a basis for determining priorities for the following period, in the form of action plans for technical cooperation designed in particular to mobilize the internal and external resources necessary to carry them out. These action plans will, pursuant to Part III.B.2 of the annex, be drawn up by the Governing Body at its November session.
3. The first cycle of four reports corresponding to each of the categories of fundamental rights and principles addressed in the Declaration is coming to an end. The Global Report that will be submitted to the 92nd Session of the Conference will therefore concern, for the second time, freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

4. The Conference, on the recommendation of the Governing Body, adopted ad hoc arrangements to allow plenary sittings to be devoted entirely to the examination of the Global Report. The arrangements were adopted only on a provisional basis, it being understood that they would be subject to review in the light of experience.<sup>1</sup> On a practical note, during this first cycle the Global Report was examined during the second week of the Conference at two plenary sittings. The arrangements made provision to organize a third sitting on the same or another day, but that possibility was not used, the second sitting of the plenary having been extended to enable all speakers to take the floor. Furthermore, the Director-General introduced suggested points for discussion as from the second report with a view to encouraging more active participation.
5. The first arrangements implemented in 2000 and 2001 permitted a different approach to that for reports under article 12 of the Standing Orders of the Conference (report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and Report of the Director-General), although the general framework was that of a plenary sitting. In particular, the speakers were not governed by the restrictions contained in article 12, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders as regards the number of statements in plenary sittings, nor those in article 14, paragraph 6, concerning the length of statements.
6. The ad hoc arrangements were amended in 2003 to take into account experience gained during the examination of the first two reports.<sup>2</sup> In 2002 and 2003 the examination of the Global Report was carried out in two parts: a general discussion on the principal elements of the report during a plenary sitting and a more thematic discussion on the points suggested by the Director-General with a view to ensuring an interactive exchange not possible in plenary in its traditional form.
7. The plenary sitting devoted to the general discussion of the Global Report permits the representatives of the regional and Employers' and Workers' groups, the ministers attending the Conference, the Government and Employers' and Workers' delegates, as well as observers from international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to submit their views on the whole of the question covered by the Global Report. The interactive nature of the thematic discussion of limited duration (two hours in principle at the beginning of the second sitting) was appreciated by the delegates who participated in it. In addition to the suspension of certain paragraphs from the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference as discussed above, the organization of the thematic sitting required the suspension of article 14, paragraph 2 (order of requests to address the Conference).
8. At this stage, it is important to examine whether the arrangements adopted by the Conference during the past two years should be proposed to it without change or whether amendments should be made, for example with a view to extending the thematic discussion in relation to the general discussion.

<sup>1</sup> GB.276/LILS/1, para. 12.

<sup>2</sup> GB.282/LILS/2/2 and GB.283/LILS/2.

- 9. *The Committee may wish to invite the Governing Body to ask the Office to prepare, for its 289th Session (March 2004), a document specifying, in the light of the views expressed by the Committee, both the regulatory and practical ad hoc arrangements necessary for the examination of the Global Report, which will be proposed for adoption at the 92nd Session of the Conference.***

Geneva, 6 October 2003.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 9.