



SIXTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General**Third Supplementary Report:
Procedural aspects relating to preparation of
the discussion of the item concerning work in
the fishing sector on the agenda of the
96th Session (2007) of the International
Labour Conference**

1. At its 93rd Session (June 2005), the International Labour Conference engaged in a second discussion of the item entitled “Work in the fishing sector”. The proposed Convention concerning work in the fishing sector failed to be adopted for lack of a quorum, while the Recommendation supplementing the proposed Convention was adopted.¹ In line with a motion adopted by the Conference after the votes, the Governing Body decided, at its 294th Session (November 2005), “to include on the agenda of the 96th Session (2007) of the International Labour Conference with a view to the adoption of a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation, an item concerning work in the fishing sector. The Conference should use as a basis for its discussion the report of the Committee on the Fishing Sector of the 93rd Session as well as the outcome of further tripartite consultations”.²
2. Taking the above into account, the applicable procedure and the related timetable need to be determined.
3. It seems clear from the relevant discussions at the Conference and the Governing Body that it is anticipated that the item concerning work in the fishing sector would be disposed of in only one additional session of the Conference, i.e. in 2007. It would therefore appear logical and justifiable to opt for consideration of this item using the single-discussion procedure, which would be justified in view of the special circumstances described in paragraph 1. Since the Governing Body has not yet formally decided that the question will be governed by the single-discussion procedure, pursuant to article 34, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, it may now doubtlessly wish to take that decision.

¹ See *Provisional Record* Nos. 19, 19A, 19B and 25, ILC, 93rd Session, Geneva, 2005.

² GB.294/2/1, para. 7(a).

4. Should the Governing Body decide that the question concerning work in the fishing sector is to be governed by the single-discussion procedure, the Governing Body would also need to approve a programme of reduced intervals for reports to be submitted to governments, given that this item was included on the agenda of the 96th Session (2007) of the Conference less than 26 months before its opening (see article 38(3) of the Standing Orders of the Conference).
5. Taking into account the Governing Body decision cited in paragraph 1 above and the provisions of article 38 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the proposed programme for the preparatory stages of a single discussion would entail two reports to be prepared by the Office and sent to governments, with a reduced interval between these reports. The first report, to be dispatched in May 2006 at the latest, would include the report of the Committee on the Fishing Sector of the 93rd Session (ILC, 93rd Session (2005), *Provisional Record* No. 19). This would take the place of the summary report normally prepared for single discussion, and it would be accompanied by a short questionnaire. Governments would be requested to consult the most representative organizations of employers and workers before finalizing their replies, which should reach the Office no later than September 2006. On the basis of the replies received, the Office would then draw up a final report proposed to serve as the basis for the Conference discussion; this report should reach governments by February 2007.
6. In accordance with the decision of the Governing Body at its 294th Session, further tripartite consultations will be held.
7. ***The Governing Body, taking into account the above, is invited to:***
 - (a) ***decide that the preparation of the discussion of the item concerning work in the fishing sector will be governed by a single discussion procedure, adapted as noted above; and***
 - (b) ***approve the programme for reduced intervals for reports as outlined in paragraph 5 above.***

Geneva, 27 February 2006.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.