



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Sectoral action programme
evaluation framework**

1. Following decisions taken at the 286th and 288th Sessions (March and November 2003) of the Governing Body regarding new approaches to the ILO's Sectoral Activities Programme, seven sectoral action programmes were initiated in 2004 as a means of responding to constituent needs through direct action at national and regional level. Progress in implementing the sectoral action programmes has been reviewed regularly, notably during Global Steering Group meetings in October 2004, February, September and October 2005,¹ and during the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues of the Governing Body in November 2004 and March 2005.²
2. The Office has been requested to establish a framework to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of the action programmes. The results of the evaluation should demonstrate the degree to which the action programmes have contributed to the strategic objective of strengthening tripartism and social dialogue and specifically to improving conditions in specific sectors.³ This review process offers the opportunity to reflect on how the action programmes can best assist sectoral constituents in their efforts to improve the conditions in their sectors through social dialogue. Understanding both the quantitative and qualitative factors that have contributed to the outcomes achieved in 2004-05 will enable the next generation of action programmes to benefit from the experience gained.
3. The action programmes of the last biennium were characterized by widely differing objectives, geographic coverage and means of action. Nonetheless, the commitment to strengthening sectoral social dialogue is common to them all. The challenge has been to develop a common set of performance measures applicable to all action programmes along

¹ AP/SPM/2004/5, AP/SPM/2005/4(Corr.1) and AP/SPM/2005/2/2.

² GB. 291/12(Rev.) and GB.292/13(Rev.).

³ Indicator 4b.7 of the 2004-05 programme and budget reads as follows: "Improved conditions in specific sectors: Member States where constituents use social dialogue to target and take effective action to improve working and living conditions in specific economic sectors". From January 2006, this indicator will be replaced by the new indicators for outcome 4c.1 ("Improved labour and social outcomes in specific sectors: Constituents use social dialogue to target and take effective action to improve social and labour outcomes in specific economic sectors within a member State") found in the 2006-07 programme and budget.

with some sector-specific indicators appropriate to the unique character of each programme. An initial Office proposal⁴ was discussed by the Global Steering Group in October 2005. The current paper takes into account comments received from constituents as well as guidance provided by the Evaluation Unit regarding the development of indicators for monitoring and evaluation. It is provided in the appendix for information.

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Submitted for information.

⁴ See AP/SPM/2005/2/2, annex.

Appendix

Evaluation framework

2004-05 sectoral action programmes

1. The sectoral action programmes of the 2004-05 biennium will be the subject of a review to be completed within the first half of 2006. A review report about each sectoral action programme will be provided to the Global Steering Group in advance of its autumn meeting.¹ The elements to be included in these reports will be an introductory section describing the objectives and approach of the action programme, information regarding the current status in each of the participating countries with regard to three general indicators and a number of sector-specific indicators, an in-depth desk assessment of the functioning and outcomes to date of the programme in one or two participating countries, and the recommended next steps. The common elements of the evaluation framework are described below.
2. Each programme report will begin with a brief statement concerning the overall objectives of the action programme, the methodology adopted, the outcomes obtained so far, and the likelihood of the action programme to contribute to a longer-term impact after its completion.
3. Information will be provided on each country that participated in the action programme with regard to the following three indicators:²
 - A. Ongoing sectoral social dialogue on the agreed topic of the action programme.
 - B. Agreed national action plans, assessments or reports leading to proposals for change to be implemented by national actors (governments, employers or workers, with ILO support as requested), and which are designed to enhance progress in one or more of the four ILO strategic objectives:
 - (1) promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work;
 - (2) create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income;
 - (3) enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all;
 - (4) strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.
 - C. The adoption of new or modified measures (legislation, guidelines, national or sectoral policy or other measures) representing improvements in one or more of the four strategic objectives of the ILO within 24 months of the effective start of the action programme.³

¹ It is recalled that the action programme on financial services was replaced by a Regional Meeting. The report of the cross-sectoral action programme on HIV/AIDS in the world of work will follow a structure different from that of the others due to its unique character, the varied approaches adopted and the number of sectors involved.

² The general indicators will apply to five of the seven action programmes initiated in 2004, and to the three second-generation action programmes decided by the Governing Body in March 2005, which should operate in the 2006-07 biennium.

³ For 2004-05 programmes the effective starting date is assumed to be April 2004, following the decision of the March 2004 ILO Governing Body decision concerning national and global steering.

4. The evaluation reports will also include information on the programmes in each of the participating countries with regard to a number of sector-specific indicators, which take into account the different objectives and means of action of each programme. These indicators are currently being developed in collaboration with the Evaluation Unit.
5. The indicators in some cases have a time frame extending beyond the 2004-05 biennium due to the time required to establish national steering groups, reach consensus on the actions to be taken and implement activities based on social dialogue processes. In such cases, indicators will be used to measure progress through the first half of 2006.
6. The sectoral specialist responsible for the respective action programme will assess in more detail the functioning, outcomes and foreseeable contribution to a larger impact in one or two participating countries by means of an internal desk assessment carried out in cooperation with one or more ILO headquarters or field units. Both quantitative and qualitative elements, including, to the extent possible, inputs from constituents, will form the basis of analysis.
7. The cross-sectoral action programme on HIV/AIDS at the workplace will be the subject of a report which will include information on the activities undertaken, the outputs produced and, to the extent possible, the likely contribution of those outputs to a larger outcome. It is recalled that the cross-sectoral action programme on HIV/AIDS was guided as far as possible by existing tripartite structures for ILO HIV/AIDS programmes. One of the sectoral components of the programme, health services, was implemented on the basis of an international tripartite meeting of experts. Performance indicators are currently being developed in collaboration with the Evaluation Unit.
8. Each programme evaluation report will include a section on what worked well and what did not, in order that the next generation of action programmes can benefit from the experience gained.
9. The evaluation reports on the 2004-05 action programmes will be submitted to the Global Steering Group in autumn 2006 for its consideration as to the effectiveness and relevance of the approach. A report of the Steering Group's assessment will be presented to the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues at the first available opportunity.

2006-07 action programmes

10. At its March 2005 session, the Governing Body selected three additional sectors for action programmes in the 2006-07 biennium: health, public services and telecoms. Sector-specific indicators against which progress will be measured are currently being developed.

Evaluation questionnaire

11. A common evaluation methodology will be developed in collaboration with the Evaluation Unit and applied for each 2004-05 action programme in the first half of 2006. This will include an evaluation questionnaire comprised of:
 - (a) elements for evaluation common to all programmes (functioning of national steering groups or other social dialogue units, programme outcomes/impact, constraints, need for follow-up by governments, employers' and workers' organizations and the ILO, etc.);
 - (b) elements for evaluation specific to each programme.

The evaluation questionnaire will be formulated so as to enable future action programmes to establish appropriate baseline criteria against which they may be evaluated at the appropriate time.