



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Improvements in the standards-related activities of the ILO: From strategy to implementation**Introduction**

1. This document provides an overview of an implementation strategy to strengthen the ILO's international labour standards system. This comprehensive plan forms part of the ILO Strategic Policy Framework 2006–09, designed to make decent work a global goal. It is also set against the background of recent developments that confirm the timeliness and relevance of such a strategy. These developments include endorsement of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.
2. The report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization; the ILO's tripartite constituents' response to the Director-General's Reports to the International Labour Conference in June 2004 and June 2006; the text adopted at the 2005 United Nations World Summit of Heads of State and Government (paragraph 47) and the adoption in July 2006 of the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration in the framework of the high-level segment attest to this endorsement at the international level. This endorsement has also been made at the regional level with the adoption of statements or conclusions at various Regional Conferences and Meetings in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. At the national level, the Strategic Policy Framework places emphasis on the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) as the main tool for the ILO to plan, programme, monitor and report on its work. The new partnership launched between the ILO Director-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in January 2007 reflects a practical step towards the implementation of UN system efforts to "deliver as one" at the country level.
3. One of the most important means to make decent work a global goal is through ILO international labour standards, which represent one of the most comprehensive internationally agreed sets of principles for cooperative action available to meet the challenges of globalization. The Strategic Policy Framework recognized that efforts had to continue to raise the coherence and impact of the body of labour standards underpinning the Decent Work Agenda as well as improving the supervisory machinery. The ILO draws authority from international labour standards. They are a cornerstone of good governance and balanced economic and social development. There is a growing recognition of

international labour standards as making a positive contribution to efficient enterprises, productive workforces and fairness in the distribution of the benefits of economic growth.

4. The review of the standards system has been an ongoing process within the ILO at regular intervals. At its 292nd Session (March 2005), the Committee reviewed the progress that has been achieved since 1994.¹ At its 294th Session (November 2005),² the Committee approved a strategic orientation for the standards system and requested the Office to present a comprehensive document – based on tripartite consultations – concerning the implementation of this strategy. A progress report was provided to the Committee in March 2006.³ An informal tripartite discussion was held in November 2006. The views expressed and suggestions made during this discussion as well as the comments of the tripartite constituents at the November 2005 and March 2006 sessions of the Governing Body have been taken into account in the preparation of this document.
5. Globalization, the rapid rate of technological change, and changing patterns in the world of work do not leave the ILO standards system unaffected. They require corresponding adjustments in its operation and finding a dynamic balance between its different parts with a view to increasing its overall impact.
6. This document, therefore, seeks to map out ways in which the four components of the standards strategy agreed upon by the Governing Body in November 2005 can be implemented with a view to enhancing the impact of the system. Section 1 relates to standards policy, particularly as regards developing and keeping up to date the body of standards and the need to ensure effective follow-up to the conclusions of the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards. Section 2 focuses on the regular supervisory system and specific rationalization measures. Section 3 examines a strategy for implementing ILO standards through technical cooperation and, in particular, the DWCPs. Section 4 looks at implementing a communication strategy for standards with emphasis on enhancing access to the “standards capital”. The DWCPs could serve as the vehicle through which all four components of the standards strategy could be implemented with a view to maximizing effectiveness and impact as well as keeping in touch with progress at the national level.

1. Standards policy

7. To date the ILO has adopted 187 Conventions, 198 Recommendations and five Protocols. Altogether these instruments cover approximately 20 subject areas and most major labour issues.⁴
8. With regard to developing new standards, although the subjects dealt with in recent years have all been of great importance, three recent exercises deserve special mention: the adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and Recommendation (No. 190); the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006; and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) and

¹ GB.292/LILS/7 and GB.292/10(Rev.).

² GB.294/LILS/4 and GB.294/9.

³ GB.295/LILS/5 and GB.295/10(Rev.).

⁴ See <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/subjectE.htm>.

Recommendation (No. 197).⁵ In these three instances, the Conference voted either unanimously or almost unanimously in favour of adopting the instruments.

9. As regards the existing body of standards, from 1995 to 2002, the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards (the “Cartier” Working Party) carried out a case-by-case examination of all Conventions and Recommendations adopted before 1985 in order to determine their status and any action to be taken.⁶ On the basis of the Working Party’s conclusions, the Governing Body was able to take decisions by consensus on all the instruments it considered except for one Convention and one Recommendation: the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), and the Termination of Employment Recommendation, 1982 (No. 166). It is proposed that the status of these instruments be re-examined by the Committee as the earliest possible juncture.⁷
10. The document concerning the Conference’s 2009 agenda, submitted to the current session of the Governing Body, contains two proposals on standards.⁸ The document concerning proposals for 2009 and future sessions of the Conference submitted in November 2006 contained no other proposals for new or revised standards.⁹

1.1. New approaches followed in recent instruments

11. In seeking to improve standards-related activities, the Organization has developed new approaches to supplement existing ones. Of course, approaches may vary depending on the subject and its urgency, and no approach is exclusive. For the three areas mentioned above (child labour, maritime labour and occupational safety and health), it can be noted that, throughout the process, discussions have been guided by a desire for consensus and by the objective of universal applicability. The inclusion of Convention No. 182 on the

⁵ The other standards adopted over the last seven years are the Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183), and Recommendation (No. 191), 2000, the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention (No. 184), and Recommendation (No. 192), 2001, and the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185).

⁶ With the exception of the fundamental and priority Conventions, which the Governing Body confirmed as central and relevant instruments. Conventions adopted since 1995 were considered up to date by virtue of their relatively recent adoption (see above web site and GB.283/LILS/WP/PRS/1/2).

⁷ In addition, for three Conventions and 12 Recommendations the decision was merely to request additional information. As a follow-up on these requests, two among the four Recommendations on labour relations (Nos. 94 and 129) are currently included in the proposals for the agenda of the Conference. The possible revision of the Employment (Transition from War to Peace) Recommendation, 1944 (No. 71), had previously been included in proposals but was not retained. For the two Conventions on non-metropolitan territories, the Office plans to carry out specific follow-up with the States concerned. With regard to the four Recommendations on seafarers, the request has no further purpose following the adoption of the consolidated Convention. This would also be the case of the Convention on fishers (No. 126) once the new instruments have been adopted at the next session of the Conference. The three other Recommendations are of very limited scope: the Night Work of Women (Agriculture) Recommendation, 1921 (No. 13); the Migration Statistics Recommendation, 1922 (No. 19); and the Hours of Work (Inland Navigation) Recommendation, 1920 (No. 8). No follow-up is planned at this stage in respect of these Recommendations.

⁸ Strengthening national responses to HIV/AIDS in the world of work and protecting children and young workers, the latter being a proposal to revise and consolidate existing instruments (GB.298/2).

⁹ See GB.297/2.

Conference's agenda in 1998 was preceded, in particular, by an informal tripartite meeting at ministerial level at the 1996 session of the Conference,¹⁰ the inclusion of Convention No. 187 was preceded by a general discussion based on an integrated approach at the Conference's 2003 session; and the Maritime Labour Convention was the product of five years of preparation involving numerous preparatory consultations and meetings. In terms of content, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention focuses essentially on the obligations which should be accepted for incontrovertible reasons by all countries, whatever their level of development or national circumstances; the Maritime Labour Convention is a comprehensive consolidation of almost all maritime instruments, combining firmness in requiring observance of essential principles and rights with flexibility in implementation; the Occupational Safety and Health Convention aims to establish a roadmap identifying three key elements (a national policy, a national system and a national programme) required for a step-by-step improvement in occupational safety and health worldwide, inter alia, through wider ratification of other relevant instruments.

12. The in-depth examination and numerous consultations which preceded the adoption of these instruments are the guarantee of their consistency and relevance. It is worth noting that only Convention No. 182, which is linked to a major technical cooperation programme, has so far had a demonstrable impact. It is now widely ratified, while the others have just been adopted. Convention No. 182 provides a good example in this respect of the actions that should be taken to ensure that successful adoption is followed by similarly successful ratification, along with constant progress in implementation.

1.2. Developing subjects and keeping the body of standards up to date

13. The difficulties associated with choosing new items, particularly standards-related subjects, to place on the Conference agenda are a recurrent theme in the Governing Body.¹¹ At its recent sessions, the Governing Body has expressed regret at the limited number of proposals. In response to this situation, many members of the Governing Body have requested that such proposals be clearly linked to the ILO's Strategic Policy Framework and that a list of possible topics be drawn up on that basis.
14. The principal orientations of the current Framework are reviewed in the introduction. Although the Framework mentions a number of specific subjects that the Organization should address during the period covered,¹² it gives no precise indication of what new standards may be needed. It does, however, offer avenues to be explored, including by suggesting that efforts should be continued to enhance the coherence and impact of the body of international labour standards underpinning the Decent Work Agenda.
15. Furthermore, it will be recalled that the Conference's agenda for 2007 includes a discussion on "Strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization". This discussion should include a proposal on cyclical reports in relation to the strategic objectives which could enable topics for the

¹⁰ See ITM/1/1996 and ITM/3/1996.

¹¹ See GB.292/LILS/7, paras 10–12.

¹² For example, ageing societies, pension reform, outsourcing or delocalization. The issue of equality between men and women as an intersectoral objective is considered as a key issue. It can be seen that several of these subjects are covered, directly or indirectly, by the proposals put forward for 2009.

Conference's agenda to be identified.¹³ Consequently, before further examining possible solutions, it would probably be appropriate to wait for the results of this Conference discussion and to continue to examine this question in the Committee at a later date, taking into account the potential implications of any decisions which might be taken.

16. Bearing in mind the complexity of the issue, specific consultations on developing and keeping the body of standards up to date might also be envisaged. Matters to be taken into account in such consultations could include the following: the extent to which the use of new approaches to standard setting should be taken into consideration when new standards are being developed; how to ensure that new standards envisaged give added value to the existing body of standards and contribute to making decent work a global objective – with due regard for the imperatives of development; and how to ensure that the body of standards is kept up to date, with regard to both existing and future standards.

1.3. Promoting and following up the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party

17. With regard to the promotion of Conventions, the Cartier Working Party adopted two types of conclusions which were endorsed by the Governing Body. On the one hand, the Working Party invited member States that are party to Conventions which have been revised (or, in certain cases, replaced by more recent Conventions) to examine the possibility of ratifying the more recent Convention on the relevant subject while at the same time denouncing the old Convention; on the other hand, the Working Party invited all member States to examine the possibility of ratifying the so-called up to date Conventions.¹⁴ During the informal discussion in November 2006, the Office was asked to provide information on the follow up to these decisions.
18. With regard to the first category, it can be seen that, since 1996, numerous countries have followed the recommendations;¹⁵ nevertheless, further efforts should be made.¹⁶ It should be emphasized that, all in all, such an exercise has many advantages: at the national level, in addition to reducing, for many countries, the number of reports requested,¹⁷ it should enable the body of standards in force in each country to be rationalized and updated, and would help with updating of legislation. At the level of the Organization, it should

¹³ Report V(1), ILC 2007 (96th Session).

¹⁴ All information concerning the situation of each country as regards ratification, including of revised or up to date Conventions, is available on the Internet at http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/country_profiles.home.

¹⁵ Since 1996, 125 new ratifications of revised Conventions and 244 denunciations of corresponding older Conventions have been registered.

¹⁶ See Appendix I. Denunciations (mostly automatic) resulting from the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, are shown separately in Appendix II.

¹⁷ This is the case for 46 of the 162 countries concerned, if one deducts those Conventions which have been shelved for which reports are no longer systematically requested (and for 105 countries without such a deduction). As regards the Maritime Labour Convention, this is the case for 101 of the 112 countries concerned.

concentrate efforts on the most modern standards and reduce the number of Conventions for which follow-up has to be ensured, thereby rationalizing the workload.¹⁸

19. As far as the invitation to all member States to ratify up to date Conventions is concerned, it is a fact that the fundamental Conventions are by now very widely ratified. It is therefore worth examining the situation of other up to date Conventions.¹⁹ It can be stated in this regard that the results are fairly uneven between countries and regions and demonstrate the need for more effective and targeted promotion.²⁰
20. While not an end in itself, since it needs to be followed by implementation of the Convention, the act of ratification is still an act of great importance and the most visible way for a State to undertake to conform to the Organization's objectives, as expressed for a particular subject in the instrument in question. It is a process which calls for a progressive approach. From the point of view both of member States and of the Office, it is clearly not possible to carry out the analyses and make the arrangements that may be necessary for the purpose, at one and the same time, for all the countries and all the Conventions concerned. Identifying needs and priorities as regards both countries and subjects would appear to be called for in order effectively to support such an undertaking.
21. These needs and priorities should be determined in consultation with the constituents on the basis of an overall assessment of the situation in each country, which could take the form of a profile. Various criteria could be established to determine which countries would be considered on a priority basis for such promotion.²¹ Profiles should take account of the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party and include a broad assessment of national legislation and policy on the most important standards not yet ratified among the various families of standards. Apart from the fundamental Conventions, which will of course continue to be considered first, priority Conventions²² and other Conventions covering important subject areas should also be taken into account on a priority basis. Thus, the Office could provide advice, at the request of constituents, on desirable adjustments to national law and practice which might enable a particular Convention to be ratified subsequently. Objectives and a timeframe could be established at national level on a tripartite basis and introduced into DWCPs.
22. In preparing such profiles, better use might be made of the large amount of information that could be compiled from the reports submitted under article 19 of the Constitution (General Surveys): data on national law and practice regarding the instruments in question, ratifications envisaged and possible obstacles to ratification and/or implementation.

¹⁸ Furthermore, through the process of denunciation, Conventions could become candidates for abrogation when the 1997 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution (GB.297/LILS/2 (Nov. 2006)) enters into force.

¹⁹ If we take as an indicator, for example, the number of up to date Conventions, other than fundamental Conventions, adopted up to 1997 and ratified by at least 30 per cent of member States, we arrive at a figure of 12 out of a total of 61 Conventions. If we set the objective at a minimum of 50 per cent of member States, the number of Conventions is five.

²⁰ Appendix III gives the number of ratifications of up to date Conventions other than fundamental Conventions by country, grouped by region.

²¹ See section 3 and Action Plan, Part III.

²² Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), and Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129); Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122); and Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144).

2. Increasing the coherence, integration and efficacy of the supervisory system

23. The second part of the strategic orientation²³ focuses on streamlining the submission of information and reports requested under article 22 of the Constitution, in order to strengthen the supervisory system and improve its impact. Any rationalization must preserve or improve the quality of the information on the application of ratified Conventions obtained from the supervisory bodies' examination of periodic reports from governments and observations from employers' and workers' organizations.

2.1. The workload generated by the supervisory procedure (article 22 reports)

24. The quality of the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions depends to a large extent on the information provided by governments and social partners. The steady increase in the volume of information and the resulting need to enhance the capacity of the system to absorb the extra volume have been at the root of all previous adjustments to the system, including the last adjustment in 2001, which is due for evaluation in 2008. The submission of statistical data is intended to highlight the main factors affecting the workload and explain the difficulties the constituents, the supervisory bodies and the Office face in processing this information.

2.1.1. Principal statistical data

25. The data are presented in the form of the tables contained in Appendix IV. Although they cover only a specified period (2001–06), the following points can be made.

26. The increase in the number of ratifications²⁴ results in an overall increase in the number of reports requested. This is the principal causal factor of the growing workload, to which must be added the large number of additional reports requested each year because reports have not been submitted on time. In the last five years, overdue reports have accounted for at least 32 per cent of the total reports requested. Furthermore, the percentage of reports received by the due date (i.e. 1 September) is still low, and is certainly less than 30 per cent of the total number of reports requested. These two factors noticeably increase the workload of the Office and the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, as the latter points out every year in its report. The situation also presents difficulties for governments, since they have to respond to more requests for reports than scheduled for a given period, which is set precisely to spread the requests evenly throughout the cycle.

27. Another, more recent, factor contributing to the increased workload is the number of observations sent by employers' and workers' organizations. In this case the increase is largely attributable to the efforts undertaken not only by the supervisory bodies and the Governing Body but also by the Office (including the Bureau for Workers' Activities), to encourage participation by such organizations in relation to the application of ratified Conventions. Nine such observations were sent in 1972 (the year when measures were first taken to encourage this practice). Since 2004, there have been approximately 500 every year.

²³ GB.294/LILS/4, paras 14 and 15.

²⁴ The total number rose from 7,001 at 31 December 2001 to 7,437 by 15 February 2007. Since 2001, five new States have become Members of the ILO.

28. It should be recalled that in 1976 the Governing Body established the practice allowing all interested international national employers' and workers' organizations to submit observations.²⁵ These organizations can also send their observations directly to the Office, even in years when no report is due under the Convention concerned. Observations sent directly constitute the vast majority of observations. The Governing Body also decided that these observations should be sent to the relevant governments to allow them to make any comments they deem appropriate. Similarly, the Committee of Experts decided that it would proceed with an examination of the substance of observations where replies are not received from governments within a reasonable amount of time.
29. This practice has contributed significantly to objective analyses of the application of ratified Conventions. It is also an important element to be borne in mind in assessing the workloads of governments, the Office and the supervisory bodies, given the pronounced increase in the number of observations sent in recent years and the fact that the vast majority of these concern the application of the eight widely ratified fundamental Conventions.
30. Lastly, even though this factor affects only the Committee of Experts, it should be noted that, since 2002, the number of experts actually appointed²⁶ has remained lower than the total number of experts set by the Governing Body at 20 in 1983. The experts regularly express their concern as regards their individual and collective ability to respond to an ever increasing workload.

2.1.2. Recalling previous adjustments

31. Since the supervisory system came into operation, the Governing Body, along with the Committee of Experts and the Conference Committee, has intervened on several occasions to rationalize the submission and processing of information in order to lighten the workload of constituents, the supervisory bodies and the Office, while maintaining the quality and relevance of the information, which are essential to the effectiveness of the system. The main adjustments were decided in 1959, 1976, 1993 and 2001.²⁷ These adjustments essentially meant that reporting requests were no longer automatic, so as to allow the supervisory bodies, taking as their starting point the first detailed report submitted after ratification, to concentrate on instances of serious problems in application and to continue to carry out thorough examinations. To this end, the Governing Body has progressively increased the length of the reporting cycle and decreased the number of requests for detailed reports. It has also identified a group of Conventions for which reports are required more frequently than for others and has introduced safeguards to ensure that supervision mechanisms can keep track of serious problems.
32. The most recent adjustment, in 2001, consisted principally in no longer requesting a second detailed report after ratification and in grouping Conventions together by subject matter for reporting purposes. This thematic arrangement, in force since 2003, is due to be evaluated by the Office, which will report to the Governing Body in 2008.²⁸ One of its

²⁵ See GB.201/14/32.

²⁶ At the 77th Session (November–December 2006) there were 18 experts actually appointed.

²⁷ For details of these changes, see: 1959: GB.142/205; 1976: GB.201/14/32; 1993: GB.258/LILS/6/1; 2001: GB.282/LILS/5.

²⁸ The Governing Body decided during its 283rd Session (March 2002) that these arrangements would take effect from 2003 and invited the Office to report after five years; see GB.283/LILS/6 (para. 9).

aims was to ease the labour ministries' task of gathering information from the competent national institutions. While this information-gathering may have been facilitated in practice, it should be pointed out that the grouping arrangement has not as yet improved the percentage of reports received for the session of the Committee of Experts, nor the percentage of reports received by the requested date. In previous discussions of the Governing Body, governments reiterated their request for greater rationalization and simplification of reporting arrangements.

33. It is in this context that it must be considered how best to organize the submission and processing of information and reports in order to guarantee that the information on the application of ratified Conventions is complete, relevant and readable. More essentially, the need for rationalization apart, what matters is the contribution of the supervisory system to achieving the decent work objectives and, hence, the use constituents and the Organization make of the information the system generates.

2.2. Implementing the strategy: Possible approaches to streamlining the submission of information and reports under article 22 of the Constitution

34. Bearing in mind the specific points raised by members of the Governing Body in previous discussions, two distinct approaches are possible: (1) the first, followed in the earlier reforms, would be to focus on a specific aspect of the procedure for submitting and processing information and reports; (2) the second would be to reconsider the entire procedure for submitting and processing information and reports and to reorganize it by country. The second approach could be combined with certain specific measures except for a lengthening of the reporting cycle for fundamental or priority Conventions. Regardless which approach is followed, there are two important points to bear in mind.
35. First, no approach will be viable as long as the system has to accommodate a large number of reports that were not examined the year in which they were due, since this entails a significant number of additional requests for reports to be examined the following year. Therefore, it is essential that the Office should pursue and step up its efforts to ensure a personalized follow-up of instances of serious failure to fulfil reporting or other standards-related obligations. To that end, technical assistance from the Office should aim also to secure wider mobilization of national social partners in this respect. Another useful step would be to give greater visibility to the examination by the supervisory bodies of the most serious cases, as requested by numerous constituents.
36. In addition, it would be important to take greater advantage of the contribution that the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129) and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144) make to the effectiveness of the supervisory system, since these Conventions draw on the participation of all directly concerned national actors (governments, social partners and labour inspection bodies) in implementing ratified Conventions. This would be all the more appropriate as the Governing Body has given increased attention to these three instruments. The constituents have thus recently shown a growing interest in the Conventions on labour inspection.²⁹ These Conventions carry an obligation to submit an annual report on labour inspection activities. For the Committee of Experts, the annual reports should allow it to ascertain the

²⁹ See *Labour inspection, General Survey, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations*, Report III (Part IB), 95th Session (2006), International Labour Conference and *Report of the Committee on the Application of Standards*, Part one, *Provisional Record* No. 24; see also GB.297/ESP/3.

extent to which relevant national legislation is enforced, and to what extent the international labour Conventions ratified by each country are applied. A publication of these reports would also enable the social partners to develop proposals to render supervision of the application of international labour legislation more effective. Convention No. 144, for its part, places emphasis on the tripartite dimension of the implementation of international labour standards and hence on ownership of enforcement at national level by the parties concerned. This Convention is the subject of a promotional campaign launched by the Governing Body in November 2002.

2.2.1. Streamlining through specific measures

37. Three possibilities emerged during previous discussions on strategy.

Reporting intervals regarding the application of fundamental and priority Conventions

38. Lengthening the reporting cycle is a common method of lightening the workload. Lengthening the reporting cycle from two to three years for fundamental and priority Conventions would reduce the workload to a certain degree, without affecting the quality and relevance of the monitoring of their application. Substantial changes rarely occur within a period of two years and, furthermore, during this period any serious issues linked to application could be raised by the occupational organizations and, if need be, an early request for a report on these issues could be made by the supervisory bodies. The five-year reporting cycle would be maintained for the other Conventions. In order to continue to ensure a balanced workload over three years for each group of Conventions, requests for reports would be distributed according to the English alphabetical order of the names of member States, as is currently the case. For the same reason, requests for reports would not be made each year for all groups of Conventions. Requests, grouped by subject matter, would have to be staggered over the reporting cycle. Should the Governing Body agree in principle, this new reporting cycle could take effect following the assessment of the grouping of the Conventions.

Questions and requests for information from governments

39. Governments regularly raise this issue, requesting that their task be simplified by a review of the report forms and by drawing a clearer distinction between important requests made by the supervisory bodies and requests which are less important.
40. Under article 22 of the Constitution, it is for the Governing Body to decide on how reports are drafted and on the particular points they must cover. Since 1921, report forms have been adopted according to the provisions contained in each Convention. Any review of the report forms must take into account two aspects. First, only in two cases do the forms give rise to detailed reports: (i) the first report following ratification; (ii) following a request by the supervisory bodies. Second, the purpose of the questions contained in the report forms is to serve as a guide for governments in applying the Conventions. In the case of a first report, the questions are designed to obtain the fullest information possible on national law and practice and, consequently, to establish a solid foundation on which to build constructive dialogue between the supervisory bodies and the governments.
41. For future report forms, it will be simple to take governments' remarks into account. As to the existing report forms, the Office will first need to carry out a study to identify those questions contained in the forms which cause the most problems for member States, while taking care to distinguish between those that are necessary for supervising application and those that are less directly relevant. Difficulties are more likely to arise with report forms relating to "technical" Conventions. All report forms for Conventions grouped under the

same subject matter should be reviewed simultaneously. It is for the Governing Body to decide how urgently such a study is required.

42. The Committee of Experts has already begun studying how it can be made easier for governments to identify the most important questions, and is considering whether, when they are sent, its comments could be prioritized in order to help governments focus on the urgent issues and respond to these first. The Committee could be invited to continue looking into this matter, as well as the question of the distribution of comments between observations and direct requests.

Observations submitted by employers' and workers' organizations

43. At each session since 2002, the Committee of Experts has reviewed the question of processing the observations received directly by the Office in order to ensure a balance between the need to give the governments a reasonable period of time in which to submit any remarks they might wish to make and the need to preserve the specific contribution of observations to the operation of the supervisory system.
44. Alongside this review, the Office as a whole, in close cooperation with the International Training Centre in Turin, must pursue and intensify training activities organized for the benefit of national and international employers' and workers' organizations, so as to strengthen their participation in the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions and make it more effective. It may well be useful to design specific training activities for persons in charge of following up on matters related to international labour standards in employers' and workers' organizations. Lastly, their participation in the supervision should be an integral component of the promotion of Convention No. 144. The consultations that governments are required to undertake under the terms of this Convention with regard to reports under article 22 could greatly assist representative occupational organizations in identifying the questions that they consider necessary to raise in their observations.

2.2.2. A global approach to streamlining: integrating a country-based approach into the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions

45. Since, in spite of a series of adjustments, the difficulties relating to workload persist, and with a view to improving the long-term efficiency of the article 22 supervisory procedure, this might be a good time to look into the possibility of going beyond mere stopgap measures. Moreover, the Decent Work Agenda, which proposes an overall vision of the ILO's objectives and their achievement, depends on the systematic integration of the standards and the work of the supervisory machinery into the ILO's activities, beginning with the DWCPs. This is bound to require a different approach to the way the information deriving from the article 22 supervisory procedure is handled. This is the standpoint from which, at its 76th Session in November–December 2005, the Committee of Experts first considered the possibility of integrating a country-based approach into the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions.
46. What follows is a broad outline of the proposed approach, bearing in mind the discussion in the Committee of Experts, and the questions and concerns raised at the informal tripartite discussion. Indeed questions were asked about the impact the proposed approach would have on the reports submitted by governments and on the work of the supervisory bodies. Concerns were raised concerning the workload for the governments of States that have ratified a large number of Conventions or whose reports involve a complex process of consultation. Some constituents wondered whether the proposed approach might ultimately undermine the supervision of the application of Conventions and lower the quality of the

information obtained. Lastly, two specific questions were raised about the work of the Conference Committee: (i) whether the proposed approach might limit the choice of individual cases of implementation of ratified Conventions that were discussed, and (ii) whether there was a danger of losing sight of the most serious difficulties encountered in implementing them.

Purpose

47. The integration of a country-based approach involves looking at the process of sending and handling reports and information due under article 22 as a whole, and breaking it down by country. In addition to simplifying the task of both governments and the Office, the objective would be to make the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions more consistent and thus ensure that the information generated by the procedure is more directly relevant to the Organization's technical assistance and cooperation, especially in the framework of the DWCPs.

Main features

48. The main features of the proposed approach are as follows:
 - There would be a single reporting cycle for all Conventions (fundamental, priority and technical) combined with a single request for reports from each country: a five-year cycle would seem to be the easiest solution at this stage, if only because it is the cycle that is already used for the so-called technical Conventions, and because the requests for reports could then be spread evenly over the whole cycle. In other words, each year 36 countries would be asked to submit all the reports that are due. The requests could, for instance, be made in alphabetical order, which would be both simple and objective. Account would also have to be taken, as appropriate, of other criteria, such as geographical balance and the number of reports due. If a five-year cycle were considered too long, then four years could be considered.
 - Exceptions to the reporting cycle would be maintained, and serious instances of non-compliance with specific Conventions would continue to be examined by the supervisory bodies, irrespective of the reporting cycle.
 - The legal analysis by the Committee of Experts would remain unchanged and would also be based on a comprehensive overview of each country's situation: the Committee would look into the entire body of national law and practice as they relate to the ratified Conventions. Using the information sent by the government, the Office could perhaps draw up a general "statement" on national law and practice, drawing attention also to the other aspects of the country's situation to which the government and social partners may have wished to alert the supervisory bodies. On this basis, the Committee of Experts could then examine the conformity between national law and practice and the Conventions, grouped by subject matter, as it does at present. The expertise of its members in specific areas of labour legislation would thus continue to be used. Moreover, the obligations arising from the application of the Conventions and relating to the submission of reports would be examined simultaneously for each individual country.
 - The Conference Committee would continue to have the same possibility as before to select cases for discussion in committee, where the tripartite discussion would follow the existing pattern (general discussion, General Survey, individual cases): it would continue to focus on the implementation of the Conventions ratified by countries cited in the Committee of Experts' report. The Committee would, of course, continue to use its discretion in choosing the cases to be discussed. It could, for example, decide to examine all the countries but, because of time constraints, select for each country

those particular issues that it believes warrant closer attention. The Conference Committee would be helped in this by the Committee of Experts' comprehensive assessment of each country's implementation of the ratified Conventions. Lastly, the Conference Committee would continue to discuss serious instances of non-compliance with specific Conventions outside the reporting cycle.

- As a corollary to the single five-year cycle, the supervisory bodies' examination would be followed up more actively by ILO technical assistance: the objective would be for a dialogue to be initiated, between the supervisory bodies' examinations, to help countries to solve the difficulties with implementation that have been identified and to send their reports with all the information requested by the deadline. In addition, the Office would be able to compile data on relevant changes in national law and practice on a regular basis.
- The current arrangements for employers' and workers' organizations to submit their observations during the reporting cycle would remain unchanged. Observations submitted outside the reporting cycle would be dealt with in such a way as to enable the supervisory bodies to respond appropriately to serious instances of non-compliance.
- The timetable of meetings of the supervisory bodies would remain unchanged. However, the deadline for sending reports would have to be reviewed so as to facilitate the governments' task and to ensure that the supervisory bodies have time to examine the reports.

Principal advantages expected

49. These advantages are:

- The requests for reports would be clearer, which could entail a simplification of the report forms and thus make it easier for governments to send the reports due.
- There would be a constructive and direct dialogue between each country (including the social partners) and the supervisory bodies, with appropriate attention to national circumstances and the manner in which the Convention is implemented. This kind of dialogue, covering the whole of a country's standards-related obligations, should be conducive to a more extensive contribution by the social partners to the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions.
- A coherent and integrated analysis by the Committee of Experts would provide a comprehensive and readable overview of the implementation of a country's entire standards-related obligations. Combined with the grouping of Conventions by subject, this would make it possible to identify the issues that need to be raised vis-à-vis any particular Convention and to present a coherent view of the issues that are common to more than one Convention, while at the same time ensuring a better balance between comments. It would highlight both difficulties of implementation and progress achieved, as well as each country's requirements in terms of technical assistance, so as to offer a balanced diagnosis of each country's compliance with its standards-related obligations. Lastly, it should make it easier for the Committee of Experts to group its specific requests together and draw attention to the most important. This would then simplify the governments' task in replying or, better still, in taking the desired steps. In particular, the conformity of each legislative text with all the relevant Conventions would be analysed as a whole. Governments could then be notified of all the requests for modifications to national legislation at the same time, and this could facilitate an overall revision of the laws in question.

- There could be a better balance between regions and type of Convention in the cases discussed by the Conference Committee. As has frequently been pointed out, the selection of cases by the Conference Committee depends on the content of the report by the Committee of Experts. With the proposed approach, its report would deal with a limited number of countries – again, balanced geographically – and would examine all the ratified Conventions for each of the countries being reviewed. If the Conference Committee decided to examine all the countries cited in the report, then some of the concerns raised over its selection of individual cases would no longer apply. Moreover, the comprehensive overview of application at the national level of all ratified Conventions, as shown in the Committee’s report, would show more clearly the most important instances where tripartite discussion would be warranted.
- The supervisory system would thus encourage countries to emulate one another. It is essential that the supervisory system provide member States with a consistent, global overview of the way ratified Conventions are applied and allow each State, in its pursuit of social progress, to learn from both the achievements and the difficulties of others. Such an overview, combining a country-based approach with a grouping of Conventions by subject, would also be informed by the tripartite discussion in the Conference Committee.
- The supervisory system and the ILO’s technical assistance and cooperation activities would be better integrated. A country-based analysis would enable countries’ technical assistance requirements for implementing ratified Conventions to be better integrated in the ILO’s technical assistance and cooperation activities in general, and notably its DWCPs. This aspect is dealt with in the third part below.

The workload issue for governments

- 50.** A government’s workload is not measured by the total number of ratifications but rather by the number of reports actually requested, the latter often being smaller than the former because for some ratified Conventions reports are no longer requested. Moreover, the great majority of reports due – all of them in most cases – are simplified rather than detailed reports. The governments’ workload therefore has to be assessed very carefully, as well as the number of comments on which a reply has been requested and each country’s procedure for preparing the reports. The distribution of requests for reports over each reporting cycle would reflect this assessment; for example, a government with a heavy workload might be asked for its reports during the last two years of the cycle. Careful thought would need to be given to any transitional measures.
- 51.** This raises another question: namely, the sending of complete government reports by the deadline. As already pointed out, this aspect is inherent in any supervisory system, whatever the configuration. But it is especially crucial to the proposed approach. It would be essential, on the one hand, that the sending of the reports be prepared step by step and, on the other hand, that it be given priority in terms of technical assistance and cooperation. Between two requests for reports, the updating and compilation by the Office of information on national law and practice will have a decisive impact on the governments’ workload when the time comes for them to send the reports. The more the Office can access this information easily and regularly, the more it will facilitate the governments’ task when they send their reports.
- 52.** A simulation of the country-based approach, comprising an assessment of the workload mentioned above and covering a number of countries from different regions would no doubt be a useful complement to the foregoing considerations.

2.3. The need to analyse the dynamics of the supervisory system

53. There are two aspects of the question regarding the dynamics of the supervisory system: (1) the links between the various procedures relating to ratified Conventions, including the special procedure for freedom of association; and (2) the specific case of the obligation to report on non-ratified Conventions and on Recommendations. No in-depth analysis of the first aspect has ever been placed before the Governing Body. Though a number of documents do refer to it³⁰ or discuss it from a particular angle (such as the effect of the regular supervisory procedure and the representation procedure on each other),³¹ none of them contains a global analysis of the dynamics of a system that consists of a range of procedures which, subject to their own characteristics, interact with each other. An analysis of this kind is essential to any lasting reform, for example, of the regular supervisory procedure, whose importance within the supervisory system has grown considerably in practice. The analysis would examine the provisions and decisions that are at the basis of each procedure, the method of their implementation and the way they have evolved in practice. It would also be of some relevance to the interpretation of Conventions, an issue that was brought up again during the tripartite informal discussion. The last time the Governing Body debated the issue was in 1993³² and it would perhaps be opportune to discuss this issue further. As to the obligation to report on non-ratified Conventions and on Recommendations (article 19 (paragraphs (5)(e) and (6)(e)) of the Constitution),³³ from which are drawn the General Surveys of the Committee of Experts, the idea is to take greater advantage of its purpose, as set out in the Constitution, namely, the compilation of information on obstacles to ratification and on the way the relevant standards have influenced national law and practice. An examination of this issue could also cover the way the Conference Committee discusses the General Surveys and how they are followed up, *inter alia*, through technical cooperation.³⁴

3. Enhanced impact of the standards system through technical cooperation

54. The crucial importance of technical cooperation as a means for promoting and implementing international labour standards and strengthening the supervisory system was underlined in the strategic orientation. This was further emphasized in the resolution of the International Labour Conference concerning the role of the ILO in technical cooperation (95th Session, 2006).

³⁰ For example, GB.279/4, para. 30, GB.283/4, para. 28 or GB.288/LILS/1.

³¹ GB.273/LILS/1 and GB. 276/LILS/2.

³² GB.256/SC/2/2.

³³ The principle was already discussed during the drafting of the Constitution in 1919 and was raised on several occasions subsequently until the introduction of a corresponding obligation in the Constitution by the Instrument of Amendment of 1946. The analysis of the reports was referred to the Committee of Experts by the Governing Body in 1950. Because of the small number of reports received under article 19, the Committee decided to combine the information thus obtained with the information deriving from the reports submitted in accordance with article 22. The last time the Governing Body discussed the matter was in 2003 (see GB.288/LILS/1 paras 9–10 and 13–16).

³⁴ See also para. 22 above.

3.1. Overall framework

55. Any operational strategy for standards-related technical cooperation must take into account current trends and changes in the policy and institutional environment within the ILO, in the countries within which the tripartite constituents operate, the United Nations system and the broader development arena. The general tendencies to move towards decentralization and country programming and to pursue coherence and national ownership through harmonization and alignment with national priorities (e.g. as stipulated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness) are particularly important.
56. At the global level, the processes of United Nations reforms aim at ensuring coherence of objectives and approaches, synthesized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the vision of “One UN” at the country level. Within this framework, the Common Country Assessment (CCA), and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) remain the main instruments to analyse the country situation and set country-specific goals and targets, in conjunction with the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and other national development strategies, which bring most development actors together.
57. The ILO Strategic Policy Framework, 2006–09, identified the DWCPs as the key mechanism for delivering ILO technical cooperation at the country level and as an instrument to define its role within the wider UN country-level programming. DWCPs should clearly bring out the comparative advantages of the ILO, related to its normative role and its tripartite composition. As underlined by the International Labour Conference, the DWCP should be firmly based on national demand and ownership by the tripartite constituents and should not only be aligned with and contribute to the UNDAF, but also, where feasible, be undertaken in partnerships with other actors.
58. Country programming provides a hitherto unseen opportunity for mainstreaming the promotion and implementation of standards into the broader national framework for development and technical cooperation, including DWCPs and UNDAFs. The presence of standards specialists in the field constitutes a unique resource for promoting standards in technical cooperation strategies and programmes at the country level. In parallel, the combined thematic and geographical focus allows the ILO to identify thematic gaps, needs and priorities – and to initiate strategic technical cooperation initiatives to address them.

3.2. Main elements of an operational strategy for standards-related technical cooperation

59. An operational strategy for standards-related technical cooperation should be based on the following:
- The promotion and implementation of standards contribute to the broader internationally agreed development objectives of promoting human rights, democracy, good governance and poverty reduction and should thus be a crucial and integrated element of country-level programming and technical cooperation, through the DWCPs, CCA/ UNDAF, PRS and other national development strategies.
 - The standards-related activities of the ILO, including the analyses and guidance provided by the supervisory bodies, comprise a strategic resource that can inform and facilitate the development of technical cooperation strategies and programmes by the ILO, its tripartite constituents, as well as by other donor agencies, including development banks.

- The institutional structures of the Standards Department and field specialists will allow the ILO to combine inputs to country-level programming with strategic interventions addressing gaps, needs and priorities that have been identified through the supervisory bodies and national consultations. This will ensure a strategic and proactive approach that will still be flexible and demand driven at the country level.
 - Training and capacity building constitute essential elements for promoting and applying standards and should be an integral part of both national and strategic interventions, undertaken by the Office and the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin (“Turin Centre”).
60. The priorities and character of specific standards-related technical cooperation carried out by the Office should be carefully designed in order to reflect the fundamental values and core mandate of the Organization. In parallel, the Office should actively pursue a strategy to include standards in the broader technical cooperation policies and programmes of other donor agencies. The generally accepted human rights-based approach to development as well as the lead role assigned to the ILO within the United Nations system to promote decent work provide important entry points in this regard.

3.2.1. Typology of standards-related interventions initiated by the ILO

61. The full application of standards is often a longer-term process comprising the three basic steps of promotion, ratification and implementation. In terms of technical cooperation, the different types of interventions that bring out the comparative advantage of the ILO are tied to these steps:
- *Pre-ratification:* Focus on promotional work; follow-up to the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party; identification of national needs and priorities; research and data gathering; training and institutional capacity building; dissemination of information and awareness raising.
 - *Ratification:* Focus on legal advice; support for establishing national mechanisms and capacity to apply standards: legal technical assistance; training and institutional capacity building.
 - *Implementation:* Focus on addressing longer-term capacity-building needs and responding to comments of the supervisory bodies; strengthening of data collection and reporting capacity; training and institutional capacity building; documentation and exchange of experience and good practice; inclusion of standards in broader technical cooperation policies and programmes by the ILO and other donor agencies including development banks.
62. Within this generic typology of technical cooperation activities there can be both strategic interventions to address thematic needs and priorities at the international, regional and/or subregional levels as well as interventions to include standards in the country-level programming of the ILO and other donor agencies.

3.2.2. Strategic technical cooperation interventions to address thematic priorities

63. The information and comments provided through the supervisory system, the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party, as well as consultations with constituents and donor agencies, including development banks, serve to define needs and priorities that can be

addressed efficiently and cost-effectively through strategic technical cooperation activities. Such data could be gathered in a single country profile.³⁵

64. Technical cooperation activities can promote a single Convention³⁶ or a group of related standards, address specific target groups, or build capacity in constituents and donor agencies to follow and contribute to standards-related procedures, including reporting and the application of standards at the national level.
65. Training activities are crucial and the interregional and subregional courses offered by the Turin Centre are thus key elements of this strategy. The collaboration with the Turin Centre should thus be further strengthened, complementing the technical expertise with the specialization in training methodologies and materials.

3.2.3. Including standards in the country level programming of ILO and broader technical cooperation policies and programmes

66. In order to maximize the impact of limited resources, it is necessary to carefully identify the standards-related needs, priorities and opportunities at the country level, for example on the basis of a country profile. The priorities and needs will vary from country to country in terms of substance, duration and scale of intervention, and the procedural entry points will depend on the programming cycle related to the DWCP, the UNDAF and/or the PRS and other national development plans. Dissemination and communication of the specific standards-related obligations of a given country and the related comments from the supervisory bodies to development partners will be necessary to ensure a proactive approach.
67. In order to establish the most efficient implementation mechanism, the comparative advantage and the added value of ILO assistance should be assessed in each case and integrated with the DWCP and national training programmes undertaken by the Turin Centre and other donor agencies, including development banks. Furthermore, opportunities for promoting and implementing standards through broader technical cooperation policies and programmes should be identified. In these cases, the ILO should act as a knowledge-provider by informing, advising and influencing national development processes, which have the potential of profoundly impacting country situations.

3.2.4. Implementation mechanisms

68. The strategy will operate with three main implementation mechanisms:
 - Strategic interventions to address thematic priorities, initiated by the Standards Department in partnership with other technical departments of the Office, the tripartite constituents and other institutions where relevant and feasible.
 - Inclusion of standards in the country level programming of technical cooperation (the DWCP, the CCA/UNDAF, PRS and other national development plans), to be mainly promoted by the standards and other technical specialists in the field and constituents, with technical back-up and support from the Standards Department.

³⁵ See also para. 21.

³⁶ For instance, in the case of the action plan to achieve the widespread ratification and effective implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

- Development of specific standards-related technical cooperation activities and programmes at the country level within the framework of the DWCP, to be developed by the programming units in the ILO field offices and technical units at headquarters, in close collaboration with the standards specialists in the field, the Standards Department and other partners such as the Turin Centre.
69. The implementation mechanisms will build on existing structures and partnerships at headquarters and in the regions and measures will be taken, as appropriate, to enhance these partnerships.
70. As a general principle, specific standards-related technical cooperation activities and programmes at the country level should, to the extent possible, be implemented through the tripartite constituents and other local partners in order to ensure cost efficiency, local capacity building and sensitivity to national context. In order to improve effectiveness and facilitate monitoring and evaluation, all interventions will be designed in accordance with the principles of results-based management, providing clear objectives, outputs and stipulating benchmarks and indicators that will allow the measurement of performance and impact.
71. The implementation of a new strategy for standards-related technical cooperation will require time and a step-by-step approach in order gradually to develop adequate implementation mechanisms and make adjustments according to experience gained.

3.2.5. Resource mobilization

72. The Standards Department and the standards specialists in the field are often faced with constraints related to the limited resources available for standards-related technical cooperation. Therefore it is necessary to go beyond the limited resources available through the regular budget for technical cooperation (RBTC) funds and mobilize extra-budgetary resources.
73. Such initiatives will be based on the Office's general resource mobilization strategy as adopted by the Governing Body in November 2004³⁷ and endorsed in the conclusions of the Committee on Technical Cooperation at the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference (May–June 2006). The Standards Department, in close collaboration and coordination with the Department for Partnerships and Development Cooperation, will identify opportunities for engaging in dialogue and strengthening partnerships with donors on the promotion of standards, and will also work jointly to strengthen the implementation capacity of the Standards Department and field specialists.

4. Enhanced access to the standards system and broader visibility

74. The ILO's Strategic Policy Framework 2006–09 called for an effective communications policy that would enable the ILO to reach a broad audience worldwide and to communicate its message, values and policies. International labour standards constitute a primary area for implementing such a policy as they embody the Organization's values.

³⁷ GB.291/TC/1.

75. To enhance the visibility of the standards system but also to merge all the components of the strategy, three objectives have been identified for the implementation of the fourth pillar of the strategy:
- streamlining the supply of reports by governments through an innovative use of information technology;
 - providing enhanced access to information on international labour standards stored in a reliable and up to date knowledge base;
 - improving the visibility of international standards by reaching the ILO's tripartite constituents and the broader public.

4.1. Streamlining the supply of reports by governments through an innovative use of information technology: Preliminary consideration

76. At the specific request of some governments, the Office has given preliminary consideration to the development of an online reporting system, i.e. a system functioning through an Internet application, bearing in mind the necessity of addressing the difficulties encountered by some countries with respect to the use of information technology. To that end the Office has had access to the innovative arrangements put in place under two treaties.
77. An online reporting system is in operation under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (adopted on 22 May 2001). From the general information gathered at this stage (the system operated is password protected), it appears that the system is addressed to the national officers responsible for the submission of reports, at periodic intervals, on measures taken to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. These officers are thus able to fill in the forms online, correct them as appropriate and finally submit the report to the international secretariat. It also seems that they are requested to submit statistical data and to describe national action plans giving effect to the Convention or to explain the reason for the lack of such action plans. It is also possible to fill offline a document in word-processing format. When testing the system, countries with poor Internet connection are encouraged to submit comments as to whether the use of the system is feasible for them.
78. With respect to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, adopted on 22 March 1989, reports are to be submitted on the basis of questionnaires available online in text processing and spreadsheet format. It is worth noting that, on the basis of information supplied by the parties in previous reports, the secretariat pre-fills questionnaires to be completed by the parties for reporting purposes, with the express aim of lessening their reporting burden.
79. As far as the ILO supervisory system is concerned, the main advantage for governments of an online reporting system would be an alleviated reporting burden: it should be much easier for governments to identify and focus on the questions they have to address in their reports and for the Office to pre-fill some sections, such as the ones relating to the national legislation. To that end, measures taken to improve the readability and the consistency of the comments of the Committee of Experts or to render report forms easier to answer would seem quite necessary. An online reporting system would also require expanding the current databases on international labour standards. Indeed, these databases would be at the basis of the functioning of the system and would thus have to be upgraded to support it and

store the information generated by it. Through the combination of an online reporting system and upgraded databases, a wide range of information on national legislation and practice would thus be made accessible, with protected access, where necessary.

80. If the Governing Body agrees, a comprehensive proposal for the implementation of such a system could be submitted at its 301st Session (March 2008). This proposal would examine the situation of countries having difficulties with their Internet connection, or lacking the necessary equipment to use the system and submit appropriate proposals.

4.2. Enhanced access to information on international labour standards through a reliable and up to date knowledge base

81. The Standards Department has in place and manages four databases: APPLIS, ILOLEX, NATLEX, LIBSYND.³⁸ The scope of these databases is large. They are technologically diverse and complex, but they are the most visited department-specific information products of the ILO, with over 1 million external user requests per month. They are at the core of the knowledge base on international labour standards and important tools of dissemination of information as well as of visibility for international labour standards and the supervisory system. On the other hand, there has been a reduction in resources available for these services as well. To date, this reduction has been compensated through some external fund raising (notably from the United States Department of Labor), which has enabled use of more modern technologies, and through efforts to rationalize the collection and analysis of legal information.

82. The three databases on international labour standards (APPLIS, LIBSYND and ILOLEX) are in need of major technological investment and development in the coming years to maintain the necessary quality of services provided and to support the implementation of the strategy. Some technical developments are currently under way. However, additional external fund raising, as well as the allocation of appropriate human resources, may be necessary to finance this overall and integrated upgrade. As for the database on national legislation (NATLEX), which was recently upgraded, it is the only knowledge base in the world on national labour law with a broad thematic and geographic scope. This important tool for the Office and constituents provides not only for a legislative alert mechanism, but also provides access to an increasing number of full texts of national legislation. For this reason, it can be considered as an Organization-wide product. Consideration is being given to modalities to administer and maintain the database through closer coordination between all the departments of the Office concerned.

83. Furthermore, a NATLEX country profile portal, giving access to all standards-related information regarding a particular member State, is now online on the department web site.³⁹ This portal mainly draws from the four databases administered by the department to include accurate and regularly updated information by country on: ratification of

³⁸ APPLIS: The database managing reporting obligations and the registry of incoming reports. Designed to generate report requests, handle report reception, and manage workload in the International Labour Standards Department. ILOLEX: The database which includes a set of three full text databases of standards-related ILO documents in three languages. Designed to search for terms and expressions inside documents. LIBSYND: The database which keeps track of the discussions of the Committee on Freedom of Association. Designed to handle case-related information and documents. NATLEX: The database on national labour legislation.

³⁹ http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/country_profiles.home.

Conventions, including proposals for ratification of up to date and revised Conventions;⁴⁰ comments of all supervisory bodies; basic national laws; legislative profiles;⁴¹ and legal research links. The information and related documents on standards are thus easier to find and use. This tool aims at ensuring that all the information generated by the supervisory system is shared within the Office, with constituents, as well as with other agencies and the public. The portal is designed to include additional information (e.g. cases of progress noted by the Committee of Experts) or documents (e.g. mission reports), and links to other relevant technical cooperation documents (e.g. DWCPs). Subject to the availability of resources, it will be further developed to respond to the particular needs arising from the implementation of the strategy. In particular, it is proposed to use this portal with a view to developing integrated information offering a complete picture for each country on international labour standards.

4.3. Reaching the ILO's tripartite constituents and the broader public

- 84.** Broadly speaking, in order to reach the widest possible audience, the dissemination of the information on standards should be: (i) integrated into the Organization's activities and programmes, including its use of communication technology to reach the broader public in close collaboration with the Department of Communication and Public Information; (ii) carefully geared to the objectives sought and the target audience.
- 85.** The audiences targeted by the ILO's products and activities relating to information on standards include: (i) the people and institutions that are directly concerned, i.e. the constituents, the Office and intergovernmental organizations; (ii) the people and institutions that also have a direct interest but do not have a very extensive knowledge of the standard-setting system, i.e. legal practitioners, judges, Members of Parliament, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, universities and the media; and (iii) the broader public in so far as they are interested in labour issues in general. For the first two groups, collaboration between the Office and the Turin Centre is fundamental.
- 86.** The developments above have provided indications as to ILO constituents' priorities in terms of training. On the other hand, for other international organizations a specific approach will be needed. This approach will have to be integrated into the Organization's overall efforts to collaborate with other international organizations in order to promote decent work, as advocated in the Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on full and productive employment and decent work. Clearly, too, the dissemination of information on international labour standards will need to be an integral part of the ILO's awareness campaigns aimed at encouraging the United Nations specialized agencies and the international financial agencies to embrace the Decent Work Agenda.
- 87.** As for the second group, international standards will continue to be disseminated through the training activities conducted by the Turin Centre, including those directed at journalists. In the latter case, the training could be run in parallel with an awareness programme, for example, by extracting information that might be of interest to the media from the work of the supervisory bodies and putting it into an appropriate format. This method could be used whenever the supervisory bodies single out a country's progress or good practices in the labour field that are of topical interest.

⁴⁰ Following up on the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party.

⁴¹ Including profiles developed under the integrated approach to occupational safety and health as well as migrant workers.

88. The best way to reach the broader public is through the ILO's web site on international labour standards. The site was recently reorganized so as to update the information published and make it easier to do so in future. What is needed now is to make the site more user-friendly for each user's category. Different modules – such as the module developed for the Maritime Labour Convention in 2006 – could be designed so that different users can access the same information, but from different entry points according to their foreseeable needs.

5. Conclusions: Proposed plan of action

89. Multiple actions are proposed for implementing the four components of the strategy outlined above. Together they can form an action plan contributing, in a consistent and effective manner, to enhancing the impact of the standards system, notably through the DWCPs. For this, the action plan would have to be based on the active and coordinated participation of all the relevant ILO departments, including ACTRAV and ACT/EMP, the field offices and the Turin Centre. The action plan could include the following.

I. Standards policy

- (1) Organize informal tripartite consultations focusing specifically on developing and keeping up to date the body of standards. The consultations could focus on the following issues: to what extent should the new approaches be taken into account in developing new standards? How to ensure that the new standards envisaged constitute an added value vis-à-vis the body of established standards and contribute to making decent work a global objective – bearing in mind the imperatives of development. How to ensure that, with regard to both existing and future standards, the body of standards is kept up to date.
- (2) Resume the discussion of this question in the Committee at a future session of the Governing Body, in the light of these consultations and the debate at the June 2007 session of the Conference on “Strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization”.
- (3) Resume the discussion in the Committee of the status of the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), and the Termination of Employment Recommendation, 1982 (No. 166), as soon as possible.

II. Strengthening an integrated and dynamic supervisory system

- (1) Streamline the sending and processing of information due under article 22, by:
 - (a) an improved follow-up on reporting obligations by giving priority to ILO technical assistance and by increasing the visibility of the work of the supervisory bodies;
 - (b) in close liaison with current promotional campaigns, enhancing the specific contribution to the effectiveness of the supervisory system of the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129), and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144);

(c) adopting one of the following approaches:

either

(i) implementing a series of interim measures:

- extending the reporting cycle for reports due on fundamental and priority Conventions from two to three years;
- reviewing existing report forms subject by subject in order to simplify them, subject to a Governing Body decision as to the urgency of such a measure;
- clearly distinguishing requests that concern fundamental issues and requests that concern the details of implementation (to be considered by the Committee of Experts in the context of the review of its working methods);
- intensifying specific training activities aimed at increasing the participation of employers' and workers' organizations in relation to the supervision of the application of Conventions, and improving its effectiveness;

or

(ii) combining the interim measures (with the exception of the extension of the reporting cycle for reports due on fundamental and priority Conventions) with a review in which a country-based approach is integrated into the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions, subject to the prior presentation of additional information to the Governing Body in the form of a simulation of the country-based approach, accompanied by a precise assessment of the workload of certain governments.

(2) Analyse the dynamics of the supervisory system in terms of:

- (a) the links between the various procedures relating to ratified Conventions including the special procedure for freedom of association;
- (b) the specific case of the obligation to report in relation to non-ratified Conventions and Recommendations (article 19(5)(e) and (6)(d)).

III. Integrating international labour standards and technical cooperation

(1) Consider, for the purpose of improving the impact of standards through technical cooperation, the three different steps aiming at the full application of standards – promotion, ratification and implementation – involving different types of intervention, which should be:

- (a) *pre-ratification*: focus on promotional work: follow-up to the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party; identification of national needs and priorities; research and data gathering; training and institutional capacity building; dissemination of information and awareness raising;

- (b) *ratification*: focus on legal advice; supporting the establishment of national mechanisms and increasing the capacity to apply standards; legal technical assistance; training and institutional capacity building;
 - (c) *implementation*: focus on addressing longer-term capacity-building needs and following up on the comments of the supervisory bodies; strengthening of data collection and reporting capacity; training and institutional capacity building; documentation and exchange of experience and good practice; inclusion of standards in broader technical cooperation policies and programmes by the ILO and donor agencies including development banks.
- (2) In view of these three different steps, developing an integrated programme of action, agreed with the tripartite constituents and taking account of their needs and priorities, for a number of countries on a basis of a normative country profile. This programme of action should be included in the DWCPs.
 - (3) In this regard, it would be necessary to select, as a pilot, a certain number of countries according to a set of specific criteria which could be: an existing DWCP, effective tripartism, the status of the follow-up to the comments of the supervisory bodies, and the status of the follow-up to the conclusions of the Cartier Working Party.
 - (4) Mobilizing resources in collaboration with the Department for Partnerships and Development Cooperation for the abovementioned action programme.
 - (5) Training staff in headquarters and field offices to enhance implementation capacity and building the capacity of ILO technical departments to integrate standards in technical cooperation programmes.
 - (6) Developing tools and training materials to more fully integrate standards in DWCPs, CCA/UNDAF and PRSPs.

IV. Enhanced access to the standards system and broader visibility

- (1) In respect of this component the following actions would be called for:
 - (a) To prepare, for the 301st Session of the Governing Body (March 2008), a comprehensive proposal for the implementation of an online reporting system, which would include examination of the situation of countries having difficulties with their Internet connection, or lacking the necessary equipment to use the system.
 - (b) To maintain and upgrade, through appropriate funding, the three databases on international labour standards (APPLIS, LIBSYND and ILOLEX), the database on national legislation (NATLEX) and the new NATLEX country profiles portal, as major tools for a reliable and up to date knowledge base on the standards system.
 - (c) In cooperation with the Turin Centre, to take additional steps to enhance the visibility of the standards system within the framework of the current training activities and the collaboration to be put in place between the ILO and the other UN organizations and the international financial institutions to promote decent work, and disseminate the standards-related information through specific actions adequately targeting the tripartite constituents and the public at large.

90. *The Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards may wish to:*

- (a) review the various proposals contained in this document;***
- (b) consider the proposed action plan and approve it with any modifications it may consider necessary by indicating, in particular, the areas in respect of which further elaboration or information would be required;***
- (c) express its view on the two options presented concerning the streamlining of the information and reports due under article 22:***

either

- (i) through a further adjustment of the reporting cycle for fundamental and priority Conventions from two to three years, retaining the five-year cycle for other Conventions;***

or

- (ii) through the integration of a country-based approach to the supervision of the application of ratified Conventions with a single cycle of four or five years applicable to all Conventions;***
- (d) make appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body concerning the above.***

Geneva, 1 March 2007.

Point for decision: Paragraph 90.

Appendix I

Follow-up to the conclusions of the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards ¹

Number of ratifications of revised Conventions and denunciations of the corresponding former Conventions (since 1996); number of Conventions proposed for ratification and denunciation

	Revised Conventions that have been ratified	Former Conventions that have been denounced	Revised Conventions proposed for ratification	Former Conventions proposed for denunciation *
AFRICA				
South Africa	–	–	4	2
Algeria	2	2	12	13
Angola	1	1	6	7
Benin	1	2	2	3
Botswana	–	–	1	–
Burkina Faso	1	2	4	5
Burundi	1	1	6	9
Cameroon	1	1	7	11
Cape Verde	–	–	1	1
Central African Republic	1	3	7	10
Comoros	1	3	4	5
Congo	1	2	1	–
Côte d'Ivoire	1	2	7	7
Djibouti	1	6	11	12
Egypt	–	–	10	13
Ethiopia	1	1	–	–
Gabon	–	–	7	11
Ghana	–	–	9	10
Guinea	1	4	4	5
Guinea-Bissau	–	–	8	9
Equatorial Guinea	–	–	1	1
Kenya	–	–	8	8
Lesotho	1	1	3	3
Liberia	–	–	4	6

¹ See GB.283/LILS/WP/PRS/1/2. This table does not take into account the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC).

	Revised Conventions that have been ratified	Former Conventions that have been denounced	Revised Conventions proposed for ratification	Former Conventions proposed for denunciation *
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	–	–	5	5
Madagascar	1	3	1	2
Malawi	–	–	4	7
Mali	1	2	4	5
Morocco	1	1	8	11
Mauritius	–	–	4	5
Mauritania	1	1	8	12
Mozambique	–	–	1	2
Niger	–	–	3	5
Nigeria	2	4	4	5
Uganda	1	1	5	5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	–	–	3	6
Rwanda	–	–	4	8
Sao Tome and Principe	–	–	2	2
Senegal	1	2	4	5
Seychelles	1	5	2	4
Sierra Leone	–	–	7	13
Somalia	–	–	5	4
Sudan	–	–	1	–
Swaziland	1	2	6	9
Tanzania, United Republic of	1	1	4	7
Chad	2	3	1	2
Togo	–	–	1	2
Tunisia	–	1	8	11
Zambia	1	2	4	7
Zimbabwe	–	–	2	1
AMERICAS				
Antigua and Barbuda	–	–	4	3
Argentina	2	6	14	16
Bahamas	1	3	5	8
Barbados	1	3	5	8
Belize	2	5	5	4
Bolivia	1	1	5	6
Brazil	4	6	5	8
Canada	–	–	2	4
Chile	2	8	9	12
Colombia	1	4	9	13
Costa Rica	–	–	4	3
Cuba	1	1	14	20

	Revised Conventions that have been ratified	Former Conventions that have been denounced	Revised Conventions proposed for ratification	Former Conventions proposed for denunciation *
Dominican Republic	1	4	4	4
Dominica	–	–	2	1
El Salvador	–	–	1	2
Ecuador	1	1	3	8
United States	–	–	2	3
Grenada	1	5	3	5
Guatemala	–	–	8	14
Guyana	1	4	5	7
Haiti	–	–	6	7
Honduras	–	–	5	5
Jamaica	1	3	2	4
Mexico	1	1	11	14
Nicaragua	–	–	11	12
Panama	3	7	12	16
Paraguay	–	–	2	4
Peru	1	1	10	20
Saint Lucia	–	–	6	9
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	3	3	2
Suriname	1	1	5	6
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	2	2
Uruguay	2	2	8	9
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	–	–	3	4
ASIA				
Afghanistan	–	–	2	3
Australia	–	–	4	11
Bangladesh	–	–	8	9
Cambodia	–	–	1	1
China	1	3	5	3
Korea, Republic of	–	–	1	–
Fiji	1	3	3	6
Solomon Islands	–	–	5	3
India	–	–	10	11
Indonesia	–	–	2	1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	–	–	3	2
Japan	2	6	5	5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	–	–	1	1
Malaysia	–	–	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	1	2
Myanmar	–	–	6	7

	Revised Conventions that have been ratified	Former Conventions that have been denounced	Revised Conventions proposed for ratification	Former Conventions proposed for denunciation *
New Zealand	1	1	9	16
Pakistan	1	1	7	8
Papua New Guinea	1	2	4	4
Philippines	1	1	4	3
Singapore	1	3	5	6
Sri Lanka	1	4	5	6
Thailand	1	1	2	1
Viet Nam	1	1	1	2
ARAB STATES				
Saudi Arabia	–	–	3	2
Bahrain	–	–	1	–
United Arab Emirates	–	–	1	–
Iraq	–	–	7	8
Jordan	1	1	–	–
Kuwait	–	–	2	1
Lebanon	1	1	7	7
Syrian Arab Republic	–	–	7	10
Yemen	1	1	2	6
EUROPE				
Albania	2	6	1	1
Germany	–	–	3	9
Armenia	–	–	1	2
Austria	2	4	5	8
Azerbaijan	1	1	5	5
Belarus	1	1	4	4
Belgium	3	7	9	10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	12	14
Bulgaria	3	3	15	25
Cyprus	1	3	4	4
Croatia	1	1	10	13
Denmark	1	5	5	6
Spain	2	2	9	17
Estonia	–	–	8	10
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	–	–	12	14
Finland	3	3	2	4
France	3	3	11	18
Georgia	–	–	1	1
Greece	–	–	9	10

	Revised Conventions that have been ratified	Former Conventions that have been denounced	Revised Conventions proposed for ratification	Former Conventions proposed for denunciation *
Hungary	3	7	5	7
Ireland	–	–	7	7
Iceland	1	2	2	2
Israel	–	–	6	7
Italy	3	3	9	16
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	5	5
Latvia	1	3	6	6
Lithuania	–	1	3	2
Luxembourg	–	–	7	12
Malta	–	–	9	9
Moldova, Republic of	2	2	–	–
Norway	2	2	5	9
Uzbekistan	–	–	2	2
Netherlands	2	2	6	10
Poland	–	1	13	20
Portugal	2	2	7	9
Romania	–	–	4	4
United Kingdom	1	4	10	20
Russian Federation	1	1	5	5
San Marino	–	–	1	1
Serbia	–	–	13	14
Slovakia	2	3	5	12
Slovenia	1	1	11	13
Sweden	–	–	3	3
Switzerland	1	4	5	4
Tajikistan	–	–	6	6
Czech Republic	3	4	6	12
Turkey	1	3	4	5
Ukraine	1	1	5	5

* The denunciations include voluntary denunciations and automatic denunciations.

Note: The invitation to ratify certain Conventions is not accompanied by an invitation to denounce the corresponding earlier Convention.

In certain cases the ratification of the new Convention only entails the ipso jure denunciation of the former Convention – or is only accompanied by an invitation to denounce the former Convention – when certain conditions are fulfilled.

Appendix II

Consequences of the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention, in terms of the number of Conventions that will be denounced

	Convention proposed for ratification	Conventions (and Protocol) to be denounced after ratification of the MLC*
Albania	MLC	2
Algeria	MLC	9
Germany	MLC	17
Angola	MLC	6
Argentina	MLC	9
Australia	MLC	10
Azerbaijan	MLC	8
Bahamas	MLC	2
Bangladesh	MLC	2
Barbados	MLC	3
Belarus	MLC	1
Belgium	MLC	17
Belize	MLC	11
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MLC	13
Brazil	MLC	14
Bulgaria	MLC	22
Cameroon	MLC	3
Canada	MLC	10
Chile	MLC	4
China	MLC	3
Cyprus	MLC	5
Colombia	MLC	5
Korea, Republic of	MLC	2
Costa Rica	MLC	6
Côte d'Ivoire	MLC	1
Croatia	MLC	14
Cuba	MLC	10
Denmark	MLC	12
Djibouti	MLC	10
Dominica	MLC	4
Egypt	MLC	15
Spain	MLC	21
Estonia	MLC	9
United States	MLC	7

	Convention proposed for ratification	Conventions (and Protocol) to be denounced after ratification of the MLC*
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MLC	13
Fiji	MLC	1
Finland	MLC	17
France	MLC	25
Georgia	MLC	1
Ghana	MLC	9
Greece	MLC	14
Grenada	MLC	2
Guatemala	MLC	3
Guinea	MLC	3
Guinea-Bissau	MLC	7
Equatorial Guinea	MLC	2
Guyana	MLC	1
Hungary	MLC	8
Solomon Islands	MLC	2
India	MLC	3
Indonesia	MLC	1
Iraq	MLC	10
Ireland	MLC	15
Iceland	MLC	2
Israel	MLC	7
Italy	MLC	19
Jamaica	MLC	2
Japan	MLC	8
Jordan	MLC	1
Kenya	MLC	3
Kyrgyzstan	MLC	8
Latvia	MLC	7
Lebanon	MLC	8
Liberia	MLC	8
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	MLC	1
Lithuania	MLC	3
Luxembourg	MLC	20
Malta	MLC	9
Morocco	MLC	8
Mauritius	MLC	3
Mauritania	MLC	5
Mexico	MLC	14
Moldova, Republic of	MLC	2
Myanmar	MLC	2

	Convention proposed for ratification	Conventions (and Protocol) to be denounced after ratification of the MLC*
Nicaragua	MLC	6
Nigeria	MLC	6
Norway	MLC	20
New Zealand	MLC	14
Pakistan	MLC	2
Panama	MLC	13
Papua New Guinea	MLC	2
Netherlands	MLC	17
Peru	MLC	14
Philippines	MLC	5
Poland	MLC	17
Portugal	MLC	12
Romania	MLC	13
United Kingdom	MLC	15
Russian Federation	MLC	10
Saint Lucia	MLC	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	MLC	2
Serbia	MLC	13
Seychelles	MLC	6
Sierra Leone	MLC	5
Singapore	MLC	3
Slovakia	MLC	2
Slovenia	MLC	15
Somalia	MLC	3
Sri Lanka	MLC	3
Sweden	MLC	15
Switzerland	MLC	4
Syrian Arab Republic	MLC	1
Tajikistan	MLC	8
Tanzania, United Republic of	MLC	2
Czech Republic	MLC	2
Trinidad and Tobago	MLC	2
Tunisia	MLC	7
Turkey	MLC	11
Ukraine	MLC	7
Uruguay	MLC	10
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	MLC	1
Yemen	MLC	2

* In most cases denunciation will be automatic.

Note: The MLC revises 36 Conventions and one Protocol on seafarers. Most of these instruments will be closed to ratification once the MLC enters into force.

Appendix III

Number of up to date Conventions ratified (other than the fundamental Conventions) (67 Conventions)

	Total ratifications	Ratifications since 1996
AFRICA		
South Africa	3	3
Algeria	17	5
Angola	3	0
Benin	9	6
Botswana	6	5
Burkina Faso	15	5
Burundi	5	2
Cameroon	14	0
Cape Verde	3	1
Central African Republic	12	7
Comoros	7	0
Congo	7	2
Côte d'Ivoire	8	1
Djibouti	12	1
Egypt	21	2
Eritrea	0	0
Ethiopia	6	1
Gabon	9	0
Gambia	0	0
Ghana	11	1
Guinea	22	0
Guinea-Bissau	3	0
Equatorial Guinea	1	0
Kenya	15	0
Lesotho	7	6
Liberia	6	4
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	10	0
Madagascar	12	3
Malawi	7	1
Mali	7	0
Morocco	14	5
Mauritius	11	4
Mauritania	7	0

	Total ratifications	Ratifications since 1996
Mozambique	4	2
Namibia	2	1
Niger	10	0
Nigeria	9	3
Uganda	10	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11	2
Rwanda	5	0
Sao Tome and Principe	9	5
Senegal	9	1
Seychelles	11	10
Sierra Leone	4	0
Somalia	2	0
Sudan	3	0
Swaziland	7	0
Tanzania, United Republic of	12	2
Chad	7	4
Togo	4	0
Tunisia	12	0
Zambia	16	2
Zimbabwe	14	10
AMERICAS		
Antigua and Barbuda	13	10
Argentina	19	4
Bahamas	8	2
Barbados	13	1
Belize	17	12
Bolivia	21	2
Brazil	40	10
Canada	5	0
Chile	13	6
Colombia	16	6
Costa Rica	21	1
Cuba	24	2
Dominican Republic	12	6
Dominica	10	5
El Salvador	16	5
Ecuador	27	1
United States	5	1
Grenada	6	0
Guatemala	27	3
Guyana	19	3

	Total ratifications	Ratifications since 1996
Haiti	5	0
Honduras	7	0
Jamaica	8	2
Mexico	29	1
Nicaragua	15	0
Panama	12	2
Paraguay	12	0
Peru	16	3
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	1
Saint Lucia	5	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4	4
Suriname	13	2
Trinidad and Tobago	4	2
Uruguay	35	3
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	22	1
ASIA		
Afghanistan	7	0
Australia	13	1
Bangladesh	6	0
Brunei	0	0
Cambodia	2	1
China	7	3
Korea, Republic of	11	8
Fiji	3	3
Solomon Islands	4	0
India	9	2
Indonesia	4	1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	4	0
Japan	15	3
Kiribati	0	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0	0
Malaysia	3	1
Mongolia	5	4
Myanmar	1	0
Nepal	3	0
New Zealand	7	1
Pakistan	7	1
Papua New Guinea	1	0
Philippines	15	4
Samoa	0	0
Singapore	2	0

	Total ratifications	Ratifications since 1996
Sri Lanka	9	0
Thailand	2	0
Timor-Leste	0	0
Vanuatu	1	1
Viet Nam	5	0
ARAB STATES		
Saudi Arabia	4	1
Bahrain	3	1
United Arab Emirates	1	0
Iraq	26	1
Jordan	13	5
Kuwait	4	2
Lebanon	21	10
Oman	0	0
Qatar	1	0
Syrian Arab Republic	15	1
Yemen	10	1
EUROPE		
Albania	25	23
Germany	31	4
Armenia	17	14
Austria	16	3
Azerbaijan	24	3
Belarus	20	5
Belgium	27	8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	21	1
Bulgaria	22	13
Cyprus	28	4
Croatia	17	2
Denmark	30	3
Spain	43	3
Estonia	8	6
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	21	1
Finland	46	9
France	37	7
Georgia	5	3
Greece	23	3
Hungary	31	4
Ireland	20	6
Iceland	8	2

	Total ratifications	Ratifications since 1996
Israel	15	1
Italy	37	8
Kazakhstan	7	7
Kyrgyzstan	21	6
Latvia	21	3
Lithuania	17	7
Luxembourg	20	10
Malta	16	2
Moldova, Republic of	18	18
Montenegro	0	0
Norway	42	6
Uzbekistan	3	2
Netherlands	39	10
Poland	27	7
Portugal	35	6
Romania	15	5
United Kingdom	21	2
Russian Federation	23	8
San Marino	12	0
Serbia	21	21
Slovakia	29	7
Slovenia	26	6
Sweden	45	5
Switzerland	20	1
Tajikistan	15	0
Czech Republic	28	6
Turkmenistan	0	0
Turkey	20	7
Ukraine	24	9

Appendix IV

1. Total number of reports requested under the regular cycle and number of additional reports requested

Year	Total No. of reports due under the regular cycle, excluding additional reports	Additional reports requested by the supervisory bodies	Reports not received the previous year	1st and 2nd reports following ratification	Total No. of reports requested	Percentage received*
2001	1 488	83	742	233	2 313	65.4
2002	1 492	80	794	1st reports 297	2 366	64.6
2003	1 424	95	822	1st reports 177	2 341	66.0
2004	1 708	73	788	1st reports 105	2 569	64.0
2005	1 650	97	890	1st reports 101	2 637	69.0
2006	1 701	78	807	1st reports 85	2 586	66.5

* At the end of the session of the CEACR.

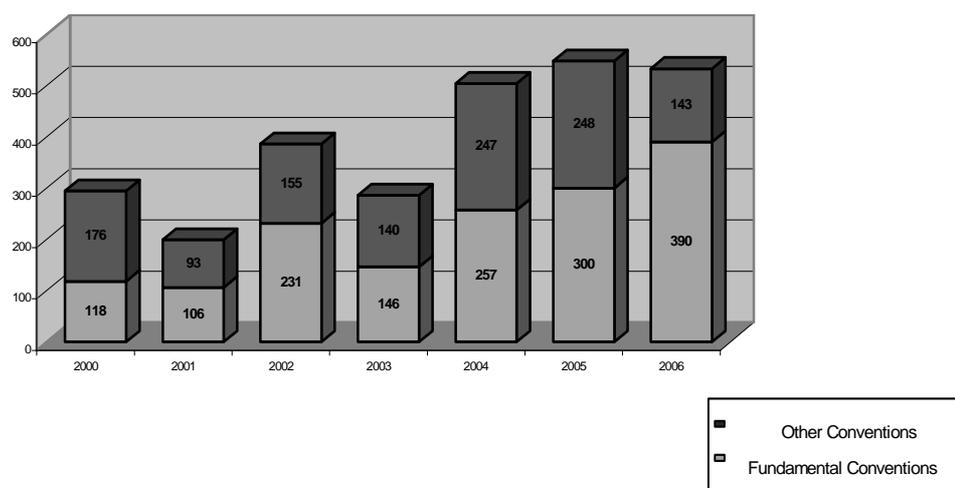
2. Total number of reports requested and received in the course of the year

Year of the Conference	Total No. of reports requested	Reports received by the deadline		Reports received in time for the session of the Committee of Experts		Reports received in time for the session of the Conference	
2001	2 313	598	25.9%	1 513	65.4%	1 672	72.2%
2002	2 366	600	25.3%	1 527	64.6%	1 701	71.8%
2003	2 341	568	24.2%	1 544	66.0%	1 701	72.6%
2004	2 569	659	25.6%	1 645	64.0%	1 852	72.1%
2005	2 637	696	26.4%	1 819	69.0%	2 065	78.3%
2006	2 586	745	28.8%	1 719	66.5%	1 672	72.2%

3. Statistics concerning the work of the Committee of Experts

Year of the session	No. of experts actually appointed (maximum No. set at 20 by the Governing Body)	No. of comments			No. of days per session
		OBS	DR	Total	
2001	19	723	1 394	2 117	16
2002	20	696	1 214	1 910	14
2003	19	643	1 406	2 049	14
2004	17	774	1 419	2 193	14
2005	16	753	1 804	2 557	17
2006	18	853	1 607	2 460	16

4. Number of observations sent by employers' and workers' organizations on ratified Conventions, and distribution by Convention



5. Total number of observations sent by employers' and workers' organizations, including observations sent in years when no report was due

Year	Total No. of reports requested	Total No. of reports received	Total No. of observations sent by occupational organizations	Observations sent in the reporting year	Observations sent in years when no report was due ("ex cycle")	"Ex cycle" observations as % of total No. of comments by the Committee of Experts	"Ex cycle" observations as % of reports received
2001	2 313	1 513	199	147	52	26.1	3.4
2002	2 366	1 527	386	304	82	21.2	5.4
2003	2 341	1 544	286	217	69	24.1	4.5
2004	2 569	1 645	504	372	132	26.2	8.0
2005	2 637	1 819	548	429	119	21.7	6.5
2006	2 586	1 719	533	394	139	26.1	8.1