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International Labour Conference – 113th Session, Geneva, 2025

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Third report of the General Affairs Committee

Summary of proceedings

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Introduction

1. At its opening sitting, on 2 June 2025, the International Labour Conference established the General Affairs Committee. In accordance with article 7(2) of the Standing Orders, the Conference referred to the General Affairs Committee four matters for its consideration:
 - the draft resolution concerning the Second World Summit for Social Development, 2025 (agenda item VII);
 - measures under article 33 of the Constitution to secure compliance by Myanmar with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry (agenda item VIII);
 - approval of the amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006) (agenda item IX);
 - the draft resolution on the status of Palestine in the ILO and participation rights of Palestine in ILO meetings.
2. The Committee had before it documents ILC.113/D.1 and ILC.113/D.2 synthesizing the information on the four matters.
3. In accordance with article 7(1) of the Standing Orders, the Committee was composed of 56 members (28 members nominated by the Government group, 14 members nominated by the Employers' group and 14 members nominated by the Workers' group).
4. The Committee held two sittings.

Election of the Officers of the Committee and a Reporter

5. In accordance with article 37(2) of the Standing Orders, the Committee elected its Officers, and a Reporter, as follows:

Chairperson: H.E. Mr Eldiyor Toshmatov (Government member, Uzbekistan)

Employer Vice-Chairperson: Ms Jacqueline Mugo (Employer member, Kenya)

Worker Vice-Chairperson: Ms Catelene Passchier (Worker member, Netherlands)

Reporter: Ms Cristina Avornic (Government member, Republic of Moldova)

6. In accordance with article 37(6) of the Standing Orders, the Officers approved the report of the Committee submitted to them by the Reporter.

Amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006)

7. The Committee examined seven amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006). The amendments were placed on the agenda of the Conference by the Governing Body having been adopted by the Special Tripartite Committee (STC), established under Article XIII of the MLC, 2006, at its fifth meeting held from 7 to 11 April 2025. The text of the amendments was reproduced in Appendix I of document ILC.113/D.1.
8. The Worker Vice-Chairperson strongly welcomed the amendments. Robust tripartite agreement between governments, shipowners and seafarers had led to amendments to the

Code of the MLC, 2006, that would have real impact on the daily work, life, health and well-being of seafarers. For the first time, seafarers would be referred to as key workers. Governments had made strong commitments to their treatment, the necessity for which had been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in relation to shore leave, repatriation and access to medical care. There was also now a mandatory standard on fair treatment of seafarers, obliging governments to take due account of the *Guidelines on fair treatment of seafarers detained in connexion with alleged crimes*. This was a significant step in preventing the unjust treatment and criminalization of seafarers. The welcome commitment to further action on work and rest hours should be followed up with ongoing discussions on the lack of enforcement of existing regulations and exemptions. Current rest and work hour limits should be reviewed in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization to reduce fatigue. Lastly, there were stronger provisions to prevent and eliminate shipboard violence and harassment. The importance of that issue should not be understated given the number of workers on ships, the confined space, and the length of time spent on board.

9. The Employer Vice-Chairperson also supported the amendments, which addressed matters of clear relevance with practical implications for employers as shipowners. However, the Employers' group cautioned that it was essential to ensure coherence with existing ILO standards and to assess carefully how the proposed changes would operate in practice, particularly for shipowners implementing those provisions in complex, often transnational environments. She invited Member States to analyse thoroughly whether the amendments aligned with national legislation and practice, or whether they would require substantial regulatory and policy adaptation. Advancing decent work must go hand in hand with preserving an enabling environment for enterprise sustainability and job creation in maritime transport. Rules must be clear, feasible and balanced, protecting workers and employers while supporting a thriving, productive and inclusive sector.
10. The representative of the Government of Indonesia commended the work of the STC and welcomed the amendments, which responded to the pressing needs of seafarers and reflected the constructive spirit of cooperation among governments, employers and workers to enhance the rights, welfare and protection of seafarers globally. As one of the world's leading labour-supplying countries in the maritime sector, Indonesia attached great importance to the continuous strengthening of the MLC, 2006. It particularly supported the amendments that ensured non-discriminatory access to repatriation and shore leave, as well as the recognition of seafarers as key workers. These changes reflected lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and were vital to safeguarding the dignity and mobility of seafarers. Furthermore, it appreciated the amendments that mandated clear responsibilities for shipowners regarding the costs of repatriation, as well as improved medical care and training. These provisions would help ensure that seafarers receive adequate protection, especially when operating far from shore or in emergency situations. The Government of Indonesia recognized that the effectiveness of these amendments would depend on practical implementation. Therefore, it called on the ILO to continue providing targeted technical assistance, particularly to developing and labour-supplying countries, to support ratification, capacity-building and monitoring. Technical support could serve not only as a tool for capacity-building, but also as an incentive for wider ratification and deeper commitment to the values enshrined in the MLC, 2006.
11. The Government member of the Republic of Korea voiced his respect for the spirit of the MLC, 2006, and recognized the importance of shore leave for the health and well-being of seafarers. However, following in-depth discussions with the relevant domestic authorities, his Government had difficulty accepting paragraph 3 of Standard A2.4.2 at this time due to prevailing domestic circumstances, including concerns over potential illegal immigration,

challenges in ensuring port security and national security sensitivities associated with his country's status as a divided nation. Nevertheless, with the exception of this paragraph, he expressed full support for the overall intent and all other provisions of the amendment, as well as the other proposed amendments related to the MLC, 2006. He affirmed the Republic of Korea's commitment to continuing to participate in constructive discussions and making every effort to enable the positive consideration of paragraph 3 in the future.

12. The representative of the Government of Pakistan sought to place on record his country's position as previously conveyed to the STC that it held a reservation concerning the proposal to grant blanket or unrestricted visa and free entry to seafarers irrespective of the reason or purpose of entry. A general exemption of this nature was neither feasible nor legally tenable within his country's jurisdiction. He would submit formal notification of this disagreement to the ILO Director-General under Article XV, paragraph 7 of the MLC, 2006.
13. ***The General Affairs Committee decided to recommend to the Conference that it approve the amendments to the Code of the MLC, 2006, through a record vote, adopted by the STC at its fifth meeting, and as set out in Appendix I of document ILC.113/D.1.***

Draft resolution on the status of Palestine in the ILO and participation rights of Palestine in ILO meetings

14. The Committee examined a draft resolution on the status of Palestine in the ILO and participation rights of Palestine in ILO meetings as set out in Appendix III of document ILC.113/D.1.
15. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that this was a question of alignment between the ILO's institutional practice and the broader framework established within the UN system. UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/23 (May 2024) called on UN specialized agencies to extend enhanced participation rights to Palestine, reflecting its status as a non-member observer State and reinforcing the principle of inclusive engagement in multilateral processes. The ILO as a specialized agency had a duty to consider such a recommendation in good faith and to respond with consistency, integrity and clarity. This was not about adjudicating political disputes. This was above all an institutional responsibility to ensure that the ILO's rules and practices reflected both the evolution of the international system and the spirit of constructive engagement that defines the Organization.
16. The Employers' group supported the adoption of the draft resolution, seeing it as a coherent and appropriate step which respected the ILO's legal autonomy and upheld its commitment to dialogue, inclusion and tripartism. Noting past instances in which the ILO had adapted its institutional practice in response to changing realities within the UN system, guided by its core values and the importance of maintaining an inclusive rules-based environment, she highlighted Employers' commitment to preserving the ILO's institutional credibility and the integrity of its procedures. The proposed change of Palestine's status, in line with that of other international institutions, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), did not confer full membership nor alter the composition of the Conference or prejudice any future political resolution of the conflict. Instead, it offered a clear and practical way to ensure that the ILO maintained coherence with the UN General Assembly within the scope of its mandate and constitutional framework. The change would also enable more structured engagement with the Palestinian tripartite constituents, including representatives of employers, strengthen the institutional capacity and support for enterprise development, and offer technical cooperation that was responsive to the labour market realities on the ground.

17. The change in status would also affirm the ILO's commitment to all its constituents, even in fragile and protracted crisis settings. Highlighting the extraordinary human cost and psychological toll of the conflict, its profound impact on workers, families, employers and entrepreneurs, many of whom owned small and medium-sized enterprises, the destruction of economic infrastructure and loss of livelihoods, the Employers considered that it was precisely in such contexts that institutional presence and international engagement mattered most. Considering that peace and stability were the prerequisites for decent work, enterprise resilience and social cohesion, supporting Palestine's participation in ILO processes helped reinforce these foundations. In that context, the ILO could serve as a platform for technical cooperation, institutional dialogue and the exchange of good practices that supported recovery and stability.
18. The adoption of the resolution would also allow for greater access of Palestine to ILO technical committees, discussions on labour standards and forums where employment policies are shaped. It offered a path for more systematic engagement on issues such as skills development, occupational safety and health and social protection design, all critical building blocks for any society seeking to rebuild amid adversity. The Employers' group had been guided by three principles: coherence with international practice, responsibility in preserving the ILO's constitutional integrity and empathy for those who continued to endure the consequences of conflict, displacement and economic devastation. This was a decision grounded in institutional logic and the ILO's long-standing commitment to constructive inclusion. The ILO's strength lay in its ability to remain engaged, adapt to evolving realities and ensure that diverse voices were heard even in times of profound difficulty. They hoped this step would contribute modestly but meaningfully to the wider goal of institutional strengthening, economic recovery and human dignity for all.
19. The Worker Vice-Chairperson welcomed discussion of the draft resolution, emphasizing the significance of UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/23. She reiterated the Workers' support for aligning the ILO's position with that of the UN by granting Palestine non-member observer State status and equal participation rights for its social partners within the ILO's tripartite structure. The Office had laid a clear and legally sound path before the Committee. She regarded the proposed change as more than a technical adjustment: it was a long overdue act of institutional justice.
20. She pointed out that, since the UN had adopted the resolution, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had deteriorated catastrophically, with over 50,000 people killed in Gaza to date, including 18,000 children, 12,000 women and entire families. Some 88 per cent of the Gaza Strip lay in ruins; over 1.5 million people had been displaced and lacked access to basic services; and the health system had collapsed. The West Bank, meanwhile, especially Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah, continued to see daily arbitrary arrests, home demolitions and military raids. More than 13,000 workers had been detained; over 200,000 Palestinian workers had lost their jobs in Israel since October 2023, and many were prevented from returning to work. The consequences for families and entire communities were devastating. For workers, this was not just a humanitarian crisis. It was a crisis of international law, of labour rights and of human dignity. It was also a test for the ILO. Although she wondered what remained of that State at the current stage of the conflict, the speaker stated that recognizing Palestine as a non-member observer State and extending full participation rights to its workers and employers was not only legally justified but a moral imperative.
21. Clearly stating the opposition of the Workers' group to maintaining Palestine's "outdated" status as a liberation movement, the Worker Vice-Chairperson urged all delegations to seize

this historic opportunity for Palestine's voice and the voice of its workers to be heard clearly and equally, and to support the adoption of the resolution as proposed without any changes.

22. The representative of the Government of Bahrain, speaking on behalf of the Arab group, welcomed the draft resolution on the status and participation rights of Palestine within the ILO, following the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolution ES-10/23 on the participation of Palestine as a non-member observer State. It was important to recognize the right of Palestine to participate in various ILO meetings in the spirit of that decision. The group supported recommending to the Conference that the draft resolution be adopted.
23. The Government member of Brazil recalled that the draft resolution originated from UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/23, which Brazil co-sponsored, and which: determined that Palestine qualified for membership in the UN and should therefore be admitted as a UN Member State; defined the modalities for the participation of the State of Palestine in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and conferences it convened; and requested that specialized agencies of the United Nations such as the ILO implement it. Brazil supported the adoption of the draft resolution under consideration. It was clear that the State of Palestine's rights of participation must be recognized in all organizations, agencies and entities of the UN system. Its current status within the ILO as a liberation movement was anachronistic and clearly not compatible with its qualification as a state, a status that was recognized by Brazil and more than 140 other nations. The participation rights provided for in the draft resolution should not be controversial; they reflected the modalities described in resolution ES-10/23, adapted to the ILO context and aligned with the acknowledgment of the status of non-member observer State. With the adoption of the resolution as recommended by the Governing Body, Palestine would finally be able to take part in the work of the ILO with a tripartite delegation, bringing the views of the Government, workers and employers to the ILO. That was a crucial step towards the fulfilment of the ILO's mandate in Palestine, promoting social justice and decent work where they were most needed. Brazil reiterated its commitment to a two-State solution with an independent and viable State of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security within the 1967 borders, which include the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
24. The Government member of Spain welcomed the draft resolution. Spain deplored in the strongest terms the unbearable number of victims, especially women and children, the health risks and the lack of drinking water resulting from the intensification of military operations. It condemned obstructions to the entry of aid, the cutting off of electricity, attacks on civilians, the occupation of Palestinian territory and the forcible displacement of Palestinians from their homes in the Gaza Strip, as flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, and called for the entry of humanitarian aid in line with humanitarian principles of independence, impartiality and neutrality. Spain also condemned the ongoing military offensive, demolitions and increased settler violence in the West Bank, which resulted in mass displacement. It called for an immediate and lasting cease fire to allow for the freeing of hostages and the rapid, unimpeded entry of aid into the Gaza Strip, as well as for an end to occupation. Acknowledging the historic challenge faced by the ILO and the multilateral system to establish clear priorities, in light of dwindling financial resources, Spain urged that emergency assistance to Palestinians not be prejudiced at this time of urgent need.
25. Spain supported the draft resolution under which Palestine would obtain the status of non-member observer State at ILO meetings and be granted a series of rights. This aligned with decisions taken in other multilateral forums, which Spain had supported, such as resolution ES-10/23 and the most recent resolution adopted by the WHO on 1 June 2024. It also aligned with Spain's national position recognizing the State of Palestine in May 2024, along

with several other UN Member States. Spain called for a two-State solution as the only way to guarantee to the people of that region their legitimate rights to peace and security and guarantee regional stability.

26. The Government member of France urgently called for an end to the war through an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza; the unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas; and the immediate unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza into the Strip. In May 2024, the UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution on the status of Palestine following which, in October–November 2024, the ILO Governing Body had approved by consensus a decision to recommend to the Conference that it adopt a resolution allowing Palestine to participate in ILO meetings as a non-member observer State, with the rights and privileges already recognized by the WHO and the UN General Assembly. As a logical next step, the Conference should, in line with the General Assembly's decision and the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, adopt the draft resolution put to it by the Governing Body. Hence, as at the session of the Governing Body in October–November 2024, France supported the resolution. This decision must help raise awareness of the fact that it was time for the UN to frame its actions in the context of a settlement of the conflict, based on a two-State solution. That was the only way to meet Israel's security needs while also giving effect to the legitimate aspiration of Palestinians for a state. Hence, France would be co-chairing with Saudi Arabia an international conference on the two-State solution from 17 to 20 June at the United Nations in New York, to examine concrete measures to implement the two-State solution, gather momentum for the collective recognition of Palestine, support the Palestinian Authority in its reforms, and work towards the regional integration of Israel and the consideration of its security needs, starting with disarming Hamas and ensuring it has no place in Gaza's future governance arrangements.
27. The Government member of China recalled that the Governing Body had adopted a decision regarding the status of Palestine within the ILO and its right to participate in ILO meetings, and had recommended to the Conference to approve it. The decision was aligned with UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/23 (May 2024) which recognized that Palestine qualified for full membership in the United Nations. China welcomed and supported the UN resolution and commended the ILO for taking prompt and concrete action in response. Highlighting the role of Palestine in global labour governance, China noted that the ILO had long supported Palestine through its development cooperation programmes, working continuously to safeguard the rights and interests of Palestinian workers and employers and to promote Palestine's economic and social development. China supported the ILO and relevant parties in continuing and strengthening efforts in that regard. China supported the ILO's future invitation for Palestine to participate in its meetings as a non-member observer State with corresponding rights. The Government of China believed that, by adopting the draft resolution, the ILO would demonstrate its commitment to keeping pace with the times and adapting to changes in the world of work, showing vitality and dynamism. China supported the draft resolution.
28. The Government member of Cuba expressed her Government's clear and firm position in defence of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine to justice, equality and self-determination. Noting that the status of Palestine within the ILO and its right to participate in meetings could no longer be postponed or subject to arbitrary limitations, Cuba affirmed the Palestinian people's right to be fully involved in the multilateral system, including the ILO. Hence, Cuba supported the recommendation from the Governing Body that Palestine be recognized as a non-member observer State, putting an end to its classification as a liberation movement. That was just, necessary and a question of basic historical justice, as well as a

question of fairness and respect for the sovereignty of peoples. General Assembly decisions and the evolution of the international recognition of Palestine could no longer be kept outside the scope of the ILO. Giving Palestine the right to present a tripartite delegation and be fully involved in technical meetings, regional meetings and plenaries of the ILO was just and would strengthen the spirit of international cooperation. Cuba therefore supported granting Palestine additional participation rights, including the right to speak in plenaries, be included in lists of speakers, make proposals and co-sponsor initiatives. Her Government emphasized that recognition of those rights should not be seen as an exceptional act or as a temporary precedent. The international community must move firmly ahead towards the complete integration of Palestine in multilateral organizations, including the ILO. Cuba strongly condemned the indiscriminate attacks by Israel against the Palestinian people, which had led to a humanitarian crisis without precedent. The systematic attacks against civilians, criminal blockade of essential supplies and destruction of vital infrastructure were not just a violation of international law and international humanitarian law – they also perpetuated the suffering of millions of innocent people and instability in the region. The ILO, as an organization that watched over labour rights and the well-being of peoples, could not remain indifferent to that exceptional reality. International organizations, including the ILO, must adopt measures to protect the rights of the Palestinian people and guarantee them decent living conditions. Cuba reiterated its firm and unshaking commitment to defending the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Multilateralism could not be selective. To achieve a world based on respect and equality, Palestine must be fully integrated into the ILO and other mechanisms of international governance. Hence, Cuba would be voting in favour of the draft resolution and called upon other Member States to do the same.

29. The representative of the Government of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), welcomed and supported the draft resolution, which complemented UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/23. The draft resolution was a legal document enacting important decisions consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the ILO. Its adoption was a moral imperative to remedy a long-standing historic injustice. While deploring Israel's genocidal campaign, the speaker stated that the decision embodied the irreversible and irrepressible progress of the Palestinian people under occupation towards their legitimate aspiration for equal rights, inherent dignity and full statehood, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The group therefore support the resolution and looked forward to its adoption by the Conference.
30. The Government member of Hungary reiterated her Government's explanation of its position delivered during the 352nd Session (October–November 2024) of the Governing Body. Hungary firmly believed that sustainable peace in the region could be achieved only through negotiations between the parties and was therefore concerned that one-sided actions such as the tabled resolution may not effectively contribute to that objective. Consequently, her Government did not believe the proposed decision would bring any tangible improvements for Palestinian workers and did not support the resolution.
31. The Government member of Tunisia underscored the right of Palestine to enjoy full member status within the ILO and the United Nations, as integral to the right of Palestinians to self-determination. It was not just a question of status, but of remedying a historic injustice. It was also fully in line with appropriate resolutions of the UN General Assembly, including resolution ES-10/23, which recognized Palestine's right to participate within the UN General Assembly and called on UN specialized agencies to also grant it the same rights and privileges. This must guide decisions at the ILO. Those were fundamental privileges and rights enjoyed

by all states participating in the work of the United Nations. Tunisia therefore supported the resolution and called upon all to adopt it.

32. The representative of the Government of Chile expressed firm support of the draft resolution. Since 2011, Chile had recognized Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign state and had consistently defended its right to full participation and effective involvement in multilateral forums in accordance with the principles of international law and the Charter of the UN. Chile unequivocally supported the decision of the Governing Body to recommend that Palestine be granted the status of non-member observer State, replacing that of liberation movement. That reflected institutional evolution in the UN system and affirmed the legitimacy of Palestine and its participation on an equal footing with other non-member observer States. The draft resolution submitted to the Conference was a concrete step forward in guaranteeing Palestine more complete, dignified and representative participation in the ILO, the possibility of nominating a tripartite delegation, presenting proposed amendments, speaking on behalf of other governments, and occupy an equal seat among observer States. It was not just an act of institutional justice, but also recognition of the fundamental principles of the ILO – social dialogue, inclusion and the search for peace through decent work. Chile was deeply concerned by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and its devastating human, social and legal consequences. The Government and people of Chile expressed solidarity with workers and employers in Palestine, their families and all civilians affected by this crisis. In that spirit, the adoption of the draft resolution represented a step forward in integrating Palestine into the multilateral system, and contributed to global efforts for a lasting and fair peace based on dignity and the rights of all people. Hence, Chile fully supported the draft resolution and called on the other parties to the Conference to do so too.
33. The representative of the Government of Indonesia felt the matter was one of enduring principles and forward-looking opportunity. The proposal was timely, constructive and consistent with broader development in the UN system, particularly General Assembly resolution ES-10/23, adopted with overwhelming support. That was not merely a procedural adjustment. It was a recognition of the need to enhance inclusivity, promote dialogue and uphold the spirit of cooperation that lay at the heart of ILO's mandate. It was also an affirmation that tripartism and multilateralism thrived when engagement was open and equitable. Above all, the resolution was an affirmation of the ILO's founding values – social justice, equality and universality. By enabling Palestine's meaningful participation in international processes, the decision could serve as a constructive contribution to a broader global effort toward dialogue, stability and ultimately peace in Palestine and the region. Indonesia called on all Member States to support and adopt the draft resolution and to welcome Palestine to participate in ILO meetings as a non-member observer State with a tripartite delegation representing the voices of the Government, workers and employers. Such participation would enrich deliberation and embody the spirit of inclusive dialogue that defined the ILO. The present moment should be used to build bridges, not barriers, to open space for meaningful participation, and to ensure that no voice was left unheard at the ILO.
34. The representative of the Government of Switzerland thanked the ILO for its tireless commitment to inclusive governance that respected the fundamental rights and dignity of all peoples. Switzerland wholeheartedly supported the draft resolution to elevate the status of Palestine within the ILO from that of a liberation movement to that of a non-member observer State. That would align the rights and privileges of the Palestinian delegation with those it enjoyed in the UN General Assembly since 10 May 2024, an approach that Switzerland fully supported. Switzerland had voted in favour of granting observer status to Palestine in the United Nations in 2012, and since then Palestine had done honour to that status. Switzerland

encouraged the harmonization of the status of Palestine in different international organizations to guarantee coherence within the UN multilateral system and to align with decisions taken at the UN General Assembly. His Government was convinced that this approach would contribute to strengthening dialogue, cooperation, representativeness and respect for rights within the ILO.

35. The representative of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that the 113th Session of the Conference was occurring at a historical moment which called for deep reflection, compromise, and commitments on the part of representatives of peoples and especially of workers. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated its support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom, independence and sovereignty, supported the recognition Palestine deserved and called on all ILO Member States to recognize the Palestinian State as an act of historical justice. As said by the Comandante of the Bolivarian Revolution, Hugo Chávez Frías, to then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, “recognizing Palestine was an act of justice that could close wounds and pave the way towards lasting peace”. Citing the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Francesca Albanese, who stated that “the court of history will judge us and its conclusion will be implacable for those who deny that there is genocide in Gaza”, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela demanded an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, an end to the genocide and accountability through international justice for crimes against humanity committed by Israel as occupying power. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also called for renewed momentum for social justice and dignity of every worker in Palestine and in the Golan, so they could be heard, respected and could construct a future of hope. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela fully supported the draft resolution on the status of Palestine and its participation rights at the ILO and expressed faith that the international community would allow Palestine to progress towards full integration, recognizing its right to exist and realize its aspirations. Stating that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela could not accept any attempts to extinguish a nation by force, the speaker hailed a free, sovereign and independent Palestine.
36. The representative of the Government of Egypt aligned with the Arab group and OIC statements, supporting the resolution, which it saw as a step towards promoting the principle of international legitimacy and justice and achieving UN objectives. The draft resolution allowed for alignment with UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/23 and reflected the historic reality on the ground, recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people who had suffered under occupation for more than seven decades. He highlighted Palestine’s full membership of the United Nations and its specialized agencies as a right based on international resolutions and on the inalienable Palestinian right to self-determination, sovereignty and the creation of an independent state based on 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. This would align with the objectives of the UN Charter and its principles that call for equal rights and self-determination of peoples. It would further align with the objectives and principles of the ILO Constitution, which states that universal and lasting peace is only possible if is based upon social justice.
37. The representative of Palestine thanked and welcomed the statements of all those who had spoken. He expressed his surprise at the statement of the Government member of Hungary, recalling that Hungary had recognized the State of Palestine in the 1980s and urging it to reconsider its position, in alignment with the international community. Palestine qualified for full UN membership on the basis of Article 4 of the UN Charter, fulfilling the four conditions set out in the Montevideo Convention of 1933. The adoption of the draft resolution was a procedural decision. The ILO’s work should not be politicized.

38. The Worker representative of Palestine fully endorsed the Worker Vice-Chairperson's statement which accurately reflected the dire situation on the ground. He noted that, after the Nakba in 1948, another Nakba was now unfolding in Gaza, a disaster that needed to be put before the eyes of the world. He commended the resolution, which would come as a show of solidarity with Palestinians and the workers of Palestine and would reassure Palestinians that the ILO stood for freedom, dignity and justice. He called on the Committee to provide not only moral support, but also material, health and food assistance to the Gaza Strip and for a ceasefire to end the war and the desperate situation in what remains of the Strip.
39. The Worker representative of Algeria welcomed the remarks of the Worker representative of Palestine. He noted that this Conference was a historic occasion and hoped that this day would merely be a milestone on the path leading to full recognition of Palestine as a member of the ILO, with all ensuing statutory rights and privileges. He denounced the ongoing war and genocide in Gaza, costing more than 50,000 lives, the majority workers and their families, as well as the destruction of livelihoods and the forced displacement of Palestinians. He welcomed the draft resolution and expressed wholehearted solidarity with the workers and people of Palestine and their aspiration to the establishment of a free and independent Palestinian State, within internationally recognized borders.
40. ***The General Affairs Committee decided to recommend to the Conference that it adopt the draft Conference resolution on the status of Palestine in the ILO and participation rights of Palestine in ILO meetings as set out in Appendix III of document ILC.113/D.1.***
41. Taking the floor again, the Worker Vice-Chairperson hailed a historic moment for the ILO, noting the broad consensus among those who supported the resolution that this was more than an administrative or organizational decision and highlighting the sense of responsibility and urgency that came with it. She called again for an urgent international effort to put an end to the war and ethnic cleansing and to facilitate immediate humanitarian aid medical care and restoration of livelihoods in the Gaza Strip.

Measures under article 33 of the Constitution to secure compliance by Myanmar with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry

42. The Committee examined a draft resolution concerning the measures recommended by the Governing Body under article 33 of the ILO Constitution on the subject of Myanmar as set out in Appendix II of document ILC.113/D.1.
43. The document prepared for the Committee described the decision taken by the 353rd Session of the Governing Body (March 2025) and contained the latest communication received from the military authorities on 6 May, as well as the Office response.
44. The spokesperson of the Employers' group supported the measures, while recognizing that the situation in Myanmar was very difficult and deeply sensitive. The Employers' group was fully conscious of the gravity and exceptional nature of invoking measures under article 33 of the ILO Constitution. It had been a rarely used mechanism in the Organization's history. Its invocation would carry serious weight, reflecting a collective acknowledgement by ILO constituents of the seriousness of the deteriorating situation on the ground, particularly the violation of labour rights addressed by the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. It was important to recall that article 33 was not a sanctions mechanism. In 1946 the ILO had explicitly removed the economic sanctions approach from its Constitution to give its governance bodies a wider and better tailored range of appropriate measures to secure compliance with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. Any measures taken

must be proportional, evidence-based and clearly benchmarked. Broad punitive approaches that may further endanger livelihoods and social cohesion must be avoided. Instead, the aim should be to support conditions for peace, dialogue and constructive engagement.

45. The livelihood of the people of Myanmar must remain the foremost concern and the ILO must proceed with great care. Any action taken, whether legal or practical, including under article 33, must not inadvertently harm those it was seeking to protect: workers, families and communities already suffering from instability, insecurity and extreme hardship. This included making sure not to undermine the viability of businesses that were striving often under very difficult circumstances to remain independent and to provide income to ensure security of livelihoods. The ILO should not adopt short-term measures that would worsen access to income, food, shelter and basic survival, particularly in the wake of the devastating earthquake that had recently taken place. More than 5,000 people had been killed and twice as many injured including Ministry of Labour officials. This added much more complexity to the case. The ILO's on-the-ground response to the earthquake offering critical support to vulnerable communities was commendable. The ILO liaison office in Yangon should continue to provide technical and legal assistance to help translate the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into feasible step-by-step actions. Supporting progress in a structured way was more likely than isolation to yield results. The recent acceptance by the military authorities of a possible high-level ILO mission to the country signalled at least some degree of willingness to engage. Any mission must proceed in conditions that enabled objective findings that could effectively inform the case of Myanmar when next discussed at the Committee of Application of Standards in 2026.
46. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that the proposed measures aimed to secure compliance by Myanmar with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry in respect of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). She emphasized that this was a country that had never accepted or implemented the Commission's recommendations. This was important context. The decision to propose measures under article 33 was not taken lightly. The measures contained in the draft resolution were aimed first and foremost at stopping the indiscriminate violence against workers, trade unionists and civilians and creating a safe environment where workers' and employers' organizations could function. This would facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and the Conference resolution of 2021 for a return to democracy and civil liberties in Myanmar. The responses of the Myanmar military authorities to the Governing Body's decision, including quite ambivalent responses to the Director-General's requests for unhindered access of any possible mission were unclear and unsatisfactory. No guarantees had yet been received regarding free access to those the ILO would wish to talk to, nor the safety of those people, and such guarantees had to be a condition of any mission.
47. The Workers' group stood in full solidarity with the people of Myanmar who had been devastated by the earthquake of 28 March 2025 which claimed more than 3,700 lives, injured more than 5,000 civilians and impacted and displaced millions more. There were credible and alarming reports from trade unions, humanitarian organizations and UN agencies that the military regime had deliberately been obstructing life-saving humanitarian aid to earthquake-affected areas, particularly those under the control of the opposition forces in Sagaing, Mandalay and Shan State. Relief convoys and trade unionists had even been attacked by the military. Further, the military had used prior permission requirements to search and detain humanitarian aid workers and divert relief supplies to military warehouses, leaving earthquake victims without food, clean water, medical care and sanitation supplies. Despite the temporary

ceasefire announced by the resistance groups and the military regime itself on 2 April 2025, air strikes continued across the country, killing at least 506 people and injuring thousands more. Leading members of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM), including its president Maung Maung, were hit by an artillery strike. Forced conscription, including of up to 1 million Rohingyas, and arbitrary arrests continued. Schools, hospitals, clinics, refugee camps, churches, monasteries, markets, public and religious gatherings remained the targets of attack. Such acts of the military made the environment even more difficult and dangerous for trade unionists and humanitarian workers. The imprisonment of 69 trade unionists from CTUM and another trade union federation, Myanmar Industries, Crafts and Services Trade Unions Federation (MICS TUsF), including its President, continued. There were reports that he had been tortured. The exercise of trade union rights and civil liberties were considered by the regime to be acts of high treason. Since 2021, two members of the teachers' union had been executed and another two had been sentenced to life imprisonment in a military court. A youth activist was arrested for organizing demonstrations in Yangon and Saigang region calling on the ILO to invoke article 33, demonstrating that the very act of calling on the ILO for help was seen as an act against the military regime. At least 8 trade unionists and 12 political prisoners at Obo prison in Mandalay, whose release had long been called for, were killed by the earthquake. A total of 60,000 workers in a shoe factory in Yangon stopped work to demand a rise in their daily wage which at that time was US\$2.60. They were threatened by the management with dismissal and being reported for conscription. Other such cases had been documented. Workers' rights had not just been rolled back in Myanmar, they had been totally abolished.

48. The Worker Vice-Chairperson highlighted that it was an extremely difficult moment in time both for workers and businesses in Myanmar to survive. Adopting the proposed measures would assist the ILO in providing assistance to all those in need of it and put further pressure on the regime to engage with the ILO on the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.
49. The Government member of Poland, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, said that Türkiye, North Macedonia, Albania, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, the EFTA countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, aligned themselves with the statement. The Conference faced a critical decision regarding persistent, grave violations of labour rights in Myanmar. Applying article 33 of the Constitution would send a clear message that the international community did not tolerate systemic non-compliance. The measure was a response to continued, deliberate and grave violations by the Myanmar military of Conventions Nos 87 and 29. The Commission of Inquiry established in response to the violations of the two Conventions had documented very serious incidents and violence against trade union leaders and members committed by the military. The European Union condemned those acts in the strongest terms, along with the ongoing widespread labour rights abuses and oppression of trade unions.
50. The speaker called for the rapid release of the MICS TUsF Secretary General, Thet Hnin Aung, and expressed concern about the reported establishment of a military-backed trade union confederation carrying the same acronym in Burmese as the CTUM. She expressed grave concern at the continuing systematic and widespread forced labour imposed by the military on the people of Myanmar, including children and members of ethnic, religious and other minorities. The military authorities had not demonstrated a meaningful understanding of the gravity of the situation and the need for specific and urgent action in line with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry; beyond general information, no specific indications had been received on concrete action taken to implement those recommendations. The draft resolution was balanced and acknowledged the importance of sustainable

livelihoods under decent working conditions. It provided space to avoid measures that could adversely affect the people of Myanmar, especially the most vulnerable. Its measures were effective, targeted at those responsible for the violations and pressed for the full respect of labour rights as fast as possible. She expressed support for the draft resolution in its entirety and urged the Myanmar military to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

51. The Government member of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, speaking also on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, extended sympathies to the people of Myanmar following the earthquake. The Myanmar military had demonstrated ongoing intransigence in observing Conventions Nos 87 and 29. Since the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry, there had been reports of continued repression of trade unions and labour rights, including through suppression of unionization efforts and the surveillance, harassment and dismissal of those engaged in union activities. Trade unionists continued to be imprisoned, including MICS TUSF Secretary General Thet Hnin Aung, whose release the group and the ILO continued to call for. Reports of continued systematic exploitation of civilians for forced labour including for military uses were concerning. The Myanmar military regime had failed to address the Commission's recommendations. It continued to engage in far-reaching labour law violations and human rights abuses, as laid out in ILO reporting and other UN body findings. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom supported the measures, including the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance with the recommendations. The ILO should continue to monitor developments in the country closely, including the impact of recent events on workers' incomes and livelihoods. Article 33 measures should not exacerbate the dire humanitarian and economic situation, nor should they impact workers in Myanmar. International trade and businesses had a key role to play. Businesses operating in Myanmar should be able to continue while respecting responsible business practices and human rights. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom were committed to working with the ILO and its constituents to secure compliance by the Myanmar military regime with the Commission's recommendations. They supported the draft resolution and called on other constituents to do the same. The military regime must urgently address the grave issues set out.
52. The Government member of the Russian Federation regretted the discussion around article 33 regarding Myanmar, noting a move away from tripartism, social dialogue, impartiality and inclusivity. It was unprecedented that the issue of article 33 in Myanmar was on the Committee's agenda for a second time. The Government of Myanmar had not been allowed to attend the Governing Body session during which the issue was discussed. At all stages, the Myanmar Government had expressed willingness to take certain actions but had not been given the possibility to comply with the obligations laid upon it. That undermined representation within the ILO and ran counter to common sense. Other flagrant violations were observed at a further session of the Governing Body when so-called non-government organizations were given the right to participate in a way that meant that the social partners of Myanmar were able to put forward certain views and not others. Some such organizations that were not in Myanmar and represented no-one in the country had been treated as if they were fully representative social partners. A unilateral, partial approach was being taken in terms of the information provided in the reports to the Governing Body on the situation in Myanmar. Those reports frequently ignored the Government positions, while information from certain unverified sources was put forward as being the only reliable information available on the situation in the country. Once again at the current session, the Myanmar Government had submitted much detailed information on steps taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. As usual, they had been ignored. Positive progress in Myanmar

was only possible based on dialogue that respected all parties and involved all social partners and stakeholders. There had been no such dialogue. Instead, a narrow group of countries had put forward a politicized view of the situation and was trying to politicize the work of the ILO. The Russian Federation categorically objected to that. The Russian Federation very strongly disassociated itself from any decision to apply article 33 to Myanmar.

53. The Government member of the United States of America expressed deep concern over the worsening political, economic and humanitarian crises in Myanmar. Workers in Myanmar continued to face severe repression while trade unions were reporting ongoing violations of workers' human and labour rights. The United States remained steadfast in its solidarity with the people of Myanmar in their struggle for workers' rights and democracy and expressed its deepest sympathy to those affected by the earthquake. The United States echoed the Committee of Experts in its 2025 report in deploring the continued imposition of forced labour practices in Myanmar by the military regime, including continued violations of civil liberties and the rights of workers and employers. It was regrettable that the military authorities had not made clear that there would be no retaliation against individuals engaging with a possible Office mission. Concerningly, the military authorities had yet to accept and carry out the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. The information provided by the regime in response to the Commission's report demonstrated a failure to address numerous violations of its obligations under Conventions Nos 87 and 29. The United States therefore supported the resolution. In implementing the measures, careful assessment was required to ensure they targeted forced labour and freedom of association without disproportionately harming workers and businesses. The aim should be to achieve compliance with the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations while not exceeding the action necessary to do so.
54. The Government member of China drew attention to the communications between the Government of Myanmar and the ILO presented to the Committee in document ILC.113/D.1. Her Government had carefully reviewed the progress report submitted by Myanmar and its efforts to fulfil its obligations under Conventions Nos 87 and 29. The report was comprehensive and detailed, demonstrating the Myanmar Government's cooperative attitude. China had clearly stated its position at past Governing Body sessions and regretted that the matter had been submitted to the Conference. Since 2021, the Government of Myanmar had taken the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry seriously and had actively advanced labour legislation, social dialogue and trade union reform and restructuring. It had also put in place measures against forced labour. China noted the progress made by both sides as indicated in the report regarding the potential visit of a high-level ILO mission. The Government of Myanmar had reiterated its invitation for a high-level ILO mission, notwithstanding its priority to receive international organizations engaged in humanitarian aid and disaster relief. That reflected a positive attitude toward cooperating with the ILO and fulfilling its Convention obligations even amid serious natural disasters and urgent humanitarian needs. Invoking article 33 of the Constitution under the current circumstances was not appropriate. Post-disaster, Myanmar was in urgent need of humanitarian aid and a peaceful and stable environment for recovery. Sanctions would further harm the interests of the country's workers and employers. China urged the ILO to consider the case at the proper time and in a constructive manner. The ILO should maintain communication with the Government of Myanmar and strengthen technical assistance to promote the country's economic and social recovery. China did not support the resolution.
55. The Government member of Japan reported that following the earthquake his country had provided emergency relief supplies, disaster relief medical teams and emergency grant aid through international organizations and would continue to provide humanitarian assistance

to the people of Myanmar. Japan was deeply concerned about the situation in Myanmar and the impact on the lives of many of Myanmar's people, who had been significantly affected over the four years since the coup. Japan strongly urged the Myanmar military to stop the violence immediately, release detainees and swiftly restore Myanmar's democratic political system. In that regard, the ILO fulfilled its mandate by demanding that workers and employers be allowed to undertake their functions without the threat of intimidation or harm and exercise their freedom of association free of violence, arbitrary arrest and detention. Japan called for concrete action to be taken in Myanmar toward implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. The proposed measures had to take into account their impact on the society and people of Myanmar who had been facing difficulties due to social disruption and a stagnating economy for more than four years, especially the negative impact on the stability of the economy and businesses by which Myanmar nationals were employed and obtained wages and decent work. Japan supported the draft resolution.

56. The representative of the Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela did not support the resolution, questioning the effectiveness of the measures when the country they concerned was excluded from discussions. For a solution to be viable and in line with ILO objectives, there must be an opportunity for dialogue and cooperation. In an Organization that enshrined the principles of democracy and multilateralism, constructive dialogue and cooperation between all parties was the most effective way to lasting solutions. Confrontation and acts of political pressure called into question the credibility of the ILO and its commitment to its values. Punitive measures were a failure of diplomacy and negotiation, both of which were essential ILO principles. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the efforts and willingness for dialogue of the Myanmar delegation and hoped the mission to the country would come to pass. Dialogue and cooperation must be strengthened. That would lead to progress beneficial to all, including the workers of the country. A spirit of cooperation, compromise and mutual respect must prevail. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela called for a frank and direct dialogue involving all players in Myanmar society to promote social protection and strengthen labour rights, to the benefit of the people of Myanmar.
57. The representative of the Government of Belarus said the draft resolution was based on a clearly politicized decision of the Governing Body and represented further confirmation of the instrumentalization of the ILO supervisory mechanisms. The Governing Body decision had been adopted at a session at which the Government of Myanmar had not been given the opportunity to present their position. Belarus did not support the draft resolution for the following reasons. A number of assessments of the situation in the country and recommendations to the ILO constituents in the draft resolution went beyond the mandate of the ILO, falling within the exclusive competence of the UN Security Council. In response to the willingness expressed by the Government of Myanmar to cooperate with the ILO in order to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, instead of providing technical assistance to the country, the sponsors of the resolution had called on the ILO constituents to impose sanctions against Myanmar. The example of Belarus clearly showed that some countries perceived the ILO recommendations under article 33 as a legitimization of sanctions. That was evidenced in reports of western countries on the implementation of the recommendations under article 33 in Belarus. Belarus sought clarification from the Office on how the application of article 33 and calls for limited cooperation with the Myanmar authorities would improve the situation of Myanmar workers in the context of the humanitarian crisis and the difficult internal political situation.
58. The representative of the Government of Switzerland stated that the magnitude and seriousness of the developments in Myanmar were of grave concern. Switzerland strongly

condemned the ongoing violations of labour laws and acts of violence the military had committed against trade union leaders and members. Regarding recent developments in Myanmar as shown in ILO reports, Switzerland was deeply concerned about the widespread use of forced labour by the authorities, particularly on children and members of ethnic or religious minorities. The Government of Switzerland further recalled that the use of human shields was forbidden by international humanitarian law. The Commission of Inquiry had issued a series of urgent recommendations in 2023. The military regime in Myanmar had not shown that they fully understood the seriousness of the situation and the need to take specific urgent measures, which was why article 33 measures were being considered. The measures were timely and coherent with previous approaches. However, effective, targeted measures against the perpetrators of violations were preferable. It was essential to ensure no measure might negatively impact the general public, particularly the most vulnerable groups. The Governing Body should be regularly informed of developments in Myanmar. Switzerland supported the draft resolution.

59. The representative of the International Trade Union Confederation, who was also the representative of the Workers from Myanmar, urged support for the draft resolution, emphasizing its critical role in protecting the lives of the people of Myanmar. The Myanmar military had shown no serious efforts to implement the Commission of Inquiry recommendations or ILO resolutions and remained uncooperative without external pressure. Grave human rights violations persisted, including widespread forced recruitment of young people, women and even children for military service. Victims reported being trafficked, drugged and used as human shields. The people of Myanmar were traumatized and not receiving any support. Amid escalating repression, the military regime continued to suppress fundamental freedoms, including the right to peaceful assembly and trade union activity. Workers were denied their most fundamental rights. On 25 April 2025, a directive was issued in areas under military control prohibiting gatherings, speeches, processions, demonstrations and related activities on the grounds that they may incite unrest or disorder. Such measures constituted a severe restriction on the fundamental right to freedom of association. On International Workers' Day 2025, a peaceful celebration had been forcefully disrupted, reflecting the broader climate of fear. Trade unionists faced daily threats from air strikes and were unable to operate in either regime- or resistance-controlled areas. Even during natural disasters, the regime responded with violence instead of aid. The workers of Myanmar needed jobs, a fair living wage, paid leave and a safe working environment free from fear of being dismissed.
60. In accordance with article 36(6) of the Standing Orders, the Chairperson permitted a statement from the representative of Building and Woodworkers' International. He acknowledged the presence at the Committee of a number of leaders of global federations in solidarity with the workers of Myanmar. He called for the urgent invocation of article 33, the delay of which led each day to more deaths from bombings, more broken families, more job losses and many forced into hiding. The people of Myanmar could not afford to wait anymore. All the social partners and parliamentary committees he had consulted in Myanmar spoke with one voice: the resolution should be adopted as it stood.
61. In response to the query of the Government member of Belarus on how the article 33 resolution would improve the situation of Myanmar workers in the current context, a representative of the Secretariat considered that both the resolution itself and the Committee's discussion had been clear on that point. The resolution specifically requested its constituents to take all steps that could support the creation of a climate that promoted freedom of association and the elimination of forced labour and to support activities that directly benefited

the Myanmar people and their communities. It called for a review of relations that would contribute to the perpetuation of ongoing harm. Such a review would take into account the concerns of the Myanmar people to ensure that there were no acts of repression and intimidation against workers and employers peacefully exercising their fundamental rights. It also called upon the Director-General to accelerate and intensify efforts with the relevant actors to support the trade unions and workers of Myanmar as well as the employers.

- 62. *The General Affairs Committee decided to recommend to the Conference that it adopt the draft resolution concerning the measures recommended by the Governing Body under article 33 of the ILO Constitution on the subject of Myanmar as set out in Appendix II of document ILC.113/D.1.***

Draft resolution concerning the Second World Summit for Social Development, 2025

- 63.** The Committee examined a draft resolution concerning the Second World Summit for Social Development, 2025, as set out in document ILC.113/D.2.
- 64.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that the ILO's creation, with its tripartite foundation and mandate, could be considered the first international social contract. In light of the multiple major crises in the world, the ILO must remain true to its core mandate. While social and economic progress had been achieved since Copenhagen, major decent work deficits persisted alongside a worrying trend in many countries and regions to reverse positive gains from the past. There was an alarming rise in war and conflicts, an unregulated growth of corporate power in the digital era, a shrinking of democratic space, a backlash against gender equality and non-discrimination policies, and an increasing sense of insecurity caused by those developments, alongside sentiments of unfairness and a lack of a positive perspective for the future. The best recipe to face those challenges, as the ILO had shown over its hundred years of existence, was social justice, a level playing field and a fair sharing of the planet's opportunities and resources. Furthermore, climate change was causing increasing poverty and instability and inaction was not an option.
- 65.** The Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar would offer a chance to confront the challenges directly and reshape the global political economy to better address the social dimensions of globalization. The draft resolution, alongside the key messages adopted by the 352nd Session of the Governing Body in October–November reflected a delicate and hard-fought balance achieved by consensus among the members of the Working Party and constituents. She urged the Committee to support it without any further changes but added that the Workers' group would have liked to be even more ambitious and include stronger messages regarding, among other issues, the protection of workers, workers' rights, gender equality and redistribution of wealth. The proposed resolution should be seen for what it was: a political statement from the ILO's highest decision-making body. In these difficult times, it was the Committee's responsibility to send a message to the leaders who would be in Qatar, showing that dialogue was possible and could bring results. Social justice should be at the heart of global governance. The ILO must play its full role in making that vision a reality. All ILO constituents should do everything within their power to ensure the best possible outcome. Governments should bring tripartite delegations to the Summit, prepare their inputs for the Summit in a tripartite manner and continue promoting social dialogue nationally and globally.
- 66.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson expressed her support for the draft resolution. The Second World Summit for Social Development was an opportunity for the United Nations to reinforce its role as an agent of social and economic growth. The ILO should use its unique tripartite

governance structure to play a leading role in the Summit. Tripartite delegations should attend. Governments should engage with social partners at every stage to ensure all voices were heard. They should integrate the ILO's messages into negotiations at every stage, as those insights were vital to ensure that the outcomes were informed, relevant and reflective of the needs of workers and employers globally. It was important to recognize the interlinkage between social development and economic progress. An economy that fostered full and productive employment, one of the key themes of the Summit, was a pillar for sustainable social development. Sound public policies and strong institutions were key to establishing the right conditions for business to flourish and societies to thrive.

67. Her group was anticipating a forward-looking and action-oriented political declaration that should reflect six points. First, it should recognize the role of the private sector as the main provider of employment in sustainable development. A conducive environment, particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, which comprised the overwhelming majority of employers worldwide, was key to inclusivity and job creation. This required political stability and adaptive labour policies. Second, effective and transparent labour market governance must be promoted. Public trust in institutions ensured prosperity and stability. Evidence-based policies created fair, dynamic labour markets. Third, social partners representing the real economy had to be recognized as key actors and their role in fostering cohesion and productivity acknowledged. Fourth, skills development required investment. Training programmes had to align with the evolving demands of the job market, as strong vocational training ensured adaptability and employability. Fifth, there had to be recognition of productivity growth as a driver of social justice. Improving productivity through reskilling, improving regulations, reducing informality and strengthening institutions would lead to better employment opportunities and higher living standards. With 61 per cent of the world's working population operating in the informal economy, addressing informality was crucial and its root causes had to be tackled through comprehensive approaches by governments. Finally progress since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development should be recognized. Despite ongoing challenges, globalization and innovation had boosted human development, extended life expectancy and expanded education.
68. The Government member of Gabon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, welcomed the resolution and commended the consensus reached by the Working Party around the key messages. In a world with growing inequality between and among countries, the Second World Summit for Social Development represented a unique opportunity to reaffirm the commitments taken at Copenhagen in 1995 and gauge the progress achieved. It could also tackle gaps in implementation and address new challenges for the world of work such as the digital divide, artificial intelligence, climate change, the migration crisis and food insecurity. Additionally, it could reinforce the social dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The ILO had the necessary skills to play a leadership role in the run-up, execution of the discussions, follow-up and implementation. The Global Coalition for Social Justice could promote the key messages during and after the Summit. He called on governments to define national priorities with social partners. A new global social contract based on a human-centred approach was needed. His group supported the draft resolution which gave balanced coverage of key issues for the contemporary world of work including youth employment, social protection, the informal economy, the promotion of international labour standards, climate change and the protection of migrant workers. He called on the Summit to include key messages, including in its political declaration, on child labour, noting that most of the victims were in the Africa region. In conclusion, he sought clarification as to whether the mandate of the Working Party would end with the adoption of the resolution or whether a new mandate would be given to it after the Summit.

69. The Government member of Poland, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, as well as Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Türkiye and Ukraine, stated that the draft resolution reflected the unanimously adopted tripartite key messages that had inspired both the Food for Thought paper and the draft political declaration. The declaration should be anchored in human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the ILO fundamental principles and rights at work. Greater solidarity and multilateral cooperation were required to manage the environmental, digital and demographic transitions and the Second World Summit for Social Development was crucial to this effort. The key messages and the resolution should continue to guide the declaration so that the Summit's outcome would reflect the ILO contribution. The delegate welcomed the reference to a renewed global social contract with a human-centred approach, although a human-rights-based approach would have been preferred. Nevertheless, she expressed support for the draft resolution in the interest of consensus and urged Member States negotiating in New York to echo the tripartite messages. She encouraged the Director-General to keep the consultation on the declaration open and inclusive, taking into account the views of social partners and civil society. She requested that the ILO's central role in promoting social justice be recognized in the Summit follow-up, in coordination with the Working Party and the ILO's tripartite constituents and that this role be reflected when implementing the Programme and Budget for 2026–27.
70. The Government member of France called for adoption of the resolution, stating that her country had participated in discussions within the tripartite Working Party and the Governing Body to prepare the draft resolution on the political declaration. This included in particular the role of the ILO in strengthening the social dimension of globalization. To play a key role in the Summit, the ILO should take two actions. Firstly, it must address informality in the economy, especially in developing countries, including by promoting and applying the fundamental ILO Conventions. Secondly, it must guarantee social dialogue and adequate social protection for all including by respecting the ILO fundamental principles at work. The ILO should remain at the heart of the preparations to, and follow-up of, the Summit and ensure that all stakeholders remain involved.
71. The Government member of Cuba reaffirmed the commitment of her country to a sustainable future. There had been a lack of consistency between agreements and an unbalanced and insufficient allocation of resources leading to the likely failure to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Fair financial mechanisms and avoidance of unilateral political and economic pressures should lead to the achievement of fully productive employment, decent work and social inclusion. The Second World Summit for Social Development must produce tangible results that would have a real impact on the world of work, and the ILO must play a key role in achieving concrete life-changing measures to promote social justice.
72. The representative of the Government of Indonesia expressed his country's support for the resolution.
73. The representative of the Government of Switzerland supported the statement of the European Union and thanked the tripartite Working Party on the New Social Contract for its work in ensuring that the priorities of workers and employers had been duly integrated into the draft political declaration. His country had been actively advocating for the inclusion of tripartite contributions in the political declaration and the role for the ILO's tripartite constituents and the Global Coalition for Social Justice in the implementation of the commitments to be made in Qatar that fall within the ILO's mandate. Switzerland was committed to achieving a concise, pragmatic and ambitious political declaration at the Second World Summit for Social Development to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development goals and promote social justice and would send a tripartite delegation to the Summit.

74. Responding to the question raised by the Government member of Gabon on behalf of the Africa group, the Assistant Director-General, External and Corporate Relations Cluster, recalled the two mandates of the Working Party: to develop a number of key messages that were to be adopted by the October–November 2024 Governing Body session, and to negotiate and deliver a draft resolution to be submitted to this session of the Conference. It would be up to the Governing Body to decide whether to provide the Working Party with an additional mandate.
75. ***The General Affairs Committee decided to recommend to the Conference that it adopt the draft resolution concerning the Second World Summit for Social Development, 2025, as set out in document ILC.113/D.2.***