

**Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health
in Coal Mines**Geneva
8-13 May 2006

**Recommendations for ILO
follow-up action**

1. The Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in Coal Mines (8-13 May 2006) made the following recommendations for follow-up action.
2. It recommended that:
 - (1) the Office further investigate a systems-based approach to health and safety that should complement the widely used prescriptive approach and investigate the relevance and advantages of existing practices in industry which have shown to create a preventative safety and health culture;
 - (2) the Office further pursue work on the employment relationship, in particular in relation to the responsibilities, rights and duties of contractors;
 - (3) the Office further pursue work on the issues related to small mines;
 - (4) the Office give further consideration to the general impact of mining on the safety and health of the wider/neighbouring communities;
 - (5) the Office distribute the documents for discussion more timely in order to allow experts to consult peers;
 - (6) the Office ensure that drafts are based on the current state of the industry; and
 - (7) the Office request nominated experts to provide statistical data and other relevant input to be used when producing a draft.
3. In relation to the code of practice it specifically recommended that:
 - (1) the code of practice be published and also translated into additional languages (e.g. Chinese, German, Hindi, Portuguese and Russian) to ensure wide dissemination of the guidance therein contained;
 - (2) the Office should widely disseminate the code of practice, by, inter alia:
 - (a) making the code of practice freely available from the ILO web site;
 - (b) widely linking it to relevant web sites; and

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- (c) producing a CD-ROM version that would lower production costs.
- (3) the Office should pursue a targeted approach, when promoting the code of practice, taking into account:
 - (a) the importance of the industry for the countries in question;
 - (b) where there are significant opportunities to improving safety and health; and
 - (c) where the code could support the work of competent authorities.
 - (4) the Office should organize, in conjunction with governments, employers' and workers' organizations, national and subregional tripartite workshops that promote the code of practice and provide guidance on how it can be used and implemented;
 - (5) the Office draw on the expertise of the Meeting's experts by, where possible, enabling them to take part in follow-up activities such as workshops;
 - (6) the Office report successes in implementing the code to other member States; and
 - (7) the Office should consider to review the code of practice more frequently than at 20-year intervals in order to ensure that the guidance contained will reflect future changes in the industry.