



FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the 18th International
Conference of Labour Statisticians
(Geneva, 24 November–5 December 2008)**

1. The 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) took place from 24 November to 5 December 2008 in Geneva. The report of its proceedings accompanies this paper.¹
2. The Conference elected Mr Geoff Bascand (New Zealand) as Chairperson, Ms Tang Leng Leng (Singapore) as Vice-Chairperson and Ms Cypreanna Winters (Bahamas) as Reporter of the Conference.
3. The following items were placed on the agenda of the 18th ICLS:
 - (a) Report I (General report): General discussion on a number of topics, including updating of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08), measurement of decent work, indicators of labour underutilization, statistics on volunteer work, data compilation and dissemination by the ILO, review of functions and organization of the ICLS.
 - (b) Report II: Measurement of working time.
 - (c) Report III: Child labour statistics.
4. The Conference set up two committees to deal with substantive topics that were the subject of draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference (agenda items II and III). Mr Olivier Marchand (France) was elected as Chairperson of the Committee on the Measurement of Working Time and Dr Grace Bediako (Ghana) was elected as Chairperson of the Committee on Child Labour Statistics. The reports of these committees are reproduced respectively after paragraphs 93 and 106 of the report of the Conference. The Conference adopted resolution I concerning the measurement of working time and resolution II concerning statistics of child labour.

¹ ICLS/18/2008/IV.

5. The Conference's recommendations for the ILO's future work in these two areas consist of:
 - supporting countries in the implementation of the ICLS resolutions and the production of statistics on working time and child labour;
 - preparing a companion technical volume on measuring working time.
6. In the course of its work, the Conference established three working groups to deal with specific issues: the measurement of decent work; indicators of labour underutilization; and the measurement of volunteer work.
7. The Working Group on the Measurement of Decent Work was chaired by Ms Debra Prestwood (United Kingdom). Its report appears after paragraph 59 of the report of the Conference. The Conference endorsed the resolution proposed by the Working Group, which is presented as resolution IV in Appendix I to the report of the Conference.
8. The Working Group on Indicators of Labour Underutilization was chaired by Mr Ephraim Elias Kwezigabo (United Republic of Tanzania). Its report is reproduced after paragraph 63 of the report of the Conference. The Conference endorsed the resolution proposed by the Working Group, which is presented as resolution III in Appendix I to the report of the Conference.
9. The Working Group on the Measurement of Volunteer Work was chaired by Ms Yandiswa Mpetsheni (South Africa) and its report appears after paragraph 68 of the report of the Conference. The Conference considered the topic very important in general and showed interest in the *Manual on measuring volunteer work* to be finalized and published in 2009.
10. The Conference also adopted resolutions concerning the future work of the ILO in labour statistics (2009–13) as follows:
 - a resolution on the amendment of paragraph 5 of the resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (October 1982), which is presented as resolution V in Appendix I to the report of the Conference.
 - a resolution concerning organization, frequency and duration of the ICLS, which is presented as resolution VI in Appendix I to the report of the Conference.
11. More specifically, resolution VI recommends to the Governing Body that it approve a number of important changes regarding the organization, frequency and duration of the future ICLS. In particular, it includes the recommendation that the Conference is held every three years but for a shorter duration.
12. ***The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:***
 - (a) ***take note of the report of the Conference;***
 - (b) ***request the Director-General to consider the recommendations of the Conference in carrying out the future programme of work of the Office; and***

- (c) authorize the Director-General to distribute the report of the Conference to:*
- (i) the governments of member States and, through them, to the national employers' and workers' organizations concerned, drawing particular attention to the six resolutions contained in Appendix I to the report;*
 - (ii) the international employers' and workers' organizations concerned;*
 - (iii) the United Nations and the other intergovernmental organizations; and*
 - (iv) non-governmental organizations represented at the Conference.*

Geneva, 3 March 2009.

Point for decision: Paragraph 12.