

Proposed discussion points

At its 97th Session (2008), the International Labour Conference (“the Conference”) adopted a landmark Declaration designed to strengthen the ILO’s capacity to promote its Decent Work Agenda and forge an effective response to the growing challenges of globalization.

The follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration for a Fair Globalization (Social Justice Declaration) stipulated that the Organization would introduce a scheme of recurrent discussions at the Conference, so as to “understand better” the diverse realities and needs of its Members with respect to each of the strategic objectives, respond more effectively to them, using all the means of action at its disposal, including standards-related action, technical cooperation, and the technical and research capacity of the Office, and adjust its priorities and programmes of action accordingly.

At its November 2008 session, the Governing Body decided that the first recurrent item discussion at the 99th Session of the Conference in June 2010 would be on employment.

This document contains the proposed discussion points and should be read in conjunction with Report VI: Employment policies for social justice and a fair globalization and Report III(1B): General Survey concerning employment instruments in light of the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, both of which will be available on the ILO web site.

Strategic objective on employment

Proposed discussion points

1. *What are the most important trends and challenges that member States and social partners face and will face during the next decade in promoting full, decent and productive employment in the context of shaping a fair globalization?*

2. *Macroeconomic policy frameworks to promote full, decent and productive employment*

Topics to address in this theme may include: (i) employment content of growth; (ii) the influence of macroeconomic policy on employment; (iii) the relationships among growth, employment and income; and (iv) the role of macroeconomic policy to support a conducive environment for sustainable enterprises to thrive.

Discussion should focus on the strategic orientations of the Social Justice Declaration:

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES (1) What are the priority policy challenges (current and projected)?

DIAGNOSIS (2) How well do the Organization and the Office understand Members' needs in this area/theme? (Declaration II(A)(i)); (3) What are the strengths and weaknesses in the response of the Organization, the Office and member States in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, Annex, II(B)(ii))

GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE (4) How can the Organization and the Office respond more effectively and efficiently to address constituents' needs in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, II(A)(i), Annex, II(B)(i)); (5) What further steps can the member States, the social partners and the Office take to improve multilateral partnerships, cooperation, results and dialogue with respect to this theme?

3. *Employment and labour market policies to promote full, decent and productive employment*

Topics to address in this theme may include: (i) placing employment at the centre of national growth and development strategies; (ii) effective ways to create a sustainable institutional and economic environment for employment policy and improved policy coherence through coordination between different ministries and with the social partners; (iii) mechanisms required for creating and sustaining political commitment; (iv) labour market policies (active and passive); (v) role of employment services; and (vi) strategies for green jobs in employment, industrial and labour market policies.

Discussion should focus on the strategic orientations of the Social Justice Declaration:

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES (1) What are the priority policy challenges (current and projected)?

DIAGNOSIS (2) How well do the Organization and the Office understand Members' needs in this area/theme? (Declaration II(A)(i)); (3) What are the strengths and weaknesses in the response of the Organization, the Office and member States in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, Annex, II(B)(ii))

GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE (4) How can the Organization and the Office respond more effectively and efficiently to address constituents' needs in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, II(A)(i), Annex, II(B)(i)); (5) How can the employment policy review process be strengthened? (6) What further steps can the member States, the social partners and the Office take to improve multilateral partnerships, cooperation, results and dialogue with respect to this theme?

4. Improving employability, productivity, living standards and social progress

Topics to address in this theme may include: (i) the way in which employability and productivity policies can be integrated into broader policy frameworks to improve social progress and living standards; (ii) ways to expand opportunities for quality education, relevant skills training and lifelong learning, including for women and vulnerable groups; (iii) the role of multinational enterprises and the social economy; and (iv) policies and programmes to expand employment opportunities and address the growth of unprotected work and the importance of the employment relationship.

Discussion should focus on the strategic orientations of the Social Justice Declaration:

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES (1) What are the priority policy challenges (current and projected)?

DIAGNOSIS (2) How well do the Organization and the Office understand Members' needs in this area/theme? (Social Justice Declaration II(A)(i)); (3) What are the strengths and weaknesses in the response of the Organization, the Office and member States in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, Annex, II(B)(ii))

GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE (4) How can the Organization and the Office respond more effectively and efficiently to address constituents' needs in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, II(A)(i), Annex, II(B)(i)); (5) What further steps can the member States, the social partners and the Office take to improve multilateral partnerships, cooperation, results and dialogue with respect to this theme?

5. Trade and investment policies to promote full, decent and productive employment

Topics to address in this theme may include: (i) the interaction among trade, investment, employment and labour market policies; (ii) coordination among different ministries with responsibilities on trade or employment issues and dialogue with the social partners; (iii) sequencing of labour and trade policy; (iv) the role of "Aid for Trade" in better integrating decent and productive work concerns; (v) the role of export diversification in employment creation and how can it be promoted; and (vi) the role of freedom of association and social protection.

Discussion should focus on the strategic orientations of the Social Justice Declaration:

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES (1) What are the priority policy challenges (current and projected)?

DIAGNOSIS (2) How well do the Organization and the Office understand Members' needs in this area/theme? (Social Justice Declaration II(A)(i)); (3) What are the strengths and weaknesses in the response of the Organization, the Office and member States in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, Annex, II(B)(ii))

GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE (4) How can the Organization and the Office respond more effectively and efficiently to address constituents' needs in this theme/area? (Social Justice Declaration Preamble, II(A)(i), Annex, II(B)(i)); (5) What further steps can the member States, the social partners and the Office take to improve multilateral partnerships, cooperation, results and dialogue with respect to this theme?

6. Article 19 General Survey report

A briefing on the output of the Committee on the Application of Standards regarding the General Survey concerning employment instruments

7. Discussion on standards-related action around the strategic objective of employment

8. The interrelationships of the four strategic objectives and their impact on the strategic objective on employment (Social Justice Declaration I(B) and II(B))

Topics to be addressed may include: (i) How can the Office better support an integrated approach to address the strategic objective on employment (carrying out work in integrated, inseparable, and mutually supportive ways)? (ii) How can the policies and programmes in the areas of social protection, social dialogue and labour standards assist in promoting full and productive employment? (iii) How are practical and policy challenges being addressed? (iv) How can synergies among the four strategic objectives be improved?

9. Other elements for the conclusions document

1. How might the Organization and the Office respond more effectively and efficiently to address Members' needs with respect to the strategic objective on employment? (Social Justice Declaration II(A)(i), Annex, II(B)(i))
2. How should this inform programme, budget and other governance decisions of the Organization? (Annex, II(B)(i)(ii))
3. What opportunities are there to strengthen technical cooperation and streamline expert advice with respect to the strategic objective on employment? (Social Justice Declaration II(A)(ii))
4. What opportunities are there for the Organization to improve knowledge-sharing and cooperation and to improve reviews of employment policies, including through common schemes such as peer reviews? (Social Justice Declaration II(A)(iii), Annex, II(D)(ii))
5. What opportunities are there for the Organization to improve partnerships with non-state entities and cooperation with other international organizations? (Social Justice Declaration II(A)(v); II(C))

Consideration to be given to all means of action of the Organization and the Office (standards-related action, technical cooperation, research and technical capacity) as well as to the experience with the Global Jobs Pact.