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FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

The Standards Initiative: Implementing the workplan for strengthening the supervisory system

Progress report

Purpose of the document

Report on progress, following consultations with the tripartite constituents, to implement the revised workplan for the strengthening of the supervisory system. The document presents concrete options concerning the actions prioritized for examination by the Governing Body – operation of the article 24 procedure (action 2.2); the streamlining of reporting (action 3.1); and the potential of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d) (action 4.3) – and seeks guidance on actions concerning a regular conversation between the supervisory bodies (action 1.2); codification of the article 26 procedure (action 2.1); and further steps to ensure legal certainty (action 2.3) (see draft decision in paragraph 72.)

Relevant strategic objective: All four strategic objectives.

Main relevant outcome/cross-cutting policy driver: Outcome 2: Ratification and application of international labour standards and cross-cutting policy driver concerning international labour standards.

Policy implications: Will depend on the outcome of the discussion by the Governing Body.

Legal implications: Will depend on the outcome of the discussion by the Governing Body.

Financial implications: Will depend on the outcome of the discussion by the Governing Body (paragraphs 22, 25 and 69 provide estimates on possible budget implications).

Follow-up action required: Will depend on the outcome of the discussion by the Governing Body.

Author unit: International Labour Standards Department (NORMES).

Related documents: GB.331/INS/3; GB.331/POL/2; GB.331/PFA/5; GB.329/PV; GB.329/INS/5; GB.329/INS/5(Add.)(Rev.); GB.328/PV; GB.328/LILS/2/2; GB.328/INS/6; GB.326/PV; GB.326/LILS/3/1; GB.323/PV; GB.323/INS/5.

1. At its 329th Session (March 2017), the Governing Body: (a) approved the revised workplan for the strengthening of the supervisory system; (b) requested the Office to take the necessary steps to implement the revised workplan based on the guidance provided and to report on progress made at its 331st Session (November 2017), following consultations with the tripartite constituents; and (c) decided to review the revised workplan, as it might be adjusted by the Governing Body during its 331st Session, in the context of its broader review of the Standards Initiative at its 332nd Session (March 2018).¹
2. The workplan sets out a timetable for a package of ten agreed actions grouped under four focus areas that aim to strengthen the supervisory system within the constitutional framework:²
 - (a) Three actions prioritized for examination by the Governing Body in November 2017: the operation of the article 24 procedure (action 2.2); the streamlining of reporting (action 3.1); and the potential of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d) (action 4.3).
 - (b) Three actions submitted to the Governing Body in November 2017 for guidance on the next steps: a regular conversation between the supervisory bodies (action 1.2); codification of the article 26 procedure (action 2.1); and further steps to ensure legal certainty (action 2.3).
 - (c) Four actions integrated into the Office's regular work: a guide on established practices across the supervisory system (action 1.1); information-sharing with other organizations (action 3.2); clear recommendations of the supervisory bodies (action 4.1); and systematized follow-up of the recommendations of the ILO supervisory bodies at the national level (action 4.2).
3. These ten actions complement the ongoing work of the Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS), the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) and the Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) to review their methods of work.³ These supervisory bodies will continue reporting to the Conference and the Governing Body respectively and the discussions on their working methods will feed into the implementation of the workplan.
4. Moreover, the implementation of the workplan retains an integrated approach and fully reflects the interrelationship between the various supervisory procedures. In this respect, the guide on established practices to be prepared by the Office is intended to provide a global and user-friendly overview.⁴ A visual representation of the supervisory system is provided in Appendix I.
5. The implementation of the workplan is to be monitored by the Governing Body in accordance with its governance role. In particular, the common principles guiding the strengthening of the supervisory system submitted to the Governing Body at its

¹ [GB.329/INS/PV](#), para. 148.

² [GB.329/INS/5\(Add.\)\(Rev.\)](#), para. 4; [GB.329/INS/PV](#), para. 137.

³ [GB.329/INS/5](#), para. 22 and [GB.329/INS/5\(Add.\)\(Rev.\)](#), Appendix I.

⁴ The most recent global overview of the supervisory system is provided in the 2016 joint report of the Chairpersons of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Committee on Freedom of Association ([GB.326/LILS/3/1](#)).

329th Session will operate as a benchmark for the March 2018 review of the implementation of the workplan in the context of the broad review of the Standards Initiative.⁵

I. Priority actions for examination by the Governing Body in November 2017

1. Consideration of the operation of the representations procedure under article 24 of the Constitution (action 2.2)

6. An assessment of the practice followed in relation to the procedure for making representations under article 24 of the Constitution may lead to the conclusion that its operation is reasonably satisfactory (see Appendix II for an overview based on factual information). However, with a view to contributing to the strengthening of the supervisory system, options to optimize the procedure are presented in this section, drawing on previous Governing Body discussions and recent informal consultations with constituents.
7. The options submitted are structured around the three main phases of the procedure: (i) the receipt of a representation and its processing until the Governing Body takes a decision on how it will be handled (for example, appointment of a tripartite committee); (ii) consideration of the merits of the representation and its outcome (for example, approval by the Governing Body of the recommendations of the tripartite committee); and (iii) follow-up to the procedure, including the implementation of the recommendations (for example, through technical assistance). Taking into account the comments made during the recent informal consultations, a proposed electronic form for representations is contained in Appendix III.

1.1. Receipt and processing of representations

8. Since the adoption in 1932 of the initial Standing Orders on the representation procedure (following the submission of the first representation), the consistent procedure followed by the Organization has been, upon receipt of a representation, to verify that the terms set out in article 24 are met and that specific reference is made to that article. These elements are clearly set out in article 2(2) of the Standing Orders on the representation procedure as the six conditions of receivability.⁶ Some constituents have voiced concern about representations being submitted in certain instances without proper consideration of the applicable national mechanisms (judicial and other, including those of a tripartite nature). While the provisions of the Standing Orders for the representation procedure do not require exhaustion of national remedies, the existing regulatory framework allows flexibility to address this concern. Indeed, it is an existing practice of ad hoc tripartite committees assessing the merits of a representation to take into account national procedures related to

⁵ [GB.329/INS/5](#), paras 5–11.

⁶ “The receivability of a representation is subject to the following conditions: (a) it must be communicated to the International Labour Office in writing; (b) it must emanate from an industrial association of employers or workers; (c) it must make specific reference to article 24 of the Constitution of the Organisation; (d) it must concern a Member of the Organisation; (e) it must refer to a Convention to which the Member against which it is made is a party; and (f) it must indicate in what respect it is alleged that the Member against which it is made has failed to secure the effective observance within its jurisdiction of the said Convention.”

the allegations raised. In addition, committees can and do request additional information on these procedures and their outcomes. The information requested in the model form in Appendix III on the use of national procedures (item 5) should further facilitate such consideration by ad hoc tripartite committees. Building on this practice, and while preserving all the guarantees of access to the supervisory system for the organizations submitting representations, recourse to national mechanisms could be further considered by the Governing Body at an earlier stage, as proposed in the following paragraphs.

9. Once a representation is deemed receivable, the default course of action is the appointment of an ad hoc tripartite committee to examine its merits. The Standing Orders on the representation procedure only provide for other possibilities in two specific cases. First, when a representation relates to a Convention concerning freedom of association or collective bargaining, in which case it has consistently been referred to the CFA. Second, when the representation relates to facts and allegations similar to those that have been the subject of an earlier representation, in which case the appointment of a tripartite committee may be postponed pending examination by the CEACR of the follow-up to the recommendations previously adopted by the Governing Body. While maintaining examination by an ad hoc tripartite committee as the default option, and as the Constitution does not limit the range of measures that can be decided by the Governing Body for the handling of a representation, the Officers of the Governing Body could recommend that, having deemed the representation receivable, it is referred to an ad hoc committee and that, as a first step, a limited period of time is set, if the complainant is willing to do so and the Government agrees, to facilitate conciliation at the national level (including, where these operate, through national conciliation mechanisms created to handle complaints submitted to the ILO). For this first step to proceed, the following steps and safeguards could be put in place:
 - (i) the complainant would need to indicate its interest and willingness to pursue conciliation at the national level (a section would be provided in the model form to that effect – see Appendix III);
 - (ii) after having verified that the criteria for receivability are met, the Officers could recommend to the Governing Body that, at the same time that the procedure is initiated and an ad hoc committee appointed, the Director-General could liaise with the Government and the complainant concerning their willingness to engage in conciliation at the national level for a limited period of time (e.g. six months);
 - (iii) if the complainant and the Government agree to the conciliation, they would indicate whether they would like the Office (or the secretariats of the Employers' or Workers' groups) to intervene and/or provide any pertinent assistance for the conciliation;
 - (iv) the ad hoc committee could decide, if it considered it appropriate, to meet during the conciliation period in order to monitor progress;
 - (v) after the expiry of the conciliation period, or whenever at an earlier stage the complainant indicates the failure of the conciliation and its request to resume the procedure, the ad hoc tripartite committee would move to the next phase of the procedure to assess the merits of the representation.
10. In the exercise of its responsibility for managing the procedure, and determining the bodies that are to examine the merits of article 24 representations (for example, ad hoc tripartite committees or the CFA), the Governing Body may wish to adopt the approach outlined above on a trial basis. This procedural adjustment could be trialled and assessed for a period of two years. During that period, the possibility of voluntary conciliation outlined above would be applied as an interim arrangement to supplement the existing Standing Orders. Should its results then be deemed satisfactory, the Governing Body could decide to

eventually review the Standing Orders and the Introductory Note accordingly – together with any lessons learned during the trial period. In accordance with the common principles guiding the strengthening of the supervisory system,⁷ these safeguards would ensure adequate guarantees for, and avoid undue pressure being exerted on complainant organizations. In particular, in the absence of tripartite consensus on the suitability of a period for conciliation at the national level, the procedure would continue to operate as it does at present, with the default option of referral to a tripartite committee. Moreover, the consent of the complainant organization would be necessary in order to proceed with the conciliation process, and at any point during the process the complainant could request that conciliation be brought to an end and the merits of the representation be examined by the tripartite committee. For illustrative purposes, the following figure outlines the existing procedure for the handling of representations (in blue), and highlights (in green, below the dotted line) the option presented above for consideration.⁸

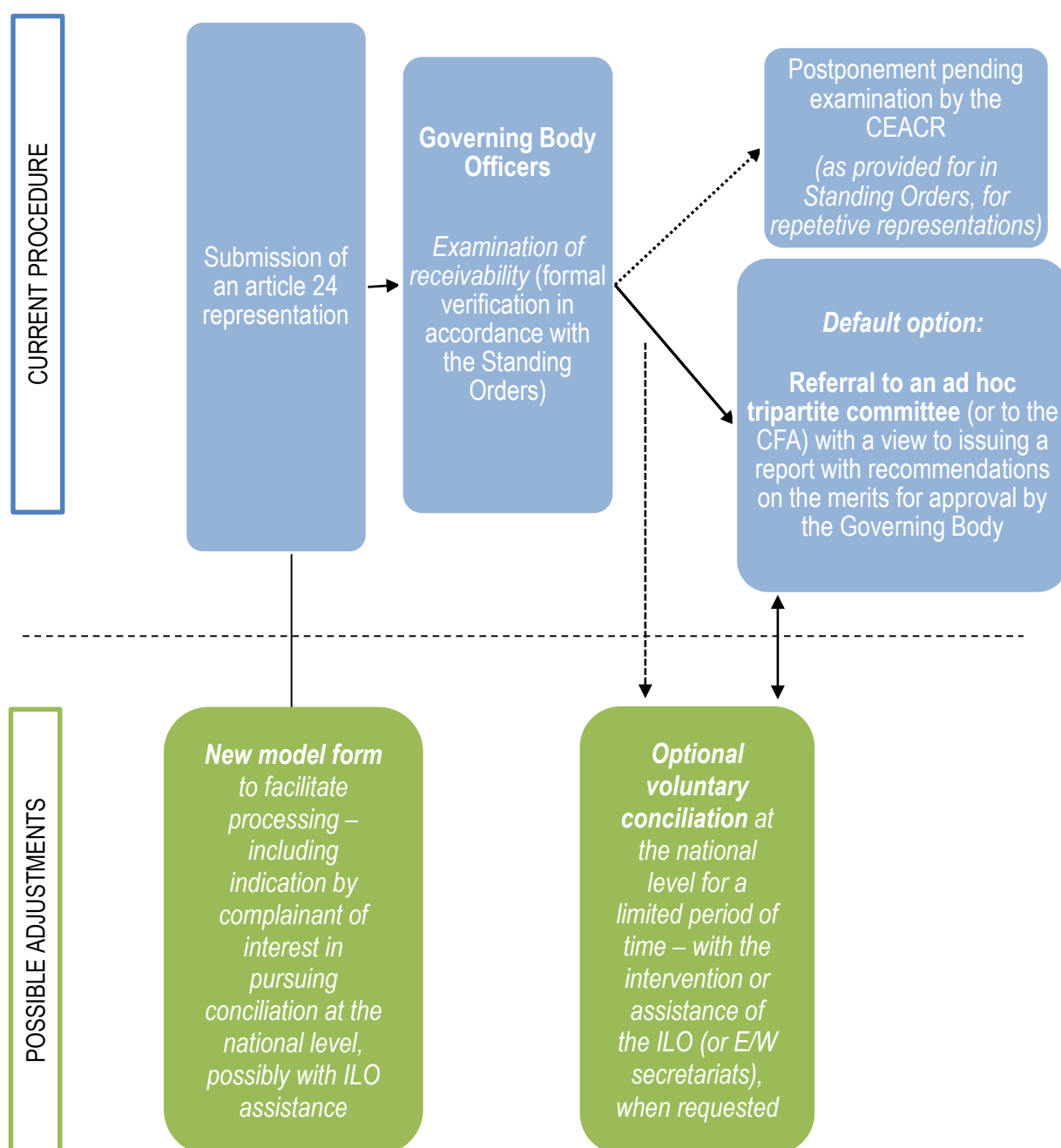
11. Finally, with regard to the referral of representations concerning freedom of association or collective bargaining to the CFA (as consistently decided by the Governing Body in order to benefit from an established body with expertise on the subject, avoid procedural duplication and ensure coherence), questions have been raised by some constituents, particularly on whether sufficient distinction is made between the handling of representations and regular CFA complaints. It should first be recalled that the Governing Body already had occasion to consider the appropriateness of the examination by the CFA of article 24 representations in 1955, following the receipt of the first representation on a freedom of association Convention adopted only a few years previously. On that occasion, the Governing Body decided to refer the representation to the CFA, considering that “it would seem inappropriate that such matters should be dealt with by the Governing Body by two parallel procedures”.⁹ Thereafter, the Governing Body has constantly confirmed the CFA as the most suitable supervisory body to assess compliance with freedom of association or collective bargaining Conventions under the article 24 procedure, as acknowledged when it amended the Standing Orders on the representation procedure. It may also be recalled that the CFA examines representations in separate reports to the Governing Body. The Governing Body could invite the CFA, in the context of its current examination of its working methods, to assess further its practice in this regard and to propose any necessary measures or adjustments to ensure a clearer distinction between its consideration of representations and of regular complaints.

⁷ [GB.329/INS/5](#), paras 6–11.

⁸ The possibility to request conciliation with the support of the ILO may occur at an even earlier stage – for example prior to the examination of receivability by the Officers. This was the case, for example, of a recent 2016 representation alleging non-observance by Brazil of the Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154) and the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81).

⁹ See Minutes of the 130th Session of the Governing Body, p. 47. The Standing Orders on the representation procedure were subsequently amended to explicitly provide for this possibility.

Figure 1. Possible adjustments to the processing of representations



1.2. Consideration of the merits of representations: Improvements in the functioning of ad hoc tripartite committees

12. During the recent informal consultations, strong doubts, and even resistance, were expressed concerning the creation of a standing committee to examine all representations. This option is not therefore explored further.

13. With reference to enhancing efficiency and procedural consistency, there was no consensus on the introduction of general pre-established time limits for the processing and examination of representations. Under the Standing Orders on the representation procedure, an ad hoc tripartite committee may set time limits during the procedure, for example for the receipt of statements from the government and additional information from complainant organizations. With a view to safeguarding this flexibility, the Office, in its role as secretariat, will continue to optimize the processing of representations by ensuring harmonized treatment, including in relation to correspondence, time frames and deadlines for receiving replies, and the convening of committee meetings. Attention is also drawn to the impact that the composition of ad hoc tripartite committees may have on the duration of the procedure and its cost, which can vary considerably in view of translation and interpretation needs, as well as the need for Governing Body groups to appoint members rapidly to avoid delay.¹⁰ Measures could be envisaged by constituents for this purpose. For example, an incoming Governing Body could establish a roster of potential members of tripartite committees based on their expertise. Within the context of these considerations, a review of current practice seems to indicate that harmonized procedural treatment is ensured, with the necessary flexibility and taking into account the availability of resources. With regard to substantive consistency, it is the responsibility of the Office, in accordance with its mandate, to provide the necessary technical expertise and support.
14. With regard to enhancing the transparency of the representation procedure, and in accordance with the rule that all the steps of the procedure before the tripartite committee are confidential (article 3(4) of the Standing Orders), the Governing Body could be kept informed of the status of pending representations, and the follow-up to representations already examined, through an information document (see next section).
15. With reference to the expertise of the members of ad hoc tripartite committees, during the recent consultations many constituents proposed that tripartite committee members from the Government group should be from member States that have ratified the Convention or Conventions concerned. The Governing Body could decide to endorse this measure pending an eventual review of the Standing Orders and the Introductory Note in the context of assessing the two-year trial period of optional voluntary conciliation noted above.
16. As to the integrity of the procedure, bearing in mind the concerns expressed by certain constituents regarding the need for procedural safeguards to ensure that Governing Body members discharge their duties in article 24 tripartite committees in an objective and impartial manner, simple measures could be considered. For example: (i) the Introductory Note to the Standing Orders on the representation procedure could recall that members of tripartite committees, while bringing the knowledge relative to their particular group, are appointed solely to ensure the objective supervision of the application of the international

¹⁰ During the recent consultations, some Government representatives raised the possibility of modifying the composition of ad hoc tripartite committees, so as to have as many members from the Government group as from the Employers' and Workers' groups together (2:1:1 ratio). In this regard, it is recalled that the procedure for the examination of article 24 representations has always been to maintain an equal number of members from each group. For example, when the earlier provision of the Standing Orders concerning composition ("composed of three of its members chosen respectively from the Government, Employers' and Workers' groups") was modified in 1980 to allow for flexibility in the size of committees, emphasis was placed on the equal ratio (article 3 currently reads "composed of members of the Governing Body chosen in equal numbers from the Government, Employers' and Workers' groups."). This structure is common to the Conference and the Governing Body, in which committees have an equal ratio composition (1:1:1), while the respective plenary, to which the recommendations of committees are submitted for adoption, has a composition giving governments twice the number of representatives (2:1:1). This includes approval by the Governing Body plenary of article 24 or CFA reports, and the relationship between the committees and plenary of the Conference.

labour standards concerned, and not to represent the interests of any party in the procedure; and (ii) measures could be envisaged to protect committee members from undue interference by any of the parties to the procedure (for example, through a declaration to this effect by members when accepting such supervisory duties on behalf of the Organization).

1.3. Follow-up to representations

17. A survey of representations over the past ten years and their outcomes reveals certain weaknesses in the traceability of follow-up, including whether technical assistance was offered or provided, and whether there has been tripartite follow-up at the national level.¹¹ Several proposals may be put forward for consideration in this respect:

- (a) An information document could be published and updated regularly on the ILO website to allow the Governing Body to monitor the follow-up to the recommendations adopted in the context of article 24 procedures (see the illustrative table below on the status and follow-up of article 24 representations, based on hypothetical examples). In addition to fostering transparency, such an information document would allow the Governing Body and the governments and complainants concerned to be kept informed of the evolution of current representation procedures (including whether any information is still pending from either party) and their follow-up. However, the document would only indicate whether follow-up action has been taken, and would not in itself be an assessment of the outcome of such action.

¹¹ The Recommendations of ad hoc tripartite committees do not often explicitly invite countries to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Office (of 42 representations examined since 2006, in five cases the Government was invited to avail itself of the Office's technical assistance, and in two of these cases the provision of assistance was noted in the follow-up by the supervisory bodies). Moreover, it is difficult, based on the information published by the supervisory bodies, to assess systematically whether and what tripartite follow-up has been undertaken at the national level.

Table 1. Status and follow-up of article 24 representations (hypothetical examples)

Date submitted	Country	Convention No.	Report and GB decision/status	Examination by CEACR	ILO technical assistance/mission	Follow-up at national level?
1 February 2017	X	181	Government reply received – pending examination	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 January 2010	Y	169	GB decision March 2011 Report	No (awaiting information from the government)	Requested	
5 June 2009	Z	111	GB decision November 2010 Report	Follow-up in 2012 (noting with satisfaction full compliance with recommendations)		Consultation at national and regional levels in September 2011
6 June 2008	K	87	GB decision November 2009 to refer to CFA Separate CFA report	Follow-up in 2011	ILO technical assistance by field office from March to October 2010	

Yellow: In progress.

Green: Received/completed.

Red: Not received/refused.

- (b) Reinforced integration of follow-up to recommendations. In representations in which the Governing Body recommends the government to take action, follow-up measures could be more systematically integrated into the text of the recommendations contained in the reports of tripartite committees, including the provision of technical assistance and tripartite follow-up at the national level. To facilitate its introduction and identification, this could be a standard optional section (where appropriate and subject to the decisions of the tripartite committee concerned) in the reports of ad hoc tripartite committees. Similarly, where action has been recommended, the Office, in the letter transmitting the recommendations adopted by the Governing Body, could invite the government to avail itself of the technical assistance of the Office,¹² particularly through its field specialists, with a view to developing a time-bound action plan to facilitate, where applicable, reporting on follow-up to the recommendations as part of article 22 reporting (thus not increasing the reporting burden on the country concerned). Such follow-up, particularly if it is of a tripartite nature at the national level, could also be integrated into Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs).

18. The Employers' group proposed during the informal consultations that ad hoc tripartite committees should retain the possibility to follow up the action taken on the recommendations concerning a representation adopted by the Governing Body. Appendix IV outlines the main features and implications of this possibility.

2. The streamlining of reporting (action 3.1)

19. The streamlining of reporting responds to the need to enhance the relevance and efficiency of the supervisory system and to guarantee its sustainability. Based on a technical and

¹² This latter aspect is common to other supervisory procedures, and should be considered alongside follow-up at the national level (action 4.2) and within the supervisory system (action 1.2).

financial feasibility assessment, and consultations with the tripartite constituents, options are presented below for:

- (i) the full computerization of the supervisory system, including the efficient electronic management of the work of the supervisory bodies and the secure online submission of reports and other documents by governments and employers' and workers' organizations; and
- (ii) the streamlining of reports and information, both to facilitate the fulfilment of reporting obligations by member States and to achieve gains in terms of effectiveness, quality and efficiency.¹³

2.1. Computerization of the supervisory system

20. At present, while certain electronic resources are used by the supervisory system (such as NORMLEX, the possibility of uploading reports or, more frequently, their submission by email), its operation is still chiefly paper based. A technical and financial feasibility assessment, undertaken with the support of the ILO's IT Department (INFOTEC), has identified two linked sets of measures to enhance the IT facilities supporting the work of the supervisory bodies: (i) a document and information management system for the supervisory bodies; and (ii) electronic accessibility to the supervisory system for constituents, notably through e-reporting.¹⁴ These measures, as detailed below, would be designed and implemented with all the necessary safeguards to ensure full compliance with security requirements, in line with ILO rules and procedures, including through security modules (such as specific log-ins and passwords), while allowing the possibility of the continued use of a paper system for constituents which lack access to the necessary electronic resources, or which wish to continue using the paper system for an interim period, as well as any support required by constituents for the use of the electronic system. While it is difficult to evaluate in precise quantitative terms the long-term savings that would be derived from such computerization, the following sections outline the benefits that they would entail in terms of transparency, sustainability and efficiency, both for the supervisory bodies and for constituents.

2.1.1. An electronic document and information management system for the supervisory bodies

21. An electronic document and information management system would include electronic workspaces and workflows for each of the supervisory mechanisms, electronic repositories for the secure storage of information, and secure access for members of the supervisory bodies. These improvements would lead to: (i) more efficient preparatory work by the Office and the enhanced capacity of the supervisory bodies to process their increasing workload; (ii) increased collaboration and streamlined workflows within the secretariat (including enhanced opportunities to integrate relevant information from the field structure on progress at the national level) and between the secretariat and the supervisory bodies; and (iii) enhanced operational continuity of the supervisory system. The electronic document management system has been piloted by the CAS during its last two sessions and has proved to be of great value in enabling the Vice-Chairpersons to collaborate electronically in the discharge of their functions.

¹³ [GB.329/INS/5](#), paras 30–31.

¹⁴ At present, the reports submitted by governments, for example under article 22 of the Constitution, and the observations of the social partners, are examined by the supervisory bodies without being made public.

22. A feasibility assessment of the technical and financial aspects of the computerization of the supervisory system has been undertaken within the framework of a broader transition by the Office towards a new electronic communication platform and document management system. The proposals presented are therefore fully aligned with and implemented in the framework of ILO policies and its information technology strategy (2018–19),¹⁵ as well as enabling outcome B (effective and efficient governance of the Organization) of the ILO Programme and Budget 2016–17 (also in the proposals for 2017–18). Specific adjustments to the broader ILO computerization process have been identified to adapt the available electronic tools to the specific needs of the supervisory bodies, bearing in mind the nature and requirements of their work.¹⁶ The cost, covering the operation of the CAS, CEACR and CFA, is estimated to amount to some US\$330,000. In addition, 10 per cent annual support costs should be foreseen after its launch.

Table 2. One-off costs for an electronic document and information management system for the supervisory bodies

	US\$
Requirements/business analysis, scope validation and design	30 000
Implementation of the core features of the document management system for the CAS, CEACR and CFA, including information architecture and security needs	70 000
Enabling collaboration and process management, including document workflows, email notifications and additional custom components for the operational needs of the CAS, CEACR, CFA and the secretariat	170 000
Migration of active content from existing files/drives	30 000
Project management and coordination	30 000
TOTAL	330 000

2.1.2. Electronic accessibility to the supervisory system for constituents: E-reporting

23. Once the electronic document and information management system has been put in place, a comprehensive electronic reporting facility to the CEACR could be introduced. The Office currently receives between 1,500 and 2,000 reports every year for examination by the CEACR.¹⁷ Over 90 per cent of the reports and other communications are sent to the supervisory bodies by email. The electronic platform available through NORMLEX is only used by around 20 member States, and is limited to uploading reports (and acknowledging receipt), but without the other functionalities offered by an electronic portal.¹⁸

¹⁵ See GB.331/PFA/5.

¹⁶ To facilitate a rapid transition towards an improved document and information management system, the International Labour Standards Department is currently reorganizing its electronic archives with a view to facilitating their future migration.

¹⁷ It received 1,805 reports in 2016. See [CEACR, 2017 Report III \(Part 1A\)](#), paras 22 et seq.

¹⁸ Since 2011, at the request of the Governing Body, the Office has been developing an electronic platform to facilitate the submission of reports under articles 19 and 22 of the ILO Constitution, which had as an initial phase the successful launch of the NORMLEX information system in 2012. See <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:1:0::NO>, GB.316/LILS/INF/1.

24. The current electronic platform available through NORMLEX would need to be further developed to provide a fully-fledged system of online reporting that meets the needs of constituents, eases the reporting burden on member States and maximizes the usefulness of the information submitted. In particular, the following improvements could be introduced: (i) the possibility to complete all the report forms directly online through a user-friendly interface; (ii) the possibility for member States to subsequently add information or, in later cycles, update reports directly online, without the need to repeat information that has already been provided, including simple options, such as indicating “no changes/amendments since the last report”; (iii) the possibility for the social partners in the country to also submit their observations electronically;¹⁹ and (iv) the improved electronic integration and processing of all submissions by each supervisory body.²⁰
25. The implementation of this more comprehensive online reporting system, based on the existing NORMLEX platform, would require process analyses, specifications, the design of security modules and further technical developments, as well as training for constituents in the use of the new system. The system would be developed taking duly into account all the comments received from constituents, including communicating requests for reports electronically to the authorities designated by member States, and retaining all the necessary flexibility to facilitate and ease reporting (bearing in mind the administrative complexities of national report preparation and clearance processes). The cost of the e-reporting system for the submission of article 19 and 22 reports is estimated to amount to some US\$423,000. In addition, 10 per cent annual support costs should be foreseen after its launch.

Table 3. One-off costs for a comprehensive electronic reporting facility to the CEACR

	US\$
Technical IT outputs (in particular, development of modules for report forms, security modules and dashboards)	350 000
Business process review (particularly, the report forms for each instrument)	33 000
Project management and coordination	40 000
TOTAL	423 000

26. Based on the experience of full e-reporting to the CEACR, the Governing Body could consider at a later stage whether specific electronic interfaces should be established for the submission of documents by constituents to other supervisory mechanisms, such as CFA complaints or article 24 representations.

¹⁹ It would be up to member States to determine at the national level how to do so in light of their current practice (e.g. the system would still allow them to include the observations made by the social partners in Government reports to the CEACR).

²⁰ Within the framework of the steps taken by the Office to introduce IT improvements, and as a pilot under of the Follow-up to the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Office is in the process of launching an optional online tool to facilitate reporting under the Annual Review, and particularly to shift from baselines compiled by the Office on the basis of the reports submitted by governments to baselines updated directly by governments online, with observations from the social partners being inserted. It is hoped that the implementation of this online tool will benefit from the broader e-reporting developments referred to in this section.

2.2. Streamlining of reports and information²¹

27. With regard to the streamlining of reports and information, it is recalled that, up to the early 2000s, the focus was mainly on a quantitative approach that aimed to reduce the number of reports requested each year and to alleviate the associated workload, while guaranteeing that safeguards were in place to ensure the access of constituents to the CEACR outside the reporting cycle. Since the early 2000s, there has been a shift towards a broader approach that also considers the rationalization of reporting (for example, by grouping Conventions by subject for reporting purposes, which also allows for a more comprehensive thematic review). Appendix V provides a historical overview of the main adjustments made to the regular reporting system.
28. With a view to pursuing this broader approach to the streamlining of reporting, options are outlined below concerning: (i) the presentation of reports and information, including by reviewing the modalities for the thematic grouping of Conventions; and (ii) the form of reports and the content of report forms, including a clearer distinction between simplified and detailed reports.
29. All the options outlined aim to ensure that: (a) there is no loss in either the quantity or quality of the information available to the supervisory system, or its outputs; (b) the reporting obligations of member States are facilitated, and not increased; and (c) the usefulness of the information submitted is maximized, both for the work of the Organization and the efforts made by member States to comply with their standards-related obligations.

2.2.1. Thematic grouping of Conventions

30. The thematic grouping of Conventions offers two main advantages:
 - (a) *For reporting purposes*: it eases the administrative burden of governments by concentrating their reporting obligations in the same year on Conventions covering similar subjects. This facilitates the efforts required to gather the necessary information at the national level and to coordinate with the authorities that have to be consulted by Ministries of Labour.
 - (b) *For the comments of the supervisory bodies*: thematic grouping enables the CEACR to: (i) conduct a more comprehensive review, based on access to a broader and more complete picture of the application of the thematically linked obligations set out in ratified Conventions; (ii) better identify and provide recommendations on thematic or systemic issues in related areas; and (iii) strengthen and give greater visibility to comments through consolidation and better linkages (as opposed to separate comments on different aspects of the same issue).

These advantages, and options for their further enhancement, are developed below.

2.2.1.1. *Thematic grouping of Conventions for reporting purposes*

31. When considering the thematic grouping of Conventions in 2001–02, constituents expressed a clear preference for the grouping of reports, so that those on related subjects could be

²¹ The focus under action 3.1 at this stage is the regular article 22 reporting process.

prepared and sent together.²² The grouping of Conventions by subject for reporting purposes that is currently in force was approved by the Governing Body and implemented as of 2003.

32. Building on the overall positive results of the first evaluation of the grouping of Conventions,²³ the Governing Body could seek to further refine the thematic approach to achieve more fully the objectives set out above, and to respond to some of the concerns raised and proposals made during the recent informal consultations. In particular, when applying the current grouping (in which countries are divided alphabetically into various groups), there are still many instances where reports on ratified Conventions covering related subjects are not requested in the same year for a specific country, as shown by the table below for one group of countries. The colour code highlights subjects that are more closely related. This example tends to show that there is still room to improve thematic coherence in the annual requests for reports under the current cycle.

Table 4. Current reporting cycle – reports requested for countries A–F (2012–16)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
C.100, C.111	C.87, C.98	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182	C.100, C.111	C.87, C.98
C.81, C.129	C.144	C.122	C.81, C.129	C.144
Social security	Social policy	Seafarers	OSH	Fishers
Dockworkers	Maternity protection	Labour administration and inspection	Employment policy	Wages
Migrant workers	Other specific categories of workers	Industrial relations		Protection of children and young persons
	Indigenous and tribal peoples			Workers with family responsibilities
	Skills			Employment security
	Working time			Freedom of association and collective bargaining

33. With a view to further strengthening the thematic approach for reporting purposes, the Governing Body may wish to examine how options for the redistribution of requests for reports over the reporting cycle could improve thematic coherence by country, and achieve a more efficient and balanced distribution of reports throughout the cycle.

²² Governments had indicated that it would ease their administrative burden if they could report in the same year on all, or at least a significant number of Conventions which cover similar subjects. It was emphasized that this would facilitate information gathering at the national level by allowing Ministries of Labour to consult other ministries and national institutions and authorities in a more concentrated way, and send the related information to the Office in a more coordinated manner. It was also noted that there might be advantages for the Office in being able to analyse the application of related Conventions in a more coherent manner (GB.282/LILS/5, para. 18). See also GB.283/LILS/6; GB.283/10/2, para. 39, and the related decision.

²³ In 2009, an evaluation of the grouping of Conventions by subject for reporting purposes generally showed positive results (see GB.306/LILS/4). Moreover, it may be noted that, following the adoption of the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, the possibility was examined of synchronizing the article 22 reporting cycle with General Surveys and recurrent discussions. This included a possible grouping of Conventions by strategic objective for reporting purposes. However, the Governing Body concluded that the grouping by subject should be maintained. See GB.310/LILS/3/2; GB.310/11/2, para. 49, and the related decision.

34. Two options are presented below, including a simulation over a test period (2018–24) of the total number of reports which would be requested under each option, to illustrate their respective impact. The consideration by the Governing Body of possible new arrangements for regular reporting also provides an opportunity to ensure the alignment of the grouping of Conventions for this purpose with the classification of standards by strategic objective that was presented to the Governing Body in March 2011.²⁴ The updated grouping is presented in Appendix VI.

Option 1: Ensuring greater thematic coherence in requests for reports on technical Conventions within the current cycle

35. Option 1 seeks to improve thematic coherence by country in the annual requests for reports on ratified technical Conventions, without changing the current reporting intervals (a three-year reporting cycle for fundamental and governance Conventions and a five-year reporting cycle for technical Conventions).²⁵ Five groups of countries would be established for reporting purposes over the five-year cycle for technical Conventions. The following table illustrates the enhanced coherence resulting from the application of option 1 for countries whose first letters are A–C (similar improvements would apply to other groups of countries), using the same thematic colour coding as above:

Table 5. Option 1. Reports requested for countries A–C (2018–24)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
C.100, C.111	C.87, C.98	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182	C.100, C.111	C.87, C.98	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182	C.100, C.111
C.81, C.129	C.144	C.122	C.81, C.129	C.144	C.122	C.81, C.129
Other specific categories of workers	Working time	Skills	Freedom of association and collective bargaining	Seafarers	Specific categories of workers	Working time
Migrant workers	Wages	Employment policy		Fishers	Migrant workers	Wages
Indigenous and tribal peoples	OSH	Employment security	Protection of children	Dockworkers	Indigenous and tribal peoples	OSH
Workers with family responsibilities	Maternity protection	Social policy			Workers with family responsibilities	Maternity protection
	Social security					Social security
	Labour administration and inspection					Labour administration and inspection

36. In terms of overall impact over the test period 2018–24, this option would not entail any increase or decrease in the total number of reports requested in comparison with the current

²⁴ In addition to reflection on the Conventions adopted since 2002, a slight adjustment is proposed to move the up-to-date Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94), from the “Wages” group to the “Social Policy” group, as Convention No. 94 addresses working conditions more generally (it would remain within the same strategic objective – social protection).

²⁵ In the context of the three- and five-year reporting cycles, it is not possible to ensure that, from one cycle to the next, reports under technical Conventions which are related to fundamental or governance Conventions are requested in the same year as the related fundamental or governance Conventions. This possibility is available under option 2.

reporting cycle. Moreover, the number of reports requested each year would be balanced throughout the period. The table below provides a simulation of the corresponding reports requested, with colour coding highlighting thematic grouping. The total number of reports requested each year is noted at the bottom of the table.

Table 6. Option 1. Simulation of reports requested 2018–24

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fundamental and governance Conventions (three-year reporting cycle)						
C.87, C.98 (countries O–Z)	C.87, C.98 (countries A–F)	C.87, C.98 (countries G–N)	C.87, C.98 (countries O–Z)	C.87, C.98 (countries A–F)	C.87, C.98 (countries G–N)	C.87, C.98 (countries O–Z)
C.100, C.111 (countries A–F)	C.100, C.111 (countries G–N)	C.100, C.111 (countries O–Z)	C.100, C.111 (countries A–F)	C.100, C.111 (countries G–N)	C.100, C.111 (countries O–Z)	C.100, C.111 (countries A–F)
C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries G–N)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries O–Z)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries A–F)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries G–N)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries O–Z)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries A–F)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries G–N)
C.144 (countries O–Z)	C.144 (countries A–F)	C.144 (countries G–N)	C.144 (countries O–Z)	C.144 (countries A–F)	C.144 (countries G–N)	C.144 (countries O–Z)
C.81, C.129 (countries A–F)	C.81, C.129 (countries O–Z)	C.81, C.129 (countries G–N)	C.81, C.129 (countries A–F)	C.81, C.129 (countries O–Z)	C.81, C.129 (countries G–N)	C.81, C.129 (countries A–F)
C.122 (countries O–Z)	C.122 (countries G–N)	C.122 (countries A–F)	C.122 (countries O–Z)	C.122 (countries G–N)	C.122 (countries A–F)	C.122 (countries O–Z)
Technical Conventions (five-year reporting cycle)						
Freedom of association and collective bargaining (J–N)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (O–S)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (T–Z)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (A–C)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (D–I)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (J–N)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (O–S)
Protection of children (J–N)	Protection of children (O–S)	Protection of children (T–Z)	Protection of children (A–C)	Protection of children (D–I)	Protection of children (J–N)	Protection of children (O–S)
Other specific categories of workers (A–C)	Other specific categories of workers (D–I)	Other specific categories of workers (J–N)	Other specific categories of workers (O–S)	Other specific categories of workers (T–Z)	Other specific categories of workers (A–C)	Other specific categories of workers (D–I)
Workers with family responsibilities (A–C)	Workers with family responsibilities (D–I)	Workers with family responsibilities (J–N)	Workers with family responsibilities (O–S)	Workers with family responsibilities (T–Z)	Workers with family responsibilities (A–C)	Workers with family responsibilities (D–I)
Migrant workers (A–C)	Migrant workers (D–I)	Migrant workers (J–N)	Migrant workers (O–S)	Migrant workers (T–Z)	Migrant workers (A–C)	Migrant workers (D–I)
Indigenous and tribal peoples (A–C)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (D–I)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (J–N)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (O–S)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (T–Z)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (A–C)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (D–I)
Working time (T–Z)	Working time (A–C)	Working time (D–I)	Working time (J–N)	Working time (O–S)	Working time (T–Z)	Working time (A–C)
Wages (T–Z)	Wages (A–C)	Wages (D–I)	Wages (J–N)	Wages (O–S)	Wages (T–Z)	Wages (A–C)
OSH (T–Z)	OSH (A–C)	OSH (D–I)	OSH (J–N)	OSH (O–S)	OSH (T–Z)	OSH (A–C)
Maternity protection (T–Z)	Maternity protection (A–C)	Maternity protection (D–I)	Maternity protection (J–N)	Maternity protection (O–S)	Maternity protection (T–Z)	Maternity protection (A–C)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Social security (T–Z)	Social security (A–C)	Social security (D–I)	Social security (J–N)	Social security (O–S)	Social security (T–Z)	Social security (A–C)
Labour administration and inspection (T–Z)	Labour administration and inspection (A–C)	Labour administration and inspection (D–I)	Labour administration and inspection (J–N)	Labour administration and inspection (O–S)	Labour administration and inspection (T–Z)	Labour administration and inspection (A–C)
Skills (O–S)	Skills (T–Z)	Skills (A–C)	Skills (D–I)	Skills (J–N)	Skills (O–S)	Skills (T–Z)
Employment policy (O–S)	Employment policy (T–Z)	Employment policy (A–C)	Employment policy (D–I)	Employment policy (J–N)	Employment policy (O–S)	Employment policy (T–Z)
Employment security (O–S)	Employment security (T–Z)	Employment security (A–C)	Employment security (D–I)	Employment security (J–N)	Employment security (O–S)	Employment security (T–Z)
Social policy (O–S)	Social policy (T–Z)	Social policy (A–C)	Social policy (D–I)	Social policy (J–N)	Social policy (O–S)	Social policy (T–Z)
Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (D–I)	Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (J–N)	Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (O–S)	Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (T–Z)	Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (A–C)	Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (D–I)	Seafarers Fishers Dockworkers (J–N)
Total number of reports requested						
1 311	1 690	1 512	1 571	1 572	1 306	1 686

Option 2: Ensuring greater thematic coherence in requests for reports on all Conventions within a three-year reporting cycle for fundamental and governance Conventions and a six-year reporting cycle for technical Conventions

37. Option 2 seeks to improve thematic coherence by country in the reports requested annually for all ratified Conventions. Requests for reports under technical Conventions which are related to fundamental or governance Conventions would be made in the same year as the related fundamental or governance Conventions. Thematic coherence is achieved by extending the reporting cycle for technical Conventions from five to six years and by dividing each of the existing three groups of countries established for reporting purposes under the fundamental and governance Conventions (e.g. countries A–F) into two sub-groups (countries A–B and C–F) for reporting purposes under the technical Conventions. An illustration of the impact of option 2 is shown in the table below for countries whose first letters are A and B (similar improvements would apply to other groups of countries), using thematic colour coding as above:

Table 7. Option 2. Reports requested for countries A–B (2018–24)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
C.100, C.111	C.87, C.98	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182	C.100, C.111	C.87, C.98	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182	C.100, C.111
C.81, C.129	C.144	C.122	C.81, C.129	C.144	C.122	C.81, C.129
Working time	Freedom of association and collective bargaining	Protection of children	Specific categories of workers	Seafarers	Vocational guidance and training	Working time
Wages	Industrial relations		Migrant workers	Fishers	Employment policy	Wages

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OSH			Indigenous and tribal peoples	Dockworkers	Employment security	OSH
Maternity protection			Workers with family responsibilities		Social policy	Maternity protection
Social security						Social security
Labour administration and inspection						Labour administration and inspection

38. With regard to impact, during the test period 2018–24, the number of reports requested each year would be balanced in overall terms. Moreover, there would be a reduction in the number of reports requested each year in comparison with the current cycle. The table below provides a simulation of the reports requested, with colour coding highlighting thematic grouping. The total number of reports requested is noted at the bottom of the table, and may be compared with the table under option 1 above.

Table 8. Option 2. Simulation of reports requested 2018–24

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fundamental and governance Conventions (three-year reporting cycle)						
C.87, C.98 (countries O–Z)	C.87, C.98 (countries A–F)	C.87, C.98 (countries G–N)	C.87, C.98 (countries O–Z)	C.87, C.98 (countries A–F)	C.87, C.98 (countries G–N)	C.87, C.98 (countries O–Z)
C.100, C.111 (countries A–F)	C.100, C.111 (countries G–N)	C.100, C.111 (countries O–Z)	C.100, C.111 (countries A–F)	C.100, C.111 (countries G–N)	C.100, C.111 (countries O–Z)	C.100, C.111 (countries A–F)
C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries G–N)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries O–Z)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries A–F)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries G–N)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries O–Z)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries A–F)	C.29, C.105, C.138, C.182 (countries G–N)
C.144 (countries O–Z)	C.144 (countries A–F)	C.144 (countries G–N)	C.144 (countries O–Z)	C.144 (countries A–F)	C.144 (countries G–N)	C.144 (countries O–Z)
C.81, C.129 (countries A–F)	C.81, C.129 (countries O–Z)	C.81, C.129 (countries G–N)	C.81, C.129 (countries A–F)	C.81, C.129 (countries O–Z)	C.81, C.129 (countries G–N)	C.81, C.129 (countries A–F)
C.122 (countries O–Z)	C.122 (countries G–N)	C.122 (countries A–F)	C.122 (countries O–Z)	C.122 (countries G–N)	C.122 (countries A–F)	C.122 (countries O–Z)
Technical Conventions (six-year reporting cycle)						
Freedom of association and collective bargaining (T–Z)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (A–B)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (G–K)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (O–S)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (C–F)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (L–N)	Freedom of association and collective bargaining (T–Z)
Protection of children (L–N)	Protection of children (O–S)	Protection of children (A–B)	Protection of children (G–K)	Protection of children (T–Z)	Protection of children (C–F)	Protection of children (L–N)
Workers with family responsibilities (C–F)	Workers with family responsibilities (G–K)	Workers with family responsibilities (O–S)	Workers with family responsibilities (A–B)	Workers with family responsibilities (L–N)	Workers with family responsibilities (T–Z)	Workers with family responsibilities (C–F)
Migrant workers (C–F)	Migrant workers (G–K)	Migrant workers (O–S)	Migrant workers (A–B)	Migrant workers (L–N)	Migrant workers (T–Z)	Migrant workers (C–F)
Indigenous and tribal peoples (C–F)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (G–K)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (O–S)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (A–B)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (L–N)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (T–Z)	Indigenous and tribal peoples (C–F)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Other specific categories of workers (C–F)	Other specific categories of workers (G–K)	Other specific categories of workers (O–S)	Other specific categories of workers (A–B)	Other specific categories of workers (L–N)	Other specific categories of workers (T–Z)	Other specific categories of workers (C–F)
Working time (A–B)	Working time (T–Z)	Working time (L–N)	Working time (C–F)	Working time (O–S)	Working time (G–K)	Working time (A–B)
Wages (A–B)	Wages (T–Z)	Wages (L–N)	Wages (C–F)	Wages (O–S)	Wages (G–K)	Wages (A–B)
OSH (A–B)	OSH (T–Z)	OSH (L–N)	OSH (C–F)	OSH (O–S)	OSH (G–K)	OSH (A–B)
Maternity protection (A–B)	Maternity protection (T–Z)	Maternity protection (L–N)	Maternity protection (C–F)	Maternity protection (O–S)	Maternity protection (G–K)	Maternity protection (A–B)
Social security (A–B)	Social security (T–Z)	Social security (L–N)	Social security (C–F)	Social security (O–S)	Social security (G–K)	Social security (A–B)
Labour administration and inspection (A–B)	Labour administration and inspection (T–Z)	Labour administration and inspection (L–N)	Labour administration and inspection (C–F)	Labour administration and inspection (O–S)	Labour administration and inspection (G–K)	Labour administration and inspection (A–B)
Skills (O–S)	Skills (L–N)	Skills (C–F)	Skills (T–Z)	Skills (G–K)	Skills (A–B)	Skills (O–S)
Employment policy (O–S)	Employment policy (L–N)	Employment policy (C–F)	Employment policy (T–Z)	Employment policy (G–K)	Employment policy (A–B)	Employment policy (O–S)
Employment security (O–S)	Employment security (L–N)	Employment security (C–F)	Employment security (T–Z)	Employment security (G–K)	Employment security (A–B)	Employment security (O–S)
Social policy (O–S)	Social policy (L–N)	Social policy (C–F)	Social policy (T–Z)	Social policy (G–K)	Social policy (A–B)	Social policy (O–S)
Seafarers	Seafarers	Seafarers	Seafarers	Seafarers	Seafarers	Seafarers
Fishers	Fishers	Fishers	Fishers	Fishers	Fishers	Fishers
Dockworkers (G–K)	Dockworkers (C–F)	Dockworkers (T–Z)	Dockworkers (L–N)	Dockworkers (A–B)	Dockworkers (O–S)	Dockworkers (G–K)
Total number of reports requested						
1 368	1 270	1 384	1 434	1 445	1 356	1 368

39. Under both options, it is proposed to distribute evenly (in a balanced manner over the different years of the reporting cycle) the requests for reports under each group of technical Conventions.²⁶ This would contribute to ensuring that all subjects are examined each year, and would therefore have a positive impact on the objective of the CAS to achieve greater balance in the selection of cases between technical, governance and fundamental Conventions.

40. With regard to the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), a governance Convention covered by a three-year reporting cycle, it may be noted that reports are currently requested for some countries (A–F) in the same year as reports under the closely related fundamental Conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining (Conventions Nos 87 and 98), but not for other countries (G–Z). In order to ensure consistency, it is proposed under both options to align such requests for all groups of countries.

²⁶ At present, requests for reports under technical Conventions for each subject are either all made in the same year (e.g. employment security), or are split over two years where there are more ratifications (e.g. wages).

41. Should the Governing Body adopt these new arrangements, the Office would need some time to introduce the required modifications to the system, including the database. The Office would do its utmost to implement such new arrangements from 2018 onwards. However, in view of the short time available between the current session of the Governing Body and the request for reports in February–March 2018, implementation of the new arrangements may need to be postponed until 2019, in which case the reports requested in 2018 would still follow current reporting arrangements.
42. Most importantly, any new arrangements adopted by the Governing Body would be accompanied by a reaffirmation of the important role of employers' and workers' organizations in the context of the supervisory system, particularly in raising pressing issues outside the regular reporting cycle for examination by the supervisory bodies without delay. In this respect, some constituents expressed concerns that, while this possibility had also been emphasized as a safeguard when the reporting cycles were expanded in the past, in practice it was only given effect in very limited instances. They noted that, as a result, observations from the social partners were very rarely addressed outside the regular reporting cycle. The Governing Body may wish to invite the CEACR to review the use of this safeguard and to share its analysis and proposals in this regard, including on the use of this safeguard and any measures that could be envisaged to ensure its adequate operation.²⁷

2.2.1.2. *Thematic grouping of Conventions in the comments of the regular supervisory bodies*

43. In a number of cases concerning countries which have ratified several Conventions on the same subject, the CEACR has recently decided to adopt a single comment to address in a consolidated manner the issues of application arising under the various Conventions. These types of consolidated comments have been adopted in the fields of social security, maritime issues, wages, occupational safety and health, labour inspection and child labour. This has allowed the CEACR to avoid repetitive comments under thematically related Conventions and has helped to ensure greater coherence in the treatment of the related information by country. For the countries concerned, one advantage is that comments are more easily readable and provide a more coherent and holistic analysis by subject of the issues to be addressed. During the last session of the Conference, the CAS selected a case concerning two related Conventions (Nos 81 and 129), which enabled it to examine the issue of labour inspection in the country concerned in a more comprehensive manner based on a single consolidated comment by the CEACR.

²⁷ As noted by the [Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Standards and Recommendations, Report III \(1A\)](#), International Labour Conference, 106th Session, Geneva, 2017: “in a non-reporting year, when employers' and workers' organizations send observations which simply repeat comments made in previous years, or refer to matters already raised by the Committee, they will be examined in the year when the government's report is due, in accordance with the regular reporting cycle. In this case, a report will not be requested from the government outside of that cycle. However, where the observations meet the criteria of exceptional cases ... the Committee will examine them in the year in which they are received, even in the absence of a reply from the government concerned. ... Over the years, the Committee has identified exceptional cases as those where the allegations are sufficiently substantiated and there is an urgent need to address the situation, whether because they refer to matters of life and death or to fundamental human rights or because any delay may cause irreparable harm.” (See paras 62–63.)

The Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), and the Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129), are intimately linked and many of their provisions are identical.* The joint treatment of Conventions Nos 81 and 129 by the CEACR in a single comment has allowed the consolidation of comments on labour inspection issues relevant to the sectors covered by Convention No. 81 (industry and commerce) and Convention No. 129 (agriculture). Particular obligations arising in relation to agriculture have been addressed separately at the end of the consolidated comments. This new approach by the CEACR has avoided repetitive comments and highlighted the links between the principles of both Conventions, for example concerning the need to allocate sufficient human and material resources to the labour inspection services (Article 10 of Convention No. 81 and Article 16 of Convention No. 129) with a view to undertaking effective inspections in both industry and commerce and in agriculture. Specific issues relating to agriculture (such as the training requirements of labour inspectors in agriculture) have been addressed by the CEACR in a separate part of the consolidated comments.

* Convention No. 129 was mainly adopted to fill a gap in the corpus of international labour standards, as it was considered that there was no logical reason for the exclusion of workers in the agricultural sector from the scope of Convention No. 81 (which only applies to industrial and commercial workplaces). Convention No. 129 was therefore modelled on Convention No. 81, with the addition of some aspects related more specifically to agriculture. ILC, *Labour inspection in agriculture*, Report IV(1), Geneva, 53rd Session, 1969, p. 4.

44. In view of the positive feedback received on these initiatives, the Governing Body may wish to encourage the CEACR to pursue the examination of related issues in consolidated comments.

2.2.2. Form and content of reports

2.2.2.1. Possible improvements in the requesting of reports

45. Two main issues have been identified in relation to difficulties in fulfilling reporting obligations: (i) the need for the way in which the Office requests reports to be more user-friendly;²⁸ and (ii) the lack of understanding of the difference between simplified and detailed reports on ratified Conventions.
46. In this regard, it should be recalled that the distinction between detailed and simplified reports, as adopted by the Governing Body in March 1993,²⁹ is as follows:
- (a) detailed reports must contain full information on each of the provisions of the Convention concerned and on each of the questions set out in the report form; a detailed report is only due following the entry into force of the Convention for the ratifying country (first report) and thereafter only if it is specifically requested by the supervisory bodies;
 - (b) all other subsequent reports due (that is to say, almost all the reports requested each year) are simplified reports which must normally only contain information on: (i) any new legislative or other measures affecting the application of the Convention; (ii) the practical application of the Convention (for example, statistics, results of inspections, judicial or administrative decisions); (iii) the communication of copies of the report to the representative organizations of employers and workers and any observations received from these organizations; and (iv) replies to comments by the supervisory bodies.
47. In order to further clarify the distinction between the two types of reports, and with a view to facilitating the submission of reports, the Governing Body could examine the possibility

²⁸ The main issue in this regard is that, at present, the request for reports is not sent electronically to governments, which receive only a hard copy. In contrast, 95 per cent of government reports are sent electronically to the Office.

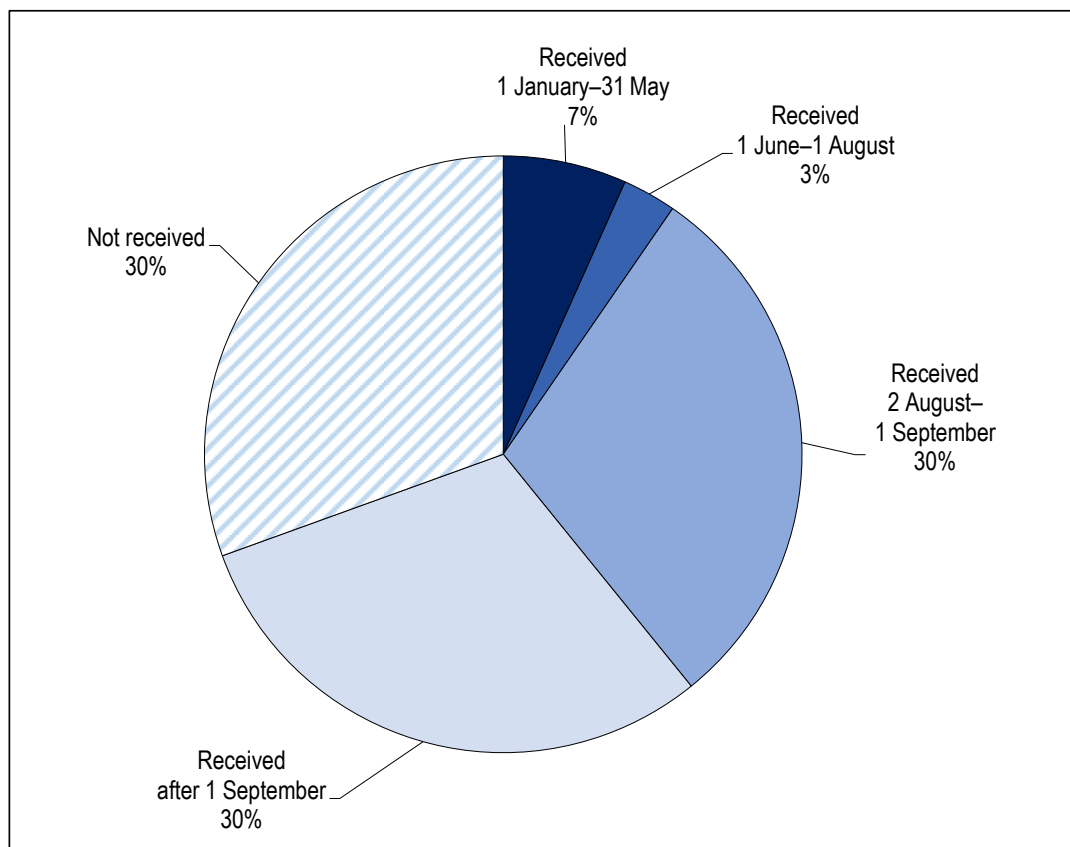
²⁹ GB.258/6/19, para. 40.

of adopting a new consolidated report form for all simplified reports (a proposal is contained in Appendix VII). Existing report forms under each individual Convention (the content of which corresponds to detailed reports) would continue to be used for first reports following ratification, or when a detailed report is specifically requested by the supervisory bodies.³⁰

48. The proposed new report form for simplified reports could also be useful in simplifying the annual requests for reports sent out by the Office. For all the simplified reports due for each country, the Office could prepare a single document each year based on the consolidated report form, which would be sent electronically to the government concerned. This would in turn facilitate the submission of information. Readability would be improved, as the CEACR's comments for which reports are due that year could be presented by subject. Moreover, an expandable box could be inserted under each question contained in the CEACR's comments to facilitate the replies by governments (as well as observations by employers' and workers' organizations). It should be emphasized that this proposal would not limit the content or level of detail of the information provided by governments, but would facilitate the submission of information and the discharge of reporting obligations. It would also be simpler to monitor compliance with the obligation to communicate copies of the report to the representative organizations of employers and workers under article 23(2) of the Constitution. The consolidated presentation of requests for simplified reports would facilitate the involvement of employers' and workers' organizations, which would also receive an electronic copy of the request sent to the government. These improvements are closely linked to the computerization measures proposed above.
49. Another issue that the Governing Body may wish to consider concerns the timing of the submission of reports. At present, regular reports on ratified Conventions are due between 1 June and 1 September. The annual session of the CEACR usually starts around the third week of November, which leaves the secretariat with less than three months to prepare the reports received for examination by the CEACR. The following figure, based on the reports submitted to the 2016 session of the CEACR, illustrates the delays in the receipt of reports. These delays give rise to significant challenges, both for the social partners and the CEACR. The social partners have less time to submit article 23 observations, while the late receipt of reports limits the capacity of the CEACR to prepare and carry out its work, with the result that many files have to be deferred. Moreover, when the reports requested are not received within the time limits, it is necessary to issue repetitions of outstanding comments and resubmit requests the following year for the reports that have not been received, thus further increasing the number of reports to be treated. Suggestions from constituents on incentives for the timely submission of reports would be helpful.

³⁰ The first page of existing report forms should therefore be reviewed and clearly indicate "report form for detailed reports".

Figure 2. Distribution of article 22 reports received for the 2016 session of the CEACR



2.2.2.2. Availability of the information contained in article 22 reports and their publicity: a pilot project for the establishment of baselines

- 50.** One issue that is frequently raised is that the information provided in the context of the supervisory system is not used to its full potential. In particular, the only visible outputs of the article 22 reporting process are the issues and concerns raised in the comments of the CEACR. The broader picture of how a country is implementing a ratified Convention, including the satisfactory measures adopted, is not publicly available. This precious information would certainly be very useful to other member States seeking good practices in the application of ILS.
- 51.** In this regard, the Governing Body may wish to consider the possibility of implementing a pilot project for the establishment of baselines on the application by member States of ratified Conventions. The baselines would be available on the ILO website. They would contain information provided by the government on the measures taken to apply the Convention(s) concerned, as well as the observations of the social partners and the government's responses, if it is decided that the latter should also be made public. Where the CEACR has made comments on the application of the Convention concerned, the baseline would include a cross-reference to those comments in NORMLEX. This initiative would be linked to the computerization measures proposed above. In particular, it would make it easier to update the information submitted.
- 52.** The proposed pilot project could cover the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006). The specific features of the MLC, 2006, mean that it would be a good case for a pilot baseline, particularly since: it is an up-to-date instrument; it entered into force recently (2013), and the first reports are therefore currently being requested from ratifying

Members; and the report form adopted by the Governing Body for the Convention has a unique format which would make it easy to transfer to an online presentation.

53. If the pilot project is retained by the Governing Body, the Office would start preparing the necessary electronic tools to support the establishment of the baseline (linked to the computerization and e-reporting actions outlined above, and including any necessary support for constituents). The Office would provide regular updates to the Governing Body on the development of this pilot project.

3. **Consideration of the potential of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d) (action 4.3)**

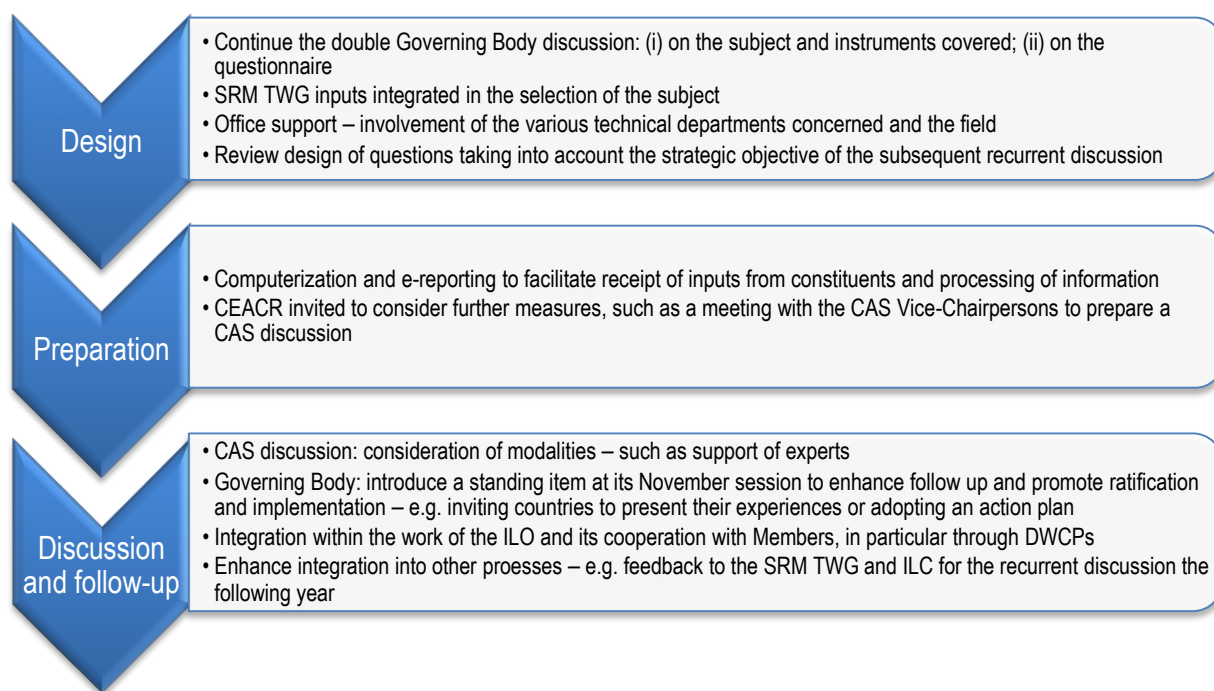
54. This action responds to the need to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and outreach of the supervisory system, in accordance with the Conference resolutions on advancing social justice through decent work (2016) and concerning the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work (2017).³¹ Article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), are key constitutional provisions that respond to the inherent need for the ILO supervisory system, and the obligation of member States, to give effect to the standard-setting decisions of the Conference. As noted in the Working Paper that accompanies this document, these provisions were introduced to fulfil different purposes, including to: promote the ratification of Conventions; encourage countries to achieve the objectives of both Recommendations and Conventions; recognize the efforts made by countries to give effect to the instruments adopted by the Conference, even in the absence of ratification; and evaluate standards to inform future standard-setting activities. An inventory of the uses made of these provisions, as summarized in the accompanying Working Paper, indicates how these uses are adapted to the specific needs identified by the Governing Body.
55. As a first step, it is proposed to focus on enhancing the current uses of article 19. The proposals outlined below therefore relate to General Surveys and the Annual Review under the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. As a second step, the Office could explore other possible uses of article 19. Guidance is therefore sought on whether the Office should prepare additional proposals to make better use of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), bearing in mind the purposes of these provisions, with a view to their discussion at the March 2018 session of the Governing Body. The options outlined below are based on two overarching considerations:
- (i) *Better action-oriented use of reporting, without increasing the reporting burden*, based on improving the design and implementation of reporting, and the action-oriented use of the knowledge gathered, to further the underlying purposes of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), without increasing the reporting burden on Members; and
 - (ii) *Better use of existing mechanisms and tripartite fora*, with a view to optimizing contributions and synergies between existing institutions and processes (i.e. facilitating reporting that most efficiently captures the needs of the tripartite constituents, support and complementary research by the Office, objective independent expert analysis, in particular by the CEACR, and tripartite exchanges in the CAS and the Governing Body, in synergy with other relevant processes, such as recurrent discussions, the Standards Review Mechanism and Conference agenda-setting, all with a view to more effectively feeding into the design and implementation of the ILO programme of work).

³¹ See the accompanying Working Paper and [GB.331/INS/3](#); [GB.329/INS/5](#); [Provisional Record 13-1, ILC, 105th Session, 2016](#) and [Provisional Record 11-1, ILC, 106th Session, 2017](#).

56. As a follow-up to the 2016 Conference resolution on advancing social justice through decent work, and the comments made by constituents during the recent informal consultations, the options presented focus mainly on the processes relating to the design, preparation and follow-up of General Surveys. They outline ways of maximizing the value of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), processes and assisting Members to achieve the ILO's strategic objectives, particularly through the ratification and implementation of standards. The proposals are presented under the different steps of the process (as summarized in the figure below), and should be linked to the discussion by the Governing Body in November 2017 on the follow-up to the evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration by the Conference in 2016. Some general reflections are presented on how article 19 procedures could also be enhanced in relation to the Annual Review process under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which could then be further refined for discussion by the Governing Body in March 2018 in light of the 2017 Conference resolution and conclusions concerning the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work.³²

3.1. Options for consideration relating to the design, preparation and follow-up of General Surveys

Figure 3. Proposed options



3.1.1. Design: Scope, instruments and questionnaire

57. The preparation of General Surveys begins with the choice of subjects, including the instruments covered, as well as the development of a meaningful and well-designed report form. The Governing Body could continue the practice of structuring its discussion process

³² At its current session, the Governing Body will also be discussing an action plan to follow up the 2017 Conference resolution and conclusions concerning the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work. It is envisaged that more specific proposals to give effect to the call by the ILC to make “the annual follow-up more accessible and visible” could be discussed by the Governing Body in March 2018.

in two stages as a means of enhancing coherence with other institutional processes (maximizing the practical value of General Surveys for the ILO programme of work and addressing the needs of Members), as well as tripartite discussion and ownership (maximizing discussion in the Governing Body and other tripartite fora). For example it might be decided that:

- (1) The first discussion (e.g. at the November session) would focus on determining the general topic and group of instruments, as framed by the subject of the corresponding recurrent discussion, and taking into account other relevant processes. In that context due consideration would need to be given to the recommendations of the SRM TWG, as approved by the Governing Body. Throughout this initial process, the Office would undertake preparatory research and prepare any necessary background documents, coordinating inputs from the technical departments and field offices.
- (2) Based on the results of this first discussion, a questionnaire would be prepared for consideration by the Governing Body (e.g. at its following March session). With a view to enhancing the usefulness of General Surveys for recurrent discussions, it is proposed that attention be paid to ensuring that the questions also address broader policy matters and include a limited number of questions linked to the achievement of the broader strategic objective (all of these questions would need to fall within the bounds of the selected Conventions and Recommendations, and therefore within the scope of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d)).

3.1.2. Reporting and preparation

58. The proposals on computerization and e-reporting outlined above should assist in facilitating the fulfilment by Governments of their reporting obligations and the submission of observations by the social partners,³³ as well as the more effective processing of all inputs with a view to assisting in the preparation of General Surveys and maximizing the use made and the knowledge extracted from the information received.
59. The Governing Body could also invite the CEACR, at its session in November 2017, to further discuss and make proposals on its possible contribution to optimizing the use made of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), in light of the different purposes of these provisions, particularly in relation to the preparation and discussion of General Surveys.

3.1.3. Tripartite discussion and follow-up

60. Many constituents emphasized during the recent informal consultations that insufficient time and attention is devoted to the discussion of General Surveys during the CAS. Furthermore, the Conference has explicitly requested the ILO to “adopt modalities to ensure that General Surveys and the related discussion by the Committee on the Application of Standards contribute to the recurrent discussions as appropriate”.³⁴ With a view to enhancing its role in giving effect to the objectives of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), consistent with the expansion of its mandate as a consequence of the introduction of these provisions, the CAS could explore other ways of improving its discussion of General Surveys, including through recourse to experts on the subject concerned, appointed pursuant to article 18 of the Constitution. The specific modalities that might be followed in this respect could be explored during the informal tripartite consultations on the working methods of the CAS, with a view

³³ More systematic provision of assistance by the Office for the preparation of article 19 reports could be envisaged as an additional improvement within existing resources and building on recent efforts in this regard.

³⁴ [Provisional Record 13-1, ILC, 105th Session](#), para. 15.2(b).

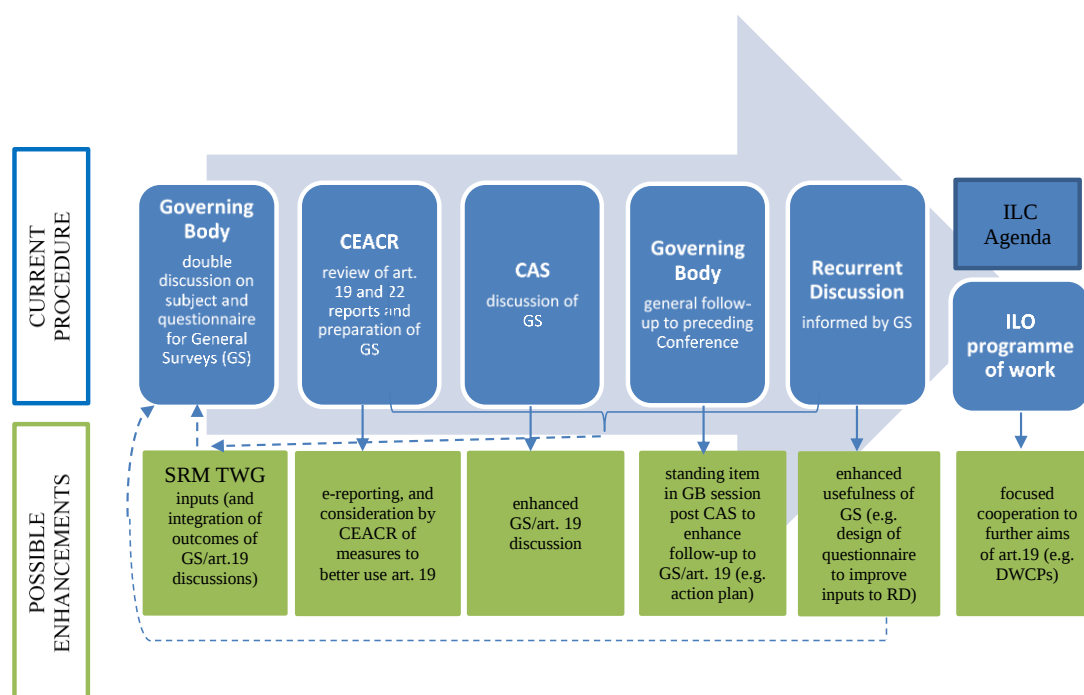
to giving effect to the ILC resolution on advancing social justice through decent work, which called for the exploration of options to make better use of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d).³⁵

61. In addition, building on specific suggestions put forward by certain constituents, the Governing Body could consider the inclusion of a standing item in its November session following the discussion of the General Survey by the CAS with a view to enhancing the discussion and follow-up of General Surveys, and particularly to promoting the ratification of standards and their implementation by non-ratifying countries. The item could include an invitation to non-ratifying countries to share their experience, difficulties and efforts, with a view to encouraging ratification and giving recognition to any measures taken. The item could assist in the preparation of the related recurrent discussion and enhance the linkage between the findings of General Surveys and their discussion (including any conclusions drawn by the CAS) with ILO activities and cooperation. For example, this might lead, where appropriate, to the inclusion of the outcome of discussions arising out of General Surveys in the action plan to follow up the conclusions of the recurrent discussion.
62. The outcome of the CAS and Governing Body discussions could inform not only the recurrent discussion, but also the SRM and ILC agenda-setting processes, and more broadly the preparation and implementation of the ILO's strategic policy framework.³⁶ The following figure illustrates how, as a first step, the strengthening of institutional discussions linked to, but also going beyond General Surveys, could enhance the use of article 19 and promote coherence.

³⁵ See *Defending values, promoting change: Social justice in a global economy*. Report of the Director-General (Part I), ILC, 81st Session, 1994.

³⁶ See GB.331/POL/1 on Outcome 2 of the Programme and Budget concerning the ratification and application of international labour standards.

Figure 4. Possible enhancements for a better use of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d) (building on General Survey procedures)



3.2. Annual Review under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

63. At its November 2017 session, the Governing Body will also be discussing an action plan to follow up the 2017 Conference resolution and conclusions concerning the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work, including the call for the annual follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work to be more accessible and visible.³⁷ It is envisaged that more detailed proposals will be submitted for consideration by the Governing Body in March 2018 on the Annual Review and its coordination with other processes in support of fundamental principles and rights at work as enabling rights for the full realization of all the strategic objectives. Some of the elements outlined above in relation to General Surveys could be borne in mind in this context with a view to maximizing the synergies between processes, particularly in relation to the forms and arrangements for reporting, the processing and presentation of information, discussions and exchanges of views among tripartite constituents, and follow-up at the national level and through ILO action. Coordination of more specific proposals on these two modalities to further enhance the objectives of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), could be integrated into the broader review of the Standards Initiative at the March 2018 session of the Governing Body.

³⁷ Provisional Record 11-1, ILC, 106th Session, 2017.

II. Three actions submitted for guidance

1. Regular conversation between the supervisory bodies (action 1.2)

64. This action responds to the need for the enhanced transparency, coherence and sustainability of the supervisory system.³⁸ It should also be noted in this respect that a number of reservations have been expressed by constituents concerning the added value of the option outlined previously to hold an annual meeting between the supervisory bodies.
65. The Governing Body is also due to consider three other actions arising out of the “Joint Position of the Workers’ and Employers’ groups on the ILO Supervisory Mechanism (13 March 2017)” in relation to:
- (i) the presentation of a report of activities by the Chairperson of the CFA to the CAS, starting at the 107th (2018) Session of the Conference;
 - (ii) the publication of summary reports on missions requested in the conclusions of the CAS; and
 - (iii) publication of the follow-up to these conclusions in a separate part of the report of the CEACR from its 88th Session (November–December 2017), and based on the examination by the CEACR of its working methods.

2. Consideration of the codification of the article 26 procedure (action 2.1)

66. This action responds to the need to enhance accessibility, transparency, clarity and due process. Under the workplan, in November 2017 the Governing Body is due to provide guidance on the next steps in relation to the article 26 procedure, following the discussion of the article 24 procedure.³⁹ While some constituents have expressed support for the codification of the article 26 procedure, others have expressed important reservations on its usefulness and appropriateness at this stage.
67. However, consensus seems to have emerged on a staged approach whereby, as a first stage, the clarification of existing rules and practices, and linkages with other procedures, would be addressed through the *Guide on established practices across the supervisory system* to be prepared by the Office (see action 1.1 below). A second stage could consist of a tripartite discussion of the possible codification of the article 26 procedure, based on the information provided in the guide, as well as the ongoing discussions of other procedures, and particularly article 24 (action 2.2).

3. Consideration of further steps to ensure legal certainty (action 2.3)

68. This action responds to the need for enhanced transparency, integrity, clarity and due process. Under the workplan, the Governing Body is due to provide guidance on the

³⁸ [GB.329/INS/5](#), paras 17–19 and [GB.329/INS/5\(Add.\)\(Rev.\)](#), para. 4(b).

³⁹ [GB.329/INS/5](#), para. 23 and [GB.329/INS/5\(Add.\)\(Rev.\)](#), para. 4(b).

modalities for a possible future tripartite exchange of views on article 37, paragraph 2, of the Constitution.⁴⁰ An option for consideration would be to: (i) first hold informal tripartite consultations on the elements and conditions necessary for the operation of an independent body under article 37, paragraph 2, on the basis of a preparatory document prepared by the Office, referring to prior discussions and documents, with a view to (ii) subsequently placing the item on the agenda of the Governing Body for consideration.⁴¹

III. Information on actions integrated into the Office's regular work

69. The Office has started giving effect to the four actions identified for integration into its regular work:

- (a) *A guide on established practices across the supervisory system (action 1.1)*: the Office has worked with the ILO International Training Centre (the Turin Centre) on the preparation of a web-based guide (with the possibility of hard copy printing), based on the elements outlined in Appendix I to GB.329/INS/5 and taking into account the views expressed during the Governing Body discussion. In order to be able to produce the guide in the three working languages of the ILO, the following costs would need to be approved by the Governing Body:

Costs for a guide on established practices across the supervisory system

	US\$
Planning, preparation and coordination	7 400
Development of content	8 900
Web and visual development	47 800
Translation and editing	8 900
Subtotal	73 000
<i>Optional development of a fully customized application for smartphones and tablets</i>	<i>17 000</i>
Total	90 000

- (b) *Information sharing with other organizations (action 3.2)*: throughout its existence, the ILO has entered into many agreements to cooperate with other international organizations, including the sharing of relevant information.⁴² Taking into account the views expressed during the recent informal consultations and Governing Body discussions, the Office has proceeded with its regular exchange of information with other international organizations. For example, the ILO recently concluded a partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)⁴³ for continued collaboration between the secretariats of various international

⁴⁰ GB.329/INS/5, para. 26 and GB.329/INS/5(Add.)(Rev.), para. 4(b).

⁴¹ Discussion of the operation of article 37(2) would be without prejudice to any consideration of the use of article 37(1) that the Governing Body may wish to have in the future.

⁴² http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/jur/legal-instruments/WCMS_442247/lang-en/index.htm.

⁴³ The OECD coordinates a partnership on international regulatory cooperation involving over 40 international organizations and aiming to foster collective action among the organizations and their

organizations to discuss the quality of their standards activities, including the exchange of experience and analytical work, under the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding concluded between them.⁴⁴

- (c) *Clear recommendations of the supervisory bodies (action 4.1)*: Within its mandate and responsibilities, the Office continues to provide technical support to the supervisory bodies to pursue this objective in the context of the ongoing reflection on working methods undertaken by the various supervisory bodies (CEACR, CAS and CFA), the results and progress of which are indicated by these bodies in their respective reports.
- (d) *Systematized follow-up of the recommendations of the supervisory bodies at the national level (action 4.2)*: The Office is continuing to identify ways of systematizing follow-up of the recommendations made by the supervisory bodies at the national level. While this is linked to the ongoing reflection concerning the operation of the supervisory mechanisms (see action 2.2 above), it is essential for the Office to continue to develop means of ensuring systematic follow-up, for example in the context of DWCPs.

IV. Financial implications

70. The summary of the estimated costs of the proposed electronic document and information management system for the supervisory bodies, comprehensive electronic reporting facility to the CEACR and guide on established practices across the supervisory system, amounting to US\$843,000, is as follows:

	US\$
Electronic document and information management system for the supervisory bodies	330 000
Comprehensive electronic reporting facility to the CEACR	423 000
Guide on established practices across the supervisory system	90 000
Total	843 000

71. The Programme and Budget for 2018–19 contains no provision for these costs. It is proposed that the costs would, in the first instance, be financed from savings that may arise under Part I of the budget for 2018–19 or, failing that, through the use of the provision for unforeseen expenditure, in Part II. Should this not prove possible, the Director-General would propose alternative methods of financing at a later stage in the biennium.

Draft decision

72. *The Governing Body, subject to the guidance provided during the discussion:*

- (1) *Approves the measures concerning the operation of the representations procedure under article 24 of the Constitution set out in:*

constituency to promote greater quality, effectiveness and impact of international rules. See <http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/international-organisations-and-role-in-irc.htm>.

⁴⁴ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---jur/documents/genericdocument/wcms_439870.pdf.

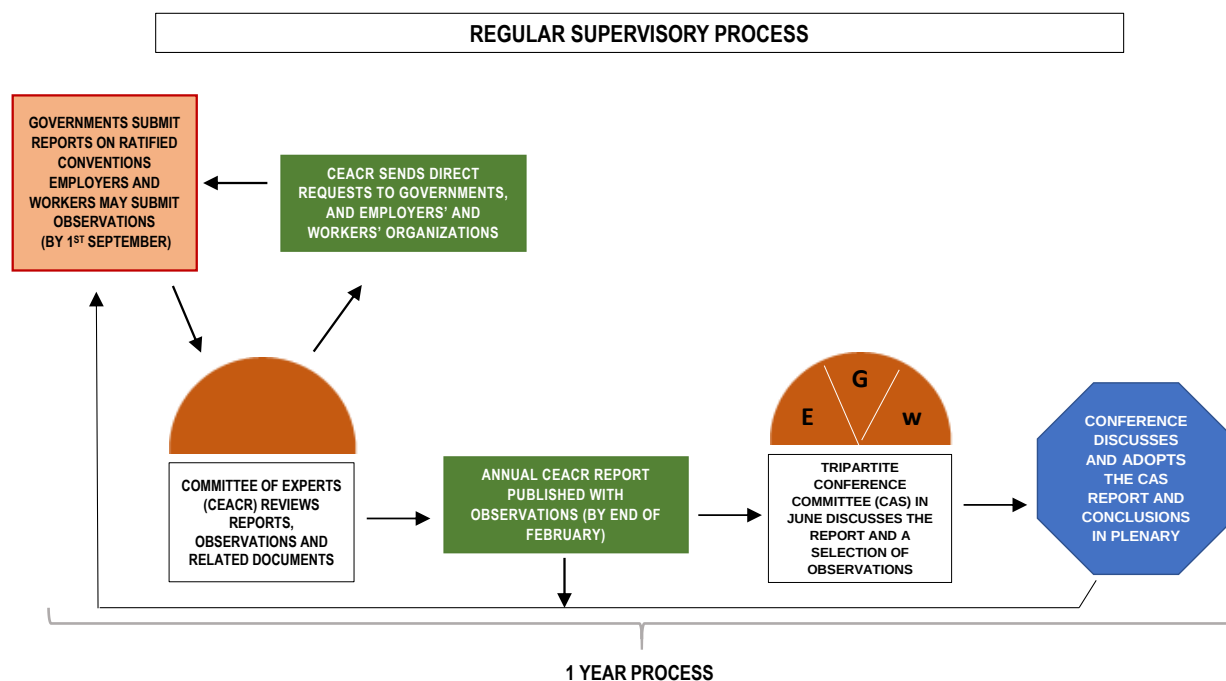
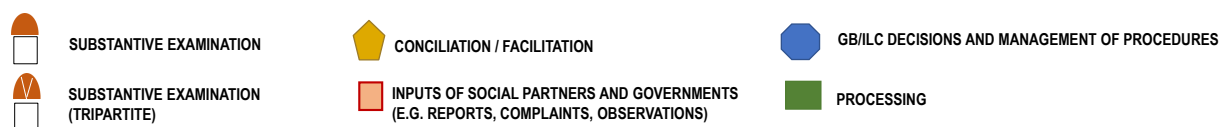
- (a) *paragraphs 9–10 (interim arrangements on the optional voluntary conciliation at the national level, to be reviewed by the Governing Body after a two-year trial period);*
 - (b) *paragraphs 14–16 (publication of information document on status of pending representations, ratification of Conventions concerned as condition for membership of Governments in ad hoc committees, integrity of procedure and measures to protect ad hoc committee members from undue interference); and*
 - (c) *paragraph 17 (reinforced integration of follow-up measures in the recommendations of committees and regularly updated information document on effect given to these recommendations).*
- (2) *Approves the measures and costs set out in section 2.1 (computerization of the supervisory system) and in paragraph 69 (preparation of a guide on established practices across the supervisory system), and decides that they will be financed in the first instance from savings that might arise under Part I of the budget or, failing that, through the use of the provision for unforeseen expenditure, Part II. Should this subsequently prove impossible, the Director-General would propose alternative methods of financing at a later stage in the 2018–19 biennium.*
- (3) *Approves the measures proposed on the streamlining of reporting on ratified Conventions concerning:*
 - (a) *thematic grouping for reporting purposes (Appendix V) under [option 1] or [option 2] (section 2.2.1.1);*
 - (b) *a new report form for simplified reports (section 2.2.2.1); and*
 - (c) *a pilot project for the establishment of baselines for the Maritime Labour Convention (section 2.2.2.2).*
- (4) *Approves the measures relating the use of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), of the Constitution set out in:*
 - (a) *paragraph 57 (preparation of General Surveys, including through a double Governing Body discussion and in view of the subsequent recurrent discussion under the same strategic objective); and*
 - (b) *paragraph 61 (standing item at the October–November Governing Body sessions to follow up on the discussion of the General Survey).*
- (5) *Invites the Committee on Freedom of Association, in the context of its current examination of its working methods, to assess further its practice relating to the examination of article 24 representations and to propose any necessary measures or adjustments to ensure a clearer distinction between its consideration of representations and of regular complaints.*
- (6) *Invites the Committee of Experts to review the current operation of the safeguard allowing observations from the social partners to be addressed*

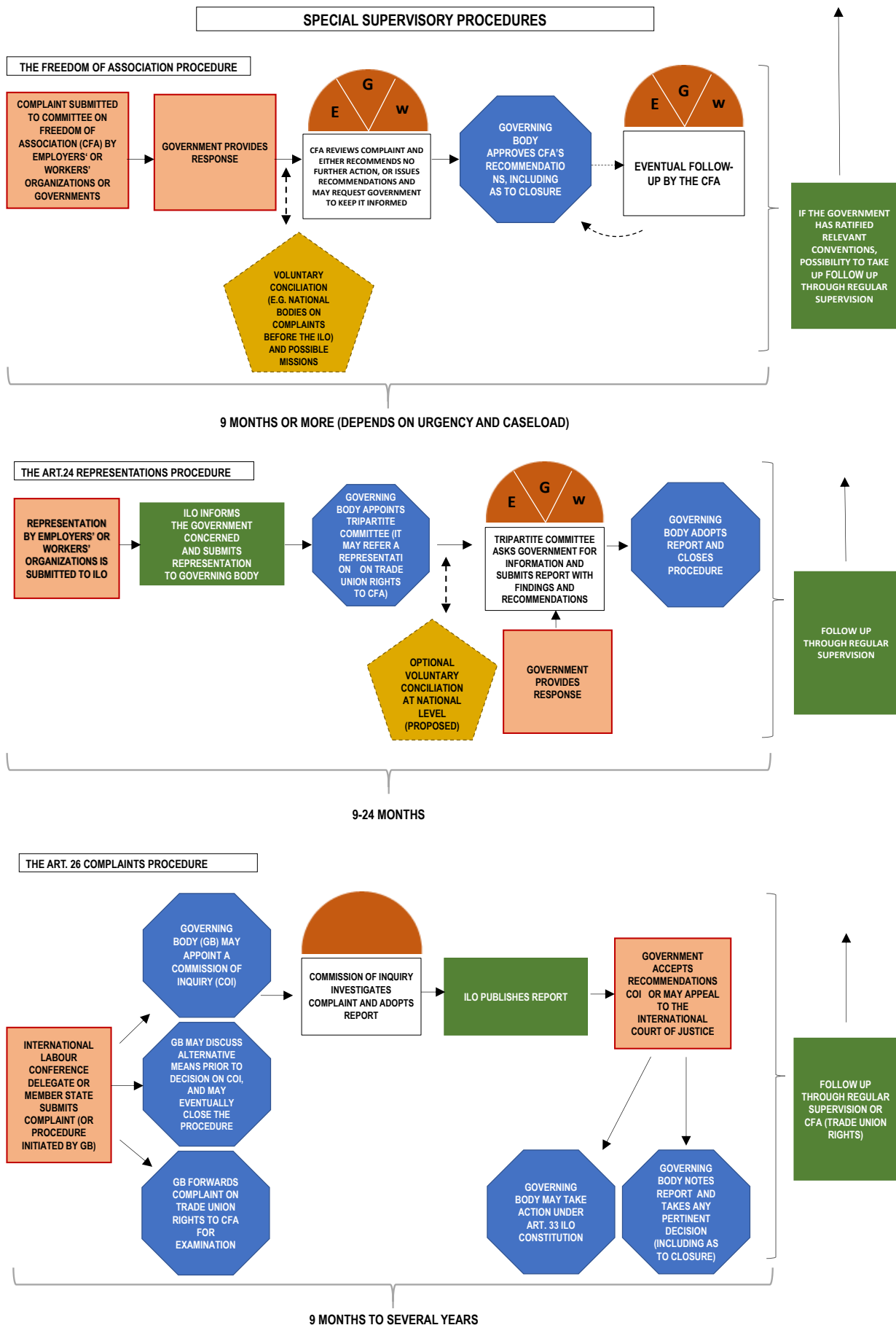
outside the regular reporting cycle (paragraph 42); encourages it to pursue the examination of thematically related issues in consolidated comments (section 2.2.1.2); and further invites it to make proposals on its possible contribution to optimizing the use made of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), of the Constitution (paragraph 59).

- (7) Invites the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards, through the informal tripartite consultations on its working methods, to consider measures to enhance its discussion of General Surveys (paragraph 60).*
- (8) Requests the Office to present at its 332nd (March 2018) Session:*
 - (a) concrete proposals to give effect to actions 1.2 (regular conversation between the supervisory bodies), 2.1 (consideration of the codification of the article 26 procedure) and 2.3 (consideration of further steps to ensure legal certainty); and*
 - (b) further detailed proposals on the use of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), of the Constitution, including in relation to the Annual Review under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.*

Appendix I

Overview of the supervisory system



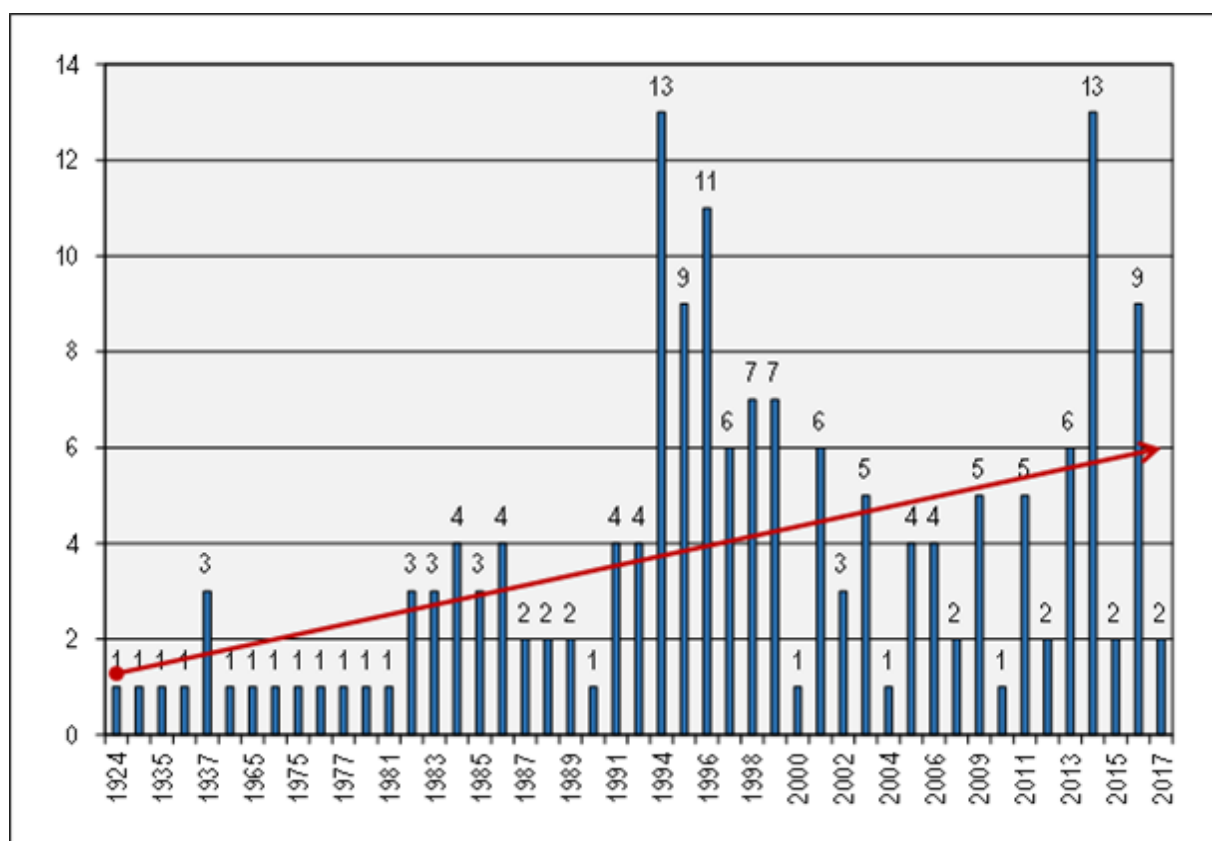


Appendix II

Information about the use and operation of the article 24 procedure ¹

- At present, there are four pending article 24 representations. At the beginning of 2016, there were 20 pending representations, 11 of which were completed by the end of the year.
- Two main periods can be distinguished in terms of volume of use (see the figure below): (i) 1924–89 (38 representations, or an average of one every two years); and (ii) 1990–16 (131 representations, or an average of five a year, which is a tenfold increase in volume in the second period).

Figure 1. Number of representations submitted under article 24 of the ILO Constitution (1924–17)
(The figure includes only years when at least one representation was submitted)



- Article 24 representation procedures usually take between nine and 24 months from when they are found to be receivable until the tripartite committee submits its report to the Governing Body (the average duration over the past five years has been 17 months). Most often, this involves two or three meetings of the tripartite committee over two, not necessarily consecutive, Governing Body sessions.

¹ This information is in addition to the figures concerning article 24 representations produced in the joint report; see figures 1–3 of Appendix II.

- As to working methods, the Standing Orders on the representations procedure, together with its Introductory Note, provide the rules and practices applicable to the handling of article 24 representations, within which each ad hoc committee decides on the organization of its examination of the merits. The powers of the ad hoc committee are set out in article 4 of the Standing Orders, which concerns matters such as requesting the complainant or the Government concerned to provide further information or prolonging any time limits.
- During the examination of a representation, the CEACR suspends its examination of the issues covered by the representation until the Governing Body has taken a decision. Therefore, until the procedure comes to an end, this may preclude examination of the matter by the CAS. This should be taken into account in the decision by the social partners to have recourse to an article 24 representation or an article 23 observation to the CEACR.
- Conversely, the initiation of an article 24 procedure does not preclude the initiation of an article 26 procedure, which may be decided by the Governing Body at any juncture during the article 24 procedure (this was made clear during the *travaux préparatoires* for the Standing Orders on representation procedures).
- Representations have been made against 71 of the 187 member States of the ILO. Of these, 24 member States have been the subject of only one representation, and seven have been the subject of eight or more.
- The receivability of a representation is usually determined within three to six months from the time that it is lodged, depending on the timing of the Governing Body sessions. In some cases, the question of receivability is considered twice by the Officers of the Governing Body, in which case the timeline for a decision on receivability may be extended to one year. The tripartite committee is normally established at the same session of the Governing Body that the representation is deemed receivable, or in the months before the next session of the Governing Body. In the case of the renewal of the Governing Body, the groups may wish to delay the establishment of a tripartite committee until the new membership is appointed.

Appendix III

Model electronic form for the submission of a representation under article 24 of the ILO Constitution

Information and further instructions on the article 24 procedure and its implications, as well as on other available ILO supervisory mechanisms, may be found here [\[hyperlink\]](#). For further support you may contact: for employers' organizations [ACT/EMP contact] and for workers' organizations [ACTRAV contact].

(Please provide information on why you are submitting your allegations through an article 24 representation procedure, as opposed to other procedures)

Receivability

1. Please indicate the name of the industrial association of employers or workers making the representation

(Please provide information on the organization concerned, its statutes, contact details, etc.)

2. Please indicate the Member of the Organization against which the representation is made

3. Please indicate the ratified Convention(s) of which non-observance is alleged

(Please also specify the ratification date(s))

4. Please use the [expandable] space below to inform the ILO Director-General in what respect it is alleged that the Member against which the representation is made has failed to secure the effective observance within its jurisdiction of the Convention(s) indicated above, making specific reference to article 24 of the ILO Constitution. Please provide any relevant information in support of your allegations.

Other information

5. Please indicate whether the issue has already been examined by, or submitted to, the national competent authorities (including national courts, social dialogue mechanisms or mechanisms to resolve disputes before the ILO that may exist in the country) and provide any information

on the state and outcome of the procedures engaged. Exhaustion of national procedures is not a prerequisite for the submission of a representation. However, in certain cases, the procedure to examine the representation may allow for conciliation at the national level – see the following question.

6. Please indicate if: (i) your organization would wish to explore the possibility of seeking conciliation at the national level for a limited period of time in order to address the allegations (subject to the agreement of the Government; and with the possibility for your organization to request the procedure to resume at an earlier moment should the conciliation fail); (ii) if so, please indicate if you would wish to have recourse to the intervention or technical assistance of the ILO in this regard.

7. Please indicate whether the issue has already been examined by or submitted to ILO supervisory bodies.

Appendix IV

Follow up of article 24 representations by the ad hoc tripartite committee

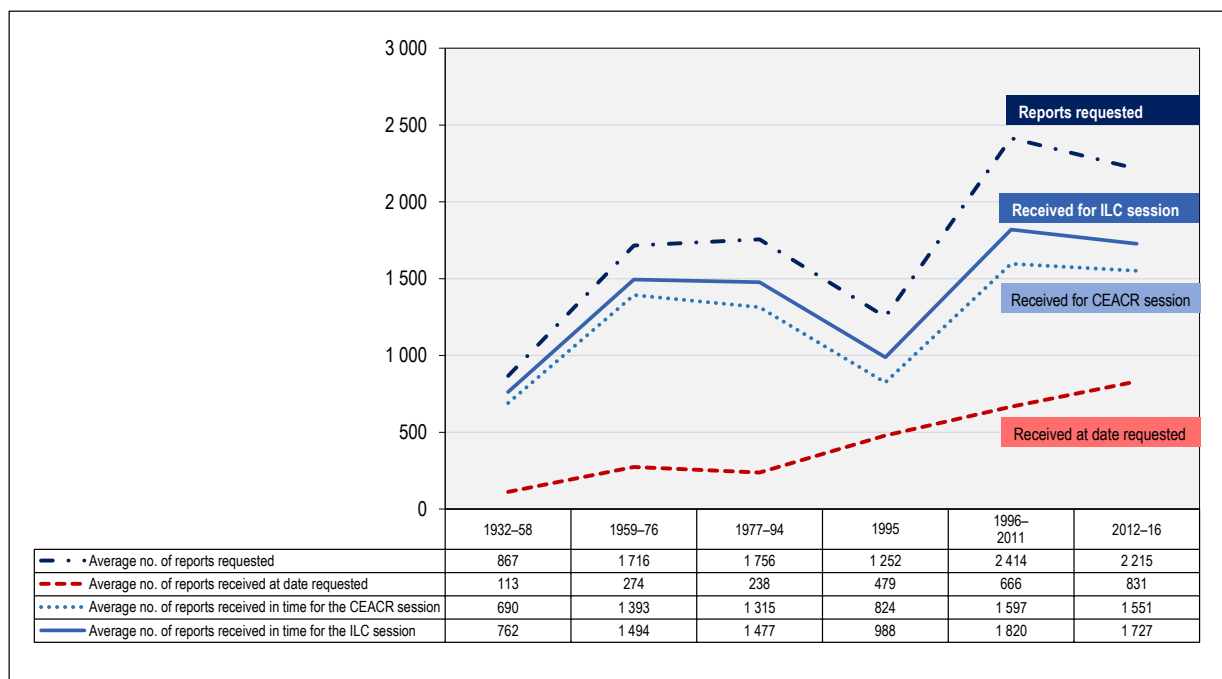
- At present, once the recommendations of an ad hoc committee concerning an article 24 representation have been approved by the Governing Body, the representations procedure is closed. Subsequently, any follow-up is subsumed by the regular supervisory system (in particular the CEACR) as part of the reporting obligations of the Government concerned in relation to the ratified Convention(s). It may be recalled that during the examination of a representation, the regular supervisory bodies (CEACR and CAS) interrupt their examination of the matter, to avoid any overlap and await for the recommendations of the tripartite committee.
- Should the Governing Body decide that the ad hoc tripartite committee should supervise the follow-up to its recommendations, this would have the following effects:
 - (i) The Governing Body would monitor further the progress made by Governments on the recommendations of ad hoc committees.
 - (ii) There would be further visibility and tripartite scrutiny of the action taken by Governments in giving effect to such recommendations.
 - (iii) The Government would have an obligation to report back to the ad hoc tripartite committee on the effect given to its recommendations within the following year.
 - (iv) The ad hoc tripartite committee would have to meet again with a view to reviewing the follow-up reported by the Government.
 - (v) The representation procedure would remain open after the Governing Body approves the recommendations of the ad hoc tripartite committee for a period of one year or longer.
 - (vi) It would be necessary to clarify when and under what conditions the follow up would be deemed satisfactory and result in closure of the representation procedure.
 - (vii) As the introduction of this additional follow-up phase would increase the likelihood of the procedure remaining open from one Governing Body term to the next, it might be difficult for the ad hoc tripartite committee to maintain the same composition as when the representation was examined.
 - (viii) Until the closure of the procedure, the regular supervisory mechanisms (CEACR and CAS) would be precluded from examining the particular matters concerned by the representation.
 - (ix) After closure of the representations procedure the regular supervisory bodies would continue supervising all matters relating to the application of the ratified Convention(s).

Appendix V

Historical overview of the main adjustments made to the reporting system (article 22)

Up to 1959	Detailed reports (to be prepared in accordance with the report forms) were requested each year on each Convention
1959	Lengthening of the reporting cycle from one to two years; each year, a general report would be requested for Conventions on which no detailed report was due that year
1976 GB.201/14/32	■ further lengthening of the reporting cycle from two to four years, except for certain Conventions considered to be the “most important” ■ following the first report, the next two reports would be requested every two years for all Conventions ■ safeguards: a report could be requested outside the cycle; role of observations by workers’ or employers’ organizations; right to invoke other procedures (articles 24–26)
1985 GB.229/10/19	■ reports would no longer be requested for a group of Conventions that no longer corresponded to the needs of the day ■ safeguards were reiterated
1993 GB.258/6/19	■ detailed reports would be requested at two-yearly intervals only on ten “priority” Conventions ■ for all the others, the four-year reporting cycle would be replaced by a five-year interval with “simplified” reports ■ the number of detailed “first” reports would be reduced from three to two ■ requests for annual “general” reports would be discontinued ■ safeguards were reiterated
2001–02 GB.282/LILS/5 GB.282/8/2 GB.283/LILS/6	■ there would be only one “first” report (detailed report) ■ all other reports requested would be simplified reports ■ grouping of Conventions by subject for reporting purposes
2007 GB.298/LILS/4 GB.298/9	■ discussion of various options for streamlining the submission of information and reports, including a country-based approach; preference for an intensified thematic approach for technical Conventions
2007–11 GB.300/LILS/6	■ discussion on the content of report forms See also: GB.303/LILS/4/1; GB.306/LILS/4; GB.307/LILS/3; GB.310/LILS/3/2
2009 GB.304/LILS/4 GB.306/LILS/4	■ evaluation of the grouping of Conventions by subject for reporting purposes
2011 GB.310/LILS/3/2 GB.310/11/2	■ approval of the three-year reporting cycle for fundamental and governance Conventions, and the five-year reporting cycle for technical Conventions, with the existing grouping of Conventions by subject matter implemented as of 2012

Figure 1. Average number of reports requested and received on ratified Conventions
(article 22 of the Constitution)



Appendix VI

Grouping of Conventions for reporting purposes under the regular supervisory procedure ¹

Freedom of association and collective bargaining (FPRW) ²

Fundamental Conventions

C.087 – Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)

C.098 – Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

Technical Conventions

(Freedom of association and collective bargaining)

C.011 – Right of Association (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 11)

C.084 – Right of Association (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 84)

C.135 – Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135)

C.141 – Rural Workers' Organisations Convention, 1975 (No. 141)

C.151 – Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151)

C.154 – Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154)

Forced labour (FPRW)

Fundamental Conventions

C.029 – Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

P029 – Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930

C.105 – Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)

Child labour (FPRW)

Fundamental Conventions

C.138 – Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)

C.182 – Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

¹ The six Conventions which have been proposed for abrogation by the Governing Body at its 328th Session (October–November 2016), for decision by the Conference in 2018, are marked with two asterisks (**). Moreover, the shelved Conventions, for which reports would be requested only upon specific request from the supervisory bodies (GB.229/10/19), have been marked with one asterisk (*).

² For information, the classification under the corresponding strategic objective (GB.310/LILS/3/1(Rev.)) is highlighted in yellow.

Technical Conventions
(Protection of children and young persons)

- C.005 – Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 5)
- C.006 – Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6)
- C.010 – Minimum Age (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 10)
- C.033 – Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention, 1932 (No. 33)
- C.059 – Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1937 (No. 59)
- C.077 – Medical Examination of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1946 (No. 77)
- C.078 – Medical Examination of Young Persons (Non-Industrial Occupations) Convention, 1946 (No. 78)
- C.079 – Night Work of Young Persons (Non-Industrial Occupations) Convention, 1946 (No. 79)
- C.090 – Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1948 (No. 90)
- C.123 – Minimum Age (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No. 123)
- C.124 – Medical Examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No. 124)

Equality of opportunity and treatment (FPRW)

Fundamental Conventions

- C.100 – Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- C.111 – Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

Technical Conventions
(Workers with Family Responsibilities)

- C.156 – Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156)

***Tripartite consultation
(Social dialogue and tripartism)***

Governance Convention

- C.144 – Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)

***Labour administration and inspection
(Social dialogue and tripartism)***

Governance Conventions

- C.081 – Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)
- P.081 – Protocol of 1995 to the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947
- C.129 – Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129)

Technical Conventions
(Labour administration and inspection)

- C.063 – Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63)
- C.085 – Labour Inspectorates (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 85)
- C.150 – Labour Administration Convention, 1978 (No. 150)
- C.160 – Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160)

Employment policy (*Employment*)

Governance Convention

- C.122 – Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)

Technical Conventions
(*Employment policy*)

- C.002 – Unemployment Convention, 1919 (No. 2)
- C.034 – Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention, 1933 (No. 34)*
- C.088 – Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88)
- C.096 – Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 96)
- C.159 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159)
- C.181 – Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)

Skills (*Employment*)

Technical Conventions

- C.140 – Paid Educational Leave Convention, 1974 (No. 140)
- C.142 – Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No. 142)

Employment security (*Employment*)

Technical Convention

- C.158 – Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158)

Wages (*Social protection*)

- C.026 – Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention, 1928 (No. 26)
- C.095 – Protection of Wages Convention, 1949 (No. 95)
- C.099 – Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery (Agriculture) Convention, 1951 (No. 99)
- C.131 – Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131)
- C.173 – Protection of Workers' Claims (Employer's Insolvency) Convention, 1992 (No. 173)

Working time (*Social protection*)

- C.001 – Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1)

- C.014 – Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921 (No. 14)
- C.020 – Night Work (Bakeries) Convention, 1925 (No. 20)*
- C.030 – Hours of Work (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1930 (No. 30)
- C.043 – Sheet-Glass Works Convention, 1934 (No. 43)*
- C.047 – Forty-Hour Week Convention, 1935 (No. 47)
- C.049 – Reduction of Hours of Work (Glass-Bottle Works) Convention, 1935 (No. 49)*
- C.052 – Holidays with Pay Convention, 1936 (No. 52)
- C.089 – Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948 (No. 89)
- P.089 – Protocol of 1990 to the Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948
- C.101 – Holidays with Pay (Agriculture) Convention, 1952 (No. 101)
- C.106 – Weekly Rest (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1957 (No. 106)
- C.132 – Holidays with Pay Convention (Revised), 1970 (No. 132)
- C.153 – Hours of Work and Rest Periods (Road Transport) Convention, 1979 (No. 153)
- C.171 – Night Work Convention, 1990 (No. 171)
- C.175 – Part-Time Work Convention, 1994 (No. 175)

Occupational safety and health (*Social protection*)

- C.013 – White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)
- C.045 – Underground Work (Women) Convention, 1935 (No. 45)
- C.062 – Safety Provisions (Building) Convention, 1937 (No. 62)
- C.115 – Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115)
- C.119 – Guarding of Machinery Convention, 1963 (No. 119)
- C.120 – Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964 (No. 120)
- C.127 – Maximum Weight Convention, 1967 (No. 127)
- C.136 – Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)
- C.139 – Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139)
- C.148 – Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148)
- C.155 – Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)
- P.155 – Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981
- C.161 – Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161)
- C.162 – Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162)
- C.167 – Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167)
- C.170 – Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170)
- C.174 – Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)
- C.176 – Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176)
- C.184 – Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184)
- C.187 – Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)

Social security (*Social protection*)

- C.012 – Workmen’s Compensation (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 12)
- C.017 – Workmen’s Compensation (Accidents) Convention, 1925 (No. 17)
- C.018 – Workmen’s Compensation (Occupational Diseases) Convention, 1925 (No. 18)
- C.019 – Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925 (No. 19)
- C.024 – Sickness Insurance (Industry) Convention, 1927 (No. 24)
- C.025 – Sickness Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1927 (No. 25)
- C.035 – Old-Age Insurance (Industry, etc.) Convention, 1933 (No. 35)*
- C.036 – Old-Age Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1933 (No. 36)*
- C.037 – Invalidity Insurance (Industry, etc.) Convention, 1933 (No. 37*)
- C.038 – Invalidity Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1933 (No. 38)*
- C.039 – Survivors’ Insurance (Industry, etc.) Convention, 1933 (No. 39)*
- C.040 – Survivors’ Insurance (Agriculture) Convention, 1933 (No. 40)*
- C.042 – Workmen’s Compensation (Occupational Diseases) Convention (Revised), 1934 (No. 42)
- C.044 – Unemployment Provision Convention, 1934 (No. 44)*
- C.048 – Maintenance of Migrants’ Pension Rights Convention, 1935 (No. 48)*
- C.102 – Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102)
- C.118 – Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118)
- C.121 – Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 [Schedule I amended in 1980] (No. 121)
- C.128 – Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors’ Benefits Convention, 1967 (No. 128)
- C.130 – Medical Care and Sickness Benefits Convention, 1969 (No. 130)
- C.157 – Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention, 1982 (No. 157)
- C.168 – Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention, 1988 (No. 168)

Maternity protection (*Social protection*)

- C.003 – Maternity Protection Convention, 1919 (No. 3)
- C.103 – Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 (No. 103)
- C.183 – Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183)

Social policy (*Social protection*)

- C.082 – Social Policy (Non-Metropolitan Territories) Convention, 1947 (No. 82)
- C.094 – Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94)
- C.117 – Policy (Basic Aims and Standards) Convention, 1962 (No. 117)

Migrant workers (*Cross-cutting*)

- C.021 – Inspection of Emigrants Convention, 1926 (No. 21)**

- C.097 – Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97)
 C.143 – Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)

Seafarers (**Cross-cutting**)

- C.007 – Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920 (No. 7)
 C.008 – Unemployment Indemnity (Shipwreck) Convention, 1920 (No. 8)
 C.009 – Placing of Seamen Convention, 1920 (No. 9)
 C.016 – Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921 (No. 16)
 C.022 – Articles of Agreement Convention, 1926 (No. 22)
 C.023 – Repatriation of Seamen Convention, 1926 (No. 23)
 C.053 – Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936 (No. 53)
 C.054 – Holidays with Pay (Sea) Convention, 1936 (No. 54)
 C.055 – Shipowners' Liability (Sick and Injured Seamen) Convention, 1936 (No. 55)
 C.056 – Sickness Insurance (Sea) Convention, 1936 (No. 56)
 C.057 – Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention, 1936 (No. 57)
 C.058 – Minimum Age (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1936 (No. 58)
 C.068 – Food and Catering (Ships' Crews) Convention, 1946 (No. 68)
 C.069 – Certification of Ships' Cooks Convention, 1946 (No. 69)
 C.070 – Social Security (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 70)
 C.071 – Seafarers' Pensions Convention, 1946 (No. 71)
 C.072 – Paid Vacations (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 72)
 C.073 – Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 73)
 C.074 – Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946 (No. 74)
 C.075 – Accommodation of Crews Convention, 1946 (No. 75)
 C.076 – Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention, 1946 (No. 76)
 C.091 – Paid Vacations (Seafarers) Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 91)*
 C.092 – Accommodation of Crews Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 92)
 C.093 – Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 93)
 C.108 – Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 (No. 108)
 C.109 – Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1958 (No. 109)
 C.133 – Accommodation of Crews (Supplementary Provisions) Convention,
 1970 (No. 133)
 C.134 – Prevention of Accidents (Seafarers) Convention, 1970 (No. 134)
 C.145 – Continuity of Employment (Seafarers) Convention, 1976 (No. 145)
 C.146 – Seafarers' Annual Leave with Pay Convention, 1976 (No. 146)
 C.147 – Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 147)
 P.147 – Protocol of 1996 to the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards)
 Convention, 1976
 C.163 – Seafarers' Welfare Convention, 1987 (No. 163)

- C.164 – Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987 (No. 164)
- C.165 – Social Security (Seafarers) Convention (Revised), 1987 (No. 165)
- C.166 – Repatriation of Seafarers Convention (Revised), 1987 (No. 166)
- C.178 – Labour Inspection (Seafarers) Convention, 1996 (No. 178)
- C.179 – Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Convention, 1996 (No. 179)
- C.180 – Seafarers’ Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996 (No. 180)
- C.185 – Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)
- MLC, 2006 – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)

Fishers (Cross-cutting)

- C.112 – Minimum Age (Fishermen) Convention, 1959 (No. 112)
- C.113 – Medical Examination (Fishermen) Convention, 1959 (No. 113)
- C.114 – Fishermen’s Articles of Agreement Convention, 1959 (No. 114)
- C.125 – Fishermen’s Competency Certificates Convention, 1966 (No. 125)
- C.126 – Accommodation of Crews (Fishermen) Convention, 1966 (No. 126)
- C.188 – Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)

Dockworkers (Cross-cutting)

- C.027 – Marking of Weight (Packages Transported by Vessels) Convention, 1929 (No. 27)
- C.032 – Protection against Accidents (Dockers) Convention (Revised), 1932 (No. 32)
- C.137 – Dock Work Convention, 1973 (No. 137)
- C.152 – Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention, 1979 (No. 152)

Indigenous and tribal peoples (Cross-cutting)

- C.050 – Recruiting of Indigenous Workers Convention, 1936 (No. 50)**
- C.064 – Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939 (No. 64)**
- C.065 – Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939 (No. 65)**
- C.086 – Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1947 (No. 86)**
- C.104 – Abolition of Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1955 (No. 104)**
- C.107 – Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107)
- C.169 – Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)

Other specific categories of workers (Cross-cutting)

- C.110 – Plantations Convention, 1958 (No. 110)
 - P.110 – Protocol of 1982 to the Plantations Convention, 1958
- C.149 – Nursing Personnel Convention, 1977 (No. 149)
- C.172 – Working Conditions (Hotels and Restaurants) Convention, 1991 (No. 172)
- C.177 – Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177)
- C.189 – Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)

Appendix VII

Proposed new integrated report form

Simplified reports to be sent under article 22 of the ILO Constitution for [name of country]

The present report form has been approved by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, in accordance with article 22 of the ILO Constitution, which reads as follows: “Each of the Members agrees to make an annual report to the International Labour Office on the measures which it has taken to give effect to the provisions of Conventions to which it is a party. These reports shall be made in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Governing Body may request.”

Every year, based on this report form, the Office sends to each member State a single request for all the simplified reports which are due that year. In addition, the Office communicates to each member State the list of detailed reports which may also be due the year in question.

- (a) Please provide information on any new legislative or other measures affecting the application of ratified Conventions; where this has not already been done, please forward copies of any relevant texts to the International Labour Office with this report.
- (b) Please reply to the comments which have been addressed to your Government by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations or by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards, as contained in the annex to this form.¹
- (c) In so far as it has not already been supplied in reply to question (b), please provide information on the practical application of the Conventions concerned (for example, copies or extracts from official documents including inspection reports, studies and inquiries, statistics); please also state whether courts of law or other tribunals have given decisions involving questions of principle relating to the application of the Conventions concerned. If so, please supply the text of these decisions.
- (d) Please indicate the representative organizations of employers and workers to which copies of the present report have been communicated in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization.² If copies of the report have not been communicated to representative organizations of employers and/or workers, or if they have been communicated to bodies other than such organizations, please supply information on any particular circumstances existing in your country which explain the procedure followed.

¹ The annex is established on the basis of the regular reporting cycle and any additional requests for reports addressed to your country by the supervisory bodies for the year in question. It also includes cases in which your country has failed to submit the simplified reports requested the previous year. It does not cover any simplified report due under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), for which a specific form will be sent to your country, as appropriate.

² Article 23, para. 2, of the Constitution reads as follows: “Each Member shall communicate to the representative organisations recognised for the purpose of article 3 copies of the information and reports communicated to the Director-General in pursuance of articles 19 and 22.”

- (e) Please indicate whether you have received from the organizations of employers or workers concerned any observations, either of a general kind or in connection with the present or the previous report, regarding the practical application of the provisions of the Conventions concerned. If so, please communicate a copy of the observations received, together with any comments that you consider useful.