International Labour Organization

▶ GB.349/POL/3

Governing Body

349th Session, Geneva, 30 October–9 November 2023

Policy Development Section

POL

Social Dialogue Segment

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Third item on the agenda

Sectoral meetings held in 2023 and proposals for sectoral work in 2024–25

Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to authorize the publication of the records of proceedings of the three meetings held in the first half of 2023; to authorize the publication of the policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in the agri-food sector (section I); to endorse the proposals in relation to global sectoral meetings for the first to third quarters of 2024 (section II); and to authorize the respective follow-up actions (see the draft decision in paragraph 28).

Relevant strategic objective: Social dialogue and tripartism.

Main relevant outcome: All policy outcomes.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: The Office would be required to follow-up as proposed.

Author unit: Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: GB.298/STM/1; GB.316/PFA/7/2; GB.341/POL/3(Rev.1); GB.343/LILS/4; GB.344/POL/2(Rev.1); GB.346/POL/3; GB.347/POL/2.

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▶ I. Meetings held during the first half of 2023

A. Technical meeting on the future of work in the arts and entertainment sector

1. In accordance with earlier decisions by the Governing Body [1], the technical meeting on the future of work in the arts and entertainment sector was held from 13 to 17 February 2023.

2. The Chairperson of the meeting was Mr Henrik Munthe, appointed by the Employers' group of the Governing Body. The Government Vice-Chairpersons were Mr Alfredo Novales Bilbao (Spain) and Mr Aniefiok E. Essah (Nigeria), the Employer Vice-Chairperson was Mr Juan José Diaz Mirón and the Worker Vice-Chairperson was Mr Duncan Crabtree-Ireland.

3. The meeting was attended by 44 Government representatives and advisers from 30 Member States, together with 29 Government observers (from 13 Member States), as well as 8 Employer and 16 Worker representatives and advisers, 25 Worker observers, as well as the secretariat of the Employers' and Workers' groups. Women constituted 50 per cent of the participation in the Government group, 50 per cent in the Employers' group, and 37 per cent in the Workers' group. Twenty-two observers from international organizations and non-governmental international organizations also attended the meeting.

4. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss opportunities and challenges for decent work in the sector in the context of digital technologies, globalization, environmental sustainability, demographic changes and a human-centred recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with the aim of adopting conclusions, including recommendations for future action.

5. A background paper [2] had been prepared by the Office, which served as the basis for the discussions. The record of proceedings [3] summarizes the discussions at the meeting, which resulted in the adoption of conclusions and recommendations for future action [4].

B. Technical meeting on a green, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for the civil aviation sector

6. In accordance with earlier decisions by the Governing Body [5], the technical meeting on a green, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for the civil aviation sector was held from 24 to 28 April 2023.

7. The Chairperson of the meeting was Mr Magnus Nordddahl, appointed by the Workers' group of the Governing Body. The three Vice-Chairpersons were: Ms Celeste Drake (United States of America) for the Government group, Mr El Sayed Torky for the Employers' group and Ms Sara Nelson for the Workers' group.

[1] GB.344/POL/2(Rev.1).

[2] TMFWAE/2023.

[3] TMFWAE/2023/9.

[4] TMFWAE/2023/8.

[5] GB.344/POL/2(Rev.1).

8. The meeting was attended by 46 Government representatives and advisers from 25 Member States, together with 14 Government observers (from 11 Member States), as well as 12 Employer and 50 Worker representatives, advisers, observers in addition to the secretariat of the Employers' and Workers' groups. Women constituted 41 per cent of the participation in the Government group, 17 per cent in the Employers' group and 24 per cent in the Workers' group. Eighteen observers from international organizations and non-governmental international organizations also attended the meeting. An information session was organized during the first day and led by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

9. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss opportunities and challenges relating to best practices in occupational safety and health and the promotion of decent work and productive employment to shape the recovery of the aviation industry beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim of adopting conclusions, including recommendations for future action.

10. A background paper [6] had been prepared by the Office, which served as the basis for the discussions. The record of proceedings [7] summarizes the discussions at the meeting, which resulted in the adoption of conclusions and recommendations for future action [8].

C. Meeting of experts on decent work in the agri-food: An essential part of sustainable food systems

11. In accordance with earlier decisions by the Governing Body [9], the meeting of experts on decent work in the agri-food: An essential part of sustainable food systems was held from 8 to 12 May 2023, with a view to adopting guidelines on the topic.

12. The Chairperson of the meeting was Ms Christine Campeau. The three Vice-Chairpersons were: Ms Nara Masista Rakhmatia (Indonesia) for the Government group, Ms Marlene Mazariegos for the Employers' group and Ms Beverly Clarkson for the Workers' group.

13. The meeting was attended by eight experts nominated by the Government group of the Governing Body, eight experts nominated by the Employers' group and eight experts nominated by the Workers' group and their advisers, as well as the secretariat of the Employers' and Workers' groups. Women constituted 56 per cent of the participation in the Government group, 12.5 per cent in the Employers' group and 50 per cent in the Workers' group. In addition, 25 Government observers and 8 observers from international organizations and non-governmental international organizations attended the meeting.

14. Draft guidelines, prepared by the Office on the basis of relevant international labour standards and other sources, including declarations, codes of practice and other policy guidance adopted and endorsed by the International Labour Conference or the Governing Body, as well as other international agreements and policies, served as the basis for the discussions.

15. The document adopted by the Meeting of Experts, entitled *Policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in the agri-food sector* [10], sets out common principles and the policy framework to guide action towards achieving decent work in the agri-food sector, and is structured around five chapters: the scope and target users of the guidelines (Chapter 1), rights at work

[6] TMGCAS/2023.

[7] TMGCAS/2023/11.

[8] TMGCAS/2023/9.

[9] GB.346/POL/3.

[10] MEDWAF/2023/4.

(Chapter 2), decent jobs and productive employment (Chapter 3), social and labour protection (Chapter 4) and social dialogue and tripartism (Chapter 5).

16. The record of proceedings [11] of the meeting of experts summarizes the discussions that took place, which concluded with the adoption of the guidelines.

▶ II. Meetings to be held in the first to third quarter of 2024

A. Meetings to be held in 2024

17. The Governing Body at its 346th Session [12] postponed a meeting of experts to produce joint ILO–IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers to be held in the first quarter of 2024. It is proposed that this meeting be held from 12 to16 February 2024.

18. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Joint ILO–IMO Tripartite Working Group (JTWG) to identify and address seafarers' issues and the human element, it is proposed to the Governing Body that the second meeting of the JTWG will be held from 27 to 29 February 2024 in London at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization.

19. The Governing Body, at its 347th Session (March 2023) approved the programme of sectoral meetings for the biennium 2024–25. At its current session, the Governing Body is requested to approve the details of the Technical meeting on the promotion of decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, including cement.

20. Appendix I sets out the dates, location, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the three above-mentioned meetings envisaged for the first to third quarter of 2024 for the approval of the Governing Body.

21. A list of all endorsed global sectoral meetings for the biennium 2024–25 is provided in Appendix III.

▶ III. Review of the list of sectors

22. The Sectoral Policies Department is responsible for providing support to ILO constituents to address employment and labour issues in 22 economic and social sectors at the global, regional and national levels. The list of 22 sectors was established in 1994 and has not been updated since. However, eight groupings of sectors were introduced in 2007 [13] to better reflect changes that globalization has brought to the world of work.

23. Since then, the priorities for each grouping have been determined through consultations with the tripartite constituents and in line with the overall priorities of the ILO. Cross-sectoral activities are also undertaken to address issues that cut across several sectors as well as to foster exchanges of experiences between and among different sectors.

[11] MEDWAF/2023/5.

[12] GB.346/POL/3.

[13] GB.298/STM/1.

24. Following the discussion at the 347th Session of the Governing Body (March 2023) [14], further consultations are necessary within the Office as well as with tripartite constituents with a view to obtaining further orientation and guidance regarding a possible review of the list of sectors.

▶ IV. Reporting mechanism on the implementation of conclusions and recommendations

25. The Governing Body at its 347th Session (March 2023) [15] held a discussion on the possible development of a mechanism to ensure more systematic reporting to the Governing Body on progress made by the Office in implementing the conclusions and recommendations adopted by sectoral meetings. In follow-up to this discussion and subsequent informal consultations, the Office will prepare a proposal for consideration by tripartite constituents in a future session of the Governing Body on a mechanism to update the Governing Body on the follow-up action taken on the conclusions and recommendations of technical meetings as well as on outputs of meetings of experts.

▶ V. Format of the meeting in the transport (railways) sector

26. At its 347th Session (March 2023) the Governing Body, at the recommendation of the Sectoral Advisory Bodies, was requested to decide on whether a tripartite meeting in the transport (railways) sector proposed for the third quarter of 2025 should take the form of a technical meeting, with a view to adopting conclusions and recommendations, or a meeting of experts with the objective of adopting guidelines on decent work in the sector. In the absence of a consensus, the Office was requested to engage in informal consultations with constituents and report back to this current session of the Governing Body. As no consensus has yet been reached, the Office will continue to seek the views of constituents and report accordingly in a forthcoming session of the Governing Body.

▶ VI. Decent work in the world of sports

27. At its 347th Session (March 2023), the Governing Body requested [16] the Office to provide an update on the outcome of the research on sports. The Office has published a brief on COVID-19 and the sports sector [17] and is preparing a study on fundamental principles and rights at work in the world of sport which examines trends and good practices in relation to the application of fundamental principles and rights at work in the world of sport and other standards for athletes.

[14] GB.347/PV/(Rev.), paras 883 and 884.

[15] GB.347/PV(Rev.), paras 877 and 881.

[16] GB.347/PV(Rev.), para. 884.

[17] ILO, *COVID-19 and the Sports Sector*, ILO Brief, 2023.

▶ Draft decision

28. The Governing Body:

(a) approved the records of proceedings of the three meetings referred to in section I of document GB.349/POL/3 and authorized the Director-General to publish them;

(b) requested the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for future work, the recommendations for future action by the ILO made by the meetings referred to in section I of document GB. 349/POL/3;

(c) authorized the Director-General to publish the policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in the agri-food sector;

(d) endorsed the proposals contained in Appendix I to document GB. 349/POL/3 relating to the dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the meetings listed therein;

(e) requested:

(i) the Office to continue to informally consult with constituents with a view to reporting back to the 350th Session of the Governing Body on the format of a meeting on decent work in the railways sector;

(ii) the Office, following subsequent consultations with constituents, to prepare a proposal for a mechanism to update the Governing Body on how the Office has followed up on the conclusions and recommendations of technical meetings as well as the outputs of meetings of experts;

(iii) that consultations within the Office as well as with constituents be organized on the review of the list of sectors with a view to reporting back in a future session of the Governing Body.

Appendix I

Meetings as endorsed by the Governing Body	Proposed dates and location	Proposed duration	Proposed title	Proposed purpose	Proposed composition
Meeting of Experts to produce joint ILO–IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers (subject to the consideration of the suspension of the Standing Orders and approval by the appropriate bodies of the IMO). [1]	12–16 February 2024, Geneva	5 days	Joint ILO–IMO meeting to adopt guidelines for Medical Examination of Fishers/Fishing Vessel Personnel.	The purpose of the meeting to finalize and adopt ILO/IMO guidelines on the medical examination of fishers/fishing vessel personnel.	Eight Government representatives [2]; eight Employer representatives; eight Worker representatives. All interested governments as observers. Official international organizations and non-governmental international organizations as observers.
Joint ILO–IMO Tripartite Working Group to identify and address seafarers' issues and the human element. [3]	27–29 February 2024, London	3 days	Second Meeting of the Joint ILO–IMO Tripartite Working Group to Identify and Address Seafarers' Issues and the Human Element.	The purpose of the meeting is in keeping with the request of the resolution on harassment and bullying, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, in the maritime sector, adopted by the Fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee established under Article XIII of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended – Part II (5 to 13 May 2022), with the objective of ensuring a safe and inclusive workplace for seafarers.	Eight government representatives [4]; eight Shipowner representatives; eight Seafarer representatives; advisers; observers. All governments as observers. Official international organizations and non-governmental international organizations as observers.
Technical meeting on the promotion of decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, including cement. [5]	23–27 September 2024	5 days	Technical meeting on the promotion of decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, including cement.	The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss opportunities and challenges for promotion of decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, including cement, with the aim of adopting conclusions, including recommendations for future action.	All Governments; eight Employer representatives; eight Worker representatives; advisers; observers. Official international organizations and non-governmental international organizations as observers.

[1] GB.341/POL/3(Rev.1). [2] The IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 107) has appointment the following Governments: Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain and United Kingdom. [3] GB.343/LILS/4. [4] The IMO Council, at its 127th session, has appointed the following Governments: Bahamas, France, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand and United States. [5] GB.347/POL/2.

▶ Appendix II

List of sectoral meetings endorsed by the Governing Body for the second half of 2023

Date	Title of meeting	Place
	2023	
25–29 September	Technical meeting on digitalization in the retail sector as an engine for economic recovery and decent work	Geneva
20–24 November	Technical meeting on decent and sustainable work in the inland waterways sector	Geneva

▶ Appendix III

List of sectoral meetings endorsed by the Governing Body for the biennium 2024–25 and proposed dates

Date	Title of meeting	Place
	2024	
12–16 February [1]	Joint ILO–IMO meeting to adopt guidelines for Medical Examination of Fishers/Fishing Vessel Personnel	Geneva
27–29 February [2]	Second Meeting of the Joint ILO–IMO Tripartite Working Group to Identify and Address Seafarers' Issues and the Human Element	London
13–17 May [3]	Meeting of Experts to update and adopt the 1998 ILO code of practice on safety and health in forestry work	Geneva
23–27 September [4]	Technical meeting on the promotion of decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, including cement	Geneva
Fourth quarter	Joint ILO–UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART)	Geneva
Fourth quarter	Third Meeting of the Joint ILO–IMO Tripartite Working Group to identify and address seafarers' issues and the human element	Geneva
	2025	
First quarter	Sectoral Advisory Bodies	Geneva
First quarter	Technical meeting on the promotion of decent work and a just transition, including skills and lifelong learning, in the food and beverages industry	Geneva
7–11 April	Fifth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee established under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006) [5]	Geneva
Second quarter	Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission [6]	Geneva
Second quarter	Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice to advance decent work in recycling	Geneva
Third quarter	Meeting of Experts to adopt guidelines on decent work in the railways sector OR Technical meeting on the promotion of decent work in the railways sector	Geneva
Fourth quarter	Meeting of Experts to adopt guidelines for fair labour market services for migrant fishers in the fishing sector (including data and statistics)	Geneva
Fourth quarter	Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice on occupational safety and health in aquaculture	Geneva

[1] Subject to the decision of the Governing Body at its 349th Session. [2] Subject to the decision of the Governing Body at its 349th Session. [3] Further to the decision of the Governing Body at its 348th Session. [4] Subject to the decision of the Governing Body at its 349th Session. [5] Jointly organized with the International Labour Standards Department (NORMES). [6] Back-to-back with the Fifth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee established under the MLC, 2006.