



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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Update on the Global Coalition for Social Justice

Purpose of the document

This document provides an update on the establishment and roll-out of the Global Coalition for Social Justice (see the draft decision in paragraph 18).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Main relevant outcome: All policy outcomes and Enabler A: Enhanced knowledge, innovation, cooperation and communication to advance social justice.

Policy implications: Yes.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: No.

Follow-up action required: Yes.

Author unit: External and Corporate Relations Cluster, Coalition secretariat.

Related documents: [GB.349/INS/4](#); [GB.349/INS/PV](#); [GB.347/INS/4](#); [GB.347/INS/4/Additional information](#); [GB.347/PV\(Rev.\)](#); [GB.346/INS/17/1](#); [GB.346/PV](#).

► Introduction

1. At its 349th Session (October–November 2023), the Governing Body endorsed the Director-General's proposal to establish a Global Coalition for Social Justice ("the Coalition"), based on the guidance it provided during the 347th and 349th Sessions, and requested the Director-General to take into account its guidance in the further development of the Coalition. It also requested the Director-General to report regularly on the progress of the Coalition at future sessions of the Governing Body.¹
2. This document provides an update on the progress to date in respect of the establishment of the Coalition, in particular concerning the engagement of partners, the thematic development and the arrangements for the inaugural Forum of the Coalition.

► Key developments since the establishment of the Coalition

Engagement of partners

3. Following the establishment of the Coalition by the Governing Body at its 349th Session, the Office proceeded to send out invitations to potential partners of the Coalition, in accordance with the governance arrangements defined in consultation with the ILO constituents.²
4. As of the date of drafting of the present document, over 100 partners representing all categories and regions – governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international organizations, regional organizations, development banks, enterprises, international non-governmental organizations, and academic and research institutions – have joined the Coalition.³
5. The Office will continue its advocacy and engagement efforts with potential partners, paying particular attention to geographic representation and diversity, and to the complementarity of partners' mandates.
6. The process to set up the Coordinating Group of the Coalition will start soon. Nominations for members will be made from March to April 2024, in accordance with the governance arrangements of the Coalition.⁴ It is envisaged that a first meeting of the Coordinating Group could be held in a virtual format before the 112th Session (June 2024) of the International Labour Conference, and the second meeting of the year could be convened at the end of 2024.

¹ GB.349/INS/PV, para. 264.

² GB.349/INS/4, paras 14–20.

³ ILO, "Coalition for Social Justice Partners".

⁴ GB.349/INS/4, paras 21–27.

Thematic development

7. Guided by the previous discussions and decisions of the Governing Body,⁵ the thematic development of the Coalition has been steadily progressing since the establishment of the Coalition by the Governing Body at its 349th Session.
8. The Coalition's thematic development is being organized around the following thematic policy domains endorsed by the Governing Body: (i) addressing inequality, discrimination and exclusion; (ii) realizing labour rights as human rights, ensuring human dignity and meeting basic needs; (iii) expanding access to and capabilities for productive and freely chosen employment and sustainable enterprise; (iv) providing protection and building resilience; (v) strengthening just transitions and the social dimension of sustainable development, trade and investment; and (vi) reinforcing institutions of social dialogue.⁶ These domains are the point of departure for the Office's discussions with new partners, aimed at shaping the actions and initiatives they contribute to the Coalition. As part of the process of engagement of partners, "champions" will be encouraged to step forward and help drive the development of the key actions and initiatives they find particularly promising. Thus far, Coalition partners have expressed interest in undertaking new or expanding existing efforts on several of these priority topics.
9. Moreover, the ILO's contribution is currently taking shape. In particular, the ILO is targeting a number of initial priorities endorsed by the Governing Body and encouraging partners to increase concrete effort and partnership on these, which include: (a) employment creation and universal social protection, including through the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and efforts to strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable enterprises and investment in skills in support of full and productive employment and sustained economic growth; (b) reduction of inequalities; (c) elevation of social justice and decent work in the priorities of other multilateral organizations, including through cooperation with the ILO; and (d) promoting social dialogue, including through institutions of social dialogue, and expanding the role and promoting the value added of social dialogue and of the ILO's tripartite structure and normative framework in the United Nations and other multilateral policy development and coordination processes.⁷ The ILO's thematic contribution is fully convergent with the priorities set out in the ILO's programme of work for 2024–25 and contributes to its delivery.
10. Since the intention is to finalize the Coalition's thematic areas of intervention and the related programme of activities collaboratively with its partners, the Coalition secretariat plans to convene a series of interactive sessions (webinars and workshops) with partners between March and May 2024 for the purpose of further scoping their areas of interest and developing proposals for concrete collaboration. A first introductory meeting will be convened, in a virtual format, to gather all the partners, during which the secretariat will present the state of progress of the establishment of the Coalition. This kick-off meeting will also serve to initiate exchanges with Coalition partners on the contents of the programme of activities of the Coalition. It will be followed by a series of six webinars, one for each of the thematic policy domains (see paragraph 8), which will be open to all partners. These interactive sessions will allow partners to share their priorities and areas of interest, including the specific topics or initiatives that they wish to champion, and to advance in the definition of thematic areas of

⁵ See GB.347/INS/4, and GB.349/INS/4.

⁶ See, in particular, GB.347/INS/4, paras 13–18 and GB.349/INS/4, para. 35.

⁷ GB.349/INS/4, para. 36.

intervention and in the development of their respective programme of activities. The first meeting of the Coordinating Group and the inaugural Forum of the Coalition (see paragraphs 15–17) will provide opportunities for further discussions and interactions between partners, which will make it possible to finalize the initial thematic areas of intervention of the Coalition and the programme of activities. Building on these discussions and the inputs provided by Coalition partners throughout this process, the secretariat will prepare a written update on the Coalition's thematic development to be submitted to the Governing Body at its 352nd Session (October–November 2024), and to the Coordinating Group at its second meeting (late 2024).

Development of the report on the state of social justice in the world

11. As part of its contribution to the Coalition, the ILO will produce a new recurrent report on the state of social justice in the world. The first edition is planned for publication in 2025 and will build on the framework presented in the Report of the Director-General, *Advancing Social Justice*, including by deepening understanding of the diverse cultural and historical roots and universal relevance of social justice and by empirically assessing progress and outstanding challenges in its key dimensions.⁸ The report will not include country-by-country benchmarking information or an index; nor will it create new reporting obligations for countries. However, it will seek to identify relevant patterns and trends and highlight promising policies, practices and initiatives that merit wider recognition or application. These could include significant initiatives undertaken by Coalition partners. The report is intended to serve as an important input into the second World Summit for Social Development in 2025, complementing the action-oriented initiatives undertaken by Coalition partners.
12. A first round of consultations on the report's approach and thematic areas of emphasis has been held with representatives of policy departments and regional offices. An extensive scoping discussion has also been held with the Research Review Group. A draft annotated outline of the report is in the process of being prepared to inform further consultations during the first quarter of 2024. The plan is for this process to include consultations with the social partners and with government groups. Parallel consultations will take place with an extensive interdisciplinary and international network of experts, including from relevant multilateral organizations.
13. The team with principal responsibility for drafting the report was created in January 2024. A number of background papers have been commissioned, exploring the concept of social justice from the perspective of different cultural and philosophical traditions. The Office is considering the possibility of publishing a number of these papers and others relevant to the theme of the report during the course of 2024, for the purpose of providing early input into the preparations for the second World Summit for Social Development.

⁸ ILO, *Advancing social justice*, Report of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 111th Session, 2023.

Communication tools

14. Communication tools have been developed to articulate the Coalition's objectives and foster participation in the initiative. In addition, a website is being developed and will be progressively expanded to incorporate sections highlighting developed initiatives, identifying best practices and allowing for the exchange of valuable information and experiences among partners. These resources will be consistently updated and will be accessible to partners, facilitating their engagement and collective advocacy for social justice.

► Inaugural Forum

15. As stated in the organizational arrangements of the Coalition, all partners are invited to participate once a year in a forum aimed at collectively taking stock of the advancement of the programme of activities and actions undertaken by the partners of the Coalition in the previous year, and of the progress achieved in the various thematic domains.⁹ The Forum will provide a space for Coalition partners to discuss thematic issues related to social justice, as well as the challenges, opportunities and potential solutions in respect of advancing the Coalition's objectives. It will also allow Coalition partners to exchange knowledge, tools and experiences, and to showcase activities and initiatives undertaken in support of social justice. The Forum may take place remotely, in person or in a hybrid format.
16. The inaugural Forum of the Coalition will take place on 13 June 2024, on the occasion of the 112th Session (2024) of the International Labour Conference. This option responds to the request by the ILO constituents to take advantage of the presence of a large number of tripartite constituents to ensure the highest possible and most inclusive attendance. It will last for one day, in line with the feedback received during the discussions at the 349th Session of the Governing Body. The inaugural Forum will be open not only to all the Coalition's partners, but also to the ILO constituents that are not yet part of the Coalition and to the organizations accredited to the Conference.
17. The concept of the inaugural Forum has been developed with a view to fostering an interactive dialogue to advance the Coalition's thematic development and to facilitating a collective engagement to identify potential opportunities and synergies for greater collaboration. For this purpose, it is envisaged to organize parallel spaces such as a plenary sitting for showcasing partners' initiatives, a space dedicated to interactive working discussions on thematic priorities and a zone for partners to take part in interviews, bilateral meetings and social media engagement.

► Draft decision

18. **The Governing Body took note of the update on the Global Coalition for Social Justice provided in document GB.350/INS/5 and requested the Director-General to take into account its guidance in the further development of the Coalition.**

⁹ GB.349/INS/4, paras 39–42.