

# Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance

## ▶ Questionnaire

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At the first meeting of the Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD), which was held on 11 December 2020, it was agreed that the members of the working group would be invited to express their views on the understanding and scope of the notion of democratization of the ILO's governance for the purpose of informing the discussions of the second meeting of the working group to be held in January 2021 and developing a possible programme of future work.

Accordingly, the Office has prepared the following questionnaire, bearing in mind that the Centenary Declaration and its accompanying Resolution are the framework within which the TWGD should carry out its work. The Office would be grateful if the replies could be sent by Wednesday 6 January 2021 to [JUR@ilo.org](mailto:JUR@ilo.org).

1. Do you consider that the notion of democratization refers to aspirations of Member States regarding specific aspects of the functioning of governance organs, such as composition, decision-making, voting power, organization and access to meetings? Please elaborate and provide concrete examples.

Yes and it relates to lack of equality among member states visa-vis the distribution of seats in the Governing Body of the ILO. The provision of permanent seats occupied by members deemed countries chief industrial importance is considered undemocratic.

2. Do you consider that 'democratization of tripartite governance' concerns the ILO Governing Body only or should also cover the International Labour Conference and other aspects of ILO governance?

Yes, it relates only to the ILO Governing Body in line with the Centenary Declaration and its accompanying resolution. However, if there are members who believe that there are other undemocratic structures of the organization including other aspects of ILO governance to be attended to, they should flag them for discussion.

3. Based on the above, which aspects of democratization – in addition to those addressed in the 1986 constitutional amendment – would you consider the TWGD should examine in priority? Please specify.

Non.

4. In your view, which are the core principles that should be guiding ILO's action towards democratization of its governance? Please specify.

1.Principle of oneness and unity of purpose within the UN family. 2. Principle of subordination of national interests to the common good. 3 Principle of engaging in good faith so as to realise,for example, the noble goal of democratization as spelt out in the 1986 instrument.

5. Do you have any concrete proposals for the second meeting of the TWGD and/or its future programme of work?

Yes. It will be good to start with submissions from groups/members on their understanding of the concept(s) of full, equal and democratic participation in ILO governance structures.This should be followed ideally by the identification of the structures of the organization that are deemed not exhibiting the fore-mentioned variables. Last but not the least, groups/members should be given the opportunity to flag the courses of action that they believe should be taken by the members( individually or collectively) and the Office to give effect to full,equal and democratic participation in the shortest possible time. To this end, it is possible for the members of the Working Group(WG) to come up with a shared understanding of the concept(s) and an agreed list of structures that are still to reflect the said concept. However it might not be possible to exhaust the discussion on the courses of action during the 2nd meeting hence they can be captured or reflected in the first report of the WG to be submitted to the 341st( March 2021) session of the GB. This means the 3rd meeting of the WG to be held post the March 2021 session of the GB will have to deal with the courses of action flagged in the 2nd meeting and reflected in the first report. As part of the preparation of the 3rd meeting the Office should consider coming up with a synthesized paper reflecting the courses of action per identified and agreed structure and/ or decision-making level.