

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

► Terms of reference and working methods

Background

1. The tripartite working group on the full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD) has been established by the Governing Body to serve as a platform for focused dialogue. As per the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 340th Session (November 2020), the TWGD shall hold two meetings prior to the 341st Session (March 2021) of the Governing Body and submit its first report to that session. At its first meeting, the TWGD is expected to consider its terms of reference and working methods.

Mandate

2. The TWGD is mandated to discuss, develop and present proposals to the Governing Body on the full, equal and democratic participation of ILO's constituents in the Organization's tripartite governance by ensuring a fair representation of all regions and establishing the principle of equality among Member States.
3. The TWGD shall operate under these terms of reference and any directions given by the Governing Body.
4. The programme of work shall be determined by the TWGD, taking into account any guidance provided by the Governing Body.

Composition

5. The TWGD is composed of 14 Government members from each of the four regions and the Employers' and Workers' groups secretariats. Members are not required to be members of the Governing Body. All interested governments may attend and participate in the discussions.

Chairperson/ conduct of debates

6. The Government members of the working group shall nominate one of them as Chairperson of the TWGD. In the absence of any agreement on a single Chairperson, two Government members shall be nominated, who shall co-chair the working group and preside alternately over the meetings.
7. The Chairperson shall represent the TWGD before other ILO organs, as appropriate. The TWGD, through its Chairperson, shall report to the Governing Body.

8. The Chairperson shall direct the debates, maintain order, ensure the efficient conduct of deliberations, accord or withdraw the right to speak, put questions for decision, and ascertain and announce consensus.
9. The Chairperson shall have the right to take part in the discussions.
10. No member of the TWGD or other participant shall address its meetings without having asked and obtained the permission of the Chairperson, who shall normally call upon speakers in the order in which they have signified their desire to speak.

Decision-making

11. The TWGD shall take decisions by consensus among its members and its consensual recommendations shall be submitted to the Governing Body for decision and follow-up action. Members of the TWGD shall make every effort to reach an agreement that is generally accepted, so that a decision can be adopted without formal objections. In such cases, any dissenting positions or reservations shall be placed on the record without however constituting an impediment to the adoption of the decision in question.
12. Where it is not possible to reach consensus on a specific issue, the divergent views shall be set out in the report of the TWGD to the Governing Body.

Secretariat/reporting

13. The secretariat of the meetings of the TWGD is appointed by the Director-General. The Secretary-General of the meeting represents the Director-General and is the chief of the secretariat. The secretariat shall provide the necessary administrative and substantive support to facilitate its deliberations.
14. The TWGD's working documents and the reports of its meetings to the Governing Body shall be made public.
15. A summary record of proceedings of the meetings of the TWGD reflecting the views expressed by its members and other participants shall be prepared by the secretariat of the meeting.
16. Upon receiving the first report of the TWGD in March 2021, the Governing Body decided to extend the duration of the tripartite working group for a period of 12 months and requested the tripartite working group to present a progress report and a final report for its consideration at the 343rd (November 2021) and 344th (March 2022) Sessions, respectively (as per decision of the Governing Body at its 341st (March 2021) Session).