



## NINTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Programme and Budget for 2010–11:  
Technical meetings reserve**

1. The Programme and Budget for 2010–11 provides for a technical meetings reserve of US\$1,435,558. The reserve has funded on average five technical meetings each biennium, including two meetings traditionally proposed by the Bureau for Workers' Activities and the Bureau for Employers' Activities.
2. The following meetings have been mandated by the International Labour Conference or endorsed by the Governing Body. The first two meetings were included on the list of proposals in March 2008 but were not retained:
  - Meeting of experts on the code of practice on safety in the use of machinery. This was proposed in the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health adopted by the Conference at its 91st Session, in 2003. The estimated cost of a meeting of eight Government, eight Employer and eight Worker experts amounts to US\$268,680.<sup>1</sup>
  - Tripartite meeting of experts on working-time arrangements. The Governing Body approved the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards (LILS) to organize this meeting at its 294th Session (November 2005). The estimated cost of a meeting of six Government, six Employer and six Worker experts amounts to US\$209,240.<sup>2</sup>
  - Meeting of a tripartite working group of experts to examine the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), and Recommendation, 1982 (No. 166), as follow-up to the Governing Body decision at its 304th Session (March 2009). During the current session, the LILS Committee has before it a proposal that subject to the availability of financing this meeting should take place in 2010.<sup>3</sup> The estimated cost of a meeting of six Government, six Employer and six Worker experts amounts to US\$154,620.

<sup>1</sup> Recalculated at 2010–11 costs and exchange rates.

<sup>2</sup> Recalculated at 2010–11 costs and exchange rates.

<sup>3</sup> GB.306/LILS/4.

3. It is currently expected that the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, will obtain the necessary ratifications by late 2010 to enter into force one year later. Under Article XIII of the Convention a special tripartite committee should be set up at that time to monitor its application. It would be valuable to set up a preparatory tripartite committee in 2010–11 to keep under review the preparations being made by member States for the implementation of the Convention and to prepare the work for the special tripartite committee.<sup>4</sup> The estimated costs of a meeting of ten Workers' and ten Employers' delegates amount to US\$169,150.
4. The Employers' and Workers' meetings for 2008–09 were held late in the biennium. Informal consultations suggest that it is premature to decide on the topics for these meetings in 2010–11, but resources should be reserved. In 2010–11, it is proposed to provide for an Employers' and a Workers' meeting under the technical meetings reserve, it being understood that additional participants could be covered by regular budget for technical cooperation (RBTC) contributions. An amount of US\$250,000 could be provided for each meeting. If the Governing Body agrees with this approach, proposals will be presented to its next session.
5. The technical meetings reserve covers the full cost of participation and a contribution to the cost of technical preparatory work and technical servicing of meetings. Technical preparation costs vary depending on the work already done by the Office on the topic. The cost of participation varies depending on the number of days the participants are present, the number of participants and cost of travel.
6. Interpretation cost is covered by the regular budget of the Department of Relations, Meetings and Document Services. The cost depends on the number of interpretation teams required, the number of days and the number of languages.
7. The total cost of all six meetings listed above, including Employers' and Workers' meetings, would be US\$1,301,690. If they are all selected, US\$133,868 will remain in the technical meetings reserve for possible use to expand the number of participants or contribute to the costs of a further technical meeting during the biennium. Decisions on any of the meetings can be deferred until a later session of the Governing Body. If not all meetings are selected, the Committee may wish to discuss the priorities for an additional proposal.
8. ***The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body proposals to be funded from the technical meetings reserve in the Programme and Budget for 2010–11.***

Geneva, 28 October 2009.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 8.

<sup>4</sup> See GB.306/LILS/7/2 for details.