



## Governing Body

313th Session, Geneva, 15–30 March 2012

GB.313/POL/4/2

Policy Development Section  
*Social Dialogue Segment*

**POL**

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### FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## Global dialogue forums and mandate of sectoral meetings: Procedure to give effect to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings

#### Purpose of the document

In the present document, the Governing Body is invited to approve new proposed procedures related to the discussion of outcomes of sectoral and technical meetings in the Governing Body (see draft decision in paragraph 9).

**Relevant strategic objective:** Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue, Outcome 13: A sector-specific approach to decent work is applied.

**Policy implications:** None.

**Legal implications:** If adopted, the proposals would result in new procedures related to the discussion of outcomes of sectoral and technical meetings in the Governing Body.

**Financial implications:** None.

**Follow-up action required:** If approved, the proposals would be implemented starting from the next session of the Social Dialogue Segment in November 2012.

**Author unit:** Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR).

**Related documents:** GB.312/POL/5.



## Executive summary

This paper outlines proposals to improve procedures for reporting to the Governing Body on sectoral and technical meetings.

### I. Introduction

1. This agenda item responds to the Governing Body's request in November 2011 for more efficient procedures for dealing with the outputs of sectoral and technical meetings. The present paper proposes that the standard practice would be to provide documents "for information"; it establishes the follow-up action to be taken by the Director-General in the future with respect to all documents submitted "for information"; and it identifies exceptional instances where documents "for decision" would need to be submitted.
2. The term "sectoral and technical meetings" as used in this document covers the following meetings: those governed by the Standing Orders for sectoral meetings, adopted by the Governing Body at its 264th Session (November 1995); meetings of experts; and global dialogue forums (GDFs).

### II. Background

3. Until the recent reform of the Governing Body, it had been standard practice to present the outputs of sectoral and technical meetings to the Governing Body in a set of documents inviting the Governing Body to request the Director-General to bear these outputs in mind when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office. Such outputs include, typically, a report of the discussion as well as, depending on the format and mandate of each meeting: conclusions, points of consensus, and codes of practice or guidelines.
4. In addition, the Governing Body was asked to also authorize the Director-General to communicate these meetings' outputs (namely: the report/conclusions/recommendations/points of consensus) to Governments of member States, to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned, and to international organizations concerned; and, in the case of codes and guidelines, to authorize their publication.
5. Since previous attempts<sup>1</sup> to streamline the procedure (e.g. by compiling all these items in a single paper) were not found to sufficiently address the issue, the Office proposes the following procedure.

### III. Proposed new procedure

6. The Office would submit all outputs of sectoral and technical meetings as documents "for information only", except where the Governing Body would need to decide on atypical immediate follow-up action<sup>2</sup> or where the output of a meeting would require formal approval by the Governing Body.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An example of this approach is GB.313/POL/5 (effect to be given to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings).

<sup>2</sup> Such cases could include the need to hold a second meeting in the same biennium or to create a joint working group with another international organization.

<sup>3</sup> For example any new list of occupational diseases established by a tripartite meeting of experts in accordance with paragraph 3 of the List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002 (No. 194).

7. Nonetheless, it would still be possible for the Governing Body to discuss any meeting's outcome since the tripartite screening group has the authority to decide, at the request of any Governing Body member, to include any document submitted "for information only" on the Governing Body agenda, as foreseen in paragraph 44 of the introductory note of the *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body*.
8. To ensure follow-up to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings published as "for information" documents, it is further proposed that the Governing Body take a standing decision that all outcomes of sectoral and technical meetings submitted at any future session are to be given effect in the same manner as was done before.

#### **IV. Draft decision**

##### **9. The Governing Body:**

- (a) *requests that in the future the Office submit the outputs of sectoral and technical meetings as documents identified as "for information only" except when:*
  - (i) *the Governing Body is required to decide on immediate follow-up action not covered by points (b) to (d) below;*
  - (ii) *the output of a meeting requires formal approval by the Governing Body in accordance with a specific rule; or*
  - (iii) *the tripartite screening group referred to in article 3.1.1 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body decides otherwise;*
- (b) *requests the Director-General, after each session of the Governing Body, to consider, when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office, the recommendations of all sectoral and technical meetings contained in information documents submitted at that session;*
- (c) *authorizes the Director-General, after each session of the Governing Body, to publish the outputs such as codes of practice or guidelines of meetings of experts contained in information documents submitted at that session; and*
- (d) *requests the Director-General, after each session of the Governing Body, to communicate the final reports or notes on the proceedings of all sectoral and technical meetings contained in information documents submitted at that session to governments, requesting them to communicate the text to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned; as well as to communicate these to the international employers' and workers' organizations and other international organizations concerned.*