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Policy Development Section

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FOR INFORMATION

Short overview of selected highlights of sectoral work carried out in the second half of 2012

Summary: This document provides a short overview of selected highlights of sectoral work carried out between August 2012 and December 2012.

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Related documents: GB.317/POL/4 and GB.310/STM/1.

1. Work on the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units (1997 edition) ¹ has further progressed. The third meeting of the joint IMO/ILO/UNECE Group of Experts on the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units was held from 15 to 17 October 2012; the group has concluded its work in reviewing the draft and agreeing to upgrade the guidelines to a global code of practice. Following final agreement on the inclusion of an annex by the group, as well as translation and final editing, it will be submitted to the three organizations' governing bodies for approval.
2. Other recent activities in the port sector include the training of 12 new chief instructors for the Portworker Development Programme (PDP), which was held in December 2012 in Lima at the request of the port authority of Peru.
3. Activities to promote the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), have included a focus on its wider application as a tool to address challenges facing the fishing industry, such as forced labour. A tripartite consultation on forced labour and human trafficking in the fisheries sector was held from 19 to 20 September 2012. It was organized through cooperation between SECTOR and the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL), and hosted by the ITC-ILO in Turin. Participants representing governments, employers' and workers' organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the consultation. The objective was to facilitate a discussion on how forced labour and human trafficking could be prevented and combated in the sector, in order to obtain inputs for a draft ILO desk review on the issue as well as for the possible development of a draft strategy for the fishing sector.
4. To follow up on the resolution concerning tonnage measurement and accommodation adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 96th Session, ² the ILO has continued to participate in relevant IMO committees, subcommittees and correspondence groups working on the tonnage issue. At the end of 2012, a paper was submitted to the IMO Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF) proposing a "Draft Assembly resolution on reduced gross tonnage for accommodations spaces". If eventually adopted by the IMO Assembly, the resolution could help to reduce the financial disincentive on shipowners and fishing vessel owners to reduce crew accommodation space.
5. As part of the activities to promote safer recycling of electrical and electronic products and protect the health of workers involved in it, SECTOR published, jointly with SAFEWORK, a working paper "The global impact of e-waste: Addressing the challenge". ³ This paper explores the volumes, sources and flows of e-waste, the risks it poses to e-waste workers and the environment, occupational safety and health (OSH) issues, labour issues and regulatory frameworks, and links this growing global problem with the ILO's current and possible future work.
6. In order to further promote the ratification and applications of certain sectoral international labour standards, as requested by the Governing Body, ⁴ also a number of comparative analyses were made in the second half of 2012 regarding the Maritime Labour Convention,

¹ GB.310/STM/3/4 and GB.310/STM/1, para. 38.

² For further information: GB.310/STM/3/2.

³ Available online at http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/publications/WCMS_196105/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴ GB.310/STM/1, paras 32 and 48.

2006 (MLC, 2006), for the Seychelles⁵ and regarding the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151),⁶ for Brazil and the Dominican Republic. As a follow-up to the preparation of comparative analyses made in the first half of 2012⁷ regarding Convention No. 151 in relation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Philippines, national events were organized: the bipartite national workshop held in Banja Luka (20–21 September 2012) adopted a plan of action and the national conference on Convention No. 151 held in Manila (28 November 2012), which had been attended by approximately 140 participants, adopted a declaration calling for the ratification of the Convention. The Office also notes with great interest that the Government of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has submitted a draft law for the ratification of Convention No. 151 to the Assembly.⁸

7. As part of the follow-up to the series of ILO–Universal Postal Union (UPU) regional social dialogue seminars for postal services since 2000, and as foreseen in the Sectoral Activities Programme 2012–13, the ILO participated in the UPU second Sustainable development seminar for postal operators in Asia–Pacific countries, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (25–28 June 2012). As a result of the ILO’s cooperation with the UPU, prominence was given to priorities on gender equality, people with disabilities, social dialogue, safety and health, and HIV/AIDS in the action plan on sustainable development adopted by the seminar, to address economic and environmental priorities. The plan is to be carried out in 2012–14 by the postal services employers (Asia–Pacific Postal Union members) of the 20 participating countries.
8. The ILO also took part in the second UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which took place in Vienna on 22–23 November 2012 and brought together representatives from 15 UN bodies and more than 40 non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, independent experts, media groups and professional associations to formulate a concrete implementation strategy at global and national levels by outlining more than 100 areas of work by UN bodies and civil society groups to secure the safety of journalists. Areas of work include helping governments to develop laws on safety and freedom of expression, awareness raising for citizens, training in safety and e-safety, provision of health care, emergency responses mechanisms, conflict zones, decriminalization of defamation, and remuneration of journalists, among others.
9. In observance of World Teachers’ Day (5 October), the Director-General signed a joint message with the heads of UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and Education International. In his video message, which was widely diffused, the Director-General called for sound social dialogue with the aim of improving the status of teachers and devising policies and strategies that attract capable men and women to the profession.
10. In line with the recommendations made by the 2010 Global Dialogue Forum on New Developments and Challenges in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector and their Impact on Employment, Human Resources Development and Industrial Relations, workshops were held to promote the use of the Toolkit on poverty reduction through tourism. In September

⁵ Presented and discussed at a national tripartite workshop in September 2012.

⁶ In addition, the *Manual on collective bargaining and dispute resolution in the public service*, which offers a compilation of good practices in dispute resolution, that are highly relevant to Article 5 of Convention No. 151, has also been translated into Arabic to be used in Egypt.

⁷ Appendix of GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 4.

⁸ A gap analysis and a workshop had been held in the first half of 2012: See appendix of GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 4.

2012, the toolkit was launched at the Asian Tourism Fair and a half-day training on the use of the toolkit conducted in Bangladesh. In collaboration with the British Embassy in Brazil and the support of the state of Mato Grosso, the ILO held a four-day training workshop on sustainable tourism and local development in Cuiabá (4–7 December 2012), which also saw the launch of the Portuguese version of the Toolkit on poverty reduction through tourism. The training workshop is part of ILO activities to promote decent work in Brazil's preparations for hosting of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Also, as part of its collaboration with the Federación Empresaria Hotelera Gastronómica de la República Argentina (FEHGRA), the ILO prepared a background paper on tourism and youth employment, which was discussed at the workshop on youth employment in tourism organized by FEHGRA on 1 August 2012 and attended by representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, as well as the Ministry of Labour.

11. In the second half of 2012, work on utilities was conducted in Malawi. As a result of a national meeting in Lilongwe (5–7 December 2012), the tripartite partners agreed on a proposed executive order for the establishment of a permanent mechanism for social dialogue in the utilities sector.
12. In accordance with the resolutions concerning future activities of the ILO in the tobacco sector and concerning the strengthening of institutional links and cooperation between international organizations working on issues relevant to the tobacco sector,⁹ the ILO participated as an observer at the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control held in Seoul, South Korea, from 12 to 17 November 2012. The ILO has been expanding collaboration with the Convention secretariat in recent years and now coordinates efforts in a number of areas pertinent to the ILO's mandate as covered in Articles 17 and 18 and others.
13. As foreseen in the Sectoral Activities Programme 2012–13,¹⁰ workshops to promote the OSH training package for the construction industry have been held. The focus of these workshops, which took place in Azerbaijan (27–30 August 2012) and Paraguay (29 August–1 September 2012), was the training of trainers in the use of the package and recommendations, which in the case of Paraguay, led to the adoption of an action plan for promoting OSH in construction.
14. As part of the longstanding international cooperation between the ILO and the WHO in the framework of the ILO/WHO Global Programme for the Elimination of Silicosis (GPES) and Viet Nam's national action programme in this area, the ILO and the WHO jointly assisted in the delivery of the National Training Workshop on Occupational Health and Safety in the Mining Industry, held in Quang Ninh Province (7–9 August 2012). Participants reviewed the safety and health situation in mining and concluded that in order to further improve OSH in mining, special priority should be given to: the effective prevention of silicosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis; strengthened health surveillance; and further development and improved application of national and international safety standards (including ILO codes of practice, such as the code of practice on safety and health in underground coalmines). The Workshop was supported by two sister technical cooperation projects, supported by the Government of Japan and implemented by the Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and the Health Care Support to the Poor of Northern Uplands and Central Highlands project (HEMA), which specifically addresses safety and health issues of priority in Viet Nam.

⁹ Adopted by the Tripartite Meeting on the Future of Employment in the Tobacco Sector (February 2003).

¹⁰ GB.310/STM/1, para. 22.

15. Based on a study on labour in forestry in Chile, conducted by the ILO in the second half of 2012, a workshop to promote decent work in forestry was held on 27 November 2012 to identify priorities for action, and discuss a way forward in addressing these.
16. In line with the sectoral approach to decent work in the global food supply chain endorsed by the Governing Body,¹¹ the ILO continued activities in Malawi,¹² inter alia, in the form of a joint ILO–FAO scoping mission that took place in December 2012. The overall objective of the mission was to inform the finalization of a programme proposal, namely to select one to two value chains that would become the main focus of the Decent Work for Food Security programme and to identify, jointly with constituents, the areas of programme intervention.
17. The ILO has continued its work within the High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security (HLTF); also, it has participated in the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which discussed, among other issues, a report on social protection for food security of its High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. The Committee’s resulting recommendation proposed, inter alia, that “a way forward on integrating food security and nutrition issues in social protection floors, in consultation with Rome-based agencies and relevant organizations and entities, such as the HLTF, the ILO and the World Bank” should be further explored.
18. Finally, in order to promote the application of the code of practice on safety and health in agriculture, as requested by the Governing Body,¹³ the Office organized a National Follow-Up Workshop on the Code of Practice on Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture in Zimbabwe (8–9 November 2012), which built on the results of the national workshop held in May 2012¹⁴ and a national training workshop which took place between 11–13 July 2012. The November workshop focused particularly on identifying those elements that should be included in an information package to improve OSH in agriculture (to be published in mid-2013) and on ways to ensure its effective dissemination.

¹¹ GB.312/POL/7.

¹² Appendix of GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 10.

¹³ GB.310/STM/1, para. 9.

¹⁴ Appendix of GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), para. 8.