



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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FOURTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization

Addendum

Proposal for a tripartite technical meeting on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market (Geneva, dates to be confirmed)

Background

1. During the sitting of the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization, on Monday, 21 March 2016, the Worker spokesperson suggested that the ILO could convene an urgent tripartite high-level meeting to take the ideas discussed by the Working Party forward. The Director-General proposed that the Governing Body take up this idea, which would be very helpful in formulating the ILO inputs to the UN General Assembly high-level plenary meeting in September. The meeting could provide practical guidance on short- and long-term responses to the access of refugees to the labour markets and protection of rights of all workers. The development of ILO guidance on access to the labour market would be an essential outcome in order to successfully assist member States, social partners, the multilateral system, partner agencies, to inform international responses to durable solutions for refugees that involve labour market access and job creation, also taking into account the needs of national workers. Such guidance would be anchored on internationally recognized human rights and labour standards.
2. It is thus proposed to hold a three-day tripartite meeting in early July 2016 with the objective to provide practical guidance on the application of policy measures to facilitate the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market.

Composition

3. It is proposed that the meeting be attended by eight Government representatives, eight Employer representatives and eight Worker representatives. A reserve list would also be established which would include the governments of eight other countries. Observers would also be invited to attend the meeting at their own cost.
4. As has been the practice in the recent past, the Director-General proposes to appoint, after consultation with the groups of the Governing Body, a knowledgeable independent chairperson.
5. It is proposed to invite the following intergovernmental organizations to be represented at the meeting as observers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); World Bank; and UN Women.
6. The United Nations Secretary-General Special Representative on International Migration and Development as well as the United Nations Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants would also be invited.

Agenda

7. The Director-General proposes the following agenda for the meeting:
 - Prepare guiding principles for policy measures concerning the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market. This guidance would be based on an analysis by the Office of related principles contained in international labour standards and universal human rights instruments, as well as good practices implemented in the field.
 - Recommend ways to disseminate and give practical effect to such ILO guidance, including to inform national and multilateral responses and forums.

Financial implications

8. The estimated costs for such a meeting of US\$210,000 would include travel expenses of the Worker and Employer representatives, and the independent chairperson, interpretation and document preparation. The following table presents a summary of the estimated costs:

	US\$
Travel and subsistence	85 200
Interpretation	63 200
Documentation	61 600
Total	210 000

9. The Programme and Budget for 2016–17 contains no provision for such a meeting. It is proposed that its cost be covered through the postponement of one of the sectoral meetings tentatively scheduled for this biennium, to be identified further to consultations with the Officers of the Governing Body.

Draft decision

10. *The Governing Body approves the above agenda, composition and arrangements for a tripartite technical meeting on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market.*