



## Plenary sitting

### Reports of the General Discussion Committee: Effective development cooperation

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Friday, 8 June 2018, 10.15 a.m.

*President: Ms Majali*

## **Summary of proceedings**

### **Submission, discussion and approval of the report of the General Discussion Committee: Effective development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

#### **The President**

I declare open the 13th plenary sitting of the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference

The first item on our agenda is the submission, discussion and approval of the report of the General Discussion Committee on effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, which can be found in *Provisional Record No. 7B*.

I would like to welcome the Officers of the Committee, who are here on the podium: Mr Ndebele, Chairperson; Ms Mugo, Employer Vice-Chairperson; Mr Guiro, Worker Vice-Chairperson; and Mr Yutong Liu, Reporter

I now call on the Reporter, Mr Liu, to present the Committee's report. The other Officers will then take the floor.

#### **Mr Liu**

Reporter of the General Discussion Committee:  
Effective development cooperation

As a development cooperation practitioner with over 20 years of experience, I have the greatest honour to present to the Conference for adoption the report and conclusions of the General Discussion Committee: Effective development cooperation.

The summary of the Committee's proceedings and the accompanying conclusions are the result of the Committee's strong commitment to its objectives, tripartite approach and hard work over the last nine days. We held ten plenary sittings. We had some long nights and some strong differences of opinion. Now looking at my Committee colleagues, I see we have clearly developed new jetlag as a result. In a true spirit of social dialogue we deliberated on the issues and arrived at a set of conclusions. I am proud to say we are a live demonstration of tripartism, which is what this house treasures most.

A decisive factor that allowed our Committee to accomplish its work was the untiring commitment of the Chairperson, Mr Ndebele, and the two Vice-Chairpersons, Ms Mugo and Mr Guiro, and also the representatives of the regional government groups to find solutions and consensus on these issues. I thank all the members of the Committee for their engagement and constructive inputs, often working late in the evening. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the drafting group members, who held six sittings and proposed to the Committee for discussion a set of draft conclusions that reflected the deliberations of the Committee.

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I would also like to acknowledge the enormous efforts made by the Office in preparing the report to the Committee, which provided a comprehensive and forward-looking set of issues to consider. In addition, the secretariat's competence and dedication have been remarkable assets to our work. In particular I want to thank the representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Oumarou, the deputy representative of the Secretary-General, Ms Vejs-Kjeldgaard, and the staff of the secretariat, including experts, translators, interpreters and those in different supporting roles.

The International Labour Conference last discussed ILO technical cooperation in 2006. Over the last 12 years, the world of work has experienced rapid change, and labour markets are now being impacted by technology, globalization, climate change, demographics and migration, among other factors. Recognizing that poverty still persists and that not everyone has benefited from growth, in 2015 the world adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), which outlines a bold framework to advance the well-being of mankind, to engage in the targeted elimination of poverty and also to place the Decent Work Agenda at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To reposition the United Nations (UN) development system to support achievement of the SDGs, the UN Secretary-General's reform is centred on an overarching mission of greater coherence, efficiency and integration, including in relation to field operations. The outcome of the UN reforms will therefore have profound implications for development cooperation. For these reasons, this Committee is timely and had the important task of providing guidance to the ILO on its future development cooperation strategy.

I now have the honour of submitting to the International Labour Conference for adoption the two key outcomes of the Committee, the summary of the Committee's proceedings and the conclusions. The report of the Committee's deliberations comprises five sections. The first section contains the opening statements of the Employer and Worker members and representatives of regional groups, individual governments and also non-governmental organizations. The other sections address the four points highlighted in the Office report to the Conference. Firstly, how ILO development cooperation should adapt to the new context. Secondly, the link between the ILO's value-added and development cooperation. Thirdly, how the ILO can best support its constituents and mainstream decent work into national development strategies. Finally, the modalities and responsibilities for financing for development, partnerships and innovative funding.

Turning to the proposed conclusions which are submitted for adoption, please allow me to share with you some highlights relating to its substantive provisions. First, in the preambular section, we acknowledge that the ILO should promote understanding and recognition of its values, mandate and its development cooperation and partnerships in support of achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The conclusions are structured around four parts, covering the new development cooperation landscape, the reforms of the UN development system, guiding principles for future ILO development cooperation, and a roadmap to take the conclusions forward.

Under Part I, the conclusions stress the diverse and complex trends affecting the world of work, while highlighting the overarching guidance provided by the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008, and the resolution on advancing social justice through decent work adopted by the Conference in 2016. This Part also highlights the fact that, while official development assistance remains an important source of financing for development, there is a need to consider other options, including South-South and triangular cooperation, domestic resource mobilization, multi-stakeholder partnerships, innovative financing and sustainable investment in countries.

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The importance of strengthening the ILO in a reformed UN development system was underscored in Part II. It was recognized by all members that the bold reforms of the UN Secretary-General to deliver the 2030 Agenda will have profound implications for ILO development cooperation. As a unique tripartite specialized agency of the UN, all members strongly supported the notion that the ILO needs to seize new opportunities through its unique value-added, its mandate, normative role and social dialogue, along with its technical expertise across all four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda.

To meet the challenges in the world of work and build a global community with a shared decent work future for all, Part III outlines 12 principles which will guide a more effective and innovative approach to development cooperation.

Based on these guiding principles and the context for development cooperation, the conclusions then define a roadmap, which, in particular, calls on the ILO to proactively promote and advocate its unique value-added at all levels and to strengthen the capacities of its constituents in order to support constituents to effectively participate in the 2030 Agenda.

I believe that our conclusions provide guidance for Office follow-up, underscoring its important role in supporting governments and social partners to promote the Decent Work Agenda within an overarching SDG framework through effective development cooperation.

The covering resolution requests that the Director-General of the ILO prepare a plan of action to give effect to the conclusions, for the consideration of the Governing Body, and to communicate the conclusions to the relevant organizations at the global and regional levels for their attention.

I now have the honour and privilege of submitting to the International Labour Conference for adoption the reports of the Committee, including the conclusions and resolution concerning effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Ms Mugo**

Employer Vice-Chairperson of the  
General Discussion Committee:  
Effective development cooperation

Let me start by thanking the Officers of the Committee, the secretariat and the members of the Employers' group for their active participation and work in the Committee.

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the ILO, the discussion on development cooperation was a critical one. New global developments, unprecedented changes in the world of work, the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations reform have changed the landscape in which the ILO delivers its services to the constituents. A new landscape requires a new roadmap. We believe that we did our best to deliver such a roadmap. We also believe that we installed some key signposts but sadly missed the opportunity to install others. During the discussion, the Employers' group emphasized the paramount role of the private sector in the achievement of the objectives of development cooperation that we tried to collectively envisage, sometimes from different angles.

In our view, employers are the drivers of inclusive growth and job creation and are therefore well placed to deliver on the promise of sustainable and socially inclusive economic development. An enabling environment for the sustainability and resilience of enterprises is key. In this framework, the Employers set out their priorities. The ILO development cooperation strategy should first and foremost support employment promotion through an enabling environment that is conducive to job creation and skills-development programmes that are adapted to labour market needs. While we are pleased that our

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deliberations and often clashing ideas led to an overall balanced outcome, we genuinely expected a smoother and much more constructive discussion on the role of the private sector in development.

We expected more support, especially from the Government group, for a balanced approach that corresponds to the needs of the constituents in the context of the United Nations reform. Moreover, the ILO's constituents should be at the table. We believe that the participation of the social partners in national SDG processes will ensure the proper integration of decent work in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in practice rather than in words.

The ILO must better utilize business expertise, knowledge and experience and tap the potential of public-private partnerships (PPPs) through effective and robust programmes and procedures. Any conditionality, selection process or specific criteria which could undermine the engagement of the private sector in development cooperation should be avoided.

Governments should provide incentives for the private sector to contribute to sustainable development. It is also for governments to provide enabling conditions for social dialogue, with the effective participation of workers and employers in national development planning, including Decent Work Country Programmes. The ILO should not promote dialogue frameworks without the proper involvement of the representative organizations of the social partners.

Policy coherence will be key in this process. Governments should take the responsibility to ensure internal policy coherence to maximize the outcomes of development cooperation, whereas the ILO should leverage its partnerships with international finance institutions and United Nations agencies to promote policy coherence on the ground.

Before I conclude, let me express some of the concerns of the Employers' group with the plan of action arising from the conclusions of this Committee, which should be taken into account by the ILO Governing Body going forward.

Most importantly, from our perspective, an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises should be both a means and an end for development cooperation. It creates conditions for growth, jobs, prosperity and better livelihoods for people, and helps generate the resources needed for financing development. We therefore hope that the Office will take this fully into account when developing the strategy and the plan of action.

Moreover, the Committee discussed at length the financing of ILO development cooperation. Employers called for the ILO to innovate in order to adequately resource development cooperation through a mix of traditional funding and new financing mechanisms. However, this call was not widely supported and I must say we were surprised by this, as we believe that this is a lost opportunity.

The Committee also discussed the issue of labour provisions in trade agreements. The Employers do not oppose further analysis of this topic, but we caution the ILO against promoting awareness of the subject without reliable and adequate evidence to support the positive linkage.

Last but not least, the Employers' group regrets the singling out of global supply chains in the general conclusions. We believe that this misplaces the focus from wider sectors with significant challenges, such as the informal economy. Despite some divergence of views, we believe that we still managed to come up with conclusions which could serve as a basis for the ILO Governing Body to guide the ILO in its development cooperation strategy and translate into impactful action.

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Let us make sure that the map agrees with the landscape. I thank you all for your kind attention. “Asanteni sana.”

**Mr Guiro**

Worker Vice-Chairperson of the General Discussion  
Committee: Effective development cooperation  
(*Original French*)

On behalf of the Workers’ group, allow me first of all to congratulate the Chairperson of our Committee, Mr Ndebele. His task was arduous, but he was able to bring the discussions to a successful conclusion while constantly seeking consensus.

I would also like to commend the representative of the Secretary-General and the whole Office team for all the work done. And I would like to express gratitude to the representatives of the governments and the different groups in the Committee. I hope that they, like the Workers, have appreciated the more frequent and open exchanges with everyone this year.

The Workers’ group is very happy with the work accomplished in these past two weeks and welcomes the conclusions. In this regard, I would also like to stress the crucial elements which, in the opinion of our group, are essential for implementing the follow-up initiatives.

The preamble outlines the key principles governing ILO development cooperation, the standard-setting mandate of the Organization and the international agreements on effective development cooperation.

The implementation of recommendations made by the ILO supervisory bodies on the application of standards remains a key parameter for guiding action by the Organization in the area of cooperation.

The conclusions also stress the need to maintain a balanced approach among the four strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda, and the importance of strengthening the organizational capacity of the constituents.

Transparency and responsibility have been recognized as fundamental criteria to be respected, particularly where innovative financing instruments and the role of the private sector in development are involved. The role of the ILO in the promotion of decent work in supply chains in conjunction with multinational enterprises has also been reaffirmed.

Finally, these conclusions provide a strong, clear position on the part of the constituents with regard to the reform of the UN system, maintaining the unique nature of the ILO’s role at the political, institutional and operational levels.

ILO development cooperation cannot remain removed from reality. It has to be in step with the evolution of policies being drawn up by the international community, while enhancing its special features based on governance of the world of work. Beside the purely technical aspects, development cooperation includes new fields such as respect of rights, proper governance, social justice and participation.

The 2030 Agenda consolidates this approach, introducing a rights-based vision. Of course the Decent Work Agenda fits in perfectly with this new conception, fostering a holistic approach which links economic growth and the protection of rights at work.

The current scenario demonstrates the central role of ILO action in development cooperation. It must strongly promote its objectives and procedures while playing a proactive and visible role on the international development stage.

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This is why we have held vigorous discussions to defend and strengthen the main principles that characterize ILO cooperation activities, such as tripartism, labour standards, application of the recommendations of the supervisory bodies, social dialogue and collective bargaining.

Regarding the ILO principles in relation to cooperation, international labour standards, their adoption, their observance and their enforcement are at the very heart of the work of the Organization. The ILO must continue its historic and constitutional standard-setting mission of ratification and implementation of international labour standards and the drawing up of new standards so as to meet the challenges arising from changes to the world of work and from the need to establish national and global governance.

The reports of the supervisory bodies must be indicators and reference points for measuring the progress and results achieved in development cooperation. They contribute in this way to the evaluation of results and the impact of projects in terms of respect for rights on the ground. As part of its development cooperation activities, the ILO should use these reports strategically to provide standard-setting guidance at the national level. In this regard, it is important to reaffirm that cooperation should be driven by demand and respond to the particular needs of countries, including in relation to decent work deficits.

The promotion and ratification of international labour standards also require a strengthening of the capacities of the constituents. Hence it is important that the conclusions also emphasize the need to maintain a balanced approach among the four strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda – including a budgetary balance – aimed at promoting international labour standards, their ratification and follow-up with countries that are facing difficulties in implementing ILO standards.

In particular, the flagship programmes can be used to reinforce the capacity of the social partners and, with regard to the trade unions, strengthen national platforms relating to specific themes.

The financing of development depends on sustainable investment carried out in the countries. In this regard, the ILO has played a significant role supporting the participation of the social partners and building their capacity to be involved in the drawing up of trade and investment policies and multinational development bank programmes.

The value of official development assistance for ensuring independent and transparent policies and instruments is also recognized in the conclusions.

Innovative financing modes and the role of the private sector generated some very lively discussions, since they are the source of genuine concerns regarding respect for fundamental principles such as transparency and accountability. We actively sought consensus on this point and, thanks to good understanding on all sides, consensus was found.

The conclusions refer directly to instruments such as the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the role of the ILO in promoting decent work in global supply chains, including with multinational enterprises, and inclusive approaches to the use of innovative finance mechanisms. The conclusions envisage a preliminary discussion within the Governing Body, which could ensure a clear and transparent decision-making process.

We have also discussed at length the ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). Here I would like to make a few additional comments as a contribution to the follow-up for the future.

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The Workers' group thinks that partnerships with private entities, primarily multinationals and other enterprises, should be the opportunity for the ILO to consolidate its mandate and its scope of action. This is particularly true with regard to multinational enterprises which are seeking partnerships with the ILO to improve working conditions in global supply chains.

It should be noted that this interaction with multinationals has to go beyond the search for funding. The strategic issue is to use DWCPs so that the ILO may ensure the achievement of decent work and extend its influence on the process of governance in global supply chains. This implies a support and facilitation role for the ILO, aimed at accelerating social dialogue at different levels, including at the cross-border level.

In the future, therefore, the ILO must be a key player in the process of regulating initiatives with the private sector, applying criteria for engaging with it which will be in line with its values and ways of working, and also in step with the principles of the strategy for effective development cooperation.

Finally, these conclusions set out the clear and strong position of the constituents regarding the reform of the UN system, maintaining the unique character of the ILO's role at the political, institutional and operational levels.

Of course, the challenge for the ILO is to produce a sound strategy to influence the process for the implementation of these reforms, while respecting the guiding principles contained in the conclusions.

The Workers' group is ready to support all the initiatives in this regard. By way of conclusion, on behalf of the Workers' group I would like to thank the representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Oumarou, and the deputy representative, Ms Vejs-Kjeldgaard, and also Mr Liu, the Reporter of our Committee.

I would also like to extend our thanks to the Employer Vice-Chairperson, Ms Mugo, for her fruitful collaboration during these past two weeks of work, and to the Chairperson, Mr Ndebele, who played a key role in our reaching a consensus.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the whole Workers' group, which accompanied me throughout the process, and in particular the secretariat, including Ms Simonetti, Mr Cairola and Mr Castro from ACTRAV, and everyone else who supported the Workers' group during these past two weeks.

**Mr Ndebele**

Chairperson of the General Discussion Committee:

Effective development cooperation

I am honoured in my capacity as Chairperson of the General Discussion Committee: Effective development cooperation to present to you some observations on the proceedings of the Committee.

Let me start by noting the happy coincidence that, as South Africa celebrates the centenary of its icon, Nelson Mandela, the ILO celebrates its centenary. A common thread that binds these two events together is social justice. Social justice is about hope, about leaving no one behind, and about the ILO reaffirming the Philadelphia Declaration, which proclaimed that labour is not a commodity.

For the first time in ILO history, the Employer Vice-Chairperson, the Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Chairperson of a Conference committee – this Committee – have all been representatives from the beautiful African continent.

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Since the Conference last discussed the ILO's role in development cooperation, in 2006, many important changes have affected the development cooperation landscape and have had an impact on the world of work. The Decent Work Agenda has become a universal aspiration that is well embedded in the 2030 Agenda. Other recent international frameworks, such as financing for development, have changed the context in which we cooperate for sustainable development; lastly, there is the ongoing UN reform process. The Committee's discussion thus came at a very strategic and opportune time. It has provided us with an important opportunity to guide the ILO's future development cooperation. An ILO fit for purpose today will secure its relevance as we embark on the ILO's next century.

Now let me highlight a few points to complement the excellent account of our work in the Committee that we have just heard from our Reporter and two Vice-Chairpersons. I wish to thank the two Vice-Chairpersons in particular for their cooperation and support throughout the work of the Committee.

The Committee's work was extremely productive and constructive; it was sometimes challenging, but always cordial and collaborative. The conclusions that we are submitting to the Conference for adoption are striking proof that it is possible to forge a tripartite consensus that can help shape the ILO's work to implement the 2030 Agenda. These conclusions provide guidance for responding to a changing world of work within the new development cooperation landscape. The global challenges in the world of work demand effective responses and innovative approaches which are adapted to country-specific realities, and this requires the ILO to be fit for purpose in a reformed UN development system.

As a unique tripartite specialized agency within the UN, the ILO has a key role to play in the implementation of the process to reform the UN development system and thus to enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation. The conclusions we are giving you today provide a common vision, a set of 12 guiding principles for a more effective and innovative approach to ILO development cooperation, intended to support constituents in promoting the Decent Work Agenda within an overarching SDG framework. The conclusions set out a clear roadmap for the ILO, for governments in consultation with social partners, and for development partners.

I believe that our conclusions will be an important reference-point for the ILO to use in developing a long-term and integrated strategy for effective development cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to the representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Oumarou; the deputy representative of the Secretary-General, Ms Vejs-Kjeldgaard; and the members of the secretariat for their excellent preparations for this discussion and their support during the work of the Committee.

I am comforted by the united understanding of this Committee that we are leaving no one behind. Therefore, I am presenting to you the outcome of the Committee's deliberations.

## **The President**

I would like to thank all the Officers of the Committee for the report that has been submitted and for the work they have done.

The discussion of the report of the General Discussion Committee on effective development cooperation is now open.

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**Ms Aleksandrova**  
Government (Bulgaria)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The candidate country Montenegro and the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina align themselves with this statement.

I would like to start by thanking Mr Liu for presenting the report and the conclusions that we welcome; the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons for successfully leading the discussions during the last two weeks; the Office and the secretariat, including the interpreters, translators and other staff, for the support provided; and the Workers' and Employers' groups and the Governments for their active participation and valuable input to the discussions and the constructive manner in which they were held.

We think that the Committee succeeded in providing the Office with the guidance it requested. Ten days ago, we opened by mentioning the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We have continued to emphasize our commitments to those instruments and have kept them in mind throughout the debate. In order for ILO development cooperation to have the greatest possible impact on poverty reduction, we also reiterate the importance of promoting an inclusive and sustainable economic transition creating decent jobs for the large populations living in poverty, in particular for women, young people and persons with disabilities. We recognize the unique challenges faced by many developing countries in Africa.

During the discussion, we have strongly supported the promotion of all labour standards and the need for the ILO to continue contributing to eradicating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including inside global supply chains. We have also underscored the need to reach all actors in the informal sector, support the transition from the informal to the formal economy and promote economic opportunities and job creation in refugee and refugee-hosting communities.

Throughout the discussions, we have reiterated that the European Union and its Member States strongly support UN reform. We have welcomed the good news that the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution that will strengthen the UN development system. The European Union fully supports the ILO in engaging with the Secretary-General on how this almost 100-year-old but forward-thinking Organization can better contribute with its specific expertise, tripartite nature and mandate to the important process ahead of us and implement the vision for a UN development system fit for the twenty-first century.

We have stressed four key elements that should be taken into account in the preparation of the new ILO development cooperation strategy: the need for policy coherence, the opportunity for the promotion of tripartism, the need to increase the effectiveness and impact of the ILO's development cooperation and the importance of promoting comprehensive multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Decent Work Agenda. We are happy that these four elements have been adequately mainstreamed into the Committee's conclusions. We welcome the fact that the conclusions emphasize that all four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda – employment creation, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue – should receive adequate attention in the forthcoming strategy.

The conclusions reinforce the links between the normative and supervisory roles of the ILO and its development cooperation. We welcome the strong linkages with the 2030 Agenda provided in the conclusions, including the principle of "leaving no one behind". This will allow the Office to continue its analysis of how the new development

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strategy will best assist in delivering on the SDGs, bearing in mind our core priorities and mandate. We think that the conclusions satisfactorily reflect the need for the ILO to engage with the Resident Coordinators, mainstream the Decent Work Agenda in the UNDAFs and promote the participation of social partners in their preparation and implementation.

We are also glad that the conclusions reflect the need for the ILO to seek broad and sustainable partnerships, while ensuring that they are beneficial in the long term and include the need to review the ILO's field structure. Furthermore, we are pleased to see that the broad consensus on the need for a continued strong gender equality focus is reflected in the conclusions. We support the Office in the development of a concrete action plan, based on those conclusions, to form the basis of the agreement of a development strategy that clearly spells out what the ILO, building on its strengths, needs to do differently to deliver on the SDGs and in the context of UN reform.

In conclusion, during the discussions we heard voices that want to build a global community to contribute to a future of decent work for all in line with the global partnership for sustainable development that the 2030 Agenda calls for. During these two weeks, this Committee has been such a community. Let us continue building it during the coming months.

**Mr Ahmed**  
Employer (Bangladesh)

I am speaking on behalf of the Employers' group. After following the discussion and the work of the drafting group, I would like to stress the following points.

For the Employers, an effective ILO development cooperation strategy should be prioritized for employment promotion because we believe that it provides an overarching framework for a comprehensive and pragmatic approach for tackling the colossal labour market challenges that we face. An approach based on employment promotion fits well with Goal 8 of the SDGs, which calls for full and productive employment. The ILO has a clear added value compared to other UN agencies in the field of employment and we believe that the ILO's contribution should be anchored to its value addition, which is employment.

Goal 8 sets the target very clearly. Under development cooperation, the ILO should create a strategy that supports employment promotion and income opportunities through an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises and job creation. I would like to emphasize, even at the risk of being repetitive, our call as employers for focusing on supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and facilitating the transition to the formal economy. We strongly believe that this is critical if we are to make a dent in tackling the decent work challenges that we face today.

The Employers emphasize the need for policies conducive to economic growth and ensuring the rule of law; in other words, encouraging an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises. It is also clear that the ILO needs to better understand how business works and what the real issues and challenges are. Once again, the Employers insist on the critical importance of an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises.

The ILO Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises programme achieved good results by enhancing the capacity of constituents to formulate, implement and monitor reforms for the development and growth of enterprises. The ILO needs to promote an enabling environment for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, which is key for the transition from the informal to the formal economy and for enhancing employment and income opportunities for the most vulnerable groups. This should be further amplified and supported by appropriate resources.

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**Mr Cunha Ferreira**  
Government (Brazil)

First of all, I thank the representatives of Governments, Workers and Employers for their hard work in trying to reach a set of balanced conclusions to provide guidance to the ILO on its updated development cooperation approach.

The Committee had fruitful discussions and contributed a range of viewpoints that should be recognized in the framing of tripartite outputs.

Bearing in mind the Second High-level UN Conference on South–South Cooperation due to take place in Argentina in March 2019, it was crucial that the Committee recognize South–South and trilateral cooperation as a modality for development cooperation which is both successful and legitimate. The rich experience built up in developing countries should play a stronger role in the ILO’s global and field activities.

The ILO is unique, but it is not alone in the system, and it should collaborate with other actors in the reformed UN development system, seeking guidance and profiting from synergies, in order to best assist countries to achieve the SDGs.

An effective ILO development strategy requires effective coordination with governments, and should not be hindered by the imposition of unnecessary conditions on its implementation. As stated by Brazil during the Committee’s discussions, we can only have decent work where there is work. Development offers the long-term solution that is needed to make concrete steps towards achieving the Decent Work Agenda.

**Ms Sladovic**  
Employer (Croatia)

I will focus my remarks on partnership with the private sector. It is crucial to recognize the unique contribution of the private sector to finding solutions for global social problems by drawing on its resources, capabilities and wealth of knowledge. Engaging the private sector through public–private partnerships, multi-stakeholder platforms and business networks is essential for the promotion of development cooperation and has proven to be successful in many countries in advancing the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda in support of the SDGs.

Other innovative means of cooperation with the private sector are very welcome if they are implemented in a transparent and inclusive way. The private sector provides expertise and solutions as well as new products, technologies and services. Cost-sharing and collaborating with private sector partners is an effective way of mobilizing resources.

Therefore, the Employers support a comprehensive multi-stakeholder partnership strategy to ensure appropriate governance and effectiveness while avoiding duplication of efforts and fragmentation of actions, which undermine impact. The ILO must ensure that its efforts will be reoriented towards long-term, integrated and multifaceted partnerships. As my colleague has just noted, in order to work better with the private sector the ILO must better understand the private sector. This will help to optimize the outcome of the ILO’s collaboration with the private sector in a way that is mutually beneficial.

**Mr Dragun**  
Employer (Argentina)  
*(Original Spanish)*

The Employers have emphasized the importance of a demand-based strategy which meets the needs of the constituents in accordance with national realities and aligned with the

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reform of the UN system. The ILO constituents need to be part of this development. In this regard, capacity building is essential in order to ensure that the social partners are well resourced and fully involved in the national development of policies.

Hence capacity building continues to be a precondition for sustainable development. The ILO's strategy for development cooperation should have at its heart the institutional development of its constituents. The Office needs to devise and implement specific, well-endowed programmes to build the capacity of their constituents, particularly employers' and workers' organizations, so that they can consolidate their role in national processes to achieve the SDGs.

## **The President**

I would like to suggest that we move on to the approval of the report of the Committee's proceedings, which appears in paragraphs 1–613 of *Provisional Record* No. 7B.

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference approves the report of the General Discussion Committee's proceedings, bearing in mind that the Committee members have until 6 p.m. on Friday, 15 June to request any corrections to their statements?

*(The report – paragraphs 1–613 – is approved.)*

## **Resolution and conclusions**

### **Adoption of the conclusions concerning effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

#### **The President**

We shall now move on to the adoption of the conclusions concerning effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are based on the work of the General Discussion Committee and have been published in *Provisional Record* No. 7A.

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference adopts, part by part, the Preamble to and points 1–9 of these conclusions?

*(The conclusions – the Preamble and points 1–9 – are adopted part by part.)*

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference adopts the conclusions as a whole?

*(The conclusions are adopted as a whole.)*

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**Adoption of the resolution concerning effective  
ILO development cooperation in support  
of the Sustainable Development Goals**

**The President**

We shall now proceed to the adoption of the resolution concerning effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, which also appears in *Provisional Record* No. 7A.

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference adopts the resolution?

*(The resolution is adopted.)*

I would like to thank the members of the Committee as well as the secretariat for their contributions to the drafting of the report, the conclusions and the resolution. I have heard that the discussions in the Committee were very active and engaging, resulting in the clear conclusions we have just adopted. Thank you again to all and congratulations to all members of this Committee.

*(The Conference continues its work in plenary.)*