



Governing Body

334th Session, Geneva, 25 October–8 November 2018

GB.334/INS/2/2

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 12 October 2018

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SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Agenda of the International Labour Conference

Agenda of the 108th (Centenary) Session

Purpose of the document

To pursue consideration of the format and preparatory stages of the centenary session of the International Labour Conference in 2019 (see the draft decision in paragraph 21).

Relevant strategic objective: All four strategic objectives.

Main relevant outcome/cross-cutting policy driver: Enabling outcome B: Effective and efficient governance of the Organization.

Policy implications: Implications for the Conference agenda for 2019 and beyond.

Legal implications: Those arising from the application of the Standing Orders of the Conference and Standing Orders of the Governing Body.

Financial implications: Those arising from the placing of items on the Conference agenda and from any preparatory meetings proposed that might be approved by the Governing Body.

Follow-up action required: Any implications relating to follow-up will be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration at its 335th Session (March 2019).

Author unit: Office of the Deputy Director-General for Management and Reform (DDG/MR).

Related documents: GB.332/PV; GB.332/INS/2.

I. Conference agenda

1. At its 332nd Session (March 2018), the Governing Body decided to place on the agenda of the 108th Session (2019) of the International Labour Conference, beyond the standing items (Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General, programme and budget and other questions and information, and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations):
 - (a) a standard-setting item (second discussion) on violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work;
 - (b) an item related to the Future of Work Initiative with a view to the adoption of an important outcome document, possibly a declaration, and to request the Director-General to further develop the nature and format of the item and to present first ideas regarding the outcome document for further consideration by the Governing Body in November 2018; and
 - (c) an item related to the organization of debates and events connected to the Centenary, and to request the Director-General to further develop the nature and format of this item for further consideration by the Governing Body in November 2018.

II. Conference format

The plenary

2. It is proposed to organize the plenary around four different phases: the opening formalities, a high-level section with the visits of heads of State and Government and other dignitaries, the regular speeches on the Report of the Director-General, and the adoption of committee reports and closing ceremony.
3. The Director-General's report to the Conference will consist of a message from the Director-General transmitting the report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work. This will provide the substance for discussion and be the main theme for debate in plenary, together with the report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body for the period June 2018–June 2019. The Director-General's Report will be different from the draft outcome document, the elaboration and discussion of which is described in more detail below.
4. The Conference would open, as per usual practice, at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, 10 June 2019. The morning sitting could deal only with the opening formalities, such as the election of the Officers of the Conference and the appointment of committees. The presentation of the reports of the Director-General and the Chairperson of the Governing Body, as well as the opening statements of the Chairpersons of the Employers' and Workers' groups, could either take place during the opening ceremony, as per established practice, or be moved to an afternoon sitting that would also include the start of a high-level section of the plenary devoted to addresses by Heads of State or Government.
5. In anticipation of a large number of high-level guests attending the Conference, the Director-General has asked member States to advise the Office if they are considering being represented at the Head of State or Head of Government level. An early indication of such interest will assist in the planning of the Conference.

6. From an organizational and impact perspective, it would be preferable to group high-level interventions, and therefore these could begin on the afternoon of Monday, 10 June and continue all day on Tuesday, 11 June and, if required, Wednesday, 12 June. In accordance with usual practice, to enable the preparation of final committee documents for presentation to the plenary, Thursday, 20 June would also be set aside for high-level interventions.
7. From Thursday, 13 June (or Wednesday, 12 June depending on the number of high-level guests) until Wednesday, 19 June, the plenary would be open for ministers' and delegates' speeches on the Report of the Director-General, which will transmit the report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work. In the likely event that the number of speeches during the centenary session (2019) of the Conference exceeds the average of 300 speeches seen at recent sessions, consideration could also be given to limiting the government interventions on the report of the Director-General to one per national delegation, in derogation of article 12 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, whereby a Minister attending the Conference may address the Plenary in addition to one of the two government delegates from the same country.
8. The Conference closing phase, including the adoption of a centenary outcome document, votes on the instruments on violence and harassment and the Programme and Budget for 2020–21, as well as the receipt of the report of the Committee on the Application of Standards and other committee or panel reports, would be conducted during the entire day of Friday, 21 June, preceded by part of the afternoon of Thursday, 20 June if required. If necessary, the adoption of the Finance Committee report and the vote on the programme and budget could be foreseen at an earlier stage during the second week.

Conference committees

9. Under the current format of the Conference, in addition to the standing committees (namely the Committee on the Application of Standards, the Finance Committee, the Credentials Committee and the Selection Committee), provision is made for three technical committees to meet throughout the Conference session concurrently with the plenary. As there will be no general or recurrent discussions in 2019, the following is proposed for the use of the two committee slots available.
10. A committee of the whole could be established to consider the centenary outcome document. To facilitate the work of this committee, a draft outcome document would be made available prior to the Conference. The draft would be prepared and transmitted to the Conference by the Director-General on the basis of member States' reactions to the report of the Global Commission and broad consultations to be held in the first part of 2019. The process leading to the elaboration of a draft outcome document is explained in more detail in section IV below.
11. A committee of the whole, along the lines of those appointed for the debates of the evaluation of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, on the Global Jobs Pact and the Maritime Labour Convention in 2016, 2009 and 2006 respectively, would allow wider participation and greater flexibility in the discussion. It could sit from Wednesday, 12 June or Thursday, 13 June until Wednesday, 19 June, so as to avoid overlap with the additional plenary sittings devoted to the high-level interventions.
12. Concurrent with this committee, a series of full or half-day thematic debates and events connected to the Centenary could be arranged in the form of panel discussions or keynote speakers. The themes of these debates or events would be related to the future of work, and could include other Centenary Initiatives, namely the End to Poverty Initiative, the Women at Work, the Enterprises and the Green Initiatives; the Standards Initiative could be covered

under the programme of work of the Committee on the Application of Standards referred to below. Other major themes related to the future world of work could also be the subject of those debates, such as youth employment, lifelong learning and skills development, the rural economy, technology or social dialogue. Depending on the number of high-level guests attending the Conference, such forums could be held from Wednesday, 12 June or Thursday, 13 June until Wednesday, 19 June.

13. These thematic debates would be open to the participation of a wide range of experts and organizations and allow scope for creative and innovative formats for discussion. These forums could have a professional facilitator and would be designed to be highly interactive, with open, not pre-arranged, questions or very brief interventions from the floor. As is the case with the World of Work Summit panels, no conclusions would be expected from these forums. Instead, a summary of the discussions held and ideas exchanged in the forums could be presented by a reporter to the Conference plenary for information alongside the submission of committee reports.
14. With respect to the standing committees, the Committee on the Application of Standards would meet as usual, but consideration is being given to special content and format of its debates during the centenary session.
15. The Finance Committee will have to hold two or three sittings to consider the Programme and Budget proposals for 2020–21, as well as other financial and administrative matters referred to it by the Governing Body. These sittings could be scheduled in the early days of the Conference session to limit overlap with other committees or the centenary debates. The adoption of the Finance Committee report in plenary and the vote on the Programme and Budget for 2020–21 could be scheduled early during the second week.
16. The Selection Committee would be convened as required and the Credentials Committee will meet as usual to discharge its mandate.
17. With respect to the standard-setting committee on violence and harassment in the world of work, consideration is being given to the possibility of having it finish its work either half a day or a day later, on Thursday, 20 June, instead of Wednesday, 19 June. More details about the work programme and methods of this committee are provided in document GB.334/WP/GBC/1.

III. Conference programme

18. A preliminary programme of work of the centenary session built along the above ideas is provided in table form in the appendix.

IV. Outcome document

19. In March 2018, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to present first ideas on the outcome document for further consideration at its current session. These ideas are as follows:

- (i) General considerations

The outcome document should be concise, driven by the constitutional objectives of the Organization, framed by reference to long-term developments and challenges in the world of work rather than conjunctural circumstances, and relevant to the situation of member States at all stages of development.

(ii) Basic principles and purpose

The outcome document should restate the Organization's strong tripartite commitment to the values and objectives set out in the Constitution and the Declaration of Philadelphia which is an annex of the Constitution, and draw on the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the 2008 Social Justice Declaration. Its purpose is to guide the Organization in realizing these values and objectives.

(iii) Treatment of substantive issues

The outcome document would fall short of its potential if it limited itself to a reaffirmation of existing texts and practice. While it cannot address all important world of work issues exhaustively without loss of focus and impact, it should highlight matters of particular and enduring significance, deriving from two distinct sources:

- Unfinished business: those issues which are mandated in the Constitution but have not been adequately or successfully addressed.
- Emerging issues: the challenges generated by transformative change at work, including those identified in the Future of Work Initiative and more specifically the report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work.

The aims should be to define the ILO's responsibilities in respect of each.

(iv) The future work and role of the ILO

The outcome document should address the future work and role of the ILO itself. While refraining from the type of detailed prescriptive guidance that properly belongs in the programme and budgeting process, it can provide higher level orientations on how the Organization should conduct its work and serve its tripartite constituency. In this context, it should also address the ILO's relationship with the rest of the multilateral system, considering how in its working methods and external institutional arrangements, it can best lever those relations to progress common goals.

(v) The form of the outcome document

In its previous discussion, when divergent views were expressed, the Governing Body left open the question of the nature of the outcome document, deciding only that it should be "important" and possibly a declaration. In the light of these first ideas about its content and purpose, the Director-General is of the view that the document should take the form of a "Centenary declaration", this being the form most appropriate to its ambition and importance.

20. The adoption by the 2019 International Labour Conference of a Centenary Declaration is an ambitious undertaking. Careful preparation from now until next June will be key to creating the conditions in which the Conference can complete that task successfully. The Office therefore proposes to undertake an intensive process of consultation with constituents, including the following milestones:

- (a) a working paper for informal consultations in February 2019;
- (b) a second paper providing building blocks for the outcome document, for debate and guidance by the Governing Body at its 335th Session (March 2019);

- (c) following the Governing Body discussion, a third paper for informal consultations in April 2019; and
- (d) a proposed draft text of the outcome document in early May 2019 for the consideration by the committee of the whole.

Draft decision

21. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) took note of the document;*
- (b) endorsed the proposals for the format of the 2019 session of the Conference;*
- (c) endorsed the Director-General's proposals for the nature, format and consultation process for the development of a draft outcome document for consideration by the Conference at its 2019 session; and*
- (d) requested the Director-General to provide a further update on arrangements for the 2019 session of the Conference at the 335th Session (March 2019) of the Governing Body.*

Appendix

Preliminary plan of work of the 108th Session of the International Labour Conference

	Mon 10		Tue 11		Wed 12		Thu 13		Fri 14		Sat 15		Mon 17		Tue 18		Wed 19		Thu 20		Fri 21	
	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
	Plenary sitting																					
Opening sitting	•																					
High-level sittings		•	•	•	•	•														•	•	
Speeches on the Report of the Director-General							•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•				
Adoption of committee outcomes, votes and closing ceremony																				•	•	•
	Conference committee																					
Committee of the whole (Centenary outcome document)							•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•				
Finance Committee (P&B for 2020–21)			•	•				•														
Committee on the Application of Standards		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Standard-setting committee		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Centenary debates							•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•				