



Governing Body

343rd Session, Geneva, November 2021

Institutional Section

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Progress report of the tripartite working group on the full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance in the spirit of the Centenary Declaration

Report of the Co-chairpersons

Purpose of the document

This document contains a progress report on the work of the tripartite working group, as requested by the Governing Body at its 341st Session (March 2021) (see the draft decision in paragraph 9).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Main relevant outcome: Enabling outcome B: Effective and efficient governance of the Organization.

Policy implications: None

Legal implications: None

Financial implications: None

Follow-up action required: None

Author unit: Office of the Legal Adviser (JUR).

Related documents: [GB.341/INS/PV](#); [GB.341/INS/9](#); [GB.340/INS/PV](#); [GB.340/INS/18/1](#); [GB.337/PV](#); [GB.337/INS/12/1\(Rev.1\)](#).

1. At its 341st Session (March 2021), the Governing Body took note of the report of the tripartite working group on the full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD) and decided to extend its duration for a period of 12 months. It also requested the TWGD to present a progress report and a final report for its consideration at the 343rd (November 2021) and 344th (March 2022) Sessions, respectively.
2. The TWGD held virtually its third and fourth meetings on 28 June and 8 September 2021 respectively, during which a number of governments and the social partners reaffirmed their commitment and support for its work.¹
3. At its third meeting, the TWGD was informed of the Government group's agreement to renew the nomination of the Government members of Nigeria and Switzerland as Co-Chairpersons of the TWGD. Following the decision of the Governing Body to extend the duration of the TWGD for 12 months, the TWGD updated paragraph 16 of its terms of reference.²
4. The TWGD noted the status of ratification of the 1986 Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the ILO (the 1986 Amendment) and ratification prospects based on the information provided by the Office and shared by some of its members.³ The TWGD welcomed the registration of two new ratifications by the Republic of Moldova and Somalia and took note of the forthcoming deposit of the instrument of ratification by Ireland. The TWGD took also note of the information provided by the Governments of Brazil, Lithuania and the Philippines on the actions taken in relation to the ratification of the 1986 Amendment. Moreover, the TWGD welcomed the adoption of the resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance at the June segment of the 109th Session (2021) of the International Labour Conference, as another important step which should facilitate further acceptance of the 1986 Amendment.
5. Overall, it was felt that progress was being made and that the consideration of the ratification of the 1986 Amendment had gained momentum following the adoption of the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and its accompanying resolution. The TWGD considered that there was ground for optimism that the resolution adopted by the Conference in 2021 would enable countries of the subregion concerned to consider favourably the ratification of the 1986 Amendment. Yet, it was also felt that both the Office and Member States should step up their respective efforts to capitalize on the impetus given by the Centenary Declaration and achieve the entry into force of the 1986 Amendment in a reasonably short period of time. In addition, the TWGD requested the Co-Chairpersons to continue consultations with Members of chief industrial importance. The social partners and the majority of the Government members considered that the entry into force of the 1986 Amendment should remain the focus of the TWGD in line with the Centenary Declaration. While reiterating their support to the

¹ In accordance with paragraphs 14 and 15 of the terms of reference of the TWGD, the working documents, the summary records of proceedings and the reports to the Governing Body, have been published on a dedicated [web page](#).

² The amended paragraph 16 of the [terms of reference](#) reads as follows: "Upon receiving the first report of the TWGD in March 2021, the Governing Body decided to extend the duration of the tripartite working group for a period of 12 months and requested the tripartite working group to present a progress report and a final report for its consideration at the 343rd (November 2021) and 344th (March 2022) Sessions, respectively (as per decision of the Governing Body at its 341st (March 2021) Session)".

³ See also [GB.343/INS/INF/4](#).

democratization of the ILO, some Government members maintained their position that discussions in the TWGD should not focus exclusively on the ratification of the 1986 Amendment but should be broader and include other options to reform the ILO governance.

6. At its fourth meeting, the TWGD had before it a background note prepared by the Office providing an overview of the measures required to implement the 1986 Amendment upon its entry into force. These measures included, on the one hand, a series of consequential amendments to the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference and the Standing Orders of the Governing Body, and, on the other, the adoption or revision of regional protocols on the process for the distribution of seats for the purposes of Governing Body elections. At the request of the Co-Chairpersons, the Office had circulated the texts of protocols which had been concluded and published in the early 1980s prior to the adoption of the 1986 Amendment.
7. The TWGD welcomed the updated information which was useful for planning next steps and the preparatory work that had to be undertaken by the Office with regard to amendments to Standing Orders as well as by governments with a view to revisiting the existing regional protocols.
8. Finally, the TWGD decided to extend an invitation to the Governments of India and Italy – the two Members of chief industrial importance that have ratified the 1986 Amendment – to share their respective experiences at its fifth and final meeting, which it tentatively agreed to hold in the week of 17 January 2022. The TWGD will submit its final report to the Governing Body at the 344th Session (March 2022).

▶ Draft decision

9. **The Governing Body:**
 - (a) **took note of the progress report of the tripartite working group on the full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance; and**
 - (b) **requested the Director-General to intensify the promotional activities in relation to the 1986 Amendment pursuant to the resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance adopted at the June segment of the 109th Session (2021) of the International Labour Conference.**