



TENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Programme and Budget for 2008–09:
Technical meetings reserve**

1. The Programme and Budget for 2008–09 provides for a technical meetings reserve of US\$1,225,180. The Governing Body is invited to decide on the subjects and composition of the technical meetings to be funded by the reserve after the adoption of the programme and budget. This paper includes proposals from which technical meetings may be selected. Details on these proposals are set out in the appendices to the present document. Consultations with all groups will be held prior to the Governing Body session and the results will be reported to the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee.
2. Within the total allocation available, US\$236,992 has been earmarked for the organization of the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) and its preparatory meeting, already approved by the Governing Body.¹ The remaining amount, US\$988,188, would permit funding of an additional four meetings averaging some US\$250,000. If less costly meetings are selected, there would be scope to increase the number of participants.
3. The remaining proposals are:
 - Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Convention No. 98: The right to organize and bargain collectively in the 21st century (proposed by the Bureau for Workers' Activities).
 - Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge (proposed by the Bureau for Employers' Activities).
 - Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Measurement of Decent Work (requested several times during Governing Body discussions, most recently in March 2007, during the discussion of the programme and budget proposals).
 - Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the List of Occupational Diseases (Recommendation No. 194) (endorsed by the Governing Body at its 295th Session (March 2006) (GB295/PV, paragraph 219)).

¹ The Programme and Budget for 2008–09, p. 79, para. 355.

- Meeting of Experts on the Code of Practice on Machinery Guarding (suggested in the Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health adopted by the 2003 International Labour Conference at its 91st Session, 2003).
 - A Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-Time Arrangements (the Governing Body approved the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards to organize this meeting at its 294th Session (November 2005)).
 - Meeting of Experts on Labour Law Reform and HIV/AIDS (new proposal).
 - Symposium on Two Key Labour Market Challenges for the 21st Century: Climate Change and Demographic Shifts (new proposal).
 - Symposium on the Role of Social Partners in Promoting Local Development Policies and Strategies for Decent Work (new proposal).
4. The technical meetings reserve covers the full cost of participation and a contribution to the cost of technical preparatory work and technical servicing of the meetings. Technical preparation cost varies depending on the work already done by the Office on the topic. The average cost of preparatory work amounts to some US\$71,700.
5. The cost of participation varies depending on the number of participants, the number of days they are present and travel expenses. The average cost of participation is some US\$6,600 per person.
6. The interpretation cost is covered by the regular budget of the Relations, Meetings and Document Services Department. The cost depends on the number of interpretation teams required, the number of days and the number of languages.
7. A decision can be deferred until a later session on the use of part of the reserve.
8. ***The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body a selection of meetings to be financed by the technical meetings reserve as contained in the Programme and Budget for 2008–09.***

Geneva, 12 October 2007.

Point for decision: Paragraph 8.

Appendix I

Cost of proposed technical meetings (in US\$ at 2008–09 costs and exchange rate)

Title	Technical preparatory work and servicing	Participation cost	Total to be covered by technical meetings reserve	Interpretation cost	Grand total
Total amount of technical meetings reserve in the Programme and Budget for 2008–09 (re-costed and revalued)			1 225 180		
(a) The 18th ICLS	85 392	103 800	189 192	311 320	500 512
Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the ICLS	–	47 800	47 800	65 127	112 927
Remaining amount for other meetings to be selected			988 188		
(b) Workers' Symposium: Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Convention No. 98: The right to organize and bargain collectively in the 21st century	45 200	204 800	250 000	67 167	317 167
(c) Employers' Symposium: Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge	91 400	158 600	250 000	85 336	335 336
(d) Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Measurement of Decent Work	53 200	125 300	178 500	39 102	217 602
(e) Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the List of Occupational Diseases (Recommendation No. 194)	89 044	138 800	227 844	132 803	360 647
(f) Meeting of Experts on the Code of Practice on Machinery Guarding	49 348	199 600	248 948	156 410	405 358
(g) A Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-Time Arrangements	50 000	127 700	177 700	65 170	242 870
(h) Meeting of Experts on Labour Law Reform and HIV/AIDS	21 348	178 800	200 148	19 547	219 695
(i) Symposium on Two Key Labour Market Challenges for the 21st Century: Climate Change and Demographic Shifts	115 392	129 100	244 492	59 009	303 501
(j) Symposium on the Role of Social Partners in Promoting Local Development Policies and Strategies for Decent Work	62 696	158 500	221 196	30 424	251 620
Total (b)–(j)	577 628	1 421 200	1 998 828	654 968	2 653 796

Appendix II

Selection of ILO technical meetings in 2008–09

(a) The 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians
(US\$189,192)

Proposed participation: Six Employer and six Worker participants (to be covered by the technical meetings reserve) and representatives of governments.

Number of calendar days: Ten.

Justification:

- The Conference meets approximately every five years. To date, 17 ICLSs have taken place since 1923. The latest, organized in 2003, was also financed by the technical meetings reserve.

Objective:

- The ICLS is invited to consider and make recommendations on selected topics of labour statistics in the form of resolutions and guidelines, which will then be approved by the Governing Body before becoming part of the set of international standards on labour statistics.

Preparatory meeting for the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians:
Meeting of Experts in Labour Statistics
(US\$47,800)

Proposed participation: 14 Government, seven Employer and seven Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: 14.

Justification:

- See the justification for the ICLS.

Objective:

- The Meeting of Experts will review a draft resolution on child labour statistics and a draft revised resolution on the measurement of working time to provide recommendations to be taken into consideration for the submission of two separate but related proposals to the 18th ICLS.

The cost of technical preparatory work and servicing for this preparatory meeting (amounting to US\$90,624) will be fully borne by the Bureau of Statistics.

(b) Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Convention No. 98: The right to organize and bargain collectively in the 21st century
(US\$250,000)

Proposed participation: 30 Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: Four.

Justification:

- On 8 June 1949 the International Labour Conference adopted Convention No. 98 in San Francisco. Hence, it will be 60 years old in 2009. It will be most appropriate for the Bureau of Workers' Activities and the Workers' group to celebrate the anniversary of a Convention which not only establishes the right of a trade union to exist but also defines its essence and raison d'être – collective bargaining.
- In recent years, the right to organize and to bargain collectively has faced the challenges stemming from falling trade union membership, increasing individualization of labour relations and the difficult quest for greater competitiveness and flexibility in the context of globalization. In the circumstances, the capacity of trade unions need to be strengthened in order to face these challenges and enhance the right to organize and collective bargaining and other fundamental rights and principles such as the global platform rules governing the increasing globalization of the economy and the promotion of decent work for all.

Objectives:

- To examine the recent trends and developments in collective bargaining and the protection of the right to organize.
- To discuss the relationship between collective bargaining and the social and economic objectives of decent work.
- To identify policies and strategies that would strengthen the capacity of trade unions to organize and to bargain collectively.
- To identify ways and means of achieving the universal application of the right to organize and to bargain collectively.
- The outputs are a set of practical recommendations – for the ILO, the governments, the employers and the trade unions – on the ways and means to strengthen the right to organize and to bargain collectively as a prerequisite for the achievement of decent work for all in the global economy.

(c) Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge
(US\$250,000)

Proposed participation: 24 Employer participants.

Number of calendar days: Three.

Justification:

- The theme covers inter alia the important issue of ageing. This is an increasingly important issue for major economies, not only in Organisation for Co-operation and Development countries which are faced with increasing life expectancy while few have fertility rates that sustain the current population levels. The population is shrinking, people are getting older, which, inevitably, leads to the key question: how to develop and make workplace policies and enterprise practices more attractive to older workers and better accommodate, motivate and retain older workers.

Objectives:

- The meeting will explore key responses for enterprises and employers' organizations to the issue of how to better integrate, recruit and retain older workers in the face of a changing demographic context.
- The output of the meeting will be improved knowledge about the ageing challenge; improved ageing policy and programme design capacity; enhanced knowledge networks; and improved direct technical assistance expertise. Dissemination of the

report of the meeting would feed into the Office work towards ageing – which is likely to be an area of increasing importance for the ILO in the future.

(d) Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Measurement of Decent Work
(US\$178,500)

Proposed participation: Five Government experts, five experts following consultation with the Employers' group, five experts following consultations with the Workers' group, five independent experts selected directly by the Office; also observer experts from key national and international institutions and agencies with direct interest in the topic.

Number of calendar days: Three.

Justification:

- During the discussion of the report of the 17th ICLS in March 2004, the Governing Body requested a tripartite discussion on the measurement of decent work prior to the holding of the Meeting of Experts that was recommended by the Conference. This request was reiterated by the Governing Body in March 2007 during the discussion of the programme and budget. A document is being separately presented to the Governing Body on the ways forward in developing measurement of the different dimensions of decent work for their consideration. The Meeting of Experts would provide further detailed advice on the viability of the options available to the Governing Body.

Objective:

- To seek guidance on the different options for measuring the various dimensions of decent work in order to prepare comprehensive recommendations for consideration by the Governing Body.

(e) Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the List of Occupational Diseases
(Recommendation No. 194)
(US\$227,844)

Proposed participation: Seven Government, seven Employer and seven Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: Four.

Justification:

- The Governing Body at its 295th Session (March 2006) (GB295/PV, paragraph 219) decided to convene another meeting of experts to complete the work accomplished by the Meeting already held concerning the review and updating of the list of occupational diseases included in the annex to the List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002 (No. 194), and requested that the Director-General make proposals for financing the above Meeting within the Programme and Budget proposals for 2008–09.
- This topic has been recommended on several occasions, most recently by the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings.

Objective:

- To complete the work accomplished by the Meeting of Experts on Updating the List of Occupational Diseases (13–20 December 2005) by updating the list of occupational diseases included in the annex to the List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002 (No. 194).

(f) Meeting of Experts on the Code of Practice on Machinery Guarding
(US\$248,948)

Proposed participation: Eight Government, eight Employer and eight Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: Nine.

Justification:

- The Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health adopted by the International Labour Conference, 2003, suggested that “Priority should be given to the development of a new instrument on the guarding of machinery in the form of a code of practice” in paragraph 8 of the Global Strategy (conclusions adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 91st Session, 2003)

Objectives:

- To adopt the code of practice on safety in the use of machinery.
- The code of practice on safety in the use of machinery which, after the approval of the Governing Body, will be published providing guidance for safety in the use of machinery at the national and the enterprise levels.

(g) Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-Time Arrangements
(US\$177,700)

Proposed participation: Six Government, six Employer and six Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: Five.

Justification:

- The question of revising ILO standards on hours of work, in particular Convention Nos 1 and 30 dealing with hours of work in industry, and commerce and offices, respectively, has given rise to extensive discussions in recent years. At the centre of this ongoing debate has been an understanding that the instruments in question, although relevant in certain respects, no longer fully reflect modern realities. Nonetheless, there has been a lack of consensus on a possible course of future ILO action on working time.
- The Governing Body approved at its 294th Session (November 2005) the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards to organize a tripartite meeting of experts on working-time arrangements. This meeting was not selected when proposed as technical meeting in March 2006. However, there is still an expectation that the meeting will be organized.

Objectives:

- To review and advise on modern working-time arrangements, including by outlining an integrated framework of principles and policy options, which might potentially also serve as the basis for a discussion on working time at a future session of the International Labour Conference.
- The output of the meeting is an integrated framework of principles and policy options that would provide some guidance to ILO constituents in advancing decent work in the area of working time.

**(h) Meeting of Experts on Labour
Law Reform and HIV/AIDS
(US\$200,148)**

Proposed participation: Ten Government, ten Employer and ten Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: Two.

Justification:

- Modernizing labour legislation remains a priority for many countries and member States may well turn to the Office for overhaul of their laws in the face of growing infection rates. In general, as HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting issue, Office advice is to address it in draft laws. But also specifically, ILO technical assistance is requested on substantive workplace rights in the field of HIV/AIDS (screening, contract status, non-discrimination, dismissals, occupational safety and health, care and treatment, role of trade unions and employers' organizations, etc.) within the framework of comparative labour law and international labour standards, as well as the 2001 code of practice. When providing technical advice and comments on draft policy and legislation, it is often clear that the social dialogue process could be better used to arrive at policy options that provide a workable basis for legal protections and their enforcement. Many lawmakers are unaware of their own national AIDS policies in place, and those policies often ignore the world of work dimension of the epidemic.
- A meeting would provide a forum for: (i) knowledge updating (including regional and national policy initiatives) and exchange of best practices from around the world (current technical cooperation projects backstopped by the Social Dialogue, Labour Law and Labour Administration Department in cooperation with ILO/AIDS are delivering research in the context of sub-Saharan Africa only; developments in Latin America and Asia need to be aired); and (ii) a high-level critical debate on the most complex issues facing lawmakers, such as coverage in the informal economy, links to migration laws, testing, institutional structures and penalties/remedies.

Objectives:

- To enable tripartite constituents to design better labour laws addressing HIV/AIDS, using social dialogue processes and international labour standards frameworks.
- The outputs of the meetings are: knowledge-network-enhanced research capacities and direct technical assistance expertise improved. Dissemination of the report of Meeting would feed into the Office work towards the International Labour Conference discussion of a recommendation on HIV/AIDS (Governing Body decision, March 2007).

**(i) Symposium on Two Key Labour Market
Challenges for the 21st Century:
Climate Change and Demographic Shifts
(US\$244,492)**

Proposed participation: Seven Government, seven Employer and seven Worker participants.

Number of calendar days: Three.

Justification:

- Knowledge on driving forces of change in the world of work is required to provide research-based policy advice. The three areas are envisioned to be the major sources of change in the twenty-first century.

Objectives:

- Sharing knowledge with national, regional and global experts, government officials and the social partners relating to the impact of climate change, demographic shift and trade on decent and productive employment.
- The output of the meeting is an improved knowledge base of national and regional partners with the objective of placing decent and productive employment at the forefront of discussion associated with topics.

(j) *Symposium on Role of Social Partners in Promoting Local Development Policies and Strategies for Decent Work*
(US\$221,196)

Proposed participation: 15 Government, 15 Employer and 15 Worker participants from Africa.

Number of calendar days: Two.

Justification:

- Local strategies for decent work are essential in times of shifting competitiveness and increased impact of globalization, as they contribute to dynamic local economies and to make them more capable of withstanding changes in the global environment. National governments and the social partners play a central role in promoting joint strategic frameworks with local public and private actors that contribute to decent work outcomes at subnational levels.
- The conclusions concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises, discussed at the International Labour Conference 2007 highlight that the ILO should support local development strategies through, among other things, training and knowledge sharing with governments and social partners for the design and implementation of strategies at subnational levels that contribute to the creation of sustainable enterprises and decent work.
- In May 2007 a regional conference on local strategies for decent work was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with the participation of nine countries in the Asia and Pacific region. In October 2007 a similar meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile. An important long-term outcome of these meetings is the consolidation of regional knowledge-sharing networks on local development strategies for decent work. The proposed technical meeting is planned to take place in Addis Ababa for 15 selected ILO member States in the African region and will contribute to a similar outcome for Africa.

Objective:

- Share ILO constituents' experiences and lessons learned on local development about policies and strategies for decent work, identify appropriate ILO support to build, and further develop an active knowledge-sharing network.