



## EIGHTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

### Technical meetings reserve

1. The Programme and Budget for 2008–09 provides for a technical meetings reserve of US\$1,225,180.
2. At its 300th Session (November 2007), the Governing Body approved the financing of the following meetings from the technical meetings reserve for 2008–09, at a total estimated cost of US\$805,892: <sup>1</sup>
  - International Conference of Labour Statisticians (in November/December 2008) and its preparatory meeting (in April 2008) (US\$305,892); <sup>2</sup>
  - 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) (US\$250,000);
  - Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge (proposed by the Bureau for Employers' Activities) (US\$250,000).
3. At the same session, the Governing Body decided to defer its decision on the use of the remaining balance of the technical meetings reserve of US\$419,288, until a later session.
4. Some of the proposals presented in this document have been revised to take into consideration the comments and requests made during the same session. Following the Governing Body discussion in November 2007 on the Director-General's Fifth Supplementary Report: Measuring decent work, <sup>3</sup> this item has been restored to the list of proposals for consideration.
5. Details of the revised list of proposals and information on the cost of meetings proposed are included in Appendices I and II.

<sup>1</sup> GB.300/PFA/10 and GB.300/PFA/10/1.

<sup>2</sup> Interpretation cost is charged separately to RELCONF. This is applicable to all the projects proposed.

<sup>3</sup> GB.300/20/5.

6. In principle, two meetings can be approved. However, depending on the meetings selected, it may be necessary to adjust participation and preparation costs downward.
7. *The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body a selection of meetings that could be financed by the use of the remaining technical meetings reserve for 2008–09.*

Geneva, 28 January 2008.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 7.

## Appendix I

### Cost of technical meetings (in US\$)

	Title	Technical preparatory work and servicing	Participation cost	Total to be covered by technical meetings reserve	Interpretation cost	Grand total
<b>Total amount of TMR in the Programme and Budget for 2008–09</b> (recosted and revalued)				<b>1 225 180</b>		
Meetings already approved	(a) Eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians <sup>Note 1</sup>	85 392	172 700	<b>258 092</b>	311 320	<b>569 412</b>
	Preparatory Meeting of Experts for the ICLS	—	47 800	<b>47 800</b>	65 127	<b>112 927</b>
	(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	<b>250 000</b>	67 167	<b>317 167</b>
	(c) Employers' Symposium: Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge	91 400	158 600	<b>250 000</b>	85 336	<b>335 336</b>
<b>Remaining amount for other meetings to be selected</b>				<b>419 288</b>		
Proposed meetings for selection	(d) Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Measurement of Decent Work <sup>Note 2</sup>	53 200	125 300	<b>178 500</b>	39 102	<b>217 602</b>
	(e) Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the List of Occupational Diseases (Recommendation No. 194)	89 044	138 800	<b>227 844</b>	132 803	<b>360 647</b>
	(f) Meeting of Experts on the Code of Practice on Safety in the Use of Machinery <sup>Note 3</sup>	49 348	199 600	<b>248 948</b>	156 410	<b>405 358</b>
	(g) Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working Time Arrangements	50 000	127 700	<b>177 700</b>	65 170	<b>242 870</b>
	(h) Meeting of Experts on Labour Law Reform and HIV/AIDS	21 348	178 800	<b>200 148</b>	19 547	<b>219 695</b>
	(i) Symposium on Two Key Labour Market Challenges for the 21st Century: Climate Change and Demographic Shifts	115 392	129 100	<b>244 492</b>	59 009	<b>303 501</b>
	(j) Symposium on the Role Of Social Partners in Promoting Local Development Policies and Strategies for Decent Work	62 696	158 500	<b>221 196</b>	30 424	<b>251 620</b>
	<b>Total of (d) to (j)</b>	<b>441 028</b>	<b>1 057 800</b>	<b>1 498 828</b>	502 465	<b>2 001 293</b>

Note 1: The cost for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians was increased from US\$189,192 to US\$258,092. For details, please see the decision in GB.300/PFA/10/1.

Note 2: The proposal has been restored in the list following the discussion at the November 2007 Governing Body session.

Note 3: The original title was: Meeting of Experts on the Code of Practice on Machinery Guarding.

## Appendix II

### Selection of ILO technical meetings in 2008–09

NB: Technical meetings already selected are not described hereafter. Information on selected meetings can be found in GB.300/12/1.

#### (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 consultation 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 and November 2007. Following the Governing Body discussion and requests for further information in November 2007, and additional document is being submitted separately for discussion by the Governing Body itself. 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 (March 2006) Session<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> GB295/PV, para. 219.

- 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 Safety in the Use of Machinery<sup>2</sup> (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 in 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 they remain 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.
- In December 2004, the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations completed its General Survey on Conventions Nos 1 and 30. Based on the conclusions of the General Survey and a subsequent discussion of this General Survey by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards in June 2005, the Governing Body has agreed in principle to the organization of a tripartite Meeting of Experts as a means of moving forward in addressing the issue of working time in all of its multiple dimensions.

<sup>2</sup> The original title was: Meeting of Experts on the Code of Practice on Machinery Guarding.

*Objectives:*

- To review and advise on modern working time arrangements, which would include identifying the main policy issues that would need to be addressed to develop future ILO guidance for advancing decent work in the area of working time. The results of this Meeting 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 enhanced understanding of modern working time arrangements among tripartite constituents; an assessment of the needs of all parties concerned; and an identification of key policy issues to be addressed in any future ILO guidance on the subject.

**(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, ILO technical assistance is also 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 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.
- The labour law reforms, including general employment laws and labour codes received by the ILO for technical comment, are increasingly including provisions on HIV/AIDS and it is therefore important to develop a network of experts on the legal trends covering HIV/AIDS and employment.

*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. The report of Meeting would feed into the work being undertaken in preparation of the discussion at the 2009 International Labour Conference with a view to draft a recommendation on HIV/AIDS.

**(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. This technical meeting has been proposed for the purpose of convening technical experts with constituents for discussion of two topics that have and will have a significant influence on the world of work. For example, will the ageing of the workforce spawn a variety of new service sector jobs relating to health care and personal services? Will climate change significantly alter both the geography and substance of economic activities and therefore livelihoods? In view of the dearth of information on these subjects – and yet their undoubted importance – the intent of the meeting would be to collect knowledge and identify its significance for the ILO.

*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 the fact that the ILO should support local development strategies through, among others, 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-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.