

**FOR DECISION**

## FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Use of the Special Programme Account**

1. At its 301st Session (March 2008), the Governing Body requested the Office to submit a document “further detailing the allocation of resources to support technical programmes in countries totalling US\$7.8 million”. In November 2008, consideration of this item was deferred to March 2009.
2. The present document is submitted in accordance with article 11.9 of the Financial Regulations, which provides that any surplus transferred to a Special Programme Account “shall be used, subject to the authorization of the Governing Body, to finance high-priority activities of limited duration that were not otherwise provided for under the budget adopted by the Conference and that do not create any expectation of additional future funding”.
3. The Special Programme Account should be used with prudence, given the current global economic and social situation and the likely emergence of urgent needs. The Director-General consequently asks for authority to use up to US\$6.5 million as detailed below. This would support immediate response to the current crisis, as well as steps to implement the field structure review, while setting aside the remaining US\$1.3 million for further decisions of the Governing Body. Such decisions could be taken in November 2009 on the basis of further proposals to be submitted by the Director-General.

**Response to the financial and economic crisis**

4. The global financial and economic crisis requires the ILO to respond to a substantial increase in demand for technical advice and support to assist ILO constituents, particularly at the country level. This increase in demand for technical services was not anticipated in the context of the Programme and Budget for 2008–09. Therefore, these additional resources will be used to enable the ILO to respond in a timely and effective manner to these demands.
  - (i) National tripartite action through Decent Work Country Programmes to respond to the crisis (US\$2.5 million).
  - (ii) Follow-up to the High-level Tripartite Meeting on the Current Global Financial and Economic Crisis, including through the International Labour Conference in June 2009 (US\$300,000).
  - (iii) Observatory of the global jobs crisis and country policies (US\$300,000).
  - (iv) One sectoral meeting in relation to the crisis (US\$200,000).

- (v) Learning from country experience in responding to the crisis, five country studies (US\$600,000).
- (vi) Job creation potential of green technology: state of the knowledge study and tripartite discussion (US\$250,000).

## **Strengthening ILO capacity in specific areas in anticipation of the 2010–11 Programme and Budget**

5. The Programme and Budget proposals for 2010–11 provide for strengthening ILO capacity in a number of areas cutting across strategic objectives and outcomes.<sup>1</sup> These areas present potential for designing new technical cooperation proposals with a view to strengthening ILO capacity and services to constituents. An early initial investment in these areas would prepare the ILO to strengthen its capacity.
  - (i) Labour administration and inspection, pilots in four countries (US\$350,000).
  - (ii) Statistics and measurement of decent work, support to countries (US\$500,000).
  - (iii) Extending social security coverage: a tripartite technical meeting, as requested by the Committee on Employment and Social Policy (US\$250,000).
  - (iv) Strengthening follow-up to decisions of the international labour standards supervisory bodies, five pilot cases (US\$250,000).
  - (v) Change management methods in light of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization: an investment (US\$250,000).

## **Implementation of the field structure review proposals<sup>2</sup> in 2009 (US\$750,000)**

6. One-off costs in staff movements, in determining the best staff composition and profiles required in each office and technical team, in designing the recruitment and selection procedure of national coordinators, as well as possible changes in accommodation needs.
7. *The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body authorize the Director-General to use US\$6.5 million of the Special Programme Account as proposed in paragraphs 4 to 6 above, and request him to submit proposals on the use of the remaining US\$1.3 million to the Governing Body in November 2009.*

Geneva, 10 March 2009.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 7.

<sup>1</sup> See GB.304/PFA/3, paras 21 and 22.

<sup>2</sup> GB.304/PFA/5.