



Governing Body

311th Session, Geneva, June 2011

GB.311/6

FOR DECISION

SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Agenda of the International Labour Conference

Agenda of the 101st Session (2012) and of the 102nd Session (2013) of the Conference

Overview

Issue covered

Completion of the agenda of the 101st Session (2012) of the Conference. It is proposed to postpone the completion of the agenda of the 102nd Session (2013) of the Conference.

Policy implications

Decisions on the basis of this document will determine the programme of the Conference for 2012.

Financial implications

The usual implications of items placed on the Conference agenda.

Decision required

Paragraphs 3 and 6.

References to other Governing Body documents and ILO instruments

Dec – GB.307/2 (March 2010); Dec – GB.310/2 (March 2011).

ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008.

ILO: Resolution and conclusions concerning the recurrent discussion on social protection (social security), International Labour Conference, 100th Session, Geneva, 2011.

ILO: Resolution and conclusions concerning social security, International Labour Conference, 89th Session, Geneva, 2001.

Agenda of the 101st Session (2012) of the Conference

1. At its 310th Session (March 2010) ¹ the Governing Body decided to place on the agenda of the 101st Session (2012) of the International Labour Conference a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work covering all four categories of fundamental principles and rights, under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008. In March 2011 ² it decided: (i) to include in the agenda of the 2012 session an item on the youth employment crisis (general discussion); and (ii) that the second technical item for the completion of the agenda of the 2012 session would be selected following the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) at the 100th Session (2011) on the Conference. It was specified that preference would be given to a follow-up to the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) on the basis of need and timing, as well as of the nature of the follow-up to be decided, and that the scope of the discussion would be determined by the outcome of the 2011 session of the Conference.
2. At its 100th Session (2011) the International Labour Conference adopted a resolution concerning the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security), accompanied by conclusions, which invites the ILO Governing Body to place on the agenda of the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference in 2012 a standard-setting item entitled “Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor” (single-discussion), with a view to the adoption of a Recommendation that would complement the existing standards and provide flexible but meaningful guidance to member States on the matter.
3. *On the basis of the Conference resolution, and in the light of the proposal appended, the Governing Body is invited to complete the agenda of the 101st Session (2012) with a standard-setting item entitled “Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor” (single discussion) and to adopt the programme of reduced intervals proposed in paragraph 7 of the appendix.*

Agenda of the 102nd Session (2013) of the Conference

4. In March 2011 the Governing Body also decided to include the following items in the agenda of the 102nd Session (2013) of the Conference: ³ (i) the recurrent discussion on the

¹ Dec – GB.307/2 (March 2010).

² Dec – GB.310/2 (March 2011). The items proposed in March 2011 were: (i) employment and social protection in the new demographic context (general discussion); (ii) sustainable development, decent work and green jobs (general discussion); (iii) a possible follow-up to the recurrent discussion on social security; (iv) a possible Recommendation on policy coherence among economic, financial, employment and social policies (following the recurrent discussion on employment) (standard setting); (v) decent work in global supply chains (general discussion); (vi) finance with a social purpose (general discussion); (vii) youth entrepreneurship: transforming jobseekers into job creators (general discussion); (viii) the right to information and consultation in the framework of economic restructuring (general discussion).

³ Dec – GB.310/2.

strategic objective of social dialogue; and (ii) employment and social protection in the new demographic context (general discussion); it was understood that the finalization of the 2013 Conference agenda would depend on the final decision to be taken in June 2011 as regards the follow-up to the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) in the context of the agenda of the 2012 session of the Conference.

5. In case the Governing Body decides to place on the 2012 session of the Conference the standard-setting item mentioned in paragraph 3 above for a single discussion, it would have to select a third item for the agenda of the 2013 session.
6. ***The Governing Body may wish to postpone to its next session (November 2011) its final decision as regards the third item that would complete the agenda of the 102nd Session of the Conference (2013), on the basis of the items remaining among those proposed in March 2011 (that is, the items not already selected in the context of the 2012 and 2013 Conference agenda)⁴ and any other item it would like the Office to develop.***

Geneva, 17 June 2011

Points for decision: Paragraph 3
Paragraph 6

⁴ The remaining items are the following: sustainable development, decent work and green jobs (general discussions); a possible Recommendation on policy coherence among economic, financial, employment and social policies (standard setting); decent work in global supply chains (general discussion); finance with a social purpose (general discussion); the right to information and consultation in the framework of economic restructuring (general discussion).

Appendix

Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor

Summary

The recurrent discussion under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization at the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2011 dealt with the strategic objective of social protection (social security). The conclusions adopted by the Conference in the context of the recurrent discussion stressed the need for the adoption of a Recommendation complementing the existing standards which would provide flexible but meaningful guidance to member States in building national social protection floors. The resolution adopting the conclusions invited the ILO Governing Body to place a standard-setting item entitled “Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor” on the agenda of the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference in 2012, for a single discussion.

The Governing Body may wish to complete the agenda of the 101st Session (2012) of the Conference with a standard-setting item (single-discussion procedure) for the elaboration of a Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor, and to authorize a programme of reduced intervals for the preparation of the necessary summary and final reports.

Background

1. The new consensus on social security reached at the International Labour Conference at its 89th Session in 2001 gave the highest priority to policies and initiatives that can bring social security to those who are not covered by existing schemes.¹ The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 97th Session in 2008, reaffirmed the tripartite commitment to extend social security to all in need of such protection in the framework of the Decent Work Agenda.
2. At the 100th Session (June 2011) of the Conference, the Committee for the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) discussed the recurrent report on social security.² Among other inputs, the Committee was informed of the outcome of the discussion, in the Committee on the Application of Standards, on the General Survey concerning social security instruments, supporting a “social protection floor, provided that a time-bound progressive approach is adopted, combining the adequacy and sustainability of social security systems”.³
3. In adopting the resolution and conclusions following the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) in June 2011, the International Labour Conference affirmed its support for the provision of a basic level of social security through the establishment of national social protection floors. Certain elements for a possible Recommendation were appended to the conclusions for future reference and use. The conclusions highlighted the need for a Recommendation that would complement existing standards and would provide

¹ ILO: Resolution concerning social security, International Labour Conference, 89th Session, Geneva, 2001, and conclusions, para. 5.

² Report VI, *Social security for social justice and a fair globalization*, International Labour Conference, 100th Session, Geneva, 2011.

³ ILO: Report III (1B) & Add, General Survey concerning social security instruments in light of the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, ILC, 100th Session, Geneva, 2011; Report of the Committee on the Application of Standards, Part I, ILC, 100th Session, Geneva, 2011, para. 142; Report of the Committee for the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection, ILC, 100th Session, Geneva, 2011, para. 150.

flexible but meaningful guidance to member States in building national social protection floors within comprehensive social security systems tailored to national circumstances and levels of development. In this regard, the Conference invited the Governing Body of the ILO to place the discussion of such possible Recommendation on the agenda of the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference in 2012.

4. In March 2011 the Governing Body decided that “ ... for the completion of the 2012 Conference agenda ... preference would be given to a follow-up to the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) on the basis of need and timing, as well as the nature of the follow-up to be decided. The scope of the discussion would be determined by the outcome of the Conference discussion”.⁴ In view of the importance of the social protection floor for the extension of social security coverage in view of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the formulation of their possible successor mechanisms, and its contribution to mitigating the social impact of economic, financial and political crises and natural disasters, an early discussion of the follow-up to the 2011 recurrent discussion already in 2012 would appear desirable.
5. Against this background, the Governing Body may now wish to complete the agenda of the 101st Session (2012) of the Conference by a standard-setting item (single-discussion procedure) for the elaboration of a Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor.

Follow-up

6. Given the timing of the decision, which leaves only one year before the discussion of the item at the Conference, the Governing Body is requested to approve a programme of reduced intervals for the preparatory phase of standard-setting discussions, in accordance with article 38 of the Standing Orders of the Conference. This phase involves preparation of a summary report, questionnaire and final report on the basis of replies received. In view of the factual and policy knowledge of law and practice exchanged thus far, the Office is in a position to service an accelerated standard-setting procedure. Opportunities for dissemination of information and tripartite dialogue have included the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security) held on the basis of the report prepared for the 100th Session (2011) of the Conference, and the General Survey prepared by the Committee of Experts and discussed by the Committee on the Application of Standards also at the 2011 session. In addition, various tripartite meetings have been held, including the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Strategies for the Extension of Social Security Coverage in September 2009, whose report was discussed in the Governing Body in November 2009, and regional tripartite ILO social security meetings in Latin America, Arab States and Asia and the Pacific during 2007 and 2008 and in Africa in 2010.⁵
7. On the basis of the above, the Governing Body may wish to approve a programme of reduced intervals, in line with article 38 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, paragraph 3, as follows:
 - (1) The Office would send out a brief summary report containing a synopsis of law and practice that is largely based on the factual information gathered during the preparation of the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection and the General Survey concerning social security instruments (2011). The summary report would be accompanied by a questionnaire that would seek additional information from governments focusing on elements for a possible autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor, drawing upon those outlined in the appendix to the conclusions of the Committee for the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Social Security). The summary report accompanied by the questionnaire should

⁴ Dec – GB.310/2.

⁵ For details, see Report VI, op. cit., paras 4–15.

reach governments not less than ten months before the opening of the session of the Conference – that is, by August 2011.

- (2) Government replies should reach the Office not less than seven months before the opening of the session of the Conference – that is, by November 2011.
- (3) The information obtained through the questionnaire as well as the information obtained in the extensive preparatory process preceding the 100th Session of the Conference, described above, would be used as a factual base for the final report. This report should reach governments not less than three months before the opening of the Conference – that is, by March 2012.