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Policy Development Section

POL

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DRAFT MINUTES

Policy Development Section

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DRAFT

Employment and Social Protection Segment

1. The Employment and Social Protection Segment was held on Tuesday, 20 March 2012. It was chaired by Mr Shahmir (Government, Islamic Republic of Iran), as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body. The Employer spokespersons were Ms Hornung-Draus on agenda item 1, Mr Traore on agenda item 2 and Ms Goldberg on agenda item 3; the Worker spokespersons were Mr Veyrier on agenda items 1 and 3 and Ms Diallo on agenda item 2.

First item on the agenda

Follow-up to the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-time Arrangements (GB.313/POL/1)

2. A representative of the Director-General (Chief, Conditions of Work and Employment Branch) introduced the paper and the draft decision.
3. The Employer spokesperson expressed the Employers' satisfaction with the format, content and outcomes of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-time Arrangements (TMEWTA), which had provided factual information about working time and resulted in practical and well-informed conclusions. She drew attention to the diversity of practices and developments with regard to working-time arrangements at global level. She described the role of governments as setting a regulatory framework that was sufficiently large to allow for negotiations between social partners; there should be no direct government interference. Regarding technical assistance, she emphasized that the requests of member States should be the starting point for the Office's work, as opposed to the Office initiating programmes which were not requested. Referring to paragraph 4 of the conclusions, she stated that the "promotion" of international standards referred to technical assistance, not new normative activity. She emphasized governments' responsibility in linking working time with other public policies, such as reliable public transport and care services for children and the elderly. Concerning the paper, she requested the Office to be more precise on the cover page with regard to the implications. Lastly, she proposed an amendment to the draft decision in paragraph 18, emphasizing that it would better express the conclusions of the experts and link them more effectively to follow-up action by the Office.
4. The Worker spokesperson affirmed the importance of the TMEWTA and of its conclusions. He pointed to working time as a sensitive issue from both a social and an economic perspective, and referred to the historical importance of the first international labour Convention. Although that Convention had been adopted in 1919, its continuing relevance was reiterated in the conclusions. He further highlighted current challenges, such as globalization, the financial and economic crisis, and gender equality, which had led to new questions regarding working-time arrangements. He emphasized the importance of collective bargaining and pointed to the experts' ability to reach consensus as a powerful example of the strength of social dialogue. He concluded by emphasizing the Workers' support for paragraphs 4 and 5 of the conclusions of the Meeting, which pointed to the promotion of international standards and to the recurrent item on labour protection in 2015. He highlighted the fact that the TMEWTA should be recognized as the starting point for renewed discussions regarding working time, and confirmed the Workers' support for the amendment proposed by the Employers with regard to paragraph 18.

5. Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of the Congo stated that the group supported the outcomes of the TMEWTA and that the issues addressed in the report were starting points for the discussion on labour protection at the International Labour Conference in 2015. He recommended that the ILO should collect all data on working time at the country level, including good practice. Despite the ILO Conventions on hours of work, he noted that the various gaps in working-time standards mentioned in paragraph 57 of the final report of the TMEWTA remained relevant and attested to the fact that working time should be fixed appropriately for different types of activities. He placed special emphasis on the impact of new technologies on the determination of working time, as well as monitoring procedures for the allocation of working hours. He supported the suggestion made in paragraph 70 of the final report to introduce instruments to improve the flexibility of working-time laws by allowing collective bargaining within national legislative frameworks. He recommended that the ILO should provide technical assistance to constituents on matters connected with the organization of working time in a comprehensive study, which also highlighted the circumstances in each region. Lastly, he agreed with the conclusions of the TMEWTA and supported the draft decision.
6. Speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group (ASPAG), a Government representative of Japan welcomed the results of the TMEWTA. He affirmed the group's appreciation for the concise nature of the unanimous conclusions of the Meeting and the clear guidance provided to the ILO as to how to move forward in the area of working time. He acknowledged the Office's support in preparing the report for discussion at the Meeting, *Working time in the twenty-first century*, reflecting the most recent literature, statistics and trends available on working time. He indicated that it was nevertheless necessary for the Office to conduct more research on both the potential benefits and negative effects of innovative forms of working time, and particularly what lay behind differing distributions in hours of work in developed and developing countries. He stressed that working-time policy played an important role in securing workers' health and well-being, and could contribute considerably to increasing enterprises' productivity. He emphasized the synergies between regulation, social dialogue and collective bargaining. He also stressed the need for working-time arrangements to adapt to the ever-changing patterns of the world of work, and pointed out that among the ASPAG countries, there was a wide variety of circumstances, which should be taken into consideration in ILO activities on working time. The Office should therefore provide information, advice and technical assistance, as requested, to constituents on various aspects of working time, in order to promote decent work. He expressed the group's support for the draft decision and for future collaboration with the Office in that area.
7. A Government representative of India noted that working-time arrangements had undergone significant changes since 1919, when the Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1), had been adopted. He underlined that with the advent of new technologies, emerging preferences for part-time jobs to better balance work and family responsibilities, and the competitive nature of private enterprises, it was important to regulate working time keeping in mind the overall health and well-being of workers. He welcomed the suggestion for further research regarding working hours in developed and developing countries and on the contemporary organization of working time in the context of new information and communication technologies (ICTs). He highlighted the fact that working hours in the informal economy and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were often unregulated and that many categories of workers, notably domestic workers, were not covered by Convention No. 1. He stressed that working-time flexibility established as "universalization" of working hours was not a practical solution, and that it was important to consider realistic options and distinguish between physical endurance limits and mental fatigue in different types of employment and occupations. He emphasized the need for more regular analysis of working-time trends as a foundation for evidence-based policy-making. He concluded by supporting the draft decision.

8. The representative of the Director-General agreed that the title page of the paper was too modest with regard to the implications. He also noted that many points raised during the discussion were covered in the conclusions of the TMEWTA, as was the increased demand from the constituents for technical support regarding working time. That highlighted the need for the Office to further develop its capacity in that area to respond effectively to constituent's requests.

Decision

9. The Governing Body:

- (a) *took note of the final report of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-time Arrangements and authorized the Director-General to publish the conclusions and the report of the Meeting; and*
- (b) *requested that the Director-General, when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office on working time, do so based on the conclusions of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Working-time Arrangements.*

(GB.313/POL/1, paragraph 18, as amended.)

Second item on the agenda

Follow-up to the HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2010 (No. 200) (GB.313/POL/2)

10. A representative of the Director-General (Director, ILO Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work (ILO/AIDS)), introduced the paper, explaining that it took into account discussions in previous Governing Body sessions following the adoption of the HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2012 (No. 200), as well as the recommendations from the independent evaluation of the ILO strategy to address HIV and AIDS through the world of work and critical new developments, including the impact of the financial crisis on the Office's ability to support constituents' efforts to respond to HIV at country level. She stated that a revised strategy was needed for ILO/AIDS and the Office as a whole, as the epidemic continued to undermine the attainment of decent work and sustainable development. She noted that the seven building blocks of the strategic framework proposed were underpinned by a sound resource mobilization strategy and that existing human resources would be realigned and streamlined around those building blocks to ensure optimal delivery and achievement of the Office's strategic objectives in that area.
11. The Chairperson provided an overview of the epidemic, noting the devastating impact of HIV and AIDS on adults and children worldwide and the obstacles the epidemic placed in the way of sustainable development in all countries and regions.
12. The Worker spokesperson supported the revised strategy but expressed regret that it did not mention the need to strengthen collective bargaining, as an essential element to eliminate discrimination in workplaces. She highlighted the importance of a human rights approach to HIV, noting that the strategy should include provision of support to member States for the extension of Article 1(1)(b) of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), to real or perceived HIV status, as contemplated

in paragraph 8 of the resolution concerning the promotion and implementation of the Recommendation on HIV and AIDS and the world of work, 2010. She welcomed the proposed information gathering on stigma and discrimination at work and noted that partnerships with other partners should include collaboration in removing discriminatory laws, policies and practices. She strongly supported mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into the work of all departments at ILO headquarters and field offices.

13. While recognizing the need to focus on priority countries, she stressed that it was equally important to respond to ILO constituents requesting assistance. In that regard, she emphasized the need for further capacity building of the social partners to effectively contribute to the development of national AIDS strategies. She suggested changing the title of the fifth building block to “Developing new partnerships to fight against HIV and AIDS” and consulting the ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities on an ongoing basis with regard to the establishment of public–private partnerships. She also recommended further exploring synergies between Recommendation No. 200 and the Office’s work on multinational enterprises, based on the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. She welcomed the proposal to extend social protection to persons living with HIV and recognized the importance of a good communications strategy to promote the Recommendation. She concluded by re-emphasizing that attention should be given to implementation through national legislation and collective bargaining agreements and that adequate resources should be allocated for that purpose.
14. The Employer spokesperson thanked the Office for the support provided to the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) during the recent Conference of African Employers on Sustaining Employers’ Response to HIV/AIDS with less Donor Funding. He stated that the Employers were counting on the continued support of the Office in implementing the plan of action adopted at the Conference, based on four key elements: implementation of Recommendation No. 200, strengthening the capacity of the social partners, their involvement in the development of national AIDS strategies and increased collaboration with business partners. He noted that some concerns raised by the Employers in previous comments on the strategy remained to be addressed. With regard to resource mobilization, he recognized the difficult climate of declining resources. He therefore questioned how the Office would achieve the strategic objectives outlined with few resources, noting that the multipronged approach proposed was too ambitious and suggesting a focus on fewer priorities to ensure successful outcomes. He nevertheless agreed with the key factors outlined in paragraph 2 and the key results, lessons learned and challenges referred to in paragraphs 3–7. He recommended that the Office should focus on strengthening the capacities of the social partners and disseminate good practices. He expressed support for the approach to public–private partnerships outlined in paragraph 21 of the paper.
15. Speaking on behalf of the group of industrialized market economy countries (IMEC), a Government representative of France welcomed the revised strategy, stating that the document took account of the evolving profile of the epidemic and of the changing global environment, and that it was both timely and forward-looking. He welcomed the emphasis on the “Getting to zero” strategy of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the mention of the United Nations 2011 *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying our efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS*, which was a key reference for governments and other stakeholders. He added that the Political Declaration supported employers’ and workers’ organizations as principal actors in the HIV response through the world of work. He reiterated IMEC’s commitment to implementing the key human rights principles laid down in Recommendation No. 200, particularly the principle of non-discrimination in employment and occupation on the basis of real or perceived HIV

status. He underlined that gender equality and women's empowerment were also essential components of the HIV response. IMEC supported the focus on priority countries.

16. He suggested that the proposed strategy could be adapted to better respond to the recommendations from the independent evaluation, which went beyond developing good practices. He therefore recommended that the revised strategy should shift its focus from the adoption of workplace policies to their effective implementation and should be linked to resource mobilization. He also indicated that the ILO/AIDS Programme should extend its outreach to vulnerable populations, with emphasis on the informal economy, youth and women. Following up on the work of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, IMEC recommended that the Office consider providing support to member States in extending coverage under Convention No. 111. He stressed that the revised strategy should improve the ILO's accountability as a UNAIDS co-sponsor under the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), but that specific indicators for the UBRAF reporting should be further developed. He noted that the strategy supported the mobilization of additional resources, and underlined that a mainstreaming approach and greater coherence among departments and organizations were also key conditions for success. IMEC welcomed the strategy as a significant step forward and agreed that the Director-General should be invited to intensify resource mobilization efforts in support of its implementation.
17. Speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), a Government representative of Brazil noted that although new HIV infections showed a declining trend, prevention was still essential. He added that the HIV response remained a priority for GRULAC countries, some of which had been pioneers in the provision of free or affordable treatment. He stated that the Office should develop additional knowledge products to reach informal economy workers and increase the capacity of the social partners to develop, evaluate and implement workplace HIV policies. He emphasized that the focus on priority countries should not prevent the Office from providing assistance requested from constituents in other countries, and stressed the importance of taking the needs of the different regions into account. GRULAC supported the strategy on public-private partnerships and extension of social protection coverage. The speaker highlighted the need to combat workplace discrimination and supported the emphasis on the communication strategy.
18. Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of the Congo expressed support for the multi-sectoral approach taken in the revised strategy. He emphasized that HIV remained a concern for developing countries, including in the Africa region. He supported the focus on priority countries and noted that resource mobilization was an issue of concern, given the current economic crisis and reduced availability of donor funding for HIV-related initiatives. He welcomed the development of public-private partnerships and recommended that governments incorporate HIV into the context of the revision of national social security schemes currently under way. He requested the Office to support information campaigns targeting rural workers, including rural cooperatives.
19. Speaking on behalf of ASPAG, a Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated the group's support for Recommendation No. 200 and the accompanying resolution, as well as for the Global Action Plan, which was aligned with the UNAIDS strategy. He indicated that although HIV prevalence in the Asia and the Pacific region had remained stable between 2005 and 2009, 35 people nevertheless died of AIDS each hour regardless of sex, ethnic origin, race or social status. He stressed that the HIV response should be guided by the ILO's key instruments, including the *ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work* (2001), Recommendation No. 200 and its accompanying

resolution. He reiterated that the Office should continue to build the capacity of constituents to respond effectively to HIV through the world of work.

- 20.** He expressed ASPAG's full support for the recommendations of the independent evaluation and endorsed the key elements of the revised strategy (paragraphs 5 and 8), particularly the focus on priority countries and inclusive social protection floor initiatives. He emphasized the need to address the obstacles preventing low- and middle-income countries from effectively responding to HIV and AIDS. He underscored the importance of generating knowledge products through research. He requested that best practices and lessons learned should be shared among the constituents, and highlighted the contribution ASPAG could make in that regard.
- 21.** A Government representative of Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the statement made by GRULAC and supported the revised strategy. She emphasized the importance of further building the constituents' capacity on free and fair collective bargaining processes. She supported mainstreaming HIV focus in other policies and greater collaboration and policy coherence, highlighting her country's experience in linking HIV to occupational safety and health and labour inspection, as well as the work of the Conciliation Unit in reducing workplace discrimination. Noting the importance of ensuring sustainability of measures taken, she referred to the HIV/AIDS Advocacy and Sustainability Centre established in February 2011, pointing out how the composition of its Advisory Board ensured greater coherence, optimal utilization of resources and greater involvement of all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors. She stressed the need for technical assistance from the Office to assist constituents in sustaining existing national responses to HIV/AIDS.
- 22.** A Government representative of Argentina welcomed the revised strategy and its focus on priority countries, noting that the involvement of all stakeholders expanded opportunities for intervention.
- 23.** A Government representative of India welcomed the draft strategy, strongly supporting the resource mobilization efforts proposed. He noted that India had taken steps to support workplace HIV responses through the adoption of a National Policy on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work in 2009. HIV awareness programmes were now mainstreamed in India's training institutions, in active collaboration with the social partners, state governments, public sector enterprises and corporations. He indicated that gaps between policy adoption and programme implementation could be bridged successfully with adequate financial resources, and that reduced resources necessitated mainstreaming approaches, including in occupational safety and health systems and labour inspection mechanisms. He asked for India to be included in the list of priority countries.
- 24.** A Government representative of Zambia endorsed the statement of the Africa group and thanked the Office for a timely and informative document. He said that Zambia was currently developing its third national strategy on HIV and AIDS, as well as a national tripartite workplace policy based on Recommendation No. 200, and that national long-term development goals were based on the vision of a Zambia free from HIV and AIDS by 2030. He noted that HIV prevention and mitigation was one of the three identified priority areas in Zambia's Decent Work Country Programme.
- 25.** A Government representative of Canada supported the statement of the IMEC group. She emphasized the importance of tripartite dialogue and noted that Canada had recently commissioned a study of initiatives taken by her Government, employers' and workers' organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement the Recommendation. She reported that the study had been completed and the best practices identified would be shared with the Office and constituents.

26. A Government representative of Ghana concurred with the statement of the Africa group and expressed Ghana's support for the draft strategy, as it incorporated lessons learned from the changing global context. Noting the focus on gender, she encouraged the Office to continue to pursue gender-sensitive strategies. She pointed out that Ghana had adopted a national workplace policy on HIV and AIDS and that her Government was collaborating with the ILO, the Ghana AIDS Commission, the tripartite partners and the Ghana Business Coalition against HIV/AIDS in organizing educational awareness-raising programmes focused on non-discrimination and responsible lifestyles. She stressed that effective workplace policies and programmes were fundamental, and resources were needed to ensure the sustainability of education programmes, particularly for young workers and for workers in the informal economy. She cautioned that progress made in reducing HIV prevalence rates should not be eroded.
27. A Government representative of Switzerland noted that her Government would submit Recommendation No. 200 to its national competent authority in 2012 and that Switzerland's national programme on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (2011–17), adopted in December 2010, was aligned with the Recommendation. She recalled that unlike in many other industrialized countries, medical insurance in Switzerland was not linked to employment.
28. A Government representative of France thanked the Office for the revised strategy and suggested that the Office take a coherent approach, both internally and within the multilateral system. Given the numerous international organizations working in that area and the available resources, he suggested further exploration of collaboration on activities that coincided with ILO initiatives, at least in the field.
29. The Representative of the Director-General thanked all the delegates for their input and support. She reiterated that the Office's objective in presenting the revised draft strategy had been to receive guidance from the Governing Body to inform the Office's roadmap in taking action on HIV and AIDS through the world of work. She recognized that collective bargaining was at the heart of the strategy and its visibility would be heightened. Indicators to measure deliverables were being developed for the UBRAF and would be shared. She highlighted the fact that under UNAIDS' division of labour, ILO was the lead agency for the private sector and was coordinating the Inter-Agency Task Team on workplace HIV programmes and private sector mobilization, which was aimed at building the capacity of the social partners. She added that the ILO/AIDS Global Programme focused on extending social protection floor initiatives. She thanked the delegates for sharing good practices and for their guidance and inspiration, which would be integrated into the revised strategy.

Decision

30. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *approved the revised ILO strategy to address HIV and AIDS and the world of work; and*
- (b) *requested the Director-General to give priority to resource mobilization efforts in support of its implementation, in line with the resolution concerning the promotion and the implementation of the Recommendation on HIV and AIDS and the world of work, 2010.*

(GB.313/POL/2, paragraph 30.)

Third item on the agenda

Follow-up on the implementation of the ILO–G20 Training Strategy (GB.313/POL/3)

31. A representative of the Director-General (Director, Skills and Employability Department) introduced the paper and the suggested points for debate and guidance. She highlighted the three main messages from the G20 Training Strategy: it provided an opportunity to expand the outreach of the ILO's conceptual and policy framework linking skills development to employability, productivity and social inclusion; it strengthened cooperation among international organizations to help developing countries build their own skills for employment strategies; and it proposed the development of a global public–private knowledge-sharing platform (Global KSP) on skills for employment.
32. The Employer spokesperson thanked the ILO for providing the practical information needed by governments to respond to the global financial crisis and commended the Office for the quality of its responses in the framework of the Training Strategy. She added that the ILO provided a high-quality conceptual framework that made a real contribution to the labour market resilience of individuals and the resilience and productivity of enterprises. She reiterated the Employers' support for the Strategy and emphasized their interest in reinforcing its implementation and take-up. She expressed the hope that the Strategy would contribute to the discussions at the International Labour Conference on youth employment in June 2012 and beyond. She also endorsed the Strategy as relevant and useful to low-income countries and suggested that it be considered the ILO's Global Training Strategy and not as a G20 Strategy. Turning her attention to the G20 Development Working Group, she encouraged the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 countries to review their options for supporting the work done in the initial pilot countries and others. In addition, she welcomed the Office's work on identifying lessons learned from country reviews of training and retraining programmes during the current crisis, suggesting it would be relevant to a future Governing Body session. Finally, she reminded the Office that the reports prepared for the Governing Body should include points for decision and indicate their policy and financial implications. The Employers would have liked to see conclusions that included Governing Body support for: the Training Strategy in so far as its relevance went beyond the G20 countries; endorsement of the Global KSP, including the development of focus and advisory groups as a practical means to advance its development; and continued cooperation with other international organizations.
33. The Worker spokesperson expressed support for the Training Strategy and the Global KSP as a means to expand outreach and improve collaboration with other international agencies. He recommended that the Global KSP should promote awareness of the Strategy, while avoiding duplication. He emphasized that the ILO's role vis-à-vis the G20 should not be limited to the area of training and skills; it should draw increased attention to the social dimension of globalization. He noted that the document had set some very ambitious objectives for the Global KSP, requesting clarity on outcomes and further details on the issues of financing training and collective bargaining. He pointed out that skills development at the enterprise, local and national levels should be aligned with present and future needs – both enterprise needs and worker expectations – and with economic and social development concerns. He warned that in times of crises, training should not lead to the type of competition that reduced remuneration for skilled work. Likewise, he called on governments and enterprises to avoid shifting responsibility for employability onto workers. He recommended that the ILO should assist constituents in developing countries outside the G20, drawing on lessons learned from the crisis.

34. Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of the Congo acknowledged the importance of the Training Strategy, requesting the ILO to prioritize support for developing countries that lacked skills development strategies for job creation, had a low capacity to provide counselling services and training guidance for jobseekers and the unemployed, and would benefit from work on skills indicators. She noted the need to strengthen the support of tripartite constituents for the validation of the Global KSP. She recommended that the Office should continue to provide technical assistance with a view to making use of research findings and lessons learned through technical cooperation.
35. Speaking on behalf of the Group of the Americas (GRUA), a Government representative of Brazil highlighted the importance of linking training to youth employment in the activities of the G20 Task Force on employment. He noted that the G20 leaders had expressed their determination to keep employment at the centre of recovery strategies. The group considered that activities related to the Training Strategy had to adjust to national contexts and realities and should not lead to excessive bureaucracy and costs. He concluded that the group valued policies that offered holistic skills development for workers, and not simply skills development oriented toward market needs.
36. Speaking on behalf of ASPAG, a Government representative of China observed that the development of core and higher skills as well as the portability of skills was pertinent. He acknowledged that implementation of the G20 Training Strategy could help bridge the gap between the world of education and training and the world of work and serve to improve growth in low-income countries. He welcomed the development of a set of internationally comparable skills for employment indicators and the support for a set of pilot low-income countries to implement their skills for employment strategies. He argued that overlapping mandates on skills development and a degree of competition between the ILO and other international organizations should not diminish recognition of complementarities of expertise and the generation of new knowledge through shared experience and lessons learned. In that regard, he encouraged all ILO member States to share their successful policies and practices on the Global KSP. The group sought Office support to integrate skills development and sustainable enterprises development into national and sectoral strategies in the region. In conclusion, he highlighted the importance of skills portability for migrant workers and requested Office guidance on skills recognition globally.
37. A Government representative of China supported the view of ASPAG, adding that the Global KSP required enhanced involvement of tripartite constituents in order to become the reference for vocational training expertise. He emphasized that the ILO and other international organizations needed to translate complex knowledge into practical policies, relayed through the Global KSP.
38. A Government representative of Italy noted that training and apprenticeships served as a bridge from school to work and that skills portability had an essential role, in particular through the identification of internationally comparable skills. Regarding the Global KSP, she highlighted the need to focus on anticipating skills needs and international standards of portability of skills. She reminded the Governing Body that the International Training Centre of the ILO had information dissemination expertise which could be drawn on for the Global KSP.
39. A Government representative of Japan noted that the Global KSP was a useful tool for sharing successful skills training policies such as the “Job Card System” in his country, which focused on career counselling services through public employment services, practical vocational training, and an evaluation of skills acquired through on-the-job training. He noted that his Government subsidized companies offering on-the-job training

and concluded that the system had allowed 20,000 people to successfully transition to “regular work”.

40. A Government representative of Qatar supported the G20’s work in low-income countries, emphasizing the need for consultations with those countries to define the conditions, means and needs for skills training. He highlighted the need to coordinate the activities of international organizations involved in the implementation of the Strategy.
41. A Government representative of India expressed the hope that the discussion could pave the way for widening the scope of the Training Strategy, particularly in the informal economy, where innovations, ideas and expertise could play a crucial role in changing the lives of millions. Reflecting on the G20 Development Working Group, he stated that developing suitable, feasible indicators for the informal economy would be time-consuming and resource-intensive, and require tripartite consultations. He concluded by emphasizing his country’s willingness to share its experience, adding that South–South and triangular cooperation could play a very significant role in that regard.
42. A Government representative of Pakistan highlighted the contributions made by the Office through its empirical research on national qualifications frameworks (NQFs) in 16 countries which demonstrated weaknesses, suggesting that regional qualifications frameworks should also be examined. He proposed an in-depth study to identify the skills requirements of labour-receiving countries to be made available to labour-sending countries. In conclusion, he noted the need to promote the employment of persons with disabilities and equip them with the appropriate skills.
43. A Government representative of Switzerland welcomed the focus of the Training Strategy on labour market needs. She reaffirmed the need for collaboration with other international organizations to set up the Global KSP, requesting information on how the ILO would collaborate with the World Bank, OECD, and UNESCO in the area of skills training.
44. In her response, the representative of the Director-General emphasized that collaboration with other international organizations continued through the Inter-Agency Group on Technical and Vocational Education and Training. She clarified that plans of action were country-specific yet drew on the building blocks of the G20 Training Strategy and that, depending on results in the pilot countries, a roll-out of the strategy to other low- and middle-income countries would be considered. She noted that the Office had prioritized research on collective bargaining in training strategies in 2011, the results of which would be discussed soon. She thanked the Members for their interest in the Global KSP and agreed that the Office would act on the proposals to establish advisory and focus groups and would work with constituents to populate the global knowledge sharing platform.
45. The Worker spokesperson asserted that training could address the challenges faced by workers in the informal economy, but required policies different from those usually applied in technical and vocational education and training. He highlighted the importance of financing education and training policies, and the need to ensure access to training and the availability of basic education for all. The question of financing in the context of a redistribution of wealth and taxation needed to be linked to G20 policy work and to countries beyond the G20. He concluded that the design of specific training policies addressing the informal economy would benefit from increased exchange of experience and good practices.
46. The Employer spokesperson emphasized that the work presented was a component of a complex set of other policies and interventions that all needed to work together to address the employment fallout of the recession and the financial crisis. She added that issues such as the portability of skills and the recognition of prior learning could be addressed to some

extent through the Global KSP. She noted other potential sources of information, such as the Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training (ILO/CINTERFOR). She summarized the discussion on funding: finding the resources from the G20 or elsewhere to fund the ILO's work and the work of its partners beyond the pilot countries; encouraging investment in skills development in national priorities and national budgets; and funding the ILO's work on skills and training.

47. The representative of the Director-General explained that the G20 Training Strategy included a building block on improving accessibility, including for workers in the informal economy, adding that the Office was working with constituents to upgrade informal apprenticeship systems, a major provider of skills in informal economies, and that a new guide reflecting lessons learned had been published in 2012.
48. In response to the issue of funding from the G20, a representative of the Director-General (Executive Director, Employment Sector) noted that scaling-up of the G20's work was a valid topic for tripartite discussions in countries.

Outcome

49. *The Governing Body took note of the paper and invited the Office to take into account the views expressed during its discussion concerning the follow-up on the implementation of the ILO–G20 Training Strategy.*

Social Dialogue Segment

50. The Social Dialogue Segment was held on Wednesday, 21 March. It was chaired by Mr Smidt (Government, Denmark), as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body. Mr Woolford (Canada) and Ms Fox (United States) were the Employer and Worker spokespersons.

Fourth item on the agenda

Global dialogue forums and mandate of sectoral meetings: Global dialogue forums – lessons learned (GB.313/POL/4/1(&Corr.))

51. A representative of the Director-General (Director, Sectoral Activities Department) recalled that the Governing Body, at its November 2011 session, had discussed various proposals regarding the improvement of the format of global dialogue forums (GDFs). GDFs had been created in 2007 to be focused, short, small-scale and timely meetings, not burdened with the formality of sectoral meetings, and to provide additional opportunities for sectoral social dialogue. The paper proposed an approach that capitalized on the innovations of the GDF format, drew on successful practices and standardized the format of inputs and outputs. It contained proposals that had received unanimous support in November 2011 and proposals based on statements made at that session of the Governing Body. A corrigendum had been issued, which removed from paragraph 16(b) of the draft decision an undue reference to the three groups. As originally drafted, that subparagraph had seemed to restrict Government participation in GDFs; however, that had not been the intention – all GDFs would continue to be open to all interested ILO member States.

- 52.** The Employer spokesperson recalled that there had been a substantial degree of consensus at the discussion at the November 2011 session of the Governing Body. Thanks to the creation of GDFs, the ILO now had a good range of different tools to promote social dialogue, reflecting the diversity of needs. He acknowledged that the results of the various meetings had been diverse and that it was important for the mandate of the GDF format to be clear: GDFs were venues for discussion and exploration and not for negotiations or bargaining. If the parties intended to negotiate, a tripartite sectoral meeting should be chosen as the means of addressing the topic. His group endorsed the proposals in the paper and the draft decision.
- 53.** The Worker spokesperson welcomed the paper and the new proposals. Her group endorsed paragraph 3 and encouraged the Office to prepare, in consultation with the secretariats of the groups, a detailed presentation on the rules and standing practices of GDFs, to be made available online and to be presented at each of the group meetings scheduled on the first day of each GDF. Her group agreed with the need to spread meetings as evenly as possible, but deemed that the proposal to hold eight meetings per biennium should be considered as an average number and not an absolute limit, thus allowing flexibility for meetings to be scheduled in response to unanticipated emerging issues. She agreed with the proposals in paragraphs 10–12 and, in particular, with the proposal to include in outputs a section on “issues that require further attention”, on the understanding that such a section would not need to be a standard element of each GDF outcome, and would be included only when appropriate. The goal of all sectoral meetings should continue to be to achieve consensus. The aim of including the “issues that require further attention” section was to recognize that there were some issues that were too complex to be resolved at the meeting. She supported paragraph 13, and reiterated that designating an experienced Governing Body member to chair a GDF would contribute considerably to the success of the meeting. She encouraged the Office to designate chairpersons well in advance, in consultation with the social partners, to give them time to prepare. She endorsed paragraph 15 and added that the duration of the final plenary sitting should be extended in order to allow for the thorough deliberation of the draft points of consensus.
- 54.** Speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), a Government representative of Brazil expressed support for paragraphs 3 and 5. However, he reiterated concerns raised by his group at the 312th Session of the Governing Body that decisions concerning the composition of GDFs could not be delegated to the Officers of the Governing Body by virtue of article 2.3.1 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. Only the Governing Body had the legal authority to decide on the composition of sectoral meetings. That was also reflected in the Standing Orders for Sectoral Meetings. Therefore, his group strongly objected to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8. He agreed with paragraph 13 in that the chairperson of a GDF should be from the Government group. However, the experience of a participant should not be a limiting factor. He proposed that paragraph 16(a) of the draft decision should be amended to include a reference to paragraph 5 and that the reference to paragraph 8 should be deleted. He also proposed the deletion of paragraph 16(b) in its entirety.
- 55.** Speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group (ASPAG), a Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his group recognized the important role of GDFs in promoting decent work by addressing sector-specific issues through social dialogue. ASPAG supported all the proposals put forward, in particular paragraphs 3, 5, 10, 11 and 12. He encouraged the Office to continue to seek Governments’ opinions in terms of the future topics of forums and to give advance notice to potential candidates for chairing GDFs, to allow them to prepare themselves for the role. Although ASPAG supported paragraph 15, it was important to ensure that no GDF had a duration of more than three days. The group supported paragraph 8, as by delegating the decision on the composition

of GDFs to the Officers of the Governing Body, timing problems and the number of submissions to the Governing Body could be reduced.

- 56.** A Government representative of Australia said that her delegation aligned itself with the statement of ASPAG. She expressed support for the proposals in the paper and in particular welcomed the proposal to delegate the decision regarding the composition of GDFs to the Officers of the Governing Body. That would allow the GDF format to better meet its objective of responding to emerging issues and minimizing delays due to the timing of the Governing Body sessions. The proposed standardization of the outputs was also supported, as was the inclusion of a section on “issues that require further attention”, as that would ensure that the richness of discussion was not lost and that all key issues were considered in the future. She further welcomed the proposal in paragraph 5 and encouraged the Office to continue to be open to participants’ feedback on the new format, in order to ensure that GDFs remained meaningful and responsive to the ILO’s constituents.
- 57.** Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of Niger welcomed the Office’s efforts to improve further the GDF format. His group endorsed all the proposals in the paper: both those in paragraph 3, and those in section III. The proposal to delegate the decision regarding the composition of the GDFs to the Officers of the Governing Body, as proposed in paragraph 8 of the paper, was acceptable to his group. He agreed that the number of meetings should be limited and that outputs should be standardized, and pointed out that it was important that any decisions concerning the designation of chairpersons should be reached by consensus.
- 58.** A Government representative of India stated that, although GDFs took stock of the new challenges, developments and crises facing the global economy, society and policy, they could be made more effective and inclusive by focusing more on the challenges faced by developing countries. His Government promoted social dialogue and tripartism and supported the focus on sector-specific subjects. Whereas his delegation endorsed the proposals in paragraph 3, it opposed the proposal to delegate decisions concerning the composition of GDFs to the Officers of the Governing Body. He shared the view of GRULAC in that regard, and pointed out that the collective wisdom of the Governing Body was essential for bringing innovative solutions. Referring to paragraphs 13 and 14, he stressed that decisions concerning the designation of a chairperson should be reached by consensus and that the duration of GDFs should not regularly be extended. His delegation endorsed the point for decision, as amended by GRULAC.
- 59.** A Government representative of China stressed the importance of the Office’s efforts to assist the participants of GDFs. The participants were knowledgeable about their sectors, but often were not familiar with the procedures. The resulting need for information could be addressed by providing them, in advance, with related documentation. He recommended that participants’ positions should be solicited before each GDF and made available to the participants well in advance in order to facilitate the discussions. He recalled the importance of fully involving governments in the selection of themes for GDFs, to ensure that they continued to address emerging real-life issues. Given that chairpersons needed time to prepare themselves for their role, they should be designated in advance.
- 60.** Speaking on behalf of the group of industrialized market economy countries (IMEC), a Government representative of Canada supported the proposal to delegate authority to the Officers to approve the composition of GDFs. That authority should, however, be exercised within the constraints of approved budget allocations. For that reason, her group

proposed the addition of the words “provided that costs do not exceed approved budget allocations” at the end of paragraph 16(b).

61. A Government representative of Algeria concurred with the statement made on behalf of the Africa group and endorsed paragraph 16(b) in principle. It seemed inappropriate, however, to invoke paragraph 2.3.1 of the Standing Orders, since that paragraph did not explicitly refer to the composition of meetings.
62. The Chairperson observed that, while no agreement had been reached on paragraph 16(b), there was a consensus to adopt paragraph 16(a) without the reference to paragraph 8 and with the inclusion of a reference to paragraph 5.
63. In response to a request by the Employer spokesperson for clarification on what steps would follow in relation to the proposal contained in paragraph 16(b), the Chairperson explained that the proposal could be revisited at some point in the future.
64. The Employer spokesperson expressed his group’s interest in revisiting the proposal and said that future consultations were necessary.
65. At the request of the Chairperson, the representative of the Director-General clarified that, as no agreement had been reached on the changes to the procedure proposed in paragraph 16(b), the Office would, for the time being, continue to submit proposals on the composition of GDFs to the Governing Body. The explicit inclusion in the draft decision of the reference to a future review of the GDF format, as foreseen in paragraph 5 of the paper, however, opened the way for further consultations. She thanked the members for the remarks and feedback provided and assured them that the Governing Body’s advice and guidance would continue to be sought to ensure that further improvements could be made to the GDF format.

Decision

66. *The Governing Body approved the proposals for improvements to the format of global dialogue forums in paragraphs 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of document GB.313/POL/4/1(&Corr.).*

(GB.313/POL/4/1(&Corr.), paragraph 16, as amended.)

Global dialogue forums and mandate of sectoral meetings: Procedure to give effect to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings (GB.313/POL/4/2)

67. The representative of the Director-General indicated that the paper contained a proposal on how the Governing Body could streamline future discussions on the outcomes of sectoral and technical meetings. It proposed that the papers submitted to the Governing Body regarding the outcomes be introduced for information only, relying on the adoption of three standing decisions by the Governing Body authorizing the Office: to communicate the outcomes of the meetings such as reports or conclusions; to publish the outputs of meetings of experts, such as codes of practice or guidelines; and to reflect the recommendations made by those meetings in future programming. Those standing decisions could not preclude the Governing Body from taking a different decision for an

individual meeting, to which effect an item would be included in the agenda of the Social Dialogue Segment upon the request of a Governing Body member to the Screening Group.

- 68.** The Worker spokesperson acknowledged that the paper had been submitted in response to a Governing Body request, and expressed understanding of its purpose. While she favoured the new practice of including the outputs of sectoral and technical meetings in a single document with a single decision paragraph, she objected to the proposal to submit those outcomes as documents “for information only”, as proposed in the paper. That would deprive the Governing Body of the opportunity to draw attention to the key issues and outcomes of those meetings. Some of the meetings were highly technical, but others provided outcomes that were extremely relevant to the broader policy discussions within the Governing Body. Although the Office’s proposal would allow for specific reports to be placed on the agenda by the Screening Group, the procedure proposed seemed to be too cumbersome, and likely to lead to long discussions in the Screening Group.
- 69.** The Employer spokesperson supported the point for decision. His group was not as concerned as the Workers about the need to draw items to the attention of the Governing Body and deemed that the proposal was sufficiently flexible to allow for cases when a discussion needed to be held on a specific meeting’s outcome. The existing procedure, requiring the Governing Body to formally adopt documents that had already been produced and made available online, seemed like a waste of time.
- 70.** Speaking on behalf of ASPAG, a Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that GDFs were very useful, regardless of whether or not they adopted points of consensus. The purpose of the meetings was not to hammer out unanimous consensus. The GDF format would go down in history as a new innovative approach that had succeeded in providing a platform for discussion among the social partners and Governments, who had, as originally intended, all been interacting very actively in the meetings. ASPAG greatly welcomed the opportunities provided through sectoral and technical meetings, particularly GDFs, to promote decent work by addressing challenges and opportunities of great importance for specific sectors. He recognized the role of GDFs in strengthening tripartism and social dialogue and the cross-cutting nature of sectoral work. He recalled previous proposals to improve and streamline the procedures for reporting the outputs of sectoral and technical meetings to the Governing Body, and supported paragraph 9 of the document.
- 71.** Speaking on behalf of GRULAC, a Government representative of Brazil thanked the Office for the paper. His group recognized the importance of the subject and opposed the proposal, as it eliminated the essential reporting process that needed to be carried out after each sectoral and technical meeting. Under paragraph 6, the Governing Body would have only formal knowledge of these outcomes. However, as the meetings involved only a limited number of participants, who could not be considered representative of all member States, and given the importance of the outcomes and the need to ensure follow-up, the outcomes should continue to be formally put on the agenda of the Governing Body. Sectoral and technical meetings had no decision-making authority. Therefore, their recommendations and outputs needed to be submitted to the Governing Body, so that decisions on implementing their recommendations could be taken. If adopted, the Office proposal would reduce the importance of the Governing Body and result in a loss of the Director-General’s authority to implement the outcomes of the meetings. His group, therefore, strongly objected to the proposal made in the paper.
- 72.** Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of Niger welcomed the proposals for new procedures to give effect to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings and endorsed paragraph 9.

73. A Government representative of India stressed the importance of holding regular GDFs and sectoral and technical meetings. His delegation did not support the draft decision in paragraph 9 of the paper, as submitting the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings as documents “for information only” would lead to a dilution of the Governing Body’s authority.
74. Speaking on behalf of IMEC, the Government representative of Canada welcomed the proposed streamlined procedure to give effect to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings and supported the draft decision in paragraph 9.
75. The Chairperson concluded that consensus had not been reached on the draft decision in paragraph 9 and suggested that the issue might be taken up again in the context of the debate on the implementation of the previous year’s Governing Body reform.

Outcome

- 76. The Governing Body did not adopt the proposal in paragraph 9 of document GB.313/POL/4/2.*

Fifth item on the agenda

Effect to be given to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings (GB.313/POL/5)

77. The representative of the Director-General introduced the paper, noting that, in view of the preceding discussion, the matter would be reviewed again by the Governing Body at its November 2012 session. She noted that a significant number of meetings had been held during the second half of 2011.
78. Before opening the floor for discussion, the Chairperson drew attention to a correction to the draft decision in paragraph 26(a), to include the words “and health” after the words “Code of practice on safety”.
79. The Employer spokesperson supported the draft decision in paragraph 26. The GDF on private employment agencies was a good example of the value of GDFs, having successfully brought the parties together on a very contentious issue. The result had been a very thorough examination of the points of view of the social partners, and an agreement to disagree. A first step towards building dialogue had been taken in the forum, by allowing the parties to listen to each other’s point of view. Turning to the adoption of ILO Guidelines on training in the port sector, he asked the Office to ensure appropriate follow-up. He commended the Bureau for Employers’ Activities for the Symposium on the Business of Representing Employers: Trends, since it had addressed issues at the very core of the employer constituency of the ILO. Recalling the evolution of trade associations in Canada, he stressed that employer organizations needed to recognize that they were also businesses and thus needed constantly to review how they served their members in a world that was changing rapidly and how they could provide the value demanded of them. As that phenomenon had not yet been adequately explored on the Employers’ side, his group looked forward to the results of work within the academic research network mentioned in the paper.

80. The Worker spokesperson recalled that, although the participants at the GDF on private employment agencies had not reached agreement on a document outlining points of consensus, the meeting had nevertheless been important and useful. It had generated a frank discussion on topics of fundamental importance and increasing relevance to workers and had brought to light a number of basic issues that required further attention by the Office, relating to the role of private employment agencies in relation to decent work or precarious work and to the role of governments in regulating or limiting temporary agency work and addressing abuses. It had also illustrated the importance of establishing rules on how, at future forums, issues requiring further attention could be identified. She commended the Bureau for Workers' Activities for the success of the Workers' Symposium on Policies and Regulations to Combat Precarious Employment and expressed her appreciation to the Director-General for his valuable contribution to the debate. She urged members of the Governing Body to read the background document and the report of the Symposium and endorsed the draft decision.
81. Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of Niger said that, while his group agreed with the draft decision in paragraph 26, it regretted the low levels of Government participation in sectoral and technical meetings. While the costs of Worker and Employer representatives were covered, the costs of Government representatives were not; further consideration needed to be given to ways to improve the situation.
82. A Government representative of India expressed his support and appreciation for the paper.
83. Speaking on behalf of ASPAG, a Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated the importance of ensuring that those designated to chair GDFs were well prepared in advance. It was essential that they should have a thorough understanding of the task entrusted to them, the principles of tripartism, the desired outcomes and any potential sources of disagreement.

Decision

84. *Subject to the availability of resources, the Governing Body:*
- (a) *authorized the Director-General to publish the revised ILO–IMO Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers, the Guidelines on training in the port sector, the Code of practice on safety and health in the use of machinery and, as a joint publication, the Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards;*
 - (b) *authorized the Director-General to communicate the final reports or notes on the proceedings of the sectoral and technical meetings referred to in Part I of document GB.313/POLS/5 to governments, requesting them to communicate the texts to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned, as well as to the international employers' and workers' organizations and other international organizations concerned;*
 - (c) *requested the Director-General to bear in mind when drawing up proposals for future work, the recommendations made by: the Global Dialogue Forum on the Needs of Older Workers in relation to Changing Work Processes and the Working Environment in Retail Commerce; the Joint ILO–IMO Meeting on Medical Fitness Examinations of Seafarers and Ships' Medicine Chests; the Tripartite Meeting on Promoting Social Dialogue on Restructuring and*

its Effects on Employment in the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industries; and the Tripartite Meeting of Experts for the Review and the Adoption of ILO Guidelines on Training in the Port Sector; and

- (d) *requested the Director-General to bear in mind when drawing up proposals for future work, the views expressed by the participants in the Global Dialogue Forum on the Role of Private Employment Agencies in Promoting Decent Work and Improving the Functioning of Labour Markets in Private Services Sectors, as summarized in the final report of the discussion.*

(GB.313/POL/5, paragraph 26, as amended.)

Sixth item on the agenda

Other questions: Follow-up to the resolution concerning tonnage measurement and accommodation (oral report)

- 85.** The representative of the Director-General delivered an oral report on consultations with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the follow-up to the resolution concerning tonnage measurement and accommodation, as requested by the Governing Body at its November 2011 session. The resolution, which had been adopted by the International Labour Conference in conjunction with the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), called on the ILO to monitor work in the IMO that could lead to amendments to the IMO's International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships (1969).
- 86.** At its November 2011 session, the Governing Body had decided to authorize consultations with the IMO with a view to establishing a joint ILO–IMO working group on the impact of the tonnage measurement of ships on the living and working conditions of seafarers and fishers. The Director-General had subsequently written to the IMO Secretary-General on that matter. The IMO Assistant Secretary-General had replied, indicating that the issue had been discussed by the 54th Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety (SLF) in January 2012. The Sub-Committee, among other things, had considered earlier submissions by Germany and the ILO on the subject and had established a correspondence group on tonnage measurement, which had been instructed to review the rules and requirements of the 1969 Tonnage Measurement Convention, taking into account the submissions by Germany and the ILO.
- 87.** Therefore, the IMO Assistant Secretary-General had recommended that the ILO should await the outcome of the correspondence group, which would report to the 55th Session of the SLF in February 2013, and had encouraged the ILO to participate actively in that group. In the light of such developments, the Governing Body might wish to include an item on the issue on the agenda of its March 2013 session.
- 88.** The Worker spokesperson thanked the Office for its oral report and said that, if necessary, he would make more detailed comments on a written report when and if it was submitted to the Governing Body.
- 89.** The Employer spokesperson thanked the Office for its oral report.

Outcome

90. *The Governing Body took note of the oral report made by the Office.*

Technical Cooperation Segment

91. The Technical Cooperation Segment was held on Thursday, 22 March. It was chaired by Mr Okio (Government, Congo), as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body. Mr Traore and Mr Gómez Esguerra were the Employer and Worker spokespersons.

Seventh item on the agenda

South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward (GB.313/POL/7)

92. A representative of the Director-General (Director of the Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department) noted that the concept of South–South cooperation, while not new, had gained momentum recently, in great part due to the economic growth of countries of the global South. The concept had also been recognized at the 2009 United Nations (UN) Conference on South–South Cooperation, held in Nairobi, and through the subsequent endorsement of the outcome document by the UN General Assembly in 2010. South–South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) had also received support from other forums as well, such as the G20, the G77 plus China and the India–Brazil–South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA).
93. Many South–South arrangements had been motivated by a sense of solidarity and reciprocity among nations, which went beyond the flow of funds. In the current complex world, triangular cooperation – whereby a partner from the North supported cooperation between two or more countries from the South – was a means of addressing that complexity. South–South cooperation would not replace, but would complement, the traditional development cooperation between the industrialized and the developing worlds. SSTC could benefit from the experience accumulated by international development agencies over the past 60 years.
94. The ILO could play an important role in fostering SSTC and fostering partnerships among equals (which would also encompass the facilitation of partnerships between social partners from the South). It could also provide its tested tools and strategies to facilitate South–South cooperation and, where necessary, provide advice and expertise. Given its experience, the ILO could play a leading role in fostering triangular arrangements and could mobilize its partnerships with numerous regional economic commissions to facilitate SSTC at a subregional level. The ILO could also learn from SSTC and from its flexibility, sense of innovation and focus on non-monetary forms of collaboration. Such lessons should be included in existing ILO projects and programmes.
95. Regarding the ILO’s proposed SSTC strategy for 2012–13, there was a need to enhance the ILO’s internal awareness and capacity to identify and implement SSTC opportunities and a need to increase the number of governments, social partners, UN agencies and non-state actors that advanced the Decent Work Agenda through SSTC arrangements.
96. The speaker concluded by pointing out that SSTC was a very welcome addition to the growing range of funding modalities of the ILO’s Technical Cooperation Programme,

including the Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) which, in the previous biennium, had amounted to a total of US\$54 million. Continued donor support for RBSA in the current biennium would be critical to achieve overall ILO results, as would an expanding portfolio of South–South and triangular partnership arrangements.

- 97.** The Employer spokesperson said that the paper before them concerning SSTC displayed certain shortcomings, describing what South–South cooperation entailed but not leaving much space for strategy. The advantages of SSTC were that some emerging countries had a constantly increasing amount of resources and skills that it would be possible for them to share. The countries of the South could also contribute to the technical cooperation of the ILO if the latter was more involved in international strategy. The mobilization of resources was one of the possibilities to explore. He drew the Governing Body’s attention to the fact that the paper before them made no mention of the funds allocated by the Governing Body to the new budget line for the promotion of South–South cooperation. The strategy required more definition and clarification and should be better targeted. The Office was invited to review and coordinate the proposed strategy.
- 98.** The Worker spokesperson said that South–South cooperation expressed solidarity and promoted the exchange of experience and good practices among constituents who were facing similar challenges. He underlined the role of cooperation between Brazil and certain African countries in the areas of social security and occupational health, and mentioned as an example of triangular cooperation the ACTRAV initiative with the Global Labour University (GLU), which enabled trade unionists from countries of the South to exchange knowledge on labour and economic issues.
- 99.** He mentioned the promotion of tripartism and respect for international labour standards as a priority area of South–South cooperation. Respect for such values was necessary in SSTC agreements. It was important that the indicators for measuring progress of the strategy referred to the contribution of South–South cooperation to the Decent Work Agenda in various countries.
- 100.** He asked the international community to continue to show solidarity with Haiti and called for collaboration from the ILO so that such solidarity would be an example of new modes of cooperation. He requested more information on the implementation of the SSTC strategy.
- 101.** Speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), a Government representative of Brazil said that South–South cooperation was a priority for his regional group. He considered that the strategy paper represented major progress, as did the fact that provision had been made for South–South cooperation in the biennial programme of the ILO.
- 102.** The strategy of the ILO should include, in line with the language approved in Nairobi, references to respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. He underlined the importance of access to knowledge and technology as key factors in the promotion of development, and valued the Nairobi document as a framework for the revitalization of the UN system in its efforts to promote South–South cooperation and development.
- 103.** He suggested that it was important to include diversification of member countries as a means for achieving better outcomes. Finally, he expressed GRULAC’s support for the draft decision.

- 104.** Speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group (ASPAG), a Government representative of Viet Nam noted the importance of South–South and triangular cooperation and stressed that it had proven to be particularly useful in the efforts to promote decent work as well as an important tool to establish development partnerships and share best practices among developing countries. South–South and triangular cooperation could be further enhanced by strengthening technical, cultural, economic and political exchanges between southern countries, UN agencies and developed countries. ASPAG recognized the ILO’s commitment to support initiatives using South–South and triangular cooperation and encouraged the promotion of specific topics such as child labour, skills development, migration, social security, employment-intensive investments and knowledge sharing. He supported the draft decision.
- 105.** Speaking on behalf of the group of industrialized market economy countries (IMEC), a Government representative of Italy recognized the importance of South–South and triangular cooperation as an instrument for inclusive and effective partnership. The integration of SSTC approaches in Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) could promote the Decent Work Agenda. She highlighted that South–South cooperation, through enhanced ownership, leadership and capacity building among southern countries, could be recognized as a useful model for the application of the 2009 Global Jobs Pact and the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. SSTC was also recognized in the report of the Development Working Group of the G20 Summit in November 2011.
- 106.** IMEC favoured the involvement of interested governments and partners in key areas such as the promotion of employment generation, social protection, green jobs, knowledge sharing and child labour. The International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin (Turin Centre) could help in knowledge sharing related to SSTC. IMEC was of the view that the indicator of Outcome 1 of the proposed strategy did not show the impact of the ILO’s actions; it therefore requested a revision of Outcome 1 and its indicator, to be reported for information to the Governing Body at its November 2012 session.
- 107.** Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of Zambia appreciated the consistent efforts by the Office to promote the SSTC initiative as outlined in the Programme and Budget for 2012–13. SSTC was in line with the African vision, which established the need to cooperate strategically with other regional groups, international organizations and member States. The Africa group supported the use of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit’s recommendations on the means to enhance system-wide contributions to SSTC. The Office should develop a results-based model of capacity-building interventions in order to ensure the success of the two proposed outcomes. He supported the draft decision.
- 108.** A Government representative of Brazil emphasized that the inclusion of the subject in the Director-General’s programme and budget proposals reflected the recognition from the Office and constituents of the added value and complementary role of South–South cooperation in the promotion of development and decent work for all. That mode of cooperation was a priority for Brazil, the first country of the South to implement SSTC projects with the ILO. She emphasized that the assistance received in past decades, especially in relation to issues concerning child labour, forced labour and labour inspection, made it possible for Brazil now to share the experience gained with third countries.
- 109.** A Government representative of China noted that SSTC was an important component of international development and cooperation and an effective means to share knowledge. The ILO had mobilized available resources and had done an effective job in implementing SSTC. China was also a developing country and an active supporter of SSTC, which

should be based on the demand of recipient countries for assistance with initiatives that needed to be implemented locally. Countries should pay attention to the efficiency of implementation and resources should be aimed at capacity building and training. He supported the ILO's SSTC strategy.

- 110.** A Government representative of the Republic of Korea noted that SSTC was a useful tool to promote the development of recipient countries by engaging the participation of diverse stakeholders. The importance of SSTC was reaffirmed in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, adopted at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in the Republic of Korea in 2011. The ILO's efforts to actively pursue its cooperation programmes in a way that promoted the Decent Work Agenda through SSTC were a timely step and would serve to increase the effectiveness of ILO cooperation programmes.
- 111.** A Government representative of Qatar said that the ILO had an important role to play in SSTC. ILO regional offices should coordinate with other organizations concerned to study opportunities for SSTC and come up with proposals for subsequent meetings. The ILO should strengthen its role in the transfer of knowledge, together with the Turin Centre. Cooperation should also be strengthened between developing countries and least developed countries. SSTC was not a substitute for North-South cooperation. He agreed that the indicator for Outcome 1 was not adequate to measure progress. A group of indicators could be adopted to allow for the measurement of progress over a longer time. There was a need to concentrate on the quality of partnerships to determine their effectiveness. He noted that the document did not give details on how the 2012-13 budget allocation for SSTC would be used and asked that it be distributed fairly, especially given the small sum. The subject of SSTC should be reviewed on a regular basis by the Governing Body in order to follow up on possible developments. He supported the draft decision.
- 112.** A Government representative of India stated that collaboration between the emerging economies through SSTC was an important feature of global economic development. SSTC involved socio-economic initiatives and was a useful tool to promote the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. He reaffirmed India's commitment towards promoting South-South cooperation for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth that benefited all, especially the vulnerable sections of society, but noted that such cooperation was not a substitute for North-South collaboration. His Government, with the ILO, had organized an IBSA International Conference on South-South Cooperation in New Delhi in March 2012. The labour ministers and delegates of 23 countries from Asia, Africa and South America had participated. The Conference had shown that countries from the South wanted home-grown solutions to be shared, and that, if countries learned from such innovative solutions, they could accelerate job creation, identify opportunities for institutional coordination across borders in the South between labour training and research institutes, and find linkages between the informal economy, social protection, livelihood creation and employment.
- 113.** The speaker recalled that the IBSA Conference had called for the further development and promotion of SSTC according to countries' priorities, in order to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda through the building of partnerships and exchange of experiences in the fields of employment, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue. The IBSA Conference had also underlined the importance of public employment programmes, employment guarantees, green jobs, conditional cash transfers and other innovative social protection schemes. Countries should work together to exchange information and ideas with a view to developing a concrete plan of action.

114. Regarding the proposed indicators, the speaker noted that results should be for the national governments to design and monitor. He supported the draft decision without amendment.
115. A Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the SSTC initiative had shown that, with the right kind of planning, commitment, partners and reciprocal respect, SSTC could produce impressive results on a very small budget. Language and cultural differences ceased to matter when collaborators shared their technology and knowledge in a reciprocal setting. Traditional North–South cooperation had led to the development of essential tools of project management, organization and accountability, which SSTC had successfully applied. In other cases, many ideas being implemented as part of South–South cooperation were generated in the North but were not being adapted to the realities of the global South. SSTC experience indicated that a quadrilateral North–South–South–ILO cooperation strategy based on mutual respect, reciprocity, participation and willingness to teach and be taught could provide new and improved paths towards achieving global development goals. He supported the draft decision.
116. A representative of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit recalled the 2011 report by the Joint Inspection Unit on *South–South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system*, which contained 12 recommendations for the UN system. Recommendation 3 stressed the importance of establishing identifiable and dedicated structures, mechanisms and focal points to ensure coordination on SSTC. According to Recommendation 9, 0.5 per cent of the core budget resources of organizations should be devoted to SSTC, and donor countries should agree to use a specific portion of extra-budgetary resources for that purpose.
117. The representative of the Director-General noted that the discussion had revealed strong support for the concept of SSTC as an important means for the ILO to advance the Decent Work Agenda. The Office was prepared to present a more robust indicator for Outcome 1 at the next session. In response to a question raised by the Worker spokesperson, he indicated that, in Haiti, \$12 million had been mobilized to employment promotion projects, including through important triangular cooperation arrangements with Brazil and the United States.

Decision

118. *The Governing Body endorsed the ILO Strategy on South–South and triangular cooperation as set out in document GB.313/POL/7, and requested the Office to present refined indicators for Outcomes 1 and 2 for decision at its 316th Session (November 2012), taking into account the discussion of this item.*

(GB.313/POL/7, paragraph 11, as amended.)

Eighth item on the agenda

Regional perspectives on technical cooperation: The African region (GB.313/POL/8)

119. A representative of the Director-General (Regional Director for Africa) recalled that, at the 12th African Regional Meeting, constituents had adopted a set of recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda in Africa 2007–15. He

highlighted several achievements in the region in relation to the four strategic objectives of the ILO, and underlined that \$50.5 million had been mobilized for technical cooperation programmes and projects in 2011. Resources from the RBSA and the regular budget for technical cooperation (RBTC) had provided an additional \$2.1 million for capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations. An additional \$1 million had been allocated from RBTC funds to strengthen labour administrations and labour market governance.

- 120.** Extra-budgetary resources had fluctuated since 2008 because of the economic crisis. If that trend continued, there would be an impact on the level of operations in the region. Nonetheless, he was pleased that \$40 million had already been approved for Africa since the beginning of 2012, much of which had been mobilized at the local level, highlighting the need for a local resource mobilization strategy.
- 121.** Through a roadmap for recovery and decent work developed with constituents in Egypt, the ILO had locally mobilized \$20 million in 2011 for six technical cooperation projects. The ILO had also accompanied the transition in Tunisia and had so far secured approvals of \$10 million to support the roadmap that had been agreed upon with constituents there. The speaker expressed his appreciation to the numerous donors that had made such accomplishments possible.
- 122.** The Employer spokesperson welcomed the Office's decision to present a series of studies on technical cooperation in the regions. The scale of technical cooperation in Africa raised the question of whether the interventions had a real impact on the ground and whether their impact was sustainable. The tripartite involvement of constituents in the implementation of programmes was strongly encouraged. The programmes and projects sought to help constituents in Africa integrate employment into national policies and promote entrepreneurial attitudes and skills development. There was a need to promote good practices, such as "One UN" in the United Republic of Tanzania. Better integration of modern technologies in labour-intensive investments should also be encouraged. The same applied to cooperatives, and entrepreneurial attitudes, sound management and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small and medium-sized industries (SMIs) and should not be overlooked. The Employers' group welcomed the efforts made concerning the abolition of child labour and the promotion of social dialogue. Efforts had also been made to increase the delivery rate, but no provision had been made for outcomes with respect to employers' organizations. The draft decision was approved and the importance of allocating more extra-budgetary resources to the social partners was reiterated.
- 123.** The Worker spokesperson stated that the key objectives in technical cooperation in Africa were the full participation of the constituents in the formulation, delivery and evaluation of DWCPs and an integrated and balanced allocation of technical cooperation resources among the strategic objectives, which existed in both extra-budgetary and RBSA expenditure.
- 124.** He called on the Office to draw up a resource mobilization strategy that took account of the following points: more balanced and equitable distribution of resources in relation to the strategic objectives; development of specific projects for workers in the fields of freedom of association, collective bargaining, minimum wages, social protection, monitoring with regard to HIV/AIDS, and discrimination; promotion and application of international labour standards and social dialogue in DWCP priorities; and the need to tackle the humanitarian tragedy in Somalia. Finally, the speaker expressed his support for the draft decision and reiterated that the Office had not addressed the question of the imbalance in resources, despite repeated comments made by the Workers' group on that issue during the discussions on technical cooperation.

- 125.** Speaking on behalf of IMEC, a Government representative of Italy said that it was important to avoid unnecessary duplication. The Office should ensure that the proposed effort in the field of resource mobilization for Africa took place under the overall ILO resource mobilization strategy.
- 126.** Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of Zambia noted with satisfaction that action was being taken by the Office to move forward some of the recommendations of the 12th African Regional Meeting. The past decade had seen the Africa region build a policy and programme infrastructure aimed at realizing fundamental principles and rights at work. Currently, over 30 countries were implementing DWCPs, a number of which were second generation programmes. Most of the evaluations that had been conducted highlighted the need to increase the DWCP delivery rate. The problem of resource gaps had been cited as one of the major factors to have affected programme implementation. He agreed that securing adequate resources to address the key priorities of the 12th African Regional Meeting was a challenge. The Africa group was pleased that the Office proposed to make systematic use of findings of past monitoring and evaluations exercises when designing new projects and programmes. He supported the draft decision.
- 127.** A Government representative of Ghana stated that the effective implementation of projects had contributed to the improvement of policy development and to the realization of poverty reduction and growth strategies in African countries. The results achieved in some of the technical cooperation projects outlined in the document were encouraging. Through the efforts of the field offices, the delivery rates for technical cooperation in Africa had improved significantly since 2008, exceeding the target of 75 per cent adopted by the Governing Body in 2009. She appreciated the work done by the ILO Regional Office for Africa in terms of strengthening the capacity of field offices in the monitoring and evaluation of projects, and supported the measures being put in place to address the decline in delivery rates recorded for 2011. She supported the draft decision.
- 128.** A Government representative of Zimbabwe supported the draft decision and emphasized the need for the ILO to ensure that technical cooperation interventions were closely aligned to DWCPs. He urged the Office to strengthen the use of impact assessments.
- 129.** A Government representative of France said that technical cooperation supplied to countries by the ILO should play a key role. The issue was to help transpose the ILO's work into the context of the country concerned in order to achieve the results expected by the DWCPs. It was in order to give backing to the Office's action on the ground that France was supporting not only the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) but also programmes including the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) and the Programme to Support the Implementation of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (PAMODEC) in the Africa region. Convinced of the importance of the cooperation that had been developed in the region, the French Government approved the points mentioned in the document. It was also necessary to take account of the results of evaluations and establish new partnerships. He asked the Office to indicate how it intended to reinforce its collaboration and action concerning resource mobilization with the other organizations on the ground which were already cooperating with the regional and subregional offices. The quality of the projects and the value added by the ILO to their implementation were crucial for attracting voluntary contributions.
- 130.** A Government representative of Kenya supported the draft decision and stated that the implementation of decent work in Africa required a resource mobilization strategy that would take into account identified priorities, such as youth employment. Kenya supported the draft decision.

131. The representative of the Director-General noted the comments made by the Employers' group regarding the need to promote cooperatives, SMEs and SMIs and groupings of enterprises. He recognized the importance of mobilizing more resources for the social partners, an issue also raised by the Workers. It would require a joint effort – from employers, workers, development partners and the ILO – to discover why an imbalance persisted between the strategic objectives.
132. The speaker noted that, while not mentioned in the paper, the Employment for Peace, Stability and Development in the Horn of Africa framework, developed with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union Commission, had helped mobilize resources, including for significant projects in Somalia. In response to the question raised by the representative of IMEC, he indicated that the resource mobilization strategy would be closely coordinated with the overall technical cooperation strategy. Thanking the Government of France for its support to the ILO in Africa, he agreed that more should be learned from joint evaluations. He thanked the Africa group for its intervention and concurred with the view that DWCPs should play a central role in mobilizing resources.

Decision

133. *The Governing Body requested the Office, in order to accelerate the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda in Africa, as called for by the 12th African Regional Meeting, to develop a regional strategy for resource mobilization, taking into account the points outlined in Part V of document GB.313/POL/8.*

(GB.313/POL/8, paragraph 29.)

Multinational Enterprises Segment

134. The Multinational Enterprises Segment of the Policy Development Section was held on Thursday, 22 March. It was chaired by Mr Elmiger (Government, Switzerland), as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body. Ms Hornung-Draus and Mr Gurney were the Employer and Worker spokespersons.

Ninth item on the agenda

Report of the Tripartite Ad Hoc Working Group on the Follow-up Mechanism of the MNE Declaration

(GB.313/POL/9)

135. The Chairperson of the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group presented the report and recommendations.
136. The Employer spokesperson stressed that the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) continued to be a very relevant instrument of orientation and guidance and that they wanted to use the full potential of that Declaration. The follow-up mechanism was not too cumbersome and made an important distinction between promotional activities, on the one hand, and the collection of data and factual analysis, on the other. Concerning promotional activities, the proposals included and integrated the MNE Declaration into existing ILO activities to

mainstream it more effectively. At the same time, it should not be used to impose anything, because it was very important to preserve the voluntary nature of the MNE Declaration.

- 137.** The Working Group had benefitted greatly from the input of the Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in the area of data collection and factual analysis; and she appreciated the fact that the survey would be designed by an independent research institute before being submitted to the Governing Body for approval. With regard to the questions and the size of the survey, governments and social partners should not be overburdened with reporting obligations; the right balance needed to be found. She fully supported the draft decision and looked forward to implementing those recommendations.
- 138.** The Worker spokesperson emphasized that the recommendations were based on two key prerequisites. Firstly, there had to be a genuine commitment to principles which went beyond mere statements of goodwill and was backed by a system of periodic reporting. Secondly, the promotion of the MNE Declaration required its integration into existing national frameworks and ILO mechanisms. The work of the ILO was geared towards activities and outcomes in the real economy; therefore the ILO had to have something relevant to say about operational practices with multinational enterprises (MNEs). The ILO Helpdesk had already responded to 605 requests since its establishment, and each of those responses had helped to put the principles of the MNE Declaration into practice. The recommendations on promotional activities could lead to a rethink of that important but hitherto under-pursued area of work. He was particularly pleased to have reached an agreement on paragraph 15. An operational plan, to be presented in November, would be essential to ensure that all of the recommendations were implemented.
- 139.** Turning to the survey, he strongly supported the separation between the collection of data and the various promotional activities, and desk research to supplement the survey. The proposal that a set of core questions should be maintained from survey to survey would enable the ILO to compare macro trends and then possibly take action as appropriate to reflect those trends. The changing thematic modules could be linked to the items for recurrent discussion at the International Labour Conference.
- 140.** The recommendations could contribute to a renewed affirmation of the role of the State, not only in reaffirming the rule of law and the responsibility of government, but also because it was through governments that space could be created at the national level to discuss the impact of MNEs on industrial development and policies, on the basis of a tripartite consensus. They could also help the ILO to reassert its comparative advantage (its mandate and unique composition) and maintain its relevance in the twenty-first century.
- 141.** Speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group (ASPAG), a Government representative of China emphasized that the MNE Declaration needed assertive promotion outside the ILO. Further promotional work was also needed within the Office for more constructive engagement with MNEs in the formulation of public-private partnerships and mainstreaming of the MNE Declaration into training and technical cooperation projects. ASPAG supported improved gathering of information on MNE activities at the national level and sharing of good practices through regional and sectoral meetings. The MNE Declaration was promotional in nature; therefore the survey should not increase the reporting burden of governments.
- 142.** Speaking on behalf of the group of industrialized market economy countries (IMEC), a Government representative of Canada highlighted the urgent need to agree on a new promotional mechanism for the MNE Declaration, given that it was referenced in many international documents as one of the key instruments for promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR), and in times of crisis CSR had a key role to play in making further

business acceptable to all stakeholders. Greater awareness of the Declaration could be raised from within the ILO, by the Office as well as by constituents. The main challenge was managing a survey which provided first-class information by directly involving MNEs and accurate data of a professional and non-bureaucratic nature, which would in turn enable the Office and Governing Body to deliver appropriate guidance, update their knowledge, and promote awareness and social dialogue. The prospect of a new periodic survey was not welcome. The design of the operational plan needed to take into account the mobilization of national tripartite constituents and coordinate with other ILO discussions, including the recurrent discussions at the Conference; and it should prevent new bureaucratic developments in any follow-up.

- 143.** Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, a Government representative of Niger said that care should be taken to avoid placing a heavier reporting burden on governments, while facilitating debate; he considered that existing ILO mechanisms and national frameworks should be used. He reiterated the proposal put forward by the Africa group in November 2011 to strengthen cooperation between the ILO and other international organizations in order to ensure better follow-up of the Declaration, in particular with regard to awareness-raising activities, with an emphasis on the key role of multinational enterprises. The Africa group endorsed paragraphs 9 to 22 of the report.
- 144.** A Government representative of Switzerland said that her Government endorsed the IMEC statement. She expressed her delegation's concern at the proposals contained in part B of the recommendations, pointing out that there appeared to be a lack of consistency in proposing to continue the promotion of an instrument without having an effective follow-up mechanism. She highlighted the need for the ILO to update the Declaration and adapt it to the changes that had occurred in multinational enterprises in recent years, in order to make it a strategic instrument that was in step with reality. Given the proliferation of CSR agreements between multinational enterprises and trade union organizations referring to the Declaration, the ILO should seize the opportunity to build links among the different stakeholders, while taking care to maintain ownership of the Declaration.
- 145.** The speaker called for additional information on paragraphs 16 et seq. of the Working Group's recommendations, and wished to know, among other things, whether the planned surveys would entail an additional burden for the constituents, what their financial implications were and what their main objective was.
- 146.** A Government representative of Qatar supported the statement made by ASPAG and noted the difficulty of conducting a general survey. Priorities should be set concerning the sectors to be covered. The Office should include precise details of the survey, including funding, in its operational plan. He supported the draft decision.
- 147.** A Government representative of Canada supported the statement made by the IMEC group. The periodic survey would not yield useful results. Data relating to MNEs did not exist at the national level. Past surveys were based only on respondents' opinions. The scarcity of resources and the reporting burden were also a cause for concern. She supported the promotional activities, yet wished to see the financial implications before endorsing them; and requested details on the operationalization of paragraph 11.
- 148.** A Government representative of Argentina supported the promotion of the MNE Declaration through events such as the MultiForum Cono Sur. In the light of its experience in the 2009 pilot exercise, his country did not agree with the proposal to gather data through a survey. Argentina would be willing to serve as a pilot for promoting the MNE Declaration under the umbrella of the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), and would promote the MNE Declaration in

national and regional events as well as sectoral social dialogue. Argentina supported the draft decision.

149. A Government representative of India expressed concern that the governments' workload would increase enormously. Concerning the establishment of tripartite focal points, the main challenge would be that in most countries such bodies were located not in ministries of labour but in ministries of commerce.
150. A representative of the Director-General (Executive Director, Employment Sector) thanked all the Working Group members and reflected that both the promotion of the Declaration and data collection posed challenges. Previous survey attempts had not been successful because the MNE Declaration covered a wide range of issues, making a comprehensive survey very cumbersome; and many countries did not collect MNE-related data. If constituents agreed on a focused questionnaire, then the reporting burden could be minimized. The Office recognized governments' reporting burden and proposed bringing back a sample questionnaire for the November 2012 Governing Body session for governments and the social partners to consider. The Office would prepare an operational plan with costing for the November 2012 session.
151. The Worker spokesperson agreed that past surveys had been based mostly on opinions and not on empirical data; however, the Ad Hoc Working Group had taken into account the guidance from the survey design experts in drafting the recommendations. The survey would not become an additional requirement as a reporting requirement for the survey was already in place but currently suspended. On the issue of national focal points, the experience in Argentina had proved useful.
152. The Employer spokesperson supported the statement made by the Worker spokesperson and agreed to the approaches outlined by a representative of the Director-General. It was also governments' responsibility to promote the MNE Declaration, for example, through the establishment of a national focal point.
153. The Chairperson turned to the points for decision. There was consensus on paragraphs 10 to 15. Paragraphs 16 to 22 were set aside for further discussion, subject to the development of an operational plan.

Decision

154. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *thanked the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Follow-up Mechanism of the MNE Declaration for their report;*
- (b) *adopted the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group in paragraphs 10 to 15 of the report annexed to document GB.313/POL/9 and took note of the recommendations in paragraphs 16 to 22 for their consideration and further discussion at the 316th Session (November 2012) of the Governing Body, together with an operational plan to be proposed by the Office under paragraph (c), subject to further review of the financial implications arising from the activities endorsed;*
- (c) *requested the Office to prepare for its 316th Session (November 2012), in consultation with the tripartite constituents, a proposed operational plan for putting in place the MNE Declaration follow-up mechanism and the*

specified promotional activities on the basis of the recommendations submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the present session;

- (d) decided to further suspend, until its 316th Session (November 2012), the decision taken at its 258th Session (November 1993) to conduct surveys of the MNE Declaration every four years, to consider adoption of an operational plan for the follow-up mechanism.*

(GB.313/POL/9, paragraph 6, as amended.)

DRAFT