



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

Second report: Evaluation of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008

1. At the present session, in the framework of the agenda of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body is called upon to provide guidance as to the timing and modalities of a Conference discussion to evaluate the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 (the Social Justice Declaration).¹

Context

2. Part III(C) of the Social Justice Declaration² and Part III of its annex entitled follow-up to the Declaration,³ provide for the evaluation by the International Labour Conference of the impact of the Declaration (the evaluation) at a time, and according to modalities, to be established by the Governing Body. Parameters for this evaluation are specified in the

¹ See the agenda of the International Labour Conference, GB. 320/INS/2, paras 24–26 and 32(e).

² Part III(C) states as follows: “At such time(s) as the Governing Body may find appropriate, and in accordance with modalities to be established, the impact of the present Declaration, and in particular the steps taken to promote its implementation, will be the object of a review by the International Labour Conference with a view to assessing what action might be appropriate.”

³ Part III(A) of the follow-up to the Declaration states as follows: “The impact of the Declaration, in particular the extent to which it has contributed to promoting, among Members, the aims and purposes of the Organization through the integrated pursuit of the strategic objectives, will be the subject of evaluation by the Conference, which may be repeated from time to time, within the framework of an item placed on its agenda.”

follow-up to the Declaration, as well as in the resolution adopted by the Conference alongside the Social Justice Declaration.⁴

3. The evaluation has an important strategic dimension. Under the follow-up to the Declaration, the evaluation should include the extent to which the Declaration has contributed to promoting, among Members, the ILO aims and purposes through the integrated pursuit of the strategic objectives. The evaluation is part of the governance initiative – one of the seven ILO centenary initiatives – proposed by the Director-General in his Report to the 102nd Session of the Conference.⁵ The evaluation could also provide an opportunity to ensure coordination between the Social Justice Declaration and other important processes, for example the new Strategic Policy Framework. Finally, it could contribute to providing strategic direction to the Organization as it approaches its 100th anniversary.
4. Having regard to the strategic importance of the evaluation, urgent consideration should be given to the implementation of a number of measures, including processes to be considered for the preparation of the discussion by the Conference.
5. The evaluation also has implications for the determination of the next cycle of recurrent discussions⁶ and the related decisions on the choice of the subject matter of General Surveys to be undertaken by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR). The recurrent discussions are based on modalities agreed by the Governing Body, including the sequence and frequency of these recurrent discussions and their relation to the Strategic Policy Framework. In 2009, the Governing Body decided to implement a seven-year cycle. This first cycle began with a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of employment at the Conference in 2010. The cycle is ongoing and would be completed in 2016 with the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work. In line with Part I(B) of the follow-up to Declaration, the Governing Body has linked the subject matter of General Surveys of the CEACR to the strategic objective discussed in the framework of the recurrent discussion.

The question of timing of the evaluation

6. The evaluation – and in particular its modalities – will require a decision by the Governing Body. Three questions require urgent consideration: the timing of the evaluation; the timing of the next recurrent discussion cycle; and the instruments to be selected by the Governing Body for the preparation of the General Survey by the CEACR in 2015.⁷
7. Concerning the timing of the evaluation, the first recurrent discussion cycle will end in 2016. In this context, two options could be considered by the Governing Body. Under a first option, the evaluation could take place in 2016 at the 105th Session of the Conference. Currently, the agenda of the 105th Session of the Conference includes the two following

⁴ Resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization, adopted on 10 June 2008.

⁵ Report I(A), International Labour Conference, 102nd Session, Geneva, 2013, paras 84 and 155(1).

⁶ It should be recalled that Part II(A) of the Social Justice Declaration and Part II(B) of its follow-up provide for the scheme of recurrent discussions by the Conference.

⁷ See GB.320/LILS/6. The General Survey to be prepared by the CEACR in 2015 will be discussed by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards in 2016.

ad hoc items: the second recurrent discussion on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and an item with a view to a general discussion on decent work in global supply chains. The Governing Body should normally complete the agenda of the 105th Session (2016) at the present session.⁸ Under a second option, the evaluation could be undertaken at the end of the first cycle in 2017, at the 106th Session of the Conference. In this case, the evaluation could be discussed in lieu of a discussion of one of the strategic objectives. The Governing Body should hold its first discussion on the agenda of the 106th Session (2017) at its 322nd Session (November 2014).

8. With regard to the timing of the next recurrent discussion cycle, the question is whether this cycle should begin either in 2017 (if the evaluation is undertaken in 2016), or in 2018 (if the evaluation takes place in 2017 in lieu of a recurrent discussion of one of the strategic objectives). Consideration would also need to be given to the strategic objective to be discussed in 2018.
9. In any event, a decision on the instruments to be selected for the General Survey to be prepared by the CEACR in 2015, and discussed by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards in 2016, would have to be taken no later than June 2014, to allow a timely dispatch of the related report form to constituents. Were the Conference to discuss the evaluation in 2017 in lieu of a recurrent discussion of one of the strategic objectives, there would be some flexibility concerning the choice of instruments that would be the subject of the General Survey to be prepared by the CEACR in 2015. In such a case, it may not be necessary to link the instrument(s) in question to a specific strategic objective.
10. *In view of the above, the Officers of the Governing Body recommend to the Governing Body to:*
 - (a) *examine the possibility of placing the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration on the agenda of the 105th Session (2016) or the 106th Session (2017) of the Conference; and*
 - (b) *place an item concerning the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration by the International Labour Conference, on the agenda of its 322nd Session (November 2014).*

⁸ See GB.320/INS/2.