



Governing Body

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SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Agenda of the International Labour Conference

Purpose of the document

In light of the decision taken at the 323rd Session (March 2015), to continue the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the agenda of the 106th (2017), 107th (2018) and 108th (2019) Sessions of the Conference by retaining flexibility in the selection of items for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions and completing the agenda of the 2017 session (see the draft decision in paragraph 34).

Relevant strategic objective: All four strategic objectives.

Policy implications: Implications for the Conference agenda for 2017 and beyond.

Legal implications: Those arising from the application of the Standing Orders of the Conference and the Standing Orders of the Governing Body.

Financial implications: Those arising from the placing of items on the Conference agenda and from any preparatory meetings proposed.

Follow-up action required: Any implications relating to follow-up will be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration at its 325th Session (November 2015).

Author unit: Departments in the Policy Portfolio and in the Field Operations and Partnerships Portfolio.

Related documents: GB.325/INS/5/1; GB.325/5/2; GB.325/INS/6; GB.325/15/2; GB.323/PV (paragraphs 4–18; 19–33 and 346–360); GB.323/INS/2; GB.322/PV (paragraphs 8–17; 18–27 and 309–330); GB.322/INS/2; GB.322/INS/3; GB.322/INS/4/1; GB.322/WP/GBC/1; GB.320/PV (paragraphs 6–42 and 342–351); GB.320/INS/15/2; GB.320/INS/13; GB.320/WP/GBC/1; GB.320/POL/3; GB.319/INS/2; GB.319/PV (paragraphs 5–35); GB.319/WP/GBC/1; GB.319/INS/13(Rev.).

Overview of the Conference agenda-setting process

1. The applicable rules concerning the agenda of the International Labour Conference are set out in the ILO Constitution,¹ the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference² and the Standing Orders of the Governing Body.³ The agenda of the Conference consists of standing and technical items.
2. The following standing items are required to be included by the Governing Body in the Conference agenda each year:
 - reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General;
 - financial and budgetary questions; and
 - information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.
3. It has become the practice to include in the Conference agenda three technical items with a view either to a general discussion or to standard setting. For standard-setting items, while a double discussion remains the norm, the Governing Body may decide to hold a single discussion. The technical items to be placed on the Conference agenda are considered at two successive sessions of the Governing Body.
4. The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 (the Social Justice Declaration), and its Follow-up introduced a scheme of recurrent discussions by the Conference designed to improve understanding of the diverse realities and needs of its Members with respect to each of the ILO's strategic objectives, respond more effectively to them by using all the means of action at its disposal, and adjust its priorities and programmes of action accordingly.⁴ Recurrent discussions are intended to play a key role in the setting of the overall Conference agenda. The Governing Body decided at its 304th Session (March 2009) that these recurrent discussions would follow a seven-year cycle,⁵ with employment, fundamental principles and rights at work, and social protection being discussed twice, and social dialogue being discussed once,⁶ according to the following sequence: employment (first recurrent discussion, 2010); social protection (social security) (first recurrent discussion, 2011); fundamental principles and rights at work (first recurrent discussion, 2012); social dialogue (first recurrent discussion, 2013); employment (second recurrent discussion, 2014); social protection (labour protection) (second recurrent discussion, 2015); and fundamental principles and rights at work (second recurrent discussion, 2016).

¹ Articles 14(1) and 16(3).

² In particular, articles 7, 7bis, 8 and 12.

³ Section 5 and article 6.2.

⁴ Social Justice Declaration, Part II(A)(i) and Annex, Part II(B)(i).

⁵ Under Part II(B) of the Annex to the Social Justice Declaration, the modalities of recurrent discussions are agreed by the Governing Body.

⁶ GB.304/PV, para. 183(b).

5. This sequence was subsequently adjusted following the Governing Body's decision to place the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration on the agenda of the 105th Session (2016) of the Conference, and consequently to defer the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work from the 105th Session (2016) to the 106th Session (2017).⁷

Context of the present discussion of the Conference agenda

6. At its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Governing Body approved the concept of a strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda for the 106th (2017), 107th (2018) and 108th (2019) Sessions of the Conference. At its 323rd Session (March 2015), it considered proposals for the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach and decided to further discuss the Conference agenda at its present session (November 2015).⁸
7. The present paper addresses three main subjects relating to the Conference agenda. Section A covers the placing on the agenda of the 105th Session of the Conference (2016) of specific items concerning proposed amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), and to the Annexes to the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185). Section B examines the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda from 2017 to 2019, in line with the procedural roadmap presented at the 323rd Session (March 2015) of the Governing Body.⁹ Section C proposes an updated procedural roadmap for the setting of the Conference agenda. Appendix I presents an updated overview of the situation with regard to the selection of the technical items on the Conference agenda (2010–19), which was previously submitted to the Governing Body in November 2014 and March 2015. Appendix II presents a timeline for the setting of the agenda of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference. Finally, Appendix III contains the three proposed items currently before the Governing Body, which have been revised in light of the discussions in March 2015.

A. Additional items for the 2016 session of the Conference (Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, and Convention No. 185)

8. At its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Governing Body decided to convene the second meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee (STC) established under Article XIII of the MLC, 2006.¹⁰ The meeting of the STC will be held in Geneva from 8 to 10 February 2016 to consider proposals for amendments submitted by the groups of Shipowner and Seafarer representatives appointed to the STC.
9. The STC fulfils several roles under the MLC, 2006, including a central role under Article XV in the simplified process for the amendment of the Code of the Convention.

⁷ GB.320/PV, para. 351; see also GB.322/INS/3.

⁸ GB.323/PV, paras 4–18.

⁹ GB.323/INS/2, para. 32.

¹⁰ GB.322/PV, para. 518(c).

Article XV provides that proposed amendments, along with a summary of any related observations or suggestions, shall be transmitted to the STC for consideration. If adopted by the STC, the amendments must be submitted “to the next session of the Conference for approval”.¹¹ As with the first set of proposed amendments to the Code, submitted to the STC at its first meeting in April 2014 and adopted by the Conference at its 103rd Session (June 2014), only a short sitting of the Conference would be necessary, as the Conference can only decide either to approve the amendments, or to refer them back to the STC for reconsideration.¹²

10. At its 323rd Session (March 2015), the Governing Body also decided to constitute an Ad Hoc Tripartite Maritime Committee to meet in 2016 to make proposals for appropriate amendments to the Annexes to Convention No. 185 with a view to their submission for adoption by the Conference, in accordance with Article 8(1) of Convention No. 185.¹³ The Ad Hoc Tripartite Maritime Committee will meet in February 2016, immediately after the second meeting of the STC. In March 2015, the Governing Body also decided to place on the agenda of the Conference at its 105th Session (2016) an item entitled “Amendment of the annexes to the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)”.¹⁴ It is proposed to treat this item in a similar manner to the proposed amendments to the Code of the MLC, 2006, in that only a short sitting of the Conference would be necessary and the setting up of a separate Conference Committee would not be required. While the relevant provisions of Convention No. 185, unlike those of the MLC, 2006, do not exclude a substantive discussion by the Conference of the proposed amendments, such a discussion is not necessarily required. As the 2016 session of the Conference is not a Maritime Session, it would seem logical for the Conference’s role to be limited to approving (or rejecting) the amendments proposed by the Ad Hoc Tripartite Maritime Committee.
11. In light of the above, it is proposed that the Governing Body provisionally place the approval of the proposed amendments to the Code of the MLC, 2006, on the agenda of the 105th Session (June 2016) of the Conference, subject to the adoption of any amendments by the STC in February 2016.¹⁵ As this would be the second maritime item placed on the agenda of the same session of the Conference, it is proposed that those two items be merged into one agenda item on maritime questions, which would comprise two sub-items, one concerning the adoption of amendments to the annexes to Convention No. 185 and the other the approval of amendments to the Code of the MLC, 2006.

¹¹ MLC, 2006, Article XV, para. 5.

¹² At its first meeting in April 2014, the STC adopted amendments to the Code relating to Regulations 2.5 and 4.2 of the MLC, 2006. These amendments were transmitted by the Governing Body to the Conference at its 103rd Session (2014). No provision was made to set up a separate Conference committee. On 10 June 2014, the plenary session of the Conference took note of the report of the Chairperson of the STC, to which the amendments adopted by the STC were appended. On 11 June 2014, the Conference approved the amendments; see GB.320/PV and GB.320/INS/2, para. 42(b).

¹³ Article 8(1) of the Convention reads: “Subject to the relevant provisions of this Convention, amendments to the Annexes may be made by the International Labour Conference, acting on the advice of a duly constituted tripartite maritime body of the International Labour Organization. The decision shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast by the delegates present at the Conference, including at least half the Members that have ratified this Convention.”

¹⁴ GB.323/PV, para. 360(c); see also GB.323/LILS/4.

¹⁵ Similar arrangements were followed in the case of the first group of amendments examined by the STC; see GB.322/PV, para. 42(b).

B. Implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda (2017–19)

Flexibility in the setting of the Conference agenda for 2017, 2018 and 2019

12. When it adopted the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda at its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Governing Body agreed that a number of elements should be taken into account in coordinating to the fullest extent possible the agendas of the Conference sessions in the lead-up to the centenary session in 2019.¹⁶ The strategic focus involved in this approach would help to enhance linkages between the relevant sessions of the Conference, as well as between the setting of the Conference agenda and, on the one hand, the Strategic Plan 2018–21 and, on the other, the implementation of the seven centenary initiatives.¹⁷ The follow-up to the evaluation by the Conference in 2016 of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration would also need to be taken into account.¹⁸ In this respect, ensuring tripartite ownership and retaining sufficient flexibility in the selection of Conference agenda items is vital. It is also important to ensure that the approach is anchored in a clear understanding of the appropriate division of work between the various actors and that it takes into account the need to address topical or emerging issues, as well as the requirement for adequate preparation time, particularly for standard-setting items.¹⁹
13. In considering the setting of agenda items for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference, it will be necessary to assess the implications of:²⁰ (i) the discussions and outcomes of the 104th Session (2015) of the Conference, and particularly the discussion of the Director-General's Report on the future of work centenary initiative and the outcomes of the recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection) and of the general discussion on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and decent and productive employment creation; (ii) the anticipated decision by the United Nations General Assembly on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (iii) the experience of the two-week session of the Conference in 2015.²¹ These matters are being examined as separate items on the agenda of the Governing Body and the corresponding discussions will undoubtedly provide further clarity with regard to the setting of the Conference agenda.

¹⁶ GB.322/PV, para. 17(2).

¹⁷ In addition to the future of work initiative, the centenary initiatives comprise the governance initiative, the standards initiative, the green initiative, the enterprises initiative, the end to poverty initiative and the women at work initiative.

¹⁸ The Employer members emphasized that "... the Strategic Policy Framework 2018–21 should be used as the basis for deciding on the Conference agenda. The 2016 evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration, the other centenary initiatives and the post-2015 development agenda could be fed into the Strategic Policy Framework" (GB.323/PV, para. 5).

¹⁹ GB.323/INS/2, para. 31; GB.322/INS/2, para. 16(c).

²⁰ See the procedural roadmap presented in March 2015; GB.323/INS/2, para. 32.

²¹ In this regard see GB.325/WP/GBC. In March 2015, different views were expressed with regard to the setting of the Conference agenda in the context of the two-week session in June 2015; GB.323/PV, paras 5 (Employers' group), 7 (Workers' group) and 8 (IMEC).

First stage of the procedural roadmap for the setting of the Conference agenda

Outcomes of the 104th Session (June 2015) of the Conference

Discussion of the Report of the Director-General on the future of work centenary initiative

- 14.** The Report of the Director-General to the 104th Session of the Conference (2015) outlined a three-stage process for the implementation of the future of work centenary initiative, culminating in the 108th Session (2019). In that regard, “[i]t would seem appropriate to give over a large part, or all, of this centenary Conference agenda to the initiative, within the limits set by the Constitution and other necessary work.” The Report emphasizes that “... decisions on the organization of the 108th Session (2019) of the Conference should be guided principally by the need to ensure that the key objective of generating concrete guidance for the future direction of the ILO in its second centenary is met. With this in mind, a crucial question is whether the Conference should adopt a solemn ‘Centenary Declaration’”.²² This process received broad endorsement during the 2015 session of the Conference, when views on its implications for the setting of the Conference agenda were expressed.²³ Some proposals were made for a Centenary Declaration to be prepared through a first discussion at the 107th Session (2018). Broad support for the idea that a major part of the agenda of the 2019 centenary session should be devoted to consideration of the issues arising out of the future of work centenary initiative has also been expressed in the Governing Body.²⁴
- 15.** The discussion of the Director-General’s Report highlighted that it will be necessary to retain as much flexibility as possible in the selection of Conference agenda items in the lead-up to the 2019 centenary session. It will therefore be necessary for the Governing Body to keep under review the consequences of the future of work centenary initiative for the setting of the Conference agenda, not only for the centenary session, but also for earlier sessions.²⁵

The recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection) and the general discussion on SMEs and decent and productive employment creation

- 16.** Joint consideration of the agendas of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference should also be reinforced through appropriate linkages with the discussions and outcomes of its 2015 and 2016 sessions.²⁶ Both the conclusions concerning the recurrent discussion

²² ILO: *The future of work centenary initiative*, Report of the Director-General, Report I, International Labour Conference, 104th Session, Geneva, 2015, paras 12–19.

²³ See the statement by the Chairperson of the Employers’ group: “The Employers ... consider that a full discussion on the future of work could very usefully take place at an earlier session of the Conference – in 2017, for example” (*Provisional Record* No. 7, p. 2); see also the statement by the Chairperson of the Workers’ group: “It would be premature to decide now whether all or a large part of the 2019 Conference agenda would have to be dedicated to the future of work initiative. However, we would not support a Conference which would only have one general discussion on the future of work ...” (*Provisional Record* No. 7, p. 3).

²⁴ GB.323/INS/2, para. 29.

²⁵ GB.323/INS/15/2 and GB.325/INS/15/2.

²⁶ GB.323/INS/2, para. 9.

on social protection (labour protection) and those concerning SMEs and decent and productive employment creation call for action by the ILO to establish coordination and ensure that the outcomes of these discussions feed into the preparation of the 2016 general discussion on decent work in global supply chains.²⁷

17. There are at present no other immediate implications for the Conference agenda, although further elements may arise from the Governing Body's discussion at its current session of the follow-up to both discussions.²⁸ In particular, the follow-up to the conclusions concerning the recurrent discussion should be borne in mind in the context of the effective protection of workers in non-standard forms of employment, which has been identified as a priority for ILO action towards more inclusive and effective labour protection.²⁹ This topic is one of the options for future sessions of the Conference that has been temporarily removed from consideration by the Governing Body until such time as it is deemed ready to be considered for inclusion in the Conference agenda.³⁰

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

18. At its current session, the Governing Body is examining a progress report on the decision by the General Assembly on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The discussion of that report should provide further clarity regarding the implications of that decision for the setting of the Conference agenda.³¹ The proposed item on development cooperation has been revised to take into account the new sustainable development framework.
19. The adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the General Assembly is an important element to be taken into consideration in the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda. The follow-up to the centenary initiatives, presented at the 322nd Session (November 2014) of the Governing Body, highlighted the significance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the end of poverty centenary initiative. However, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also have clear links with several other centenary initiatives.³²

²⁷ ILO: Resolution concerning small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation, para. 20(e); resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection), para. 20(f), International Labour Conference, 104th Session, Geneva, 2015.

²⁸ GB.325/INS/5/2 and GB.323/INS/5/1.

²⁹ ILO: Resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection), para. 21(c), International Labour Conference, 104th Session, Geneva, 2015.

³⁰ See below, para. 31 (GB.322/PV, para. 17(3)(c), and GB.322/INS/2, para. 27).

³¹ GB.325/INS/6. Consideration will need to be given to the outcome of two major events related to the decision of the General Assembly: the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, 13–16 July 2015); and the Twenty-first Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris, 30 November–11 December 2015). The outcome of the 2016 evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration will also be relevant in defining the ILO's role in the multilateral system, including the United Nations system.

³² GB.323/INS/2, paras 21–25; GB.322/PV, para. 9 (Workers' group); GB.322/INS/2, para. 14; and GB.322/INS/13/2, para. 7.

20. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs provides an important opportunity to maximize the ILO's contribution to ending world poverty, based on its constitutional mandate and the unique advantage of its tripartite structure and standards system. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs mark a paradigm shift for development and create universal responsibilities for their implementation in both developing and developed countries. In March 2015, in the context of the Governing Body's discussion of the Conference agenda, it was suggested that the Conference might hold a broad discussion of the ILO's role in promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which could include both the end of poverty theme and the topic of development cooperation, which is currently addressed by a specific proposal for the Conference agenda. A Conference debate, in the form of a general discussion of the ILO's role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, would need to be framed in terms of the United Nations follow-up plan.³³
21. It should be noted with regard to this possible item that the intention of the Director-General is that the theme of his Report to the 105th Session of the Conference (2016) will be the end to poverty centenary initiative, which includes the employment and social protection components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of its objective. It can therefore be anticipated that constituents will have significant opportunity to express their views on that agenda in the course of the Conference's plenary debates in 2016.

Next stages of the procedural roadmap

22. In light of the above, the situation with regard to the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda continues to depend on new developments and the outcome of forthcoming discussions.³⁴
23. With regard to coherence with the Strategic Plan 2018–21, it will be necessary to ensure that the approach to the setting of the Conference agenda in the lead-up to 2019 is consistent with the key results to be achieved during that planning period and the corresponding strategies. The process of setting the Conference agenda is based on many of the same guidelines and drivers that are likely to determine the identification of a set of outcomes for 2018–21, including the implementation of the centenary initiatives, the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration and decisions arising from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.³⁵ Progress in the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2018–21, which will be submitted to the Governing Body in November 2016, together with a preview of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2018–19, will bring further clarity regarding the linkages to be established with the setting of the Conference agenda and will ensure that the two processes are mutually reinforcing.
24. The discussion at the present session of the Governing Body of the annual progress report on the implementation of the centenary initiatives should further inform consideration of

³³ GB.323/INS/2, para. 25. Such a debate would presumably address in particular the implications of the follow-up and would review implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the global indicator framework to be agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission by March 2016.

³⁴ GB.323/PV, para. 8 (IMEC). See also Appendix II. The elements presented in March 2015 on the linkages between the setting of the Conference agenda and other processes are therefore still relevant; see GB.323/INS/2, paras 17–29.

³⁵ GB.320/PFA/3.

the linkages between that process and the setting of the Conference agenda.³⁶ In addition to the end of poverty and future of work initiatives, the following should be noted:

- *The governance initiative:* The outcome of the June 2016 evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration and the follow-up discussion at the November 2016 session of the Governing Body will have implications for the setting of the Conference agenda beyond 2017,³⁷ particularly in relation to the modalities of the recurrent discussions.³⁸
- *The standards initiative:* Progress in the implementation of the initiative should add clarity regarding coordination between the Standards Review Mechanism and the identification and selection of standard-setting items on the Conference agenda. In addition, the possible entry into force of the 1997 Instrument of Amendment of the ILO Constitution, which would enable the ILO to abrogate obsolete Conventions, would have an impact on the Conference agenda.³⁹
- *The enterprises initiative:* Further elements may arise from the progress report on the implementation of this initiative, to be presented at the 326th Session (March 2016) of the Governing Body,⁴⁰ and from the outcome of the 2016 general discussion on decent work in global supply chains.⁴¹
- *The green initiative:* The October 2015 Meeting of Experts on Sustainable Development, Decent Work and Green Jobs is linked to one of the options for future sessions of the Conference: transition of the world of work to a low-carbon economy.

³⁶ GB.325/INS/15/2.

³⁷ See Appendix II.

³⁸ See GB.322/PV, paras 9 (Workers' group) and 11 (IMEC).

³⁹ Only one additional ratification is required for the entry into force of the 1997 Instrument. Once it has entered into force, the Governing Body will be able to place on the agenda of the Conference an item on the abrogation of a Convention under the procedural guarantees established in article 5.4 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body: "When an item to be placed on the agenda of the Conference concerns the abrogation of a Convention in force or the withdrawal of a Convention that is not in force or of a Recommendation, the Office shall place before the Governing Body a report containing all relevant information which the Office possesses on this subject. [... The decision of the Governing Body] shall as far as possible be reached by consensus or, if such a consensus cannot be reached in two successive sessions of the Governing Body, by a four-fifths majority of members of the Governing Body with a right to vote during the second of these sessions". See also GB.323/PV, para. 325 (Employers' group); GB.323/LILS/2, paras 4 and 12; and GB.320/PV, para. 571 (Employers' group).

⁴⁰ GB.322/INS/13/2, para. 6.

⁴¹ See also the statement by the Chairperson of the Workers' group at the 323rd Session (March 2015): "Noting that in 2016 there would be a general discussion on decent work in global supply chains, and 2017 would mark the 40th anniversary of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, he said that the ILO should, in the context of the enterprises initiative, aim to relaunch that Declaration and conduct a robust follow-up" (GB.323/PV, para. 7).

This is one of the subjects that have been temporarily removed from consideration by the Governing Body pending further work by the Office.⁴²

- *The women at work initiative*: The Governing Body is invited at its present session to give consideration to the selection of the proposed item on violence against women and men in the world of work with a view to standard setting.

The three items currently proposed

25. A third technical item is to be selected for the 2017 session of the Conference in addition to the two that have already been retained: decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience: Revision of the Employment (Transition from War to Peace) Recommendation, 1944 (No. 71), second discussion; and the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration. The three proposals under consideration, from which one should be chosen, are:

- (i) violence against women and men in the world of work, either as standard setting, double discussion (Appendix III, section 1), or as a general discussion;
- (ii) labour migration (general discussion) (Appendix III, section 2);
- (iii) effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (general discussion) (Appendix III, section 3).⁴³

26. In addition to the need for flexibility in setting the Conference agenda, constituents have also emphasized, in discussions on the reform of the Conference, that the timing of final decisions on the Conference agenda should take into account the need for adequate preparation time. This is particularly the case for standard-setting items, the preparatory stages of which are governed by specific time frames set out in the Standing Orders of the Conference. The double discussion procedure over two consecutive sessions of the Conference should remain the norm when setting standards.⁴⁴

27. In the March 2015 session of the Governing Body, there was recognition of the importance of the proposed item on violence against women and men and its relevance to the implementation of the women at work centenary initiative.⁴⁵ Further clarity was however requested by some members concerning the nature of the proposed standard. The revised proposal aims at providing the requested additional information on a standard-setting item on violence at work against women and men. The Governing Body may therefore wish to consider placing this proposed item on the agenda of the 106th Session (2017) of the Conference as a standard-setting item, for a first discussion, pursuant to the provisions on the preparatory stages of the double discussion procedure contained in article 39 of the Standing Orders of the Conference or alternatively for a general discussion.

⁴² See GB.323/PV, para. 7 (Workers' group); GB.322/INS/2, para. 25; GB.322/PV, paras 8 (Employers' group) and 9 (Workers' group); and GB.320/INS/2, para. 28.

⁴³ As indicated above, the proposed item on "Effective ILO development cooperation in a changing global context (general discussion)" has been revised to take into account developments regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁴⁴ GB.322/INS/2, para. 22; see also GB.319/WP/GBC, para. 15.

⁴⁵ GB.323/PV, paras 5 (Employers' group), 6 (Workers' group), 8 (IMEC), 11 (France), 12 (United States), 14 (Brazil) and 15 (Mexico).

28. Given the broad and continuous support expressed for the topic, the Governing Body may also wish to consider selecting the proposed item on labour migration with a view to a general discussion in either 2017 or 2018, in light of the pressing need to improve migration governance at national, bilateral, regional and interregional levels, including regulation of labour recruitment and placement services to prevent malpractices and serious abuses.⁴⁶ The discussion of the Report of the Director-General to the Conference in 2015 also emphasized the importance of this topic in considering the future of work initiative.
29. Support has also been expressed for a proposed item on development cooperation with a view to a general discussion.⁴⁷ This proposal has been readjusted to take into account the new framework set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Before considering its placement on the agenda of the Conference, the Governing Body may wish to decide whether development cooperation should be a stand-alone item for 2017, or should be integrated into a broader discussion of the end of poverty initiative⁴⁸ or of the ILO's role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The fact that the end to poverty initiative will be the subject of the Director-General's Report to the Conference in 2016 should further be borne in mind.

Highlighting possible specific topics for future sessions

30. It will be recalled that, following the discussion in November 2014, four subjects were temporarily removed from consideration by the Governing Body until such time as they were deemed ready for further discussion, perhaps in the context of the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach.⁴⁹ The Office has taken note of the expressions of support for some of these subjects and will follow them up in due course.⁵⁰
31. In March 2015, two new options were mentioned as possible topics for Conference discussions: the relationships between employment and social protection; and inequality and the world of work.⁵¹ Further work will be carried out on these two new topics with a view to their consideration for the Conference agenda. A proposal has also been received for the Conference agenda with a view to standard setting to ensure the independence,

⁴⁶ GB.323/PV, paras 5 (Employers' group), 6 (Workers' group), 8 (IMEC), 10 (Turkey), 14 (Brazil) and 15 (Mexico); and GB.322/PV, paras 9 (Workers' group) and 15 (Turkey).

⁴⁷ GB.323/PV, paras 5 (Employers' group), 8 (IMEC), 10 (Turkey), 13 (Japan) and 14 (Brazil); and GB.322/PV, paras 12 (France), 14 (Japan) and 15 (Turkey).

⁴⁸ GB.323/PV, para. 14 (Brazil).

⁴⁹ These four subjects were the resolution of labour disputes, the transition of the world of work to a low-carbon economy, non-standard forms of employment and long-term unemployment.

⁵⁰ Particular interest was expressed in the following subjects: (i) resolution of labour disputes (GB.323/PV, para. 13 (Japan), and GB.322/PV, paras 13 (Canada) and 14 (Japan)); (ii) the transition to a low-carbon economy (GB.323/PV, para. 7 (Workers' group), and GB.322/PV, para. 9 (Workers' group)); (iii) non-standard forms of employment (GB.323/PV, para. 13 (Japan); and GB.322/PV, para. 9 (Workers' group)); and, for a more general comment, GB.322/PV, para. 8 (Employers' group). As noted above, the topics relating to the transition to a low-carbon economy and non-standard forms of employment are addressed under other processes which may feed into the setting of the Conference agenda.

⁵¹ GB.323/INS/2, para. 23.

impartiality and protection of certain categories of public service workers, notably through the fight against corruption.⁵² The proposal, which includes a request for the subject to be first considered through a study and/or a meeting of experts, is currently being examined by the Office.

C. Updated procedural roadmap for the setting of the Conference agenda

32. The procedural roadmap for a coherent and strategic approach to the setting of the Conference agenda from 2017 to 2019, presented in March 2015, aims to bring clarity to the agenda-setting process and, on that basis, to build effective tripartite engagement. An important aspect of this approach is that constituents continue to put forward proposals for future Conference agenda items.⁵³

33. The updated proposal for the procedural roadmap is as follows:

- 326th Session (March 2016): The Governing Body would continue to monitor the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the Conference agenda in light of developments, including the discussions and decisions of the present session (November 2015), particularly with regard to the implementation of the centenary initiatives, and will ensure coordination between the process of setting the Conference agenda and the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2018–21.
- November 2016: The Governing Body would continue the process of setting the agenda for the 2018 and 2019 sessions of the Conference and, in that context, would assess the implications of: (i) the outcomes of the evaluation by the Conference in 2016 of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration and of the general discussion on decent work in global supply chains; and (ii) progress in the implementation of the seven centenary initiatives, including the standards initiative and the first stage of the implementation of the future of work initiative. It would also address the issue of coordination between the setting of the Conference agenda for 2018 and 2019 and the new Strategic Plan 2018–21, which will also be examined by the Governing Body in November 2016, together with a preview of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2018–19.
- March 2017: The Governing Body would complete the agenda for the 2018 session of the Conference and continue to consider the agenda of the 2019 centenary session, focusing on progress in implementing the seven centenary initiatives, including possible completion of the first stage of implementation of the future of work initiative and the launching of the second stage; coordination will be ensured with the Director-General’s Programme and Budget proposals for 2018–19.
- November 2017: The Governing Body would assess the implications for the setting of the Conference agenda of: (i) the outcome of the discussions at the 106th Session (2017) of the Conference, including the second recurrent discussion on fundamental

⁵² This proposal was made by Public Services International. Under article 14, para. 1, of the Constitution: “The agenda for all meetings of the Conference will be settled by the Governing Body, which shall consider any suggestion as to the agenda that may be made by the government of any of the Members or by any representative organization recognized for the purpose of article 3, or by any public international organization.”

⁵³ GB.323/INS/2, para. 32.

principles and rights at work; (ii) the stocktaking undertaken within the framework of the women at work initiative; and (iii) progress in the implementation of the future of work initiative. The agenda of the 2019 centenary session would be the main focus of attention.

- March 2018: The Governing Body would continue to provide guidance on the agenda of the 2019 centenary session of the Conference.

Draft decision

34. The Governing Body decides:

- (a) *to complete the agenda of the 2017 session of the Conference by selecting one of the following items for inclusion:*
 - (i) *“Violence against women and men in the world of work”, either as standard setting (double discussion) or as a general discussion; or*
 - (ii) *labour migration (general discussion).*
- (b) *to provisionally place an item on the approval of the proposed amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, on the agenda of the 105th Session (June 2016) of the Conference, subject to the submission of any amendments adopted by the Special Tripartite Committee in February 2016, along with the adoption of amendments to the annexes to the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), as proposed by the Ad Hoc Tripartite Maritime Committee in February 2016;*
- (c) *to provide guidance on:*
 - (i) *the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach to the setting of the agenda for the 106th (2017), 107th (2018) and 108th (2019) Sessions of the Conference, including consideration of a possible Centenary Declaration;*
 - (ii) *the action to be taken with regard to the item on “Effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals” (general discussion);*
 - (iii) *the action to be taken with regard to the item not retained for selection on the agenda of the 2017 session.*

Appendix I

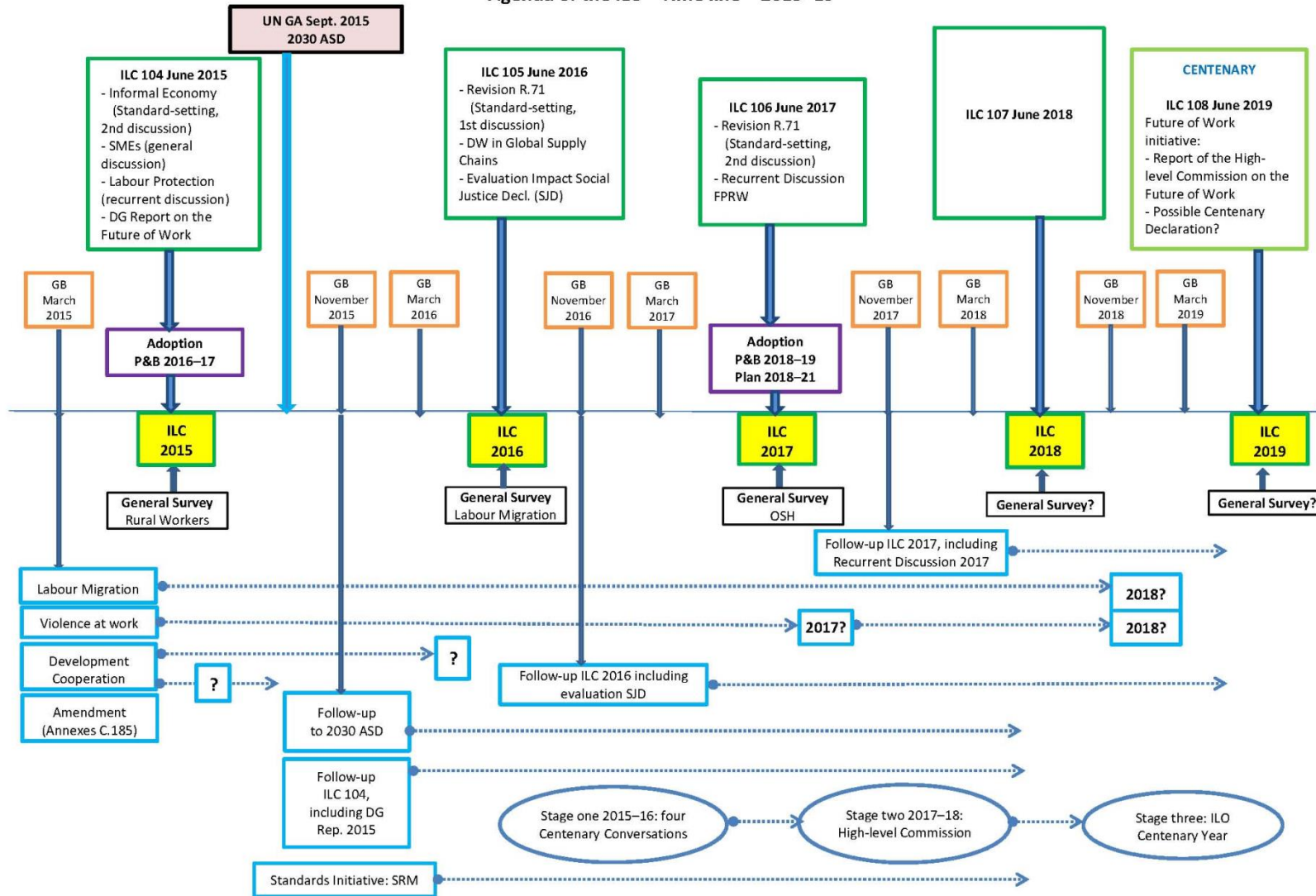
Overview of the technical items selected for the Conference agenda (2010–19)

Session	Technical items			
99th (2010)	Decent work for domestic workers – standard setting, double discussion (first discussion).	Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on HIV/AIDS in the world of work – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion).	A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of employment, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.	Review of the follow-up to the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
100th (2011)	Decent work for domestic workers – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion).	Labour administration and labour inspection – general discussion.	A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (social security), under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.	
101st (2012)	Elaboration of an autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor – standard setting, single discussion.	Youth employment crisis – general discussion.	A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration and the follow-up (revised, June 2010) to the 1998 Declaration.	
102nd (2013)	Employment and social protection in the new demographic context – general discussion.	Sustainable development, decent work and green jobs – general discussion.	A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social dialogue, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.	Further review of remaining measures previously adopted by the Conference under article 33 of the ILO Constitution to secure compliance by Myanmar with recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on forced labour.
103rd (2014)	Supplementing Convention No. 29, to address implementation gaps to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, to effectively achieve the elimination of forced labour – standard setting, single discussion.	Facilitating transitions from the informal to the formal economy – standard setting, double discussion (first discussion).	Second recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of employment, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.	Approval of amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as adopted by the Special Tripartite Committee established under Article XIII of the Convention.
104th (2015)	The transition from the informal to the formal economy – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion).	Small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation – general discussion.	A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (labour protection), under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.	
105th (2016)	Decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience: Revision of Recommendation No. 71 – standard setting, double discussion (first discussion).	Decent work in global supply chains – general discussion.	Evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration.	Amendment of the annexes to the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)

Session	Technical items	
106th (2017) (To be completed)	Decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience: Revision of Recommendation No. 71 – standard setting, double discussion (second discussion).	A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work, under the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration.
2018 and 2019 (To be completed)		

Appendix II

Agenda of the ILC – Time line – 2015–19



Appendix III

Three proposed items for the agenda of future sessions of the Conference

1. ***Violence against women and men in the world of work*** (standard setting, double discussion)

Nature and context of the proposed item

1. This proposal has its origins in the resolution concerning gender equality at the heart of decent work, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 98th Session (2009), which calls for the prohibition of gender-based violence in the workplace and for policies, programmes, legislation and other measures to be implemented to prevent it. The proposal was first submitted to the 316th Session (November 2012) of the Governing Body under the title “Gender-based violence in the world of work”. At that session, a number of Government members expressed general support for an instrument on violence that went beyond gender-based violence. As a result, the title of the proposal was changed to “Violence against women and men in the world of work”. The proposal has also been considered by the Governing Body at its 319th, 320th, 322nd and 323rd Sessions, further clarifications have been sought from the Office and momentum has increased among constituents for its selection.
2. At its 323rd Session, the Governing Body expressed considerable support for the proposal. The Workers’ group reiterated its support for a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation. The Government representative of Norway confirmed IMEC’s support for the agenda item, noting that it would fit well with the women at work initiative, and looked forward to further consultations on the format of the item. The Government representative of the United States voiced strong support, emphasizing gender-based violence as the most prevalent human rights violation globally. The Government representatives of France and Mexico also expressed support for standard setting on the issue. Further clarity was requested by the Government representative of Kenya on behalf of the Africa group concerning the type and nature of the standard, and the Employers’ group called for additional preparation due to the importance of the issue, discussion of its scope and definition and analysis of the need for a labour standard. This new proposal aims to address these requests.
3. Decent work cannot exist in an environment of violence. Support for addressing violence in the world of work has been building at the international level, as well as within the ILO. The issue was also highlighted at the 104th Session of the Conference in June 2015, both in the resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection) and in the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204). The issue is central to the centenary initiative on women at work, as violence is a major obstacle to decent work for women and men. The proposal is also timely as it speaks to proposed Sustainable Development Goal 5.2, which calls on governments to “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres ...”, as well as to proposed Goal 8.5, which calls for full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.
4. At the national level, there has been wide recognition for some time of sexual harassment as a significant workplace issue. More recently, there has also been growing recognition of the pervasiveness of other forms of violence in the world of work and the need to address all of them. Violence in the world of work can take many forms, and can include a range of manifestations, including physical violence, sexual and other forms of harassment,

bullying, mobbing and psychological violence. In view of the emergence of new forms of violence, such as online violence, an increasing number of countries are defining their policies and prohibitions in broad terms to encompass both current and emerging forms of violence. While there is no universal definition of violence in the world of work, comprehensive definitions may cover actions, incidents and/or behaviour that depart from reasonable conduct in which a person is assaulted, threatened, harmed, injured, degraded and/or humiliated in the course of, or as a direct result of, his or her work. Some definitions are broad enough to cover acts that happen outside the workplace, in circumstances related to work, including commuting. Definitions normally include violence perpetrated by co-workers, including against managers, and can extend to external violence or violence perpetrated by third parties, such as customers, patients or clients.

5. Countries are increasingly legislating against violence through occupational safety and health (OSH) legislation to emphasize prevention and provide access to remedies. Broader legislation is increasingly being introduced which places emphasis on prevention at the organizational level. Legislation has also been introduced in a number of countries addressing violence as a discrimination issue that undermines women's economic empowerment, as well as the rights of specific groups of workers. Some countries have chosen to adopt specific legislation on violence or on specific types of harassment in particular settings. Violence is also addressed through labour protection laws, and well-established mechanisms exist in some countries for reporting and resolution of complaints. Prevention, often through systematic workplace risk assessments, followed by the development of policies, procedures and work environment arrangements to eliminate risks, is also emerging as an essential means of combating violence.

Constituents' needs and realities in light of the ILO's strategic objectives

6. The issue of violence in the world of work is increasingly being recognized as a major challenge that needs to be addressed, both as a rights issue and as a workplace efficiency issue. The increased national attention on the issue acknowledges the high cost for workers, employers and society in general. It is a violation of human rights, affects the dignity of workers and can lead to significant stress, loss of motivation and heightened vulnerability to HIV infection, accidents, disability and even death. The impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces is also an area of research which points to costs for employers, with a potential negative "spillover" impact.
7. Violence disproportionately affects women, as well as specific groups that are particularly vulnerable to discrimination, and severely undermines their economic empowerment. It disproportionately affects migrant and domestic workers, as well as workers in certain sectors and jobs, including those who work in health care and community care, social services, retail, hospitality, financial institutions, education, transportation, and police, security and correctional institutions. For enterprises, violence leads to lower productivity, increased health care and long-term rehabilitation costs, increased absenteeism, higher turnover, loss of skills and reputational risks. Social dialogue, including collective bargaining, has been recognized, among others, as a relevant means of addressing these issues. Collective agreements, which can be national or industry or sector specific, often improve the efficiency of responses to threats of workplace violence. Some jurisdictions have mandated that provisions prohibiting violence are to be contained in all collective agreements.

Added value of standard setting with reference to the existing body of standards

8. While a range of ILO standards and guidance¹ address certain aspects of violence at work, including with respect to discrimination, forced labour, child labour, freedom of association, labour inspection, indigenous and tribal peoples, migrant workers and domestic workers, important gaps remain. Although a number of Conventions and Recommendations implicitly or explicitly cover certain limited forms of violence in the world of work, there is no internationally agreed definition or clear framework for addressing the issue in relation to the world of work. There is no comprehensive international standard, within or outside the ILO, that provides clarity on the scope and responsibilities regarding this subject.
9. The proposed instrument(s) could address this major gap by setting international minimum standards on violence in the world of work, which would supplement the existing body of instruments.
10. The promotion of laws and policies to prevent and protect against harassment and other forms of violence in the world of work, and the establishment of complaints and monitoring mechanisms to protect workers, are an integral part of the ILO's mandate.

Expected outcome

11. The proposed instrument(s) could take the form of a Convention and a Recommendation, or a comprehensive Recommendation.
12. A new Convention could outline in definitional form the nature of violence in the world of work and determine internationally recognized forms and the scope of such violence. It could set out broad principles for addressing and preventing such violence, including through legislation, policies and collective bargaining. Given the nature of the issues covered, clear access to justice mechanisms should be supported by other means, such as education and awareness raising for perpetrators, victims and other stakeholders, and dispute resolution mechanisms, which would give voice to victims. The instrument could specify groups of workers that are most at risk, as well as those in at-risk industries, occupations and conditions. It could set out the specific roles and responsibilities of governments, employers, workers and their organizations, as well as the role of social dialogue and collective bargaining at each stage. In addition, considering that many countries do not mainstream gender in the collection and dissemination of official statistics, or collect or report basic statistics on violence, the instrument could address the systematic collection of statistics on violence in the world of work, disaggregated by sex.
13. A new Recommendation, either as an instrument complementing the Convention or as a stand-alone instrument, could provide detailed guidance, such as the forms that legislation could take and the role of different types of legislation, including OSH legislation, labour law, harassment legislation, discrimination legislation and criminal law, as well as the roles of the various institutions. It could provide guidance on more specific policies and regulations that could be implemented by governments, employers, workers and their organizations for prevention and reduction, such as workplace risk assessments, the role of labour inspectors in ensuring effective compliance, the role of the burden of proof, and regulation to ensure confidentiality in reporting mechanisms. It could also address the implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks on violence through gender-sensitive

¹ Examples include: the 2001 Guidance for the prevention of stress and violence at the workplace; the 2003 code of practice on workplace violence in services sectors and measures to combat this phenomenon; and the 2002 Framework guidelines for addressing workplace violence in the health sector.

labour administrations, labour inspectorates, courts and other dispute resolution mechanisms.

14. The instrument(s) would provide a solid foundation for policy development and action by governments, employers and workers and their organizations, and would provide support for States in meeting obligations arising under the ILO Constitution and the Decent Work Agenda.

Preparation of the Conference discussion

15. Preparation would be undertaken in coordination with work to address gender equality and non-discrimination, identified as a cross-cutting issue in the Social Justice Declaration and a cross-cutting policy driver in the context of the Programme and Budget for 2016–17. Work in this area is also key to ILO action on protecting workers against unacceptable forms of work, and the women at work centenary initiative. The preparatory work would be informed by a detailed law and practice report, studies of good practices and data collection, as well as broad consultations with constituents, across the United Nations system and with other stakeholders.

2. *Labour migration (general discussion)*

Source, nature and context of the proposed item

16. At its 320th Session (March 2014), the Governing Body requested the Office to submit to a proposal in November 2014 concerning the possibility of selecting an item relating to labour migration with a view to a general discussion at a future session of the Conference.² In the meantime, the Director-General's Report to the Conference in 2014 on setting an ILO agenda for fair migration was well received.³ In November 2014, the Governing Body examined the proposal and deferred it to its March 2015 session, when broad and continued support was expressed for the selection of the item for discussion in 2018.⁴ This was deemed particularly important in view of the preparations and discussion of the future of work centenary initiative in 2019.
17. The proposal takes into account the conclusions adopted by the Conference in 2004,⁵ and the tripartite meeting of experts held in 2006, which adopted the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration. It also builds on the conclusions of the Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration (2013), the discussion on the Director-General's Report to the Conference in 2014 and recent Governing Body debates and decisions.⁶
18. A general discussion by the Conference could be considered in 2018 focusing on support for fair and effective governance of labour migration at the bilateral, regional and interregional levels, including fair recruitment. The Office is already undertaking work in these areas. However, there is still a need for more concerted action and further guidance

² GB.320/PV, para. 426.

³ ILO: *Fair migration: Setting an ILO agenda*, Report of the Director-General, Report 1(B), International Labour Conference, 103rd Session, Geneva, 2014.

⁴ GB.323/INS/2, Appendix III(3), paras 22–31; GB.323/PV, paras 4–18; GB.322/INS/2, Appendix II(3), paras 22–30; and GB.322/PV/, paras 8–17.

⁵ Conclusions on a fair deal for migrant workers in a global economy, which include an ILO plan of action for migrant workers, International Labour Conference, 92nd Session, Geneva, 2004.

⁶ TTMLM/2013/14; GB.316/PV, paras 328–352; GB.317/PV, paras 273–279; GB.319/PV, paras 341–352.

from constituents on the protection of migrant workers and the governance of labour migration in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

19. The proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants” as a target in Goal 8, which also refers to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all.⁷ In his Synthesis Report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General emphasizes that migrants belong to those groups who must not be left behind.⁸ Furthermore, there are clear linkages with the end of poverty and the future of work initiatives, with the latter likely to frame the discussions at the centenary session of the Conference in 2019, as well as with other proposed Conference agenda items.

Constituents’ needs and realities in light of the ILO strategic objectives

20. At the 103rd Session (2014) of the Conference, many governments and employers’ and workers’ organizations emphasized the importance of regulating recruitment and placement services to prevent malpractices and serious abuses of migrant workers’ rights, and of ensuring a greater role for the social partners in migration-related policy decisions. Bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding have been adopted by a large number of countries in important migration corridors, while labour mobility is a growing feature and governance challenge for most regional integration processes. Many countries, which were formerly countries of origin, are now also countries of destination, while cross-border labour flows, especially in the global South, have intensified over the past decade. Increased support was expressed for a Conference discussion of these issues during the November 2014 session of the Governing Body.
21. The proposed general discussion would build on the ILO Agenda for Fair Migration, which was endorsed by the Conference in 2014, and the ILO’s work as Chair of the Global Migration Group in 2014, in particular the ILO Fair Recruitment Initiative under the Task Force on Migration and Decent Work, and its collaboration with the World Bank Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD). The Fair Recruitment Initiative seeks to foster strong partnership with workers’ and employers’ organizations, and is developing and testing innovative practices in pilot countries with a view to improving the implementation of international labour standards in the recruitment of migrant workers. The joint ILO/World Bank initiative under KNOMAD seeks to measure and reduce the cost of labour migration for migrant workers through the development of practical guidance on how to improve their protection through bilateral labour migration agreements. The ILO is also supporting tripartite processes on labour mobility in regional economic integration frameworks, including in the context of the Ouagadougou +10 Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, the Southern African Development Community, the Labour Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic Community of West African States. These efforts address key priorities identified by the ILO Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration (2013), the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in October 2013, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Secretary-General’s eight-point agenda for action “Making migration work”. The general discussion would benefit from the results of the capacity-building work carried out by the Office to help the social partners engage in labour migration policies at the regional level, including in the framework of outcome 9 of

⁷ See <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal.html> (target 8.8).

⁸ United Nations: *The road to dignity by 2030: Ending poverty, transforming lives and protecting the planet*, Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General, 2014, para. 51.

the Programme and Budget for 2016–17 “Promoting fair and effective labour migration policies”.

Implementation of the strategic and coherent approach and added value of a Conference discussion

22. A Conference discussion would provide an opportunity to exchange information on good practices across regions, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the ILO’s work and propose additional tools and guidance for the implementation of the ILO Fair Migration Agenda, including governance at the bilateral and regional levels and in migrant worker recruitment. The discussion would also draw on the General Survey to be prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) on the ILO instruments on migrant workers and its discussion by the Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) at the Conference in 2016.⁹

Expected outcome

23. The proposed general discussion would provide guidance to strengthen the ILO’s work and impact in the field of labour mobility and the recruitment of migrant workers. It would also enhance the capacity of ministries of labour and workers’ and employers’ organizations to influence policy discussions and engage in the promotion of fair migration. Possible follow-up action by the Conference and the Governing Body could include the development of a framework for fair migration providing specific guidance on how to support fair bilateral, regional and interregional arrangements and cooperation on labour migration, mobility and fair recruitment.

Preparation of the Conference discussion

24. The Office will prepare a report drawing on the results of ongoing ILO research on bilateral, regional and interregional arrangements and cooperation, as well as the ILO Fair Recruitment Initiative, which will examine practices and challenges in five migration corridors. Discussions are under way regarding the desirability of holding a meeting of experts on fair recruitment in 2016 to build on ongoing initiatives. In 2016, the CEACR and the CAS will also provide valuable insights into the obstacles hampering the ratification and implementation of ILO standards on migrant workers. The Office will continue to facilitate interregional dialogues, based on ILO standards and values, including between a number of South-East Asian and Arab countries, and in various regional economic integration processes. The outcome of these dialogues will certainly help in the design and preparation of a more focused general discussion by the Conference.

3. *Effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (general discussion)*

Source, nature and context

25. During tripartite consultations on the Conference agenda in September 2012, the Employers’ group proposed a general discussion on technical cooperation. This proposal has been reviewed by the Governing Body at successive sessions since then and has received support from the Employers’ group and a number of governments. However, the

⁹ GB.321/PV, para. 78.

Workers' group was of the view that technical cooperation should be discussed by the Governing Body, not the Conference.¹⁰

26. In November 2014 and March 2015, the Governing Body approved a new ILO Development Cooperation Strategy for the period 2015–17. In so doing, it decided that henceforth the term “development cooperation” would be used, instead of “technical cooperation”,¹¹ and requested the Office to submit a revised Development Cooperation Strategy in November 2015. The revised strategy will incorporate the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July 2015),¹² the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of the ILO Technical Cooperation Strategy 2010–15 requested by the Governing Body, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the sustainable development framework to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.
27. ILO development cooperation can make a difference in improving people's working life. It enables the Office to enhance the capacity of constituents and support the achievement of the ILO's strategic objectives and policy outcomes. Development cooperation contributes to the implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes, flagship programmes and the centenary initiatives. Voluntary contributions from ILO development partners, as well as emerging partnerships and modalities such as South–South and triangular cooperation, are an important means of action for development cooperation.
28. The sustainable development framework will have a profound impact on ILO development cooperation, as it will in all likelihood reorient global development efforts, whether public or private, domestic or international, and include South–South and triangular cooperation, towards the universal SDGs and targets. A general discussion on development cooperation in its broader sense is therefore relevant to all the other items proposed for future Conferences.

Constituents' needs and realities in light of the ILO strategic objectives

29. The SDGs will provide the context for the formulation of national development plans, which in turn will provide the basis for the next generation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and Decent Work Country Programmes. It is therefore essential for constituents to be fully aware of the SDG framework, its means of implementation and the connection with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and global results framework. It is expected that domestic actors, civil society, local authorities, emerging economies and the private sector will play a much greater role in implementing the SDGs than was the case with the Millennium Development Goals, which were more focused on official development assistance (ODA). The SDGs integrate the three dimensions of development

¹⁰ See GB.317/INS/2(Rev.), Appendix I, paras 41–46; GB.319/INS/2, Appendix III; GB.320/INS/2, Appendix II; GB.322/INS/2, Appendix II(1), paras 1–13; GB.323/PV, paras 4–18; GB.323/INS/2, Appendix III(1), paras 1–13.

¹¹ “The change in terminology over the years from ‘aid’ to ‘technical assistance’ to ‘development cooperation’ stems from the realization that development is a complex, universal and long-term process which can succeed only if grounded on comprehensive, mutual and accountable partnerships. In addition to purely technical aspects, development cooperation encompasses, inter alia, elements of rights, dialogue, good governance, social justice, equality and capacity development.” (GB.322/POL/6).

¹² The International Conference on Financing for Development, the third after Monterrey (2002) and Doha (2008), will discuss the “means of implementation” of the future SDG framework. These include, in addition to finance, aspects such as policy change, capacity building, innovation and technology transfer.

(social, economic and environmental), while the MDGs were largely confined to the social sphere. Moreover, the MDGs applied to the developing world only, whereas the SDGs are universal in nature. Finally, the SDGs will require a broader range of means of implementation.

30. The proposed general discussion by the Conference would situate the ILO's future development cooperation in this new and fundamentally different context, and would provide the Office with guidance on how to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of its Development Cooperation Strategy. In addition, it would build on the 2016 evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration and would support the Office's efforts to strengthen results-based and integrated resource management.

Implementation of the strategic and coherent approach and added value of an examination by the Conference

31. The last general discussion by the Conference on the role of the ILO in technical cooperation was in 2006. On that occasion, the Conference adopted a resolution which called for a review of the subject five years later. This review has not yet taken place.
32. The general discussion would therefore situate the ILO's development cooperation programme within a changing internal and external context, with special emphasis on the SDG framework and its means of implementation. If scheduled in 2017, the general discussion would coincide with the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2018–21 and would provide important inputs into the centennial debate by the Conference in 2019. Development cooperation is of relevance to all ILO operational activities and therefore to any Conference discussion.

Expected outcome

33. The general discussion would review and further develop and broaden the ILO Development Cooperation Strategy beyond 2017, specifying the ILO's role in the changing development cooperation context and taking account of the sustainable development framework, new and emerging partnerships, the development effectiveness debate, the United Nations "fit for purpose" exercise and the Office's own results framework. It would recommend ways for the Office to strengthen resource mobilization, substantive development results and financial delivery, development partnership diversification, alignment with the priorities set by constituents through the Strategic Plan 2018–21, the programme and budget and Decent Work Country Programmes, reporting and visibility, development effectiveness and United Nations system-wide coherence. The strategy would be complemented by a time-bound plan of action aimed at enhancing the scope, focus, size and effectiveness of the ILO development cooperation programme in the broader sense.

Preparation of the Conference discussion

34. The report to be submitted to the Conference would be based on the internal and external reviews of ILO development effectiveness, and on a client satisfaction survey, which would enable beneficiaries, constituents, donors, partners and implementing ILO units and field offices to express their views on the relevance and effectiveness of the ILO development cooperation programme. It will benefit from a series of Governing Body discussions, such as on regional development cooperation perspectives.¹³
35. The report will be prepared by ILO regular staff and will not require additional resources.

¹³ These include discussions concerning Africa (315th Session), Asia and the Pacific (317th Session), the Americas (319th Session), Europe (320th Session) and the Arab States (322nd Session), South–South and triangular cooperation (315th and 316th Sessions), public–private partnerships (316th and 320th Sessions), technical cooperation in fragile States (320th Session) and on the ILO’s future Development Cooperation Strategy (322nd and 323rd Sessions). Moreover, the Conference report will take into account the conclusions of the 18th American Regional Meeting (October 2014) and the 13th African Regional Meeting (2015).