



Governing Body

329th Session, Geneva, 9–24 March 2017

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Institutional Section

INS

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TWENTY-FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

First report: Action to be taken regarding the establishment of the High-level Global Commission on the Future of Work

1. The Future of Work Initiative will be the centrepiece of the ILO's centenary activities. The Director-General's Report to the 2015 session of the International Labour Conference,¹ proposed a three-stage approach to implementing the Initiative: tripartite national dialogues in 2016; the establishment in 2017 of a High-level Global Commission on the Future of Work to function over a 12 to 15 month period with its report feeding into the third phase: the Centenary Session of the International Labour Conference. Constituents strongly supported the Initiative and the proposed approach.
2. The first stage of implementation is now almost complete. At the time of writing, 165 member States had responded positively to the Director-General's invitation to engage actively in the process and 93 have either held a national dialogue or participated in a subregional or regional dialogue, while several events are still to take place in the first half of 2017. The outcomes of those dialogues are being synthesized for submission to the Global Commission.
3. It is now time to constitute the Commission. Drawing on the precedent of the ILO's World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization established in 2002, it is proposed that the Director-General be authorized to constitute the Commission guided by agreed criteria as follows.
4. Its members will be eminent individuals with outstanding personal achievements and vision, participating in their individual capacity. They will need to represent a balance of geographical regions and the realities of developing, emerging and industrialized countries.

¹ ILO: *The future of work centenary initiative*, Report of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 104th Session, Geneva, 2015 (ILC.104/DG/I).

Gender balance will be a basic consideration. The ILO's tripartite constituency should find their interests represented in the Commission which should also bring together multidisciplinary perspectives and knowledge to ensure that the exercise is well rounded and relevant to the entirety of the ILO's constituency and mandate. The membership should be kept to a size that enables substantive debate among its members – pointing to a Commission of a maximum of 20 members.

5. As was the case with the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, it is proposed that the Officers of the Governing Body and the Director-General should be ex-officio members of the Global Commission.
6. The Office will provide the Secretariat for the Commission and be responsible for the provision of recurring documentation and support.
7. The Global Commission will have a life of approximately 12 to 15 months, with its report to be submitted by early 2019 providing a major resource for centenary activities in member States and culminating in the discussion on the Future of Work at the Centenary Session of the Conference in Geneva.
8. In line with the decision adopted at the 328th Session (November 2016) of the Governing Body, the Office will report to the Governing Body on the establishment and functioning of the Commission at its 331st Session (November 2017).

Draft decision

9. *On the recommendation of its Officers, the Governing Body authorizes the Director-General to finalize the composition of the High-level Global Commission on the Future of Work on the basis of the criteria outlined in document GB.329/INS/21/1 and engaging in consultations as appropriate.*