



**Report of the Chairperson of the
Governing Body to the International
Labour Conference for the year 2016–17**

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This report on the work of the Governing Body is submitted to the Conference in accordance with section 5.5.1 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. It covers the period since the last general session of the Conference (June 2016), that is the 327th (June 2016), 328th (October–November 2016) and 329th (March 2017) Sessions of the Governing Body. It focuses only on the highlights of the Governing Body’s year, on the basis of the respective agendas, and does not cover any matter otherwise before the Conference.

For more extensive and detailed information on the work of the Governing Body, including the minutes of the three sessions under consideration, and the documents submitted to the committees and to the Governing Body itself, I invite you to refer to the Governing Body website.¹

I. Institutional Section

1. Agenda of the International Labour Conference²

In 2014, the Governing Body adopted a strategic and coherent approach to setting the International Labour Conference agenda.³ On the basis of this approach, at its 328th Session, the Governing Body took a multiple decision on the agenda of the Conference. Firstly, following up on the Governance Initiative and the Conference resolution on *Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work*,⁴ the Governing Body decided⁵ to place a recurrent discussion item on the agenda of upcoming sessions of the Conference in line with the new five-year cycle of recurrent discussions, as follows:

- (i) a recurrent discussion on social dialogue and tripartism on the agenda of the 107th Session (2018);
- (ii) a recurrent discussion on social protection (social security) on the agenda of the 109th Session (2020);
- (iii) a recurrent discussion on employment on the agenda of the 110th Session (2021);
- (iv) a recurrent discussion on social protection (labour protection) on the agenda of the 111th Session (2022);
- (v) a recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work on the agenda of the 112th Session (2023);

Secondly, following up on the End to Poverty Initiative, the Governing Body decided to complete the agenda of the 107th Session (2018) of the Conference by placing an item

¹ Visit <http://www.ilo.org/gb/lang--en/index.htm>.

² GB.328/INS/3 and GB.329/INS/2.

³ GB.322/PV, para. 17.

⁴ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_497583.pdf.

⁵ GB.328/PV, para. 25.

concerning effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a general discussion. The 2018 session also includes two other items: a first discussion on the standard-setting item on “violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work”, as decided at the 325th Session (October–November 2015) ⁶ and the recurrent discussion on social dialogue and tripartism. Thirdly, following up on the Standards Initiative, the Governing Body decided to place on the agenda of the 2018 Conference an item on the abrogation of Conventions Nos 21, 50, 64, 65, 86 and 104 and the withdrawal of Recommendations Nos 7, 61 and 62. Fourthly, the Governing Body provided guidance on the implementation of the strategic and coherent approach and its possible continuation beyond the 2019 Centenary session. It also provided guidance on future steps to take in relation to the proposals for items which were not retained for inclusion on the agenda of the 2018 session.

At the 329th Session, the Governing Body provided guidance on the agenda of the 108th Centenary Session of the Conference (2019). It also gave guidance on the setting of the Conference agenda beyond 2019 both in respect of initial elements for a strategic approach and of the seven subjects under consideration for possible inclusion in future sessions.

2. Matters arising out of the work of the 104th and 105th Sessions of the ILC

Follow-up to the resolution concerning decent work in global supply chains

Revised ILO programme of action 2017–21

Following its discussion on the basis of three reports ⁷ presenting a programme of action for follow-up to this resolution at the November 2016 session, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to provide a detailed and prioritized roadmap for the programme of action, taking account of the guidance provided during this first discussion, to serve as a coordinating framework for all ILO current and future work on decent work in global supply chains, for consideration at its 329th Session.

The Office accordingly submitted such a paper to the Governing Body this March. ⁸ The document also set out a theory of change underpinning the programme, and contained suggested areas of measurement of the progress of the programme over its five-year period. Specific steps highlighting the prioritization of the areas of action were described and intervention points at both the global and national levels were identified. Details on specific points of alignment with the ILO’s Programme and Budget for 2018–19 and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were provided. Finally, a concrete workplan containing a time frame for the key activities was included in the roadmap.

⁶ [GB.325/PV](#), para. 33.

⁷ [GB.328/INS/5/1](#); [GB.328/INS/5/1\(Add.\)](#); and [GB.328/INS/5/1\(Add.1\)](#).

⁸ [GB.329/INS/3/2](#).

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance, including the joint guidance points from the Employers' and Workers' groups, in implementing the roadmap for the programme of action during the period 2017–21.⁹

Follow-up to the resolution concerning small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation

The resolution concerning small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and decent and productive employment creation, with accompanying conclusions¹⁰ was adopted by the 104th Session of the Conference (2015). A follow-up action plan was accordingly approved by the Governing Body at its 325th Session (October–November 2015)¹¹ and a first progress report was requested for November 2016.

In November therefore, the Governing Body examined this progress report.¹² Overall, it considered that the Office has made good progress in implementing the action plan, which covers two biennia (2016–19). The plan gives priority to concrete requests arising from the 2015 Conference, rather than presenting the Office's full workplan on the promotion of SMEs. Key deliverables established in the action plan include outputs on knowledge generation, and additional country-level work aimed at satisfying the high demand from member States for advice on SME policies.

With regard to knowledge generation, the Governing Body noted that key outputs delivered so far included the review of the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises (EASE) programme with the aim of expanding it; a study on good procurement practices of large buyers from SMEs in order to contribute to the ILO's action plan on global supply chains,¹³ and a new series of policy briefs presenting key evidence from the ILO on what works and what does not work in promoting SMEs.¹⁴ The research on the impact of social dialogue and collective bargaining on working conditions in SMEs has recently been initiated after additional resources have been made available.

Concerning country-level work, the Governing Body noted that the ILO had almost doubled the number of country programme outcomes (CPOs) related to improving the enabling environment in the current biennium (from eight to 15), although some of this work was still underfunded and would require a reallocation of resources. In addition, a new product offer on SME formalization had been published.¹⁵ Finally, a new course for senior

⁹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548647/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_380779.pdf.

¹¹ GB.325/INS/5/2.

¹² GB.328/INS/8.

¹³ http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/value-chain-development-vcd/WCMS_543053/lang--en/index.htm
and
http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/value-chain-development-vcd/WCMS_543046/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁴ http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/boosting-employment-through-small-enterprise-development/WCMS_547155/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁵ http://www.ilo.org/empent/whatsnew/WCMS_499330/lang--en/index.htm.

policy-makers on SME productivity and working conditions had been designed and tested in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Governing Body requested a second progress report on the action plan for November 2017.¹⁶

3. Review of annual reports under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work¹⁷

At the 329th Session, the Governing Body took note of the information presented in the review and invited the Director-General to take further account of its guidance on key issues and priorities. It reiterated its support for the mobilization of resources with regard to further assisting member States in their efforts to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work, through universal ratification and action, and in particular to combat the global scourge of forced labour, including human trafficking. The next review under the follow-up of the Declaration will take place at the 332nd Session (March 2018).

4. The Standards Initiative – Follow-up to the joint report of the Chairpersons of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Committee on Freedom of Association¹⁸

In November 2016, the Governing Body took decisions concerning the Standards Initiative and the follow-up to the joint report of the two Chairpersons that had been received by the Governing Body in March that year. Firstly, the Governing Body decided to continue its consideration of the Standards Initiative and undertake a further overall review of its implementation at the 332nd Session (March 2018).¹⁹ Secondly, in specific follow-up to the joint report, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to prepare and organize consultations on the further strengthening of the supervisory system and, on this basis, to submit specific recommendations for its consideration at its 329th Session (March 2017).²⁰

Consequently, at the March session,²¹ and following separate consultations with the three groups during January–February 2017, the Governing Body continued its follow-up to the joint report by approving a workplan for the strengthening of the supervisory system; requesting the Office to take the necessary steps to implement the workplan based on the guidance it provided and to report on progress made at its 331st Session (November 2017), following consultations with the tripartite constituents; and deciding to review the revised

¹⁶ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 142.

¹⁷ [GB.329/INS/4\(Rev.\)](#).

¹⁸ [GB.328/INS/6](#) and [GB.328/LILS/2/2](#); [GB.329/INS/5](#) and [GB.329/INS/5/Add.\(Rev.\)](#).

¹⁹ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 108.

²⁰ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 594.

²¹ [GB.329/INS/5](#) and [GB.329/INS/5/Add.\(Rev.\)](#).

workplan, possibly as adjusted during its 331st Session, in the context of its broader review of the Standards Initiative at its 332nd Session (March 2018).²²

5. Decent work for sustainable development

In November 2016, the Governing Body discussed the roll-out of the Office's 2030 Agenda Implementation Plan²³ and how best to make use of Governing Body sessions in 2017, 2018 and 2019 as platforms for discussion of ILO contributions to the annual review of SDGs to be undertaken by the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF). ILO constituents supported the Office's proposal of Governing Body discussions on the ILO contribution to the specific SDGs under review by the HLPF each year. It was decided to have a high-level discussion on a trial basis in March 2017.²⁴

Constituents highlighted the importance of the ILO's responsibility as custodian of 13 global indicators for the 2030 Agenda. The ILO's role extended beyond these, however, and encompassed all indicators where the Decent Work Agenda was relevant.

The ILO resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work and the End to Poverty Initiative was considered to be a good tripartite framework to guide the Office in its support to countries through the ILO Implementation Plan. Constituents generally supported the Plan, while urging the Office to step up targeted support for capacity building to ensure that tripartite constituents at country level were able to fully participate in national sustainable development planning and related policy discussions as well as produce and analyse the data required to monitor and report on the SDGs. The pivotal roles that South–South and triangular cooperation, interagency collaboration and public–private partnerships could play in contributing to SDG achievement was also underscored. The Governing Body agreed on the importance of integrating the decent work dimensions of the 2030 Agenda in the ILO Programme and Budget proposals for 2018–19 and provided suggestions concerning the alignment of the ILO activities with the new General Assembly of the United Nations Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution due at the end of the year. The Director-General was requested to report on the implications of the 2016 QCPR in the March 2017 Governing Body session.²⁵

6. The ILO and the United Nations Development System

In follow up to the November decision, the Governing Body held a high-level discussion in March on decent work for sustainable development, which is reported below under the section on the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization. The March Governing Body also received a report on the implications of the 2016 UN QCPR resolution for the ILO, which provided an update of ILO support to tripartite constituents in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recent developments concerning multi-stakeholder partnerships.²⁶ Members supported further cooperation of the ILO within the

²² http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_549451/lang--en/index.htm.

²³ [GB.328/INS/7](#).

²⁴ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 130.

²⁵ *idem*.

²⁶ [GB.329/INS/7](#).

UN system and encouraged further participation in UN reform initiatives, including joint planning processes, harmonization of business practices and joint risk and needs assessments and multi-year financing frameworks, where required, to bridge humanitarian and development needs. They welcomed the QCPR's emphasis on capacity building and partnerships, including engaging the private sector at the national level, and stressed the importance of SDG 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and strong institutions. The Worker spokesperson emphasized that it was essential, however, that UN Resident Coordinators understood and respected the tripartite and standard-setting nature of the ILO, and engaged with social partners. The Office should make raising the capacity of tripartite constituents at national level its first priority and should provide integrated policy advice covering the four dimensions of the Decent Work Agenda.

7. Complaints made under article 26 of the ILO Constitution

Complaint concerning non-observance by the Republic of Chile of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 (No. 103), the Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135), and the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151), made under article 26 of the ILO Constitution by a delegate to the 105th Session (2016) of the International Labour Conference²⁷

This article 26 complaint was filed at the Conference last year.

At its 328th Session, the Governing Body decided to request the Director-General to forward the complaint to the Government of Chile, inviting it to communicate its observations on the complaint by 10 January 2017; and to include this item on the agenda of its 329th Session.

In light of the observations of the Government, in particular concerning the labour law reform recently adopted by the Government, and the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations' (CEACR) comments on that issue, in March this year the Governing Body invited the CEACR to continue its examination of any pending issues concerning the application of the Conventions concerned; decided that the complaint should not be referred to a commission of inquiry and that, as a result, closed the article 26 procedure.²⁸

²⁷ [GB.328/INS/18/1](#) and [GB.329/INS/12\(Rev.\)](#).

²⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548931/lang--en/index.htm.

Complaint concerning non-observance by Guatemala of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), made by delegates to the 101st Session (2012) of the International Labour Conference under article 26 of the ILO Constitution²⁹

This article 26 complaint was filed at the 101st Session (2012) of the Conference.

At its 328th Session, the Governing Body noted the steps which had been taken, and those which still needed to be taken urgently to implement the roadmap, and the recent submission to Parliament on 27 October 2016 of two draft laws, respectively on freedom of association and labour inspection. It went on to: (a) express the firm expectation that it would be informed before the 329th Session (March 2017) of the passage into law of legislation that fully conformed with the conclusions and recommendations of the ILO supervisory system and with Convention No. 87; and (b) decided to consider, at its 329th Session (March 2017), appropriate measures to support the full implementation of these acts; (c) requested the Government of Guatemala to report at its 329th Session (March 2017) on the measures taken to fully implement all the key indicators and the roadmap so that the Governing Body would be able to observe tangible progress; (d) called on all parties to engage in constructive social dialogue to promote that progress; (e) deferred further consideration of setting up a commission of inquiry to the 329th Session, in light of the information referred to in subparagraphs (a), (c) and (d) above.

At its 329th Session, taking note of the information provided by the Government and social partners of Guatemala and noting the efforts made to promote social dialogue, the Governing Body: (a) encouraged the social partners and the Government to further engage in constructive social dialogue to achieve the full implementation of the roadmap; (b) requested the international organizations of employers and workers to support the strengthening of dialogue between the national social partners; (c) expressed again its expectation that it would be informed before the 331st Session (November 2017) of the passage into law of legislation that fully conformed with the conclusions and recommendations of the ILO supervisory system and with Convention No. 87; (d) invited the international community to facilitate the necessary resources to enable the office of the Representative of the Director-General in Guatemala to pursue its strong support for the tripartite constituents in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding and the roadmap; and (e) deferred until its 331st Session (November 2017) the decision on the appointment of a commission of inquiry.

Complaint concerning non-observance by Qatar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), made by delegates to the 103rd Session (2014) of the International Labour Conference under article 26 of the ILO Constitution³⁰

This article 26 complaint was filed at the 103rd Session (2014) of the Conference.

²⁹ [GB.328/INS/10\(Rev.\)](#) and [GB.329/INS/13\(Rev.\)](#).

³⁰ [GB.328/INS/11\(Rev.\)](#) and [GB.329/INS/14\(Rev.\)](#).

At its 328th Session, the Governing Body recalled the decisions adopted at the 325th Session (October–November 2015) and 326th Session (March 2016) and took account of the reports submitted by the Government on its follow-up to the high-level tripartite visit's assessment. It went on to: (a) request the Government of Qatar to provide it with information at its 329th Session on measures taken to effectively implement Law No. 21 of 2015 relating to the entry, exit and residence of migrant workers upon its entry into force; (b) in light of the discussions that took place at its 328th Session (November 2016), request the Government of Qatar to report to the Governing Body at its 329th Session (March 2017) on further follow-up to the Assessment of the high-level tripartite delegation; (c) request the Government of Qatar to avail itself of ILO technical assistance to support an integrated approach to the annulment of the sponsorship system, the improvement of labour inspection and occupational safety and health systems, and giving a voice to workers; and (d) defer further consideration on setting up a commission of inquiry until its March 2017 session, in light of the information referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above.³¹

By a letter dated 22 November 2017, the Government was invited by the Office to report on action taken in respect of the matters raised in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above. The Government's reply was received in a communication dated 20 February 2017.

At the 329th Session, the Governing Body recalled the decisions adopted at its 325th (October–November 2015) and 328th (November 2016) Sessions and noted the recent measures taken by the Government to implement Law No. 21 of 2015 relating to the entry, exit and residence of migrant workers as well as to further follow-up on the high-level tripartite delegation's assessment. It then decided to request the Government of Qatar to continue to provide it with information at its 331st Session (November 2017) on further measures to effectively implement Law No. 21 of 2015; and to further follow-up on the high-level tripartite delegation's assessment; request the Government of Qatar to provide information for the 331st Session (November 2017) on measures taken to effectively implement Law No. 1 of 4 January 2017 relating to the entry, exit and residence of migrant workers, the Law on Domestic Workers of 8 February 2017 as well as the Law establishing Workers' Dispute Resolution Committees of 19 October 2016 upon their entry into force and to provide official copies of these three laws to the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) at its forthcoming session (22 November–9 December 2017); request the Government of Qatar to continue engaging with the ILO in elaborating a technical cooperation programme to support an integrated approach to the annulment of the sponsorship system, the improvement of labour inspection and occupational safety and health systems, and giving a voice to workers, and to provide information on such a programme for consideration at the November 2017 session of the Governing Body; and defer further consideration on the appointment of a commission of inquiry until the 331st Session.³²

³¹ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 215.

³² http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548462/lang--en/index.htm.

Complaint concerning non-observance by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention, 1928 (No. 26), the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), made under article 26 of the ILO Constitution by several delegates to the 104th Session (2015) of the International Labour Conference³³

This article 26 complaint was filed at the 104th Session (2015) of the Conference.

At its 328th Session, the Governing Body noted with interest the information provided by the ILO Director-General regarding the commitment of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to include FEDECAMARAS in the future socio-economic dialogue table. The Governing Body expressed the firm expectation that before the 329th Session (March 2017) the Government would take appropriate measures to foster an appropriate environment for social dialogue, which would allow FEDECAMARAS and their member organizations, leaders and affiliated companies, as well as trade unions, to develop their legitimate activities in accordance with the decisions of the supervisory bodies of the ILO regarding Conventions Nos 87, 144 and 26. The Governing Body requested the Office to effectively follow up in the adequate implementation of this decision. The Governing Body decided to further defer the decision of setting up a commission of inquiry to the March 2017 session, in light of the information above.³⁴

In March 2017, the Governing Body noted that two meetings had taken place between the Ministry of Labour and FEDECAMARAS, but regretted the lack of progress concerning the establishment of a social dialogue table and action plan, referred to in the past by the Governing Body. Recalling the recommendations made by the high-level tripartite mission which visited the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in January 2014, which had not yet been implemented, the Governing Body decided: (1) to urge the Government to implement as soon as possible the following actions: (a) take measures to ensure that there were no acts of interference, aggression and stigmatization against FEDECAMARAS, its affiliated organizations and their leaders and to ensure that FEDECAMARAS and its member organizations, leaders and affiliated companies, as well as trade unions, could freely carry out their legitimate activities in line with the decisions of the ILO supervisory bodies relating to Conventions Nos 87, 144 and 26; (b) institutionalize without delay a tripartite round table, with the presence of the ILO, to foster social dialogue for the resolution of all pending issues; (2) to urge the Government to avail itself without delay of ILO technical assistance to these ends; (3) to request the Director-General of the ILO to make available all necessary support in this regard and to provide for periodic ILO visits to the country; (4) to defer the decision on the appointment of a commission of inquiry until its 331st Session (November 2017).³⁵

³³ GB.328/INS/12(Rev.) and GB.329/INS/15(Rev.).

³⁴ GB.328/PV, paras 224 and 225.

³⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548728/lang--en/index.htm.

Complaint concerning non-observance by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Protection of Wages Convention, 1949 (No. 95), and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), made under article 26 of the ILO Constitution by several delegates to the 105th Session (2016) of the International Labour Conference ³⁶

This article 26 complaint was filed at the Conference last year.

In November last year, the Governing Body decided to request the Director-General to transmit the complaint to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, inviting it to communicate its observations by 10 January 2017 at the latest; and to include this item on the agenda of the 2017 March session. ³⁷

In a communication dated 9 January 2017, the Government transmitted its observations on the complaint, which were supplemented by an additional communication received on 9 March 2017.

At the session in March, the Governing Body decided to transmit all allegations of the complaint concerning Convention No. 87 for examination by the Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) for their examination; given that all aspects of the complaint relating to Conventions Nos 95 and 111 had not been recently examined by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), to transmit these allegations for full examination by the CEACR; and that the complaint should not be referred to a commission of inquiry and that, as a result, closed the procedure under article 26 of the ILO Constitution. ³⁸

8. Reports of the Committee on Freedom of Association: 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st Reports

During the three Governing Body sessions under review, the CFA examined 87 cases, and in 30 cases followed up the measures taken by member States to give effect to its recommendations. The Committee continued to observe a large increase in the number of complaints against alleged violations of freedom of association submitted to the special procedure, but also noted with interest significant positive developments in the matters before it. In June and November 2016, and March 2017, the Governing Body approved the recommendations of the CFA set out in the Committee's 378th, 379th, 380th and 381st Reports ³⁹ and the reports as a whole.

³⁶ [GB.328/INS/18/2](#) and [GB.329/INS/16\(Rev.\)](#).

³⁷ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 382.

³⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548942/lang--en/index.htm.

³⁹ [GB.327/INS/4/1](#); [GB.327/INS/4/2](#); [GB.328/INS/14](#); and [GB.329/INS/17](#).

At its 329th Session (March 2017) of the Governing Body⁴⁰ the Committee reported back on the appreciation of progress on its working methods and ongoing reflections. The Governing Body took note of the report and of the positive outcome of the establishment of the subcommittee and expected it to continue its work. The Governing Body also noted the results of the discussion on the working methods of the Committee and requested to be kept informed regularly by the Committee of the work of the subcommittee and the discussion on the CFA working methods, including any points for decision.⁴¹

9. Report of the 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (Bali, 6–9 December 2016)

The Governing Body reviewed the report of the 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting⁴² in March this year. All groups spoke appreciatively of the Meeting, which had exemplified social dialogue at the regional level. Particular note was taken of the efforts made to meet the target of 30 per cent participation by women among delegations. Although this target had not been reached, there had been improvement; for example, participation by women in delegations from the Arab States had increased sharply to almost 20 per cent. The groups also spoke in firm support of the Bali Declaration as a tool for sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Special appreciation was expressed for the fact that it was short, concise and action-oriented, and included an agreed implementation timeline. The decision taken by the Governing Body, among other matters, called on the Director-General to take account of the Bali Declaration when implementing current programmes and in developing future programme and budget proposals.⁴³

10. Progress report on the implementation of the Enterprises Initiative

At its 321st Session (June 2014), the Governing Body endorsed a strategy for wider ILO engagement with the private sector.⁴⁴ The Office provided progress reports to the 326th Session (March 2016)⁴⁵ and to the session in March this year,⁴⁶ taking stock of the implementation of the Enterprises Initiative and ILO engagement with the private sector, and making recommendations for improving this engagement.

During the discussion of this report in March, the Governing Body provided much guidance to the Office, indicating where improvements were required, in particular suggesting that the Office further integrate private sector engagement and deepen knowledge sharing throughout the ILO, better integrate references to international labour Conventions

⁴⁰ [GB.329/INS/17\(Add.\)](#).

⁴¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548645/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴² [GB.329/INS/8](#).

⁴³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548648/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴⁴ [GB.321/PV](#), para 75.

⁴⁵ [GB.326/INS/3](#).

⁴⁶ [GB.329/INS/6](#).

in the Enterprise Initiative and improve external communications with enterprise. It was decided that the Director-General should continue to implement the Initiative, taking into account the guidance provided by the Governing Body, and submit a report at its 335th Session (March 2019).⁴⁷

11. Review of the implementation of ILO–ISO agreements

At its 328th Session, the Governing Body reviewed an Office report⁴⁸ on the pilot implementation of the 2013 Agreement between the ILO and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) authorized by the Governing Body in March 2013.⁴⁹ The Governing Body decided to extend the pilot implementation of the 2013 Agreement again, strictly for the time necessary for the ILO’s effective participation in the completion of ISO 45001 on occupational health and safety management systems. It further decided to take a decision, at its earliest possible session after final disposition of ISO 45001, on whether to continue or revise the 2013 Agreement, negotiate a new agreement, or take other necessary action in recognition of the ILO’s mandate. For that purpose, the Governing Body requested the Office to inform the Officers of the Governing Body of the date of final disposition of ISO 45001 when it was known and to submit a document for information to its 329th Session on any significant developments relating to the matter. In the event the ISO published ISO 45001 prior to its review of the Agreement, the Governing Body authorized its Officers to provide guidance to the Office on the position to be taken in relation to the publication of ISO 45001.⁵⁰

The Office therefore submitted a document for information⁵¹ to the 329th Session reporting on significant developments relating to pilot implementation of the 2013 Agreement, pending submission of the final Office report on the pilot expected to be available by the Governing Body’s 331st Session. In the event the final report was delayed due to unforeseeable ISO timetables, the Office undertook to provide an additional report for information to the Governing Body’s 331st Session. In that case, the final report would most likely be submitted to the Governing Body’s 332nd Session (March 2018) in accordance with the decision taken at its 328th Session.

12. Review and possible revisions of formats and standing orders for meetings

At its 326th Session (March 2016), the Governing Body considered a document⁵² providing an overview of the different formats of ILO meetings, focusing on practices and issues identified as requiring attention, and outlining a process through which a revision of the standing orders for these meetings could be conducted. The Governing Body

⁴⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548404/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴⁸ GB.328/INS/13.

⁴⁹ GB.317/INS/13/7, para. 6.

⁵⁰ GB.328/PV, para. 234.

⁵¹ GB.329/INS/INF/4.

⁵² GB.326/POL/5.

subsequently requested the Office to submit revised standing orders for meetings for consideration at its March 2017 session.⁵³

In March 2017, the Governing Body considered a document setting out an approach to be followed in preparing a set of uniform standing orders for global tripartite meetings convened by the Governing Body and outlining the major changes and innovations as compared to the existing Standing Orders for sectoral meetings.⁵⁴ Following discussion of the document, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance in the preparation of the standing orders for tripartite global meetings and the Introductory note, and to convene consultations with a view to presenting standing orders to the Governing Body for adoption at its 331st Session in November 2017.⁵⁵

13. Follow-up to the resolution concerning remaining measures on the subject of Myanmar adopted by the Conference at its 102nd Session (2013)

Under the follow-up to the resolution concerning the measures on the subject of Myanmar adopted by the Conference (2013), in November 2016 the Governing Body welcomed the renewed commitment made by the Government of Myanmar to the elimination of forced labour through the extension of the Supplementary Understanding until December 2017 and urged the Government to implement the Supplementary Understanding and renew the Memorandum of Understanding with an updated further phase of the Action Plan, including increased efforts at the state and regional level. It welcomed the commitments made by the Government to reform labour laws, promote freedom of association and institutionalize social dialogue. It endorsed the proposed Framework for ILO Engagement in Myanmar 2016–17 developed in consultation with the Government and social partners, and requested the Director-General to pursue discussions on the establishment of an ILO country office in Myanmar and the development of a Decent Work Country Programme.⁵⁶

In March, the Governing Body urged continued cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the ILO to implement the Supplementary Understanding, and to request the Government to agree, as a matter of urgency, to a renewed Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan to enable the ILO to continue providing the full range of its technical support, training and awareness-raising activities in support of the Government's commitment to the elimination of forced labour, including increased efforts at the state and union levels and in disadvantaged and conflict-affected regions. It further requested the Director-General to pursue discussions on the development of a Decent Work Country Programme in which the elimination of forced labour was included as a core component, and to provide a comprehensive update on further progress to the 331st Session of the Governing Body (November 2017).⁵⁷

⁵³ [GB.326/PV](#), para. 404.

⁵⁴ [GB.329/INS/10](#).

⁵⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548643/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵⁶ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 159.

⁵⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548644/lang--en/index.htm.

14. Progress report on the ratification and implementation of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930

The 322nd Session of the Governing Body (November 2014) asked the Office to report on the status of the ratification and implementation of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention in March 2017.⁵⁸ A rich debate took place on the basis of this report,⁵⁹ in which the Governing Body commended the Office for its work on the promotion of the ratification of the Protocol and its collaboration with member States and constituents. The low number of ratifications (13) was highlighted by many and member States were invited to accelerate the ratification of the Protocol. The Governing Body requested the Director-General: (a) to continue promoting the ratification of the Protocol; (b) to continue raising extra-budgetary funds for the promotion and implementation of the Protocol and the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203); and (c) to continue supporting member States in the implementation of the Protocol and Recommendation No. 203.⁶⁰

15. Report of the Director-General

Update on the internal reform

The Director-General reported on progress in implementation of his reform agenda for the Office to the 328th Session of the Governing Body.⁶¹ All three groups expressed their support for the process.

Follow-up to the Centenary Initiatives

In November 2016, the Director-General reported on progress regarding implementation of the seven Centenary Initiatives as requested at the Governing Body's 319th Session (October 2013).⁶² The Governing Body provided its guidance with regard in particular to the Green Initiative, the Women at Work Initiative and the Future of Work Initiative, and asked the Director-General to facilitate the strong involvement of constituents in their implementation. The Director-General welcomed the Governing Body's support and comments and emphasized that while the seven Initiatives were complex, varied and different, they were all core drivers of the Organization's work. He provided additional information concerning the Office's plans for the further implementation of the Initiatives, with regard in particular to the Future of Work Initiative. The Governing Body requested that the next annual report on progress regarding the Centenary Initiatives should be submitted to its 331st Session (November 2017).⁶³

⁵⁸ [GB.322/PV](#), para. 45.

⁵⁹ [GB.329/INS/9](#).

⁶⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548944/lang--en/index.htm.

⁶¹ [GB.328/INS/17/1](#).

⁶² [GB.328/INS/17/2](#).

⁶³ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 291.

Outcome of the Tripartite Technical Meeting on the Access of Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Persons to the Labour Market (Geneva, 5–7 July 2016)

In November 2016, the Governing Body reviewed the Guiding principles on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market,⁶⁴ adopted by the Tripartite Technical Meeting. The guiding principles are voluntary and non-binding, flexible in nature and not intended to generate additional obligations for member States, particularly those hosting large numbers of refugees. Discussions on the guiding principles took into consideration the complexity of the issues and the diversity of different national contexts. While some governments noted their reservations at times during the exchanges, as was reflected in the final report, the participants generally welcomed the topicality and timeliness of the Meeting, recognizing the importance of ILO guidance to inform response frameworks.

The Governing Body took note of the report and authorized the Director-General to publish and disseminate the outcome of the Meeting, including the guiding principles, and to draw upon these in the follow-up to the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, held in New York on 19 September 2016. In addition, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to take the guiding principles into consideration when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office in this area.⁶⁵

Outcome of the Meeting of Experts on Violence against Women and Men in the World of Work (Geneva, 3–6 October 2016)

In November last year, the Governing Body reviewed the outcome of the Meeting of Experts on Violence against Women and Men in the World of Work (Geneva, 3–6 October 2016).⁶⁶ The Governing Body requested the Office to prepare the first discussion of possible instruments on violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work by the Conference at its 107th Session (2018), taking into account the guidance provided in the conclusions of the Meeting of Experts and further guidance given by the Governing Body. Furthermore, on the basis of the conclusions of the Meeting, the conclusions contained in the supplementary report, decided to replace the term “violence” with “violence and harassment” in the title of the item placed on the agenda of the 107th Session (2018) of the Conference and approved a programme of reduced intervals for the preparatory stages of the first discussion of the agenda item.⁶⁷ At its 329th Session, the Governing Body then received the more detailed Report of the Meeting of Experts on Violence against Women and Men in the World of Work (Geneva, 3–6 October 2016).⁶⁸

⁶⁴ [GB.328/INS/17/3\(Rev.\)](#).

⁶⁵ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 334.

⁶⁶ [GB.328/INS/17/5](#).

⁶⁷ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 357.

⁶⁸ [GB.329/INS/INF/3](#).

16. Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference

Composition of the Governing Body

The composition of the Governing Body was most recently discussed at its 300th (November 2007), 301st (March 2008) and 303rd (November 2008) Sessions, with a view to addressing the concern that the category “Members of chief industrial importance”, referred to in article 7, paragraph 2, of the ILO Constitution, did not include Members from all geographical regions.⁶⁹ At the 329th Session of the Governing Body, the Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference discussed a document submitted by the Office on the composition of the Governing Body and the status of ratification of the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, 1986.⁷⁰ After having examined the report of the Working Party, the Governing Body decided to invite Members which had not yet done so to ratify the 1986 Instrument for the Amendment of the ILO Constitution and to request the Director-General actively to pursue promotional efforts for the ratification of the Instrument of Amendment, including through direct contacts with Members, and to report at the 331st Session (November 2017) on the results obtained and the feedback from Members concerned on the reasons which prevent or delay such ratification.⁷¹

Review of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference

Following the request made at its 325th Session (October–November 2015),⁷² the Governing Body examined at its 328th Session (November 2016) a document containing a set of draft amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference for the effective functioning of the Conference in its reduced two-week format, as well as an analysis of possible additional amendments aimed at modernizing and simplifying the Conference Standing Orders as a whole.⁷³ Following discussion within the Working Party, the Governing Body requested the Office to prepare for its consideration at its 329th Session (March 2017) a first set of amendments to the Standing Orders aimed at ensuring the effective functioning of the International Labour Conference in its reduced two-week format.⁷⁴

At its 329th Session, the Governing Body took note of the first set of amendments to the Standing Orders submitted by the Office, to be trialled at the 106th Session of the Conference through suspending the relevant provisions and decided to review this trial at its

⁶⁹ GB.300/LILS/4; GB.300/6, para. 134; GB.300/PV, paras 156–168; GB.300/13(Rev.), paras 30–41; GB.301/5; GB.301/PV, paras 98–110; GB.303/5; GB.303/PV, paras 103–133.

⁷⁰ GB.329/WP/GBC/1.

⁷¹ GB.329/INS/18, para. 3; http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548923/lang-en/index.htm.

⁷² GB.325/INS/14; GB.325/PV, para. 279.

⁷³ GB.328/WP/GBC/1/2.

⁷⁴ GB.328/PV, para. 256.

331st Session (November 2017). The Governing Body further decided to request the Office to prepare additional amendments for the simplification and modernization of the Standing Orders for consideration at its 331st Session.⁷⁵

II. Policy Development Section

17. Employment and Social Protection Segment

Outcome 3: Creating and extending social protection floors (including the flagship programme)

In November 2016, the Governing Body examined an Office paper⁷⁶ on the ILO's policy Outcome 3 on creating and extending social protection floors including the flagship programme for the biennium 2016–17. The Governing Body considered the strategy, the main areas of focus and implementation to date on Outcome 3. The paper also provided an overview of the Office's flagship programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All.⁷⁷

The Governing Body endorsed the establishment of the flagship programme on Building Social Protection Floors for All in full consensus, with all three groups recognizing the critical importance of social protection. The Governing Body noted with satisfaction the progress made under the outcome. Further technical support was requested from the Office to integrate social protection floors into national strategic plans and to support their implementation in line with international development frameworks. The need to ensure national social dialogue, participation of social partners in designing and implementing national social protection floors and capacity building of constituents were also highlighted. There was support for the international coordination initiatives taken by the ILO to promote social protection, including the leading role assumed by the Office in the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) and the various international initiatives such as the joint ILO–World Bank Universal Social Protection Initiative.

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance in implementing the strategy for Outcome 3 on creating and extending social protection floors, within the Programme and Budget for 2016–17.⁷⁸

Outcome 4: Promoting sustainable enterprises

In November last year, the Governing Body reviewed the report on Outcome 4: Promoting sustainable enterprises.⁷⁹ It attached great value to an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, provided much guidance to the Office, indicating that Outcome 4 should prioritize interventions related to the social pillar; this could substantially improve

⁷⁵ GB.329/WP/GBC/3; GB.329/INS/18, para. 10; http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548923/lang--en/index.htm.

⁷⁶ GB.328/POL/1.

⁷⁷ The Governing Body had endorsed at its 325th Session the establishment of the flagship programme (see [dec-GB.325/POL/7](#)).

⁷⁸ GB.328/PV, para. 422.

⁷⁹ GB.328/POL/2.

working conditions and should accordingly be more ambitious. Additional resources should be allocated in the programme and budget to implement programmes under Outcome 4. The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance in further implementing the strategy for Outcome 4 of the Programme and Budget for the biennium 2016–17 on promoting sustainable enterprises.⁸⁰

Outcome 5: Decent work in the rural economy

In March 2017, the Governing Body examined a report on “Outcome 5: Decent work in the rural economy”,⁸¹ which provided an overview of the main elements of the Outcome 5 strategy and its three interrelated areas of expected change, highlighting selected interventions across these three areas as well as in respect of social dialogue and the capacity building of constituents and partnerships. The Governing Body stressed the relevance of the issue. The global challenge of ending poverty was fundamentally one of ending rural poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals were set to draw attention to the rural economy. The discussions demonstrated strong support from constituents for the strategic approach and areas of intervention put forward in the paper and called the Office to strengthen their capacity in this area. The Governing Body provided the Director-General with guidance in further implementing the strategy for Outcome 5.⁸²

Outcome 6: Formalization of the informal economy

In March 2017, the Governing Body also discussed the Outcome 6 strategy⁸³ on the formalization of the informal economy, its main areas of focus and the progress made during its first year of implementation. The strategy builds on the work done in the context of the area of critical importance on the formalization of the informal economy in 2014–15, the adoption of Recommendation No. 204 and the follow-up to the corresponding resolution. It gives a central place to the promotion of social dialogue, while stressing the need for policy coherence, integration and institutional coordination.

The discussion demonstrated strong support on the outcome approach and its integrated strategy and contribution to the achievement of SDG 8. Particular support was given to specific policy areas, including mainstreaming gender equality in all activities and working to facilitate the transition to formal employment for vulnerable groups of workers (that is domestic workers, migrant workers and indigenous peoples), supporting national dialogue processes, integrating formalization within Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), and promoting partnerships and joint initiatives with relevant regional and international organizations. The Governing Body provided the Director-General with guidance in further implementing the strategy for Outcome 6.⁸⁴

⁸⁰ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 446.

⁸¹ [GB.329/POL/1](#).

⁸² http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548113/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸³ [GB.329/POL/2](#).

⁸⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548112/lang--en/index.htm.

Labour-related provisions in trade agreements: Recent trends and relevance to the ILO

In November last year, the Governing Body examined the trends and relevance to the ILO of labour-related provisions in trade agreements.⁸⁵ The broader framework for the discussion included reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which international trade is seen as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and the increasing attention being paid to working conditions in global supply chains. In this context, there has been an increase in the number of labour-related provisions in trade agreements with references to ILO instruments, such as the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

The Governing Body reaffirmed that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes and that comparative advantages of countries should not be called into question. There was an ensuing discussion on the role of social partners' participation, technical assistance and capacity building as means of effective implementation of labour provisions.

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to continue to collect and analyse information related to labour provisions in trade agreements, and provide technical assistance to constituents upon request on this matter; to develop partnerships with relevant international organizations and to be informed periodically on action related to trade, investment and decent work for sustainable development.⁸⁶

Voluntary peer-review mechanisms of national employment policies

In November, the Governing Body discussed a set of proposals submitted by the Office⁸⁷ for a voluntary peer review of employment policies with the objective of promoting knowledge sharing and mutual learning on good practices among Members of the Organization. This emanated from a request contained in the resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on employment adopted at the 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference (June 2014)⁸⁸ and reiterated by the 326th Session of the Governing Body (March 2016).

The Office analysed eight policy peer-review mechanisms that were currently operational or had been carried out in the recent past. Based on a number of lessons drawn from this overview, the Office presented three options for a voluntary peer-review mechanism. All three options were voluntary, proposed to review policies against the agreed framework of comprehensive employment policies included in the resolution on the second recurrent item discussion on employment adopted at the International Labour Conference in 2014, and were facilitated and supported by the ILO. In addition to peer learning, possible outcomes of the proposed mechanisms were to promote policy and institutional reform, identify capacity-building needs for governments and social partners, develop technical

⁸⁵ GB.328/POL/3.

⁸⁶ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB328-decision/WCMS_534108/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸⁷ GB.328/POL/4.

⁸⁸ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_249800.pdf.

assistance, including through South–South and triangular cooperation, and facilitate the mobilization of national resources for employment policy implementation. The mechanism would also contribute to further dissemination of knowledge by the ILO on good practices in employment policies, and to further refining its tools and technical advice in response to specific needs.

The 328th Session of the Governing Body requested the Director-General to prepare a more detailed proposal for a peer-review mechanism of employment policies based on the guidance provided during the discussion, and the discussion foreseen in March 2017 on the follow-up to the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration.⁸⁹ In March 2017, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to implement the proposed programme of work to give effect to the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration, which included the introduction of country policy studies to promote tripartite sharing of experiences and good practices.⁹⁰ Such studies, which may be undertaken in the context of voluntary peer reviews should they be introduced by the Governing Body, would contribute to future recurrent discussions of each strategic objective.

18. Social Dialogue Segment

Review of the Sectoral Policies Department

In November 2016, the Governing Body considered a paper providing an overview of the follow-up to a review of the Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR) and the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 independent evaluation on the ILO's strategy for sector-specific decent work.⁹¹

The inclusive consultation process that was conducted was well received by constituents, as it had given the opportunity to all three groups to provide inputs into the review. All speakers concluded that sectoral work was an important element of ILO work and stressed the importance of achieving synergies. The suggestions made during the consultations and the discussion in the Governing Body aimed at creating a balance between the role of sectoral advisory bodies and the Office-wide programming frameworks.

As a result of the rich and interactive discussion, which provided further guidance to the Office on the approach to pursue, the review was officially closed. The Office has begun to take steps to implement resulting changes.⁹²

Sectoral meetings held in 2016 and proposals for sectoral work in 2017 and 2018–19

The Governing Body, under two different agenda items, discussed and took decisions regarding the follow-up to sectoral meetings as well as regarding an interim report of the

⁸⁹ GB.328/PV, para. 489.

⁹⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548403/lang--en/index.htm.

⁹¹ GB.328/POL/8.

⁹² GB.328/PV, para. 538.

Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART).⁹³

In addition to approving the publication of a revised code of practice on safety and health in ports, the Governing Body also examined, at its 328th and 329th Sessions, the outputs of sectoral meetings held in 2016.⁹⁴ These included conclusions adopted by the Tripartite Sectoral Meeting on Occupational Safety and Health and Skills in the Oil and Gas Industry Operating in Polar and Subarctic Climate Zones of the Northern Hemisphere, a resolution adopted by the Joint Maritime Commission's (JMC) Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers, as well as points of consensus on the challenges and opportunities of teleworking for workers and employers in the information and communications technology services (ICTS) and financial services sectors.

Having endorsed a programme of sectoral meetings for 2016–17 at its 323rd Session,⁹⁵ the Governing Body discussed and determined, at its 329th Session, the composition, duration and dates of tripartite sectoral meetings to be held in the second half of 2017. Finally, also at its 329th Session, the Governing Body discussed and adopted a programme of sectoral meetings for 2018–19.⁹⁶

Preparations for the IV Global Conference on Child Labour

In November last year, the Governing Body considered a report on the preparations for the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, to be hosted by Argentina in Buenos Aires from 14 to 16 November 2017.⁹⁷ The Employers, Workers and many Governments spoke in support of the Conference and its aims, and thanked the Government of Argentina for taking the initiative of acting as host. The Governing Body provided guidance with regard to the preparatory process, to include tripartite Regional Meetings and global preparatory tripartite consultations, and endorsed the proposal made by the host country to widen the scope of the Conference to link the eradication of child labour to decent work and quality employment for youth and, for the first time, also address forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking of adults, in order to promote SDG target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goal on the eradication of child labour and forced labour by 2025 and 2030, respectively.⁹⁸

Follow-up within the Office to the resolution concerning fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) adopted by the Conference at its 101st Session (2012)

The Governing Body welcomed the establishment of a single branch (FUNDAMENTALS) to lead the Office's work on FPRW presented in the report received

⁹³ [CEART/INT/2016/2](#).

⁹⁴ [GB.328/POL/5](#) and [GB.329/POL/4](#).

⁹⁵ [GB.323/PV](#), para. 294.

⁹⁶ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547561/lang--en/index.htm.

⁹⁷ [GB.328/POL/6](#).

⁹⁸ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 510.

in November 2016.⁹⁹ It endorsed an integrated strategy, and supported the proposed thematic priorities. In implementing the strategy, the Office was encouraged to build on the annual reviews and comments of the supervisory system, and to provide clear guidance on how to mainstream the ratification and implementation of FPRW in DWCPs, and to consider the promotion of a universal ratification campaign. In supporting the decision point, members of the Governing Body recalled the importance of the conclusions of the forthcoming recurrent discussion on FPRW, and called on the Office to allocate appropriate regular budget funding to the branch.¹⁰⁰

19. Development Cooperation Segment

Enhanced programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories

The Governing Body was informed in November 2016 on progress made and planned ILO interventions under the technical cooperation programme in the occupied Arab territories.¹⁰¹ The Office reported progress in areas such as: the promotion of labour rights and improved labour market governance; the development of a comprehensive social security system; and enhancing employment and livelihood opportunities for (young) Palestinian women and men. The Governing Body took note and commended the ILO for all its efforts, and particularly in the area of social security, a key achievement of which was the adoption of the first ever social security law for private sector workers and their family members in 2016. The Governing Body called on donor countries to support the ILO in further promoting the Decent Work Agenda and social justice in the occupied Arab territories. In particular, support was sought for the establishment of the social security institution, which comprises a first step in the implementation of the new social security scheme and a key priority for the Palestinian tripartite constituents towards public institution building. The Governing Body expressed support for the Decent Work Programme (DWP) 2013–16 and to the development of a new DWP in coordination with social partners and governance institutions, in light of the findings and recommendations of the decent work review conducted in 2016.

ILO Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17: Report on progress

At its 329th Session, the Governing Body discussed the progress made on the implementation of the ILO Development Cooperation Strategy for 2015–17.¹⁰² Overall, the implementation in the four areas of the strategy, which were “focus, effectiveness, capacity development and resource mobilization”, was on track. Examples of regional approaches to implementing development cooperation in the regions were discussed. Points for attention in the continued implementation of the strategy included, among others, the need for continued promotion of the integrated Decent Work Agenda, particularly international labour standards, in development cooperation and partnerships. Also the use of theory of change, results orientation and sustainability needed to be increased in the design of development cooperation operations to enhance their effectiveness. Dedicated capacity

⁹⁹ [GB.328/POL/7](#).

¹⁰⁰ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 518.

¹⁰¹ [GB.328/POL/9](#).

¹⁰² [GB.329/POL/5](#).

development programmes for social partners could be incorporated more systemically in large development programmes and flagship programmes. In terms of resource mobilization, the importance of converging efforts between the Office and constituents was stressed. Taking into account ongoing and upcoming developments and events that would affect the ILO's development cooperation strategy and operations, in particular the general discussion at the 107th Session (2018) of the International Labour Conference on effective development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Governing Body requested the Office to take into account its guidance in its continued implementation of the Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17; and approved the extension of the Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17 until the end of 2018.¹⁰³

ILO cooperation with the tobacco industry in the pursuit of the Organization's social mandate

In March 2017, the Governing Body received a report¹⁰⁴ that described ILO development cooperation projects to eliminate child labour and promote FPRW in tobacco-growing communities in a number of countries that received funding from the tobacco industry. The Governing Body took note of the report, and decided to defer consideration of this issue until its 331st Session (November 2017); it requested the Director-General to provide additional information to that session, taking full account of the issues raised in the Governing Body, in the context of the ILO mandate and constitutional obligations.¹⁰⁵

20. Multinational Enterprises Segment

Recommendations of the tripartite ad hoc working group concerning the review of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy text, annex and addenda and the interpretation procedure

In March 2017 the Governing Body took note of the report of the tripartite ad hoc working group¹⁰⁶ to review the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy text, annex, addenda and interpretation procedure. Following the recommendations of the tripartite ad hoc working group, arrived at through consensus, the Governing Body approved the revised Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration), including Annexes I and II and its revised Introduction. It requested the Director-General to communicate the revised MNE Declaration and its revised Introduction to governments, requesting them to communicate them to employers' and workers' organizations with a view to further transmission to multinational enterprises and workers' representatives concerned; to the international employers' and workers' organizations concerned; and to the other international organizations concerned. It further requested the Director-General to put in place a communication strategy to give visibility to the revised MNE Declaration including

¹⁰³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547562/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁴ GB.329/POL/6.

¹⁰⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547563/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁶ GB.329/POL/7.

a strategy for translation into the languages in which the previous editions were available; to support the appointment and functioning of the national focal points and to operationalize the company–union dialogue facilitation service; and to organize and/or support appropriate tripartite event(s) for the 40th anniversary of the MNE Declaration starting in November 2017. Finally, it requested the Director-General to make available, to the extent possible within existing resource levels, the necessary resources to implement these actions or to facilitate resource mobilization efforts to that effect. ¹⁰⁷

III. Legal Issues and International Labour Standards

21. Legal Issues Segment

Follow-up to the discussion on the Protection of Employers' and Workers' delegates to the International Labour Conference and members of the Governing Body in relation to the authorities of a State of which they are a national or a representative

Following discussion of this agenda item at the 325th (October–November 2015) ¹⁰⁸ and 326th (March 2016) ¹⁰⁹ Sessions, in November 2016, the Governing Body examined a document containing a revised draft Conference resolution amending Annex I to the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies to accord limited immunity from jurisdiction to Employers' and Workers' delegates to the International Labour Conference and to Regional Meetings, and to Employer and Worker members of the Governing Body, to protect the exercise of their official functions in the ILO in relation to the authorities of their own State. ¹¹⁰ The Governing Body took note of the revised draft resolution and decided to defer further consideration of this item until its 331st Session (November 2017). ¹¹¹

22. International Labour Standards and Human Rights Segment

The Standards Initiative: Report of the second meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG) ¹¹²

¹⁰⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548087/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁸ [GB.325/LILS/1](#); [GB.325/PV](#), para. 596.

¹⁰⁹ [GB.326/LILS/1](#); [GB.326/PV](#), para. 458.

¹¹⁰ [GB.328/LILS/1](#).

¹¹¹ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 567.

¹¹² [GB.328/LILS/2/1](#).

Initial evaluation of the functioning of the Standards Review
Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG) ¹¹³

Also in November 2016, the Governing Body noted the report of the Officers concerning the second meeting of the SRM TWG. In approving the SRM TWG's recommendations, the Governing Body took a number of decisions. In the first place, the Governing Body welcomed the SRM TWG's efforts to integrate its recommendations into the broader programme of work of the ILO on standards policy, and revised the SRM TWG's initial programme of work to include four further instruments. Further, following the SRM TWG's consideration of the 63 instruments previously determined to be outdated, the Governing Body:

- noted the recommendations concerning the abrogation of nine instruments, in relation to which it placed an item on the agenda of the 107th Session (2018) of the International Labour Conference;
- noted that the SRM TWG would follow up 40 outdated Conventions and Recommendations, as well as the regulatory gap identified with regard to the topic of shift work, during its later meetings;
- invited the Office to take the necessary steps immediately in regard to the juridical replacement of 14 Recommendations;
- requested the Office to commence strategic follow-up within 12 months in relation to 30 outdated Conventions and decided that the costs of this follow-up would be met through existing resources;
- requested the Office to take the necessary steps to ensure the integration of the follow-up as appropriate in the programme of work to implement the 2016 resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work and in the Programme and Budget proposals for 2018–19; and
- requested the Office to prepare a proposal for a possible standard-setting item on apprenticeships, recognizing the regulatory gap identified in this regard, for consideration at its 329th Session (March 2017) for inclusion in a future agenda of the International Labour Conference in accordance with the strategic and coherent approach.

Finally, in relation to the preparations for future meetings of the SRM TWG, the Governing Body decided that the SRM TWG would examine the instruments concerning occupational safety and health (general provisions and specific risks) in its third meeting, which would take place from 25 to 29 September 2017. ¹¹⁴

At its 329th Session, the Governing Body noted the information provided by the Officers of the SRM TWG in relation to the initial evaluation of the functioning of the SRM TWG and, in undertaking its initial evaluation, noted that the SRM TWG had started its

¹¹³ [GB.329/LILS/2](#).

¹¹⁴ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 581.

work and requested that it continue to be kept informed of the functioning of the SRM TWG so as to allow it to undertake a further evaluation no later than March 2020.¹¹⁵

Proposed form for reports to be requested under article 19 of the Constitution in 2018 on the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202)¹¹⁶

In November 2016, further to the decision taken at its 325th Session (October–November 2015) that governments should be requested to submit reports under article 19 of the Constitution on the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) in 2018, the Governing Body approved the corresponding report form. These reports have been requested to prepare the General Survey by the CEACR in 2018 and its discussion by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards in 2019. This General Survey and its related discussion by the Committee on the Application of Standards will inform the recurrent discussion on social protection (social security) to take place at the 109th Session (2020) of the Conference.

Proposed amendments to the form for reports to be requested under article 22 of the ILO Constitution in relation to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006)¹¹⁷

Amendments to the MLC, 2006, were approved in June 2014 by the International Labour Conference and entered into force on 18 January 2017. At the March 2017 session, the Governing Body examined and approved a revised report form to be used by the governments of ratifying States as a basis for their reports on the application of the MLC, 2006, as amended, in accordance with article 22 of the ILO Constitution.

Proposed amendments to the form for reports to be requested under article 22 of the ILO Constitution in relation to the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185)¹¹⁸

Amendments to the Annexes of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), were adopted in June 2016 by the International Labour Conference and will enter into force on 8 June 2017. At the March 2017 session, the Governing Body examined and approved a revised report form to be used by the governments of ratifying States as a basis for their reports on the application of the Convention, as amended, in accordance with article 22 of the ILO Constitution.

¹¹⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548314/lang--en/index.htm.

¹¹⁶ [GB.328/LILS/3\(Rev.\)](#).

¹¹⁷ [GB.329/LILS/3\(Rev.\)](#).

¹¹⁸ [GB.329/LILS/4](#).

IV. Programme Financial and Administrative Section

23. Programme Financial and Administrative Segment

Programme and Budget for 2018–19

At the session in March 2017, the Governing Body approved the Director-General’s Programme and Budget proposals for 2018–19¹¹⁹ and decided to recommend them to the International Labour Conference for adoption. Two general observations could be derived from the wide-ranging debate that led to this unanimous decision: (i) the productive tripartite consultations since the consideration of the preview of the proposals¹²⁰ by the Governing Body in November 2016; and (ii) the overall agreement on the strategic direction for the Organization consistent with the mid-term vision outlined in the Strategic Plan for 2018–21. The Governing Body welcomed the concentration of resources on ten policy outcomes, supported by three enabling outcomes and four cross-cutting policy drivers, one of which was a new policy driver on a just transition to environmental sustainability. Two other key features of the proposals – the significant redeployment of resources from back office to front-line technical and analytical work and the explicit alignment of the programme with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda – were also unanimously supported. Finally, the Governing Body noted with overall satisfaction a zero real growth budget contained in the proposals which based on expected cost decreases would result in a reduction in the nominal dollar budget by 0.5 per cent. The overall debate reflected a high level of convergence and agreement, with comments and suggestions on a number of specific areas, which the Office took note of and would incorporate into Report II for submission to the Conference.

Strategic Plan for 2018–21

In November 2016, the Governing Body discussed the ILO’s Strategic Plan for the period 2018–21,¹²¹ which presented a strategic vision, “ILO 2021”, and set out the substantive and organizational steps towards its realization, taking into consideration the state of the world of work and the current institutional context. The Governing Body approved the ILO’s Strategic Plan 2018–21 and requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance in the development of the Programme and Budget proposals for both 2018–19 and 2020–21, with particular emphasis on the results framework to better assess the performance of the Office.¹²²

¹¹⁹ [GB.329/PFA/1](#) & [GB.329/PFA/1/1](#).

¹²⁰ [GB.328/PFA/2](#).

¹²¹ [GB.328/PFA/1](#).

¹²² [GB.328/PV](#), para. 622.

After-service health insurance: Update

In March 2017, the Governing Body considered an Office paper¹²³ containing updates on the United Nations inter-agency Working Group on After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) and the outcome of the work of the ILO Staff Health Insurance Fund Management Committee on cost containment. The Governing Body took note of the report and provided observations and guidance to the Office on the matter.

Headquarters building renovation project

In November 2016 and March 2017, the Office provided the Governing Body with updates on the status of the renovation of the headquarters building.¹²⁴ The Governing Body commended the Office on the project's progress and on the savings generated from redesign work and took note of the detailed cost breakdown of the unfunded works. It endorsed the donation policy presented by the Office, and authorized the Director-General: (i) to pursue the possible development of plot 4057 with the relevant Swiss authorities, the International School of Geneva and potential property developers;¹²⁵ and (ii) to negotiate and finalize an agreement for the disposal of part of the roadway from Avenue Appia, known as Allée David Morse, and to credit any proceeds from the agreement to the Building and Accommodation Fund.¹²⁶ A follow-up report will be submitted for the 331st Session (October–November 2017) of the Governing Body.

Report of the Government members of the Governing Body for allocation of expenses

In March 2017, the Governing Body considered the report of Government members of the Governing Body for allocation of expenses¹²⁷ and decided to propose to the Conference the adoption of the draft scale of assessment for 2018, subject to such adjustments as might be necessary following any further change in the membership of the Organization before the Conference would be called upon to adopt the recommended scale.¹²⁸

24. Audit and Oversight Segment

Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU): Reports of the JIU

In November 2016, the Governing Body reviewed the JIU's annual report for 2015, its programme of work for 2016 and six relevant reports and related recommendations, along

¹²³ [GB.329/PFA/4](#).

¹²⁴ [GB.328/PFA/3](#) and [GB.329/PFA/3](#).

¹²⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547343/lang--en/index.htm.

¹²⁶ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548641/lang--en/index.htm.

¹²⁷ [GB.329/PFA/5](#).

¹²⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_548642/lang--en/index.htm.

with the comments of the UN System Chief Executives Board and of the Office.¹²⁹ The Governing Body provided guidance to follow up on specific recommendations made by the JIU, as well as on the status of follow-up to recommendations presented to the Governing Body in the three previous years.¹³⁰

Audit and oversight

In March 2017, the Governing Body considered the ninth annual report¹³¹ of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (IOAC) on its work from May 2016 to January 2017, which contained a number of recommendations. The Governing Body took note of the report and provided guidance to the Office.

At the same session, the Governing Body considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor for the year ended 31 December 2016,¹³² which contained significant findings resulting from internal audit and investigation assignments conducted by the Office of Internal Audit and Oversight (IAO) during 2016. The Governing Body noted with satisfaction that no major weaknesses had been identified in the ILO's system of internal control and requested the Office to ensure the appropriate implementation of the recommendations made.

Evaluations

In November 2016, the Governing Body considered a report¹³³ on the ILO's evaluation activities during 2015–16 in the context of its results-based strategy, which also included an assessment of the implications of the SDGs for the ILO's new results framework from the perspective of evaluation. The Governing Body endorsed the recommendations to be included in the rolling plan for the implementation of recommendations and confirmed the evaluation priorities for the 2017–19 programme of work.¹³⁴

At the same session, the Governing Body considered a report on high-level evaluations of strategies and DWCPs.¹³⁵ The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take into consideration the recommendations from the independent evaluations and to ensure their appropriate implementation.¹³⁶

In March 2017, the Governing Body considered the summary findings of the Independent Evaluation of the evaluation function,¹³⁷ which provided an assessment of the

¹²⁹ [GB.328/PFA/7](#).

¹³⁰ [GB.328/PFA/7/REF/1](#) and [GB.328/PFA/7/REF/2](#).

¹³¹ [GB.329/PFA/6](#).

¹³² [GB.329/PFA/7\(Rev.\)](#).

¹³³ [GB.328/PFA/5](#).

¹³⁴ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 668.

¹³⁵ [GB.328/PFA/6](#).

¹³⁶ [GB.328/PV](#), para. 685.

¹³⁷ [GB.329/PFA/8](#).

overall performance of the ILO's evaluation function during 2011–16 along with explanations for this performance, lessons learned and good practices. The Governing Body noted the positive findings in the report and the confirmation of progress made in establishing a mature and structured evaluation system in the ILO, and requested the Director-General to take into consideration the recommendations of the independent evaluation contained in the report and to ensure their appropriate implementation.

25. Personnel Segment

Amendments to the Staff Regulations

In November 2016¹³⁸ and March 2017¹³⁹ the Governing Body approved amendments to the Staff Regulations required to implement changes to the United Nations common system compensation package for the Professional and higher categories of staff, as well as concerning the age of retirement, which followed a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015.¹⁴⁰ The new compensation package was implemented Office-wide as of 1 January 2017, with the exception of the changes to the education grant scheme approved by the Governing Body in March 2017, which will be implemented as of the school year in course on 1 January 2018. The aforementioned amendments concerning the age of separation will bring the mandatory age of separation to 65 for all ILO officials in service on 1 January 2018, in line with the decision by the General Assembly that United Nations common system organizations should raise the mandatory age of separation of their staff to 65 years by 1 January 2018 at the latest.

V. High-Level Section

26. Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization

The Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization met at the 329th Session (March 2017) to discuss the ways in which the pursuit of decent work would support countries to achieve the SDGs, in particular the six goals to be discussed at the July 2017 meeting of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under the theme of “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. The six goals to be reviewed were: SDG 1 (poverty); 2 (hunger); 3 (health); 5 (gender); 9 (industrialization); and 14 (oceans).¹⁴¹ As Chairperson, I provided a brief oral report to the Governing Body plenary of the discussion in the Working Party.¹⁴²

The Working Party was honoured by the presence of His Excellency, Frederick Makamure Shava, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the United Nations, New York, and current

¹³⁸ [GB.328/PFA/9](#).

¹³⁹ [GB.329/PFA/10](#).

¹⁴⁰ Resolution [A/RES/70/244](#).

¹⁴¹ [GB.329/HL/1](#).

¹⁴² [GB.329/INS/19](#).

President of ECOSOC. In his presentation, Ambassador Shava stressed the ILO's important oversight role for ensuring full respect for FPRW in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The tripartite nature of the Working Party discussion provided a unique perspective to inform the annual ILO inputs to the HLPF. He believed that the ILO would make key contributions to promoting the Agenda's integrated approach to SDG achievement in view of the decent work dimensions and impacts of many of the goals. He equally saw an important role for the ILO in strengthening national capacities on labour statistics; helping address needs of countries in special situations; tackling informality; forging financial and non-financial cross-sectoral partnerships; and strengthening institutions through capacity building for social partners at the national level.

In the discussion, the central role of the Decent Work Agenda for achieving the integrated SDGs was clear, and there was general endorsement for the areas of ILO support to those SDGs under review at the 2017 HLPF. Many speakers highlighted the fundamental role of economic growth, employment creation and reducing inequality to addressing poverty, and the clear mandate of the ILO to address this through its standard-setting function, integrated policy approaches and technical support across the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. The extension of social protection floors was viewed as critical to eliminating both extreme and working poverty, reducing hunger and improving access to health services and the situation of women and marginalized groups, including migrants and young people. The importance of industrial policies in achieving structural transformations and in particular increasing decent work through more productive, and higher value added manufacturing and agriculture was also acknowledged, as was the great potential for raising productivity in rural economies and creating formal employment through the development of agriculture and rural industries, particularly in Africa.

The majority of speakers referred to the importance of achieving gender equality to reducing poverty and realizing not only SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, but all SDGs. The cross-cutting nature of this principle and the need to mainstream it across all SDGs was stressed.

Many speakers felt that priority should be given to building strong institutions including ministries of labour, workers' and employers' organizations as well as to strengthening labour market institutions and policies such as collective bargaining, wage-setting mechanisms and employment regulations. Likewise, the realization of the double objective of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world is only possible if an enabling environment of business, investment, sustainable enterprise and job creation is built. In closing, the Director-General reminded the participants that the world of work in 2030 would be significantly different from today. In supporting the implementation of the SDGs, it is important to factor in the coming structural transformations in the world of work and explore the mutual interactions between the ILO's Future of Work Initiative and the 2030 Agenda.

VI. Conclusion

This report represents a succinct account of the actions taken by the Governing Body of the ILO under my tenure as its Chairperson, for the period June 2016–June 2017, which I submit to the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference for its information.