

Governing Body

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GB.335/INS/14/1

Institutional Section

INS

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FOURTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

First Supplementary Report: Reports of the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 10–19 October 2018)

Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the reports of the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians and to request the Director-General to take into account its recommendations and approved resolutions in the future programme of work of the Office, to authorize the promotion of the report of the proceedings and to include a provision of US\$860,000 in the Programme and Budget for 2020–21 to implement resolution II concerning the methodology of SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights (see the draft decision in paragraph 10).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Main relevant outcome/cross-cutting policy driver: Enabling outcome A: Effective knowledge management for the promotion of decent work.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: Yes, see paragraph 9.

Follow-up action required: Yes.

Author unit: Department of Statistics (STATISTICS).

Related documents: GB.333/INS/INF/2; ICLS/20/2018/1; ICLS/20/2018/2; ICLS/20/2018/3.

1. In preparation for the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), a Tripartite Meeting of Experts, held in Geneva from 5 to 9 February 2018, discussed and examined the revision of the current International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), as well as the adaptation and expansion of the classification to reflect the forms of work framework set out in resolution I of the 19th ICLS (2013). The conclusions of the meeting of experts¹ were taken into account by the Office in refining the proposals for presentation to the 20th ICLS, with a view to adopting new and revised international statistical standards.
2. As approved by the Governing Body at its 330th Session (June 2017),² the 20th ICLS was convened in Geneva from 10 to 19 October 2018. The Conference was attended by delegates from 135 member States, by five Employer and six Worker experts, and by 42 representatives of United Nations (UN) agencies and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. In total, there were 374 participants, of which 47.6 per cent were women. The report of the proceedings (Report III) accompanies this document.³
3. The Conference elected Ms L.G. Bersales (Philippines) as Chairperson, Mr R. González Hernández (Dominican Republic) as Vice-Chairperson, and Mr B. Ang (Singapore) as Reporter of the Conference.
4. The Conference examined the following agenda items:
 - I. General report providing context on the place of statistics in the future of work; the relationship between decent work and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) global indicator framework; main developments in methods employed for specific topics of labour statistics (such as labour migration, child labour, forced labour, labour underutilization related to skills mismatch, informality, cooperatives, rural and gender statistics, implementation of the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, volunteer work, and the International Standard Classification of Occupations); new developments in data collection and dissemination; and regional aspects of technical assistance and capacity-building in labour statistics (Report I).⁴
 - II. Revision of the international statistical standards on work relationships, including a conceptual framework, a proposal for changes to the International Classification of Status in Employment ICSE-93, a proposed new classification, ICSE-18, a new International Classification of Status at Work (ICSaW-18), as well as proposed cross-cutting variables and categories (Report II).⁵

¹ [GB.333/INS/INF/2](#).

² [GB.330/PV](#), paras 89–90, and [GB.330/INS/9](#).

³ [ICLS/20/2018/3](#). The list of participants is available at www.ilo.org/20thicls.

⁴ [ICLS/20/2018/1](#).

⁵ [ICLS/20/2018/2](#).

- III. Methodologies concerning the SDG indicators 8.8.2 (labour rights)⁶ and 8.b.1 (youth employment programmes),⁷ which were approved by the UN General Assembly in July 2017 as part of the global indicator framework and which required international validation by the ICLS. The methodologies were discussed in a dedicated committee during the 20th ICLS, on the basis of tripartite consultations held in Geneva in 2017 and 2018.
5. The Conference set up two committees: the first to deal with the revision of the international standards on work relationships (agenda item II), which elected Ms H. Sutela (Finland) as its Chairperson, and the second to discuss the methodologies for SDG indicators (agenda item III), which elected Minister L.R. Morales Vález (Mexico) as its Chairperson.
6. The Conference adopted the four resolutions and four sets of guidelines listed below. The adopted texts of all the resolutions and guidelines are annexed to the report of the proceedings. The first resolution concerned technical recommendations on revising the International Classification on Status in Employment (ICSE-93). The second and third resolutions concerned recommendations on international definitions of two indicators in the SDG global indicator framework for which the ILO is custodian.
- Resolution I: Resolution concerning statistics on work relationships
 - Resolution II: Resolution concerning the methodology of the SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights
 - Resolution III: Resolution concerning the methodology of the SDG indicator 8.b.1 on youth employment
 - Resolution IV: Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of child labour
 - Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration
 - Guidelines concerning measurement of qualifications and skills mismatches of persons in employment
 - Guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labour
 - Guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives
7. The Conference decided to defer to the 21st ICLS the revision of its Standing Orders.
8. It should be noted that resolution II concerning the methodology of SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights⁸ reaffirms the ILO's role as custodian agency for this indicator, given that the ILO textual sources are its statistical foundation. It also asks the Office to make the necessary internal arrangements and allocate resources to undertake the annual production of and reporting on this indicator to the UN, and requests the Governing Body to create a tripartite committee to consider further improvements to the approved methodology. The production

⁶ [Room document 1](#).

⁷ [Room document 2](#).

⁸ SDG indicator 8.8.2: "Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status."

of and reporting on this indicator should start as soon as possible, since the SDG global reporting system has made an urgent request to that effect. The decision to upgrade the indicator from Tier III to Tier II was made by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators in November 2018 on the basis of an internationally agreed methodology and the custodianship was given to the ILO. The tripartite discussions achieved consensus on the way to report on and refine the indicator as is described in the report on the proceedings of the ICLS.

9. The implementation of resolution II of the 20th ICLS entails new activities for the Office, which are estimated to cost US\$860,000 per biennium and are summarized as follows:

Recurrent cost estimates per biennium to implement resolution II of the 20th ICLS on SDG indicator 8.8.2

	US\$
Staff costs	445 200
External consultants	192 000
Seminars (including annual tripartite committee meeting)	154 800
Travel	40 000
Electronic platform for dissemination	28 000
Total	860 000

These resources will be used to establish the logistics of coding, compiling and reporting on the indicator, to improve the textual sources, to set up the electronic platform to disseminate the coded data, and to hold the annual meetings of the tripartite committee on the methodology behind the indicator. Staff costs are for the technical specialist, who will be responsible for coordinating and delivering the required outputs. External consultants' costs are for the coding of violations based on six textual sources of the ILO on an annual basis. The seminar costs include the training for coders and capacity-building of staff and constituents as well as two meetings of the tripartite committee per biennium on understanding the methodology behind the indicator. Travel costs are for the ILO staff to promote better understanding and interpretation of the indicator among constituents and other partners. Data will be disseminated through an interactive website that will also provide the methodology behind the indicator and will be updated regularly.

Draft decision

10. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *took note of the reports of the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS);*
- (b) *endorsed the recommendations of the 20th ICLS and requested that, subject to the availability of resources, these be taken into account by the Office in its future programme of work, particularly the newly adopted guidelines and the SDG indicators recently upgraded to Tier II by the United Nations;*

- (c) requested the Director-General to include in the Programme and Budget for 2020–21 a provision, which is estimated at US\$860,000, to implement resolution II concerning the methodology of SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights, to be reported on annually by the ILO;*
- (d) authorized the Director-General to promote the report of the proceedings of the 20th ICLS among:*

 - (i) the governments of member States and, through them, to the national employers' and workers' organizations concerned, drawing particular attention to the four resolutions contained in Appendix 3 to the report;*
 - (ii) the international employers' and workers' organizations concerned;*
 - (iii) the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations;*
 - (iv) the non-governmental organizations represented at the 20th ICLS.*