

Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance

• Questionnaire

At the first meeting of the Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD), which was held on 11 December 2020, it was agreed that the members of the working group would be invited to express their views on the understanding and scope of the notion of democratization of the ILO's governance for the purpose of informing the discussions of the second meeting of the working group to be held in January 2021 and developing a possible programme of future work.

Accordingly, the Office has prepared the following questionnaire, bearing in mind that the Centenary Declaration and its accompanying Resolution are the framework within which the TWGD should carry out its work. The Office would be grateful if the replies could be sent by Wednesday 6 January 2021 to JUR@ilo.org.

1. Do you consider that the notion of democratization refers to aspirations of Member States regarding specific aspects of the functioning of governance organs, such as composition, decision-making, voting power, organization and access to meetings? Please elaborate and provide concrete examples.

The process of democratization refers to the aim for more inclusive and fair distribution of power and participation in the tripartite governance as regards the ILO and its principal organs, for instance the composition of the Governing Body.

2. Do you consider that 'democratization of tripartite governance' concerns the ILO Governing Body only or should also cover the International Labour Conference and other aspects of ILO governance?

While democratization of ILO is a comprehensive process and affects all aspects of the functioning of the organization listed above, as well as, for instance, the recruitment of staff, composition of senior level management, etc., for the purposes of the current working group prior consideration should be given to the democratization of the ILO Governing Body.

3. Based on the above, which aspects of democratization – in addition to those addressed in the 1986 constitutional amendment – would you consider the TWGD should examine in priority? Please specify.

If we keep the non-elective ILO Governing Body Member States of chief industrial importance, perhaps it is a good idea to have a working independent mechanism by which the statute of these states shall be subject to a periodical re-evaluation. If necessary, the number of non-elective states may be increased.

If it is not possible to have the total number of GB members increased to 112 – as envisaged in the 1986 constitutional amendment - perhaps a smaller increase would be possible, keeping in mind also the possibility for rotations.

4. In your view, which are the core principles that should be guiding ILO's action towards democratization of its governance? Please specify.

Fair geographical representation, inclusiveness, equality and non-discrimination, cooperation, transparency, openness, impartiality, clear and non-ambiguous decision making process.

5. Do you have any concrete proposals for the second meeting of the TWGD and/or its future programme of work?

Discussion on possible ways to reform the ILO Governing Body.