

**Group of the Americas (GRUA) Statement
on the decision to postpone the meetings
of the tripartite working group on supply chains**

This statement is submitted on behalf of the Group of the Americas (GRUA).

Chile, in its capacity as coordinator of GRUA delegations, wishes to express its concern with these last-minute developments, and we note that the description in the ballot of the circumstances surrounding the proposal to defer the working group meeting does not necessarily reflect the views of all constituents. We believe that the ILO should keep its business continuity by flexibly adjusting its proceedings to the current health crisis. In our view, in the current circumstances a fully virtual format would have been appropriate for this meeting. Should the present postponement gather consensus, this should not be considered, in any respect, as a precedent to justify future deferments of the ILO scheduled activities for the coming months. Finally, we reiterate the need to ensure that all constituents can participate on an equal footing in future meetings, irrespective of the format eventually adopted.

Submitted on behalf of IMEC – Exceptional deferral of the meeting of the Tripartite Working Group (Supply Chains)

IMEC is disappointed with this turn of events at the last minute. Full-virtual format is one of the possible scenarios on which GB 343 (Nov 2021) based its decision regarding the dates of TWGSC meetings, thus becoming a reality that doesn't constitute a circumstantial change that justifies postponement of the meetings.

In today's circumstances, IMEC strongly believes that the ILO should keep its business continuity by flexibly adjusting to the formats allowed by the situations, while always ensuring that all constituents can participate on an equal footing. Therefore, we insisted on the importance of holding TWGSC meetings in a fully virtual format as scheduled by the GB decision.

That said, under the circumstances and in order to effectively tackle this very complex item, and understanding that the postponement period is intended to be relatively short, IMEC can reluctantly and exceptionally accept the postponement of TWGSC meetings while emphasizing it is critical that the TWGSC submit its report to the GB in November 2022.

Exact timing and duration of the rescheduled meetings have to be duly consulted. We would also appreciate to receive the Office' proposed guiding points for discussion, which will be very helpful for framing the working group discussions, well in advance of the rescheduled meetings.

The format to be decided upon for the rescheduled meeting will need to ensure that all constituents can participate on an equal footing. We also reiterate that the time window for each sitting has to be set in line with the established practice, giving due considerations to time zone challenges felt by regions.