



Governing Body

Geneva, March 2010

Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues

STM**FOR DECISION**

SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Effect to be given to the
recommendations of sectoral and
technical meetings****Meeting of Experts to Consider a
Draft Code of Practice on Safety
and Health in Agriculture (Geneva,
23 November–1 December 2009) and
follow-up**

1. In accordance with a decision taken by the Governing Body at its 306th Session (November 2009) to revise its purpose,¹ the Meeting of Experts to Consider a Draft Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture was held from 23 November to 1 December 2009. Government representatives from Costa Rica, Kenya, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom and Viet Nam attended the Meeting, as well as eight Employer and eight Worker experts and two resource persons. A representative of the World Health Organization attended as observer, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which was unable to attend, sent comments for possible inclusion in the draft code. Representatives of the following international non-governmental organizations also attended as observers: the International Organisation of Employers, the International Trade Union Confederation, and the International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations.
2. The Meeting considered the draft code of practice prepared by the Office and offered detailed suggestions for its improvement. Following the Meeting, the Office sent to all participants a brief summary of discussions as well as an annotated draft code, which incorporated the suggestions, and undertook to revise the draft in accordance with the guidance provided and previous Governing Body decisions, not later than March 2010. The revised draft would be circulated among participants to enable a wider consultation process during the summer of 2010.

¹ GB.306/13 and GB.306/STM/6/1.

- 3.** Following informal consultations with constituents, two scenarios are possible for the adoption of the code of practice. If the revised draft meets with the general approval of the experts and only minor changes are called for, the Office would include any agreed changes and submit the revised draft code to the Governing Body in November 2010 for authorization of its publication. Alternatively, if a second meeting of experts is deemed necessary, the Office would propose that a short meeting be held in October 2010, as foreseen by the decision of the Governing Body in November 2009. For budgetary reasons, a five-day meeting would be possible only by reducing the number of experts invited. The Office proposes to decide on the appropriate course of action through consultations with constituents, and to submit a proposal concerning the composition and duration of the meeting to the Officers of the Governing Body in the course of the summer of 2010.
- 4. *The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body authorize the Director-General, as he considers appropriate, following consultations with constituents:***

 - (a) *either to submit the draft code of practice on safety and health in agriculture to the Governing Body in November 2010, through the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues, for authorization of its publication; or***
 - (b) *to convene a short meeting of experts in October 2010, to consider the revised draft code of practice, and to submit proposals concerning its composition and duration for decision by the Officers of the Governing Body during the summer of 2010.***

Geneva, 8 February 2010.

Point for decision: Paragraph 4.