



## SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other financial questions****Use of the Special Programme Account**

1. At its 304th Session (March 2009), the Governing Body invited the Director-General to make proposals on the use of the remaining US\$1.3 million in the Special Programme Account.<sup>1</sup> At the 306th Session (November 2009), the Governing Body was informed that proposals, based on emerging priorities, would be submitted to the current session.<sup>2</sup>
2. In 2009, the Director-General decided to reorganize ILO statistical services by creating the Department of Statistics, reporting directly to him. The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of the Office to better monitor the jobs crisis and to support countries in collecting and disseminating labour statistics. In particular, the reorganization aimed at supporting the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 98th Session (June 2009).
3. The Global Jobs Pact called on the ILO to include data collection in its work with governments, social partners and the multilateral system to improve the capacity of countries to produce and use labour market information, including on wage trends, as a basis for informed policy decisions, and to collect and analyse consistent data to help countries benchmark their progress.<sup>3</sup> The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization also urges the ILO to strengthen the knowledge base of the Office and the capacity of constituents, particularly in “the establishment of appropriate indicators or statistics ... to monitor and evaluate the progress made”.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, the jobs crisis and the ILO’s presence in the G20 have resulted in a steep increase in the demand for up to date, relevant and increasingly sophisticated data in order to produce short-term indicators and to monitor the labour market. The need to support Decent Work Country Programmes in terms of statistical data, along with increased interest in empirical evidence that can be used to evaluate the effects of stimulus packages in many countries have put a strain on the

<sup>1</sup> GB.304/PV, paras 186 and 188.

<sup>2</sup> GB.306/PFA/3, para. 3.

<sup>3</sup> ILO, *Recovering from the crisis : A Global Jobs Pact*, Geneva, 2009, paras 26 and 27.

<sup>4</sup> ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, Geneva, 2008, section II(B)(ii).

technical capacity of the Department of Statistics to respond in a timely way. There is thus an urgent need to step up the Department's capacity.

4. Timely policy decisions require a solid statistical underpinning. In many developing countries, information on key variables is scarce or its dissemination is not well-timed for policy decisions and practical action. In order to enable the Office to expand its support to member States in labour statistics development, the Committee is invited to recommend to the Governing Body that it approve the use of the US\$1.3 million remaining in the Special Programme Account for this purpose. The funds would be used to provide technical advice to countries in: developing labour force and household surveys; strengthening the administrative records for statistical purposes; supporting establishment surveys; and promoting a better and more timely dissemination of the information gathered. The allocation would help the Office to respond to the increased demand in this area, which was not anticipated when the Programme and Budget for 2010–11 was prepared. Since statistical activities usually require substantial resources, new technical cooperation proposals will also be developed.
5. More specifically the resources will be used to:
  - support data compilation and database management in member States (US\$600,000);
  - strengthen the capacity of ten countries to produce labour statistics through surveys and other sources (US\$500,000); and
  - change the structure of the data compilation mechanisms in the Office to provide better and more timely comparable statistical information (US\$200,000).
6. ***The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body authorize the Director-General to use US\$1.3 million of the Special Programme Account, as proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 above.***

Geneva, 10 March 2010.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 6.