



## **Governing Body**

309th Session, Geneva, November 2010

**GB.309/15(Rev.)**

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### FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

#### **Report of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues**

1. The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues met on 8 November 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr Martin (France). The Employer and Worker Vice- Chairpersons were Mr Moore and Ms Sundnes, respectively.
2. Mr Dragnich, Executive Director of the Social Dialogue Sector, opening the meeting, explained that, owing to government changes in Hungary, the Chairperson, Mr L. Héthy, could not preside over the current meeting or the next meeting of the Committee (in March 2011). The Government group would therefore appoint two interim Chairpersons to cover the November 2010 and March 2011 meetings. For the current meeting, the Government group had appointed Mr Martin, representative of the Government of France and regional coordinator for Europe. He thanked Lajos Héthy for his long service to the Committee and stressed that he had been a true friend and dedicated partner. He welcomed the new Worker Vice-Chairperson and expressed his delight in working with her in the future.
3. The Chairperson welcomed the new Worker Vice-Chairperson, Ms Sundnes, and said that he looked forward to working with her and the Employer Vice-Chairperson. The Government group had always had a particular interest in the discussions of the Committee, given that it dealt with very practical issues and demonstrated the direct impact of ILO interventions on specific workplaces.
4. The Worker Vice-Chairperson thanked the Chairperson for his warm welcome and said that she was very honoured to represent the Workers in the Committee. She looked forward to good collaboration with the other Officers of the Committee.
5. The Employer Vice-Chairperson congratulated the Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Chairperson on their appointments. He had shared a very good working relationship with the former Worker Vice-Chairperson and hoped that collaboration would continue to be constructive in the future.

## 1. The sectoral dimension of the ILO's work

### 1.1. Update of sectoral aspects regarding the global economic downturn: Public administration

6. Mr Dragnich introduced the paper,<sup>1</sup> stating that at the March 2010 session of the Governing Body, the Committee had asked the Office to provide further information on sector-specific developments resulting from the economic crisis. In addition to the paper, two working papers had been made available in the room: *Dispute prevention and resolution in public service labour relations: Good policy and practice* (WP.277), which dealt with dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms in public administration; and *A global overview of employment trends and working conditions by economic activity* (WP.279), which provided an analytical overview of the performance of 13 economic activities in 51 developed and developing economies in the first half of 2010 and was supplemented by a graphical summary document, entitled "Sectoral recovery at hand". The working papers had been prepared in collaboration with other departments, in particular, the Department of Statistics. Previous cooperation on sectoral issues had also led to the ILO joining UN-Water, to which the Organization was adding value thanks to its knowledge of the utilities sector.
7. The Worker Vice-Chairperson thanked the Office for the document and recommended that it be presented to the G20. The paper contained several points which should be brought to the attention of policy-makers: in a number of countries, the crisis had been used as a pretext to make disproportionate cuts in public spending; measures had sometimes been imposed without social dialogue, leading to social unrest; where social dialogue took place in good faith, long-term solutions were found; and cuts in public sector employment and wages had immediate negative consequences for labour markets. The speaker suggested adding a definition of public administration, and a table listing and explaining the selection of countries covered. Moreover, there were some inaccuracies in the document that needed to be corrected.
8. She welcomed the recent ratifications of the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151), and encouraged other countries to ratify the Convention. Referring to paragraphs 1 and 20, she concluded that political systems and approaches played a role in public sector employment and working conditions. As described in the *World of Work Report 2010: From one crisis to the next?*, the responses to the crisis had, in some cases, been ideologically motivated. Successful examples of social dialogue were the exception rather than the rule.
9. The speaker reiterated the statement made by her group at the March 2010 session of the Governing Body that workers were paying three times for the crisis, which they had not caused: by having to pay for bailouts and stimulus packages as taxpayers; by suffering from reduced public services to refund public debts; and by being subjected to deteriorating working conditions in the form of longer working time, decreased wages and increasingly precarious employment. Given that the ILO and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had agreed to work together and to focus on policies to promote employment-creating growth, her group was very concerned to see that the IMF had requested most of the countries to seek emergency assistance to reduce employment costs, as mentioned in paragraph 23 of the paper. Other developments were also alarming, such as a provision contained in the Recommendation of the Council of the European Union on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union, which

<sup>1</sup> GB.309/STM/1/1.

proposed that wage moderation in the public sector should be regarded as a means of containing wages in the private sector. Highlighting the paper's section on the future of public administration, she pointed out that the points made were highly relevant and should shape policies. Given the importance of the subject, her group requested the Office to keep the Committee informed on developments related to employment, wages and working conditions in public administration.

- 10.** A Worker member from Romania explained that Romania had established a tripartite body to address the crisis and signed an agreement with the IMF in April 2009 to assist the country's further economic development. In addition, the IMF had contracted with nine banks for non-withdrawal of capital. However, in Romania there had been a withdrawal of funds totalling 7 billion euros. The IMF had asked Romania to restructure the law on the public service, as well as the pension system. In March 2010, the IMF had recognized that Romania had suffered a 7.5 per cent deficit relative to gross domestic product for 2009, and the Government had unilaterally imposed a 25 per cent reduction of salaries in public administration and a 15 per cent reduction of pensions, thus breaching the Constitution in that regard. Value added tax had been increased from 19 to 24 per cent; the retirement age had been raised from 63 to 65; and flexibility rules had been introduced in relation to labour contracts, giving the employer more freedom to dismiss a worker without following a formal process and hence the power to determine wages and salaries without consultation.
- 11.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson regretted that, having received the paper very late, his group was not in a position to comment in detail. He did not agree with the Workers' proposal that the paper should be presented at the G20 meeting. Expressions such as "social unrest" exaggerated the situation, and the suggestion that national social dialogue was the panacea for the crisis seemed misleading. Social dialogue needed to be practised at company level. He considered the paper interesting, but did not understand why the Office had presented it to the Committee and tasked it with discussing it.
- 12.** The representative of the Government of Zambia thanked the Office for the paper, particularly the qualitative and quantitative elements in paragraphs 9–13. Monitoring the effects of the global economic downturn, even in public administration, remained a challenge in Africa owing to the inadequate labour market information systems in member States. Since no comprehensive labour market data from Africa was reflected in the paper, he urged the Office to link up with other ILO departments to assist ten proposed member States to establish functioning labour market information systems. Two countries from each economic community/subregion should be chosen: from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), South Africa and Zambia; from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Nigeria and Burkina Faso; from East and Central Africa, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania; from North Africa, Algeria and Egypt; Namibia and Ghana should be considered as additional countries. The speaker agreed with the statement in paragraph 32 that social dialogue was crucial to crisis responses and explained that there was still a need to build capacities and mechanisms for its promotion in Africa. In relation to future reports on sectoral developments of the crisis, the Africa group suggested that agriculture should also be considered, since it was the sector with the largest number of employees.
- 13.** The representative of the Government of Peru underscored that there were diverse reasons for employment reductions in public administration and that some regions had not been severely affected by the crisis: in South America, there had not been a serious decline in employment. The lack of data demonstrated the importance of assisting in the creation of an information system on employment trends for public administration. It seemed important that social dialogue had been affected by the crisis, especially in developed countries which had had strong traditions of good social dialogue. Countries were now

forced by international institutions to comply with their requests and had very little room for flexibility. Since little political space was left, these countries found it difficult to engage with the social actors. In order to respond to these situations, the ILO needed to further promote the Global Jobs Pact, particularly in the context of the G20. It should also consider and boost social dialogue mechanisms to avoid the upheavals that some countries had faced.

- 14.** The Chairperson, speaking on behalf of the Government of France, pointed out that a short synthesis like the paper before the Committee could naturally not take account of all the existing diversity, because situations differed from region to region, and from country to country, but the paper had addressed the issue well, provided an interesting overview and encouraged further reflection. On the question of the balance between stimulus measures and fiscal consolidation which had been analysed in detail by the *World of Work Report*, it was necessary to refer also to the size of automatic stabilizers. Governments with very strong public or social sectors, as was the case of France, had maintained those expenditures even after receiving reduced resources as a result of the crisis. Thus, budget deficits had risen considerably. The resulting problems needed to be addressed through corrective measures in order to avoid the risk of producing damaging results. On the question of reduction of employment in public administration in France, the reduction was related, not to measures to address the crisis, but to policies to make the public sector more productive and the country more competitive. On pension reform, the resulting upheavals had been widely reported in the press. However, it was important to understand that social dialogue that had been engaged between the Government and social partners could not produce magic results when all sides were faced with difficult choices.
- 15.** Ms Tinoco, Director of the Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR), thanked the speakers for their valuable comments. She apologized for the delay of the paper and explained that a balance had to be found between timely delivery and the delayed availability of country data. The countries mentioned in the paper had been selected based on the availability of up-to-date data.
- 16.** In response to the question as to why only a European gender analysis had been included, a representative of the Office explained that the sample regarding gender issues in Latin America and Africa was not large enough to draw conclusions. The lack of data for Africa highlighted the need for better monitoring in the region. Concerning Estonia, there had been few reductions and increases in employment, but since the civil service was small, minor absolute changes appeared as large percentages in the graph. The paper recognized that some changes had already begun before the crisis, for example, the changes in the pensionable age in France in order to maintain a sustainable retirement system.
- 17.** Ms Tinoco took note of the suggestions made by the Africa group and explained that work to improve labour market data collection at regional levels was one of the priorities of the Office.
- 18.** Mr Dragnich agreed that work on that issue was important and necessary. He noted the strong links between the issue under discussion and the item on labour administration and inspection to be discussed at the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2011, and encouraged the members of the Committee to attend the meeting of the Committee on Employment and Social Policy, which would discuss that item the following day.
- 19.** On the status of the paper presented, the Chairperson remarked that it was a work in progress, and asked if it was the intention of the Office to continue looking into that issue, in addition to reviewing developments in sectors not yet covered, such as agriculture.

20. The representative of the Government of Brazil said that the paper had demonstrated that employment and social protection were fundamental, and was in favour of sending the paper to the G20. The lack of data on Brazil did not affect his support for the paper's findings, but he proposed including a chapter on good practices, to which he pledged Brazil's cooperation. Since the recommendations made were based on the principles of the Global Jobs Pact, his delegation fully subscribed to them.
21. Ms Tinoco explained that WP.279 had been circulated internally in the Office and provided not only information on the crisis and recovery, but also information useful for the discussions related to the Global Jobs Pact and those of the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization. To assist the discussions of the G20, the Office had prepared a summary document that illustrated job recovery in different sectors. In response to a question raised earlier by the Chairperson, she explained that the working paper on good practices in dispute prevention and resolution in public services had been prepared in collaboration with the Industrial and Employment Relations Department and was open to comments. It could, in the future, form the basis for the development, with tripartite participation, of a manual on dispute prevention and resolution. In line with earlier requests, a paper on education would be submitted to the March 2011 session.
22. The Chairperson suggested that the paper should be open to further input and improved in the future through the incorporation of additional comments.

## 1.2. Review of sectoral initiatives on HIV and AIDS

23. Mr Dragnich introduced the paper,<sup>2</sup> highlighting the importance of the sectoral approach to HIV/AIDS, especially in view of the recent adoption of the HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2010 (No. 200). As workplaces differed considerably from sector to sector, the ILO Programme on HIV/AIDS and the world of work (ILO/AIDS) and SECTOR had collaborated very closely in the last biennia. Focus had been on developing practical and focused guidelines and toolkits that would provide sector-specific guidance to constituents. The publication *Driving for change: A training toolkit on HIV/AIDS for the road transport sector*, for example, had been distributed to over 180 International Road Transport Union (IRU) associations in 74 countries and was being used by a network of 40 IRU-accredited Training Institutes (ATIs) in 33 countries. The toolkit was also being used by the World Food Programme in Congo. Collaboration with other UN agencies had been successful in many cases, for instance, in relation to the development of tools for the education sector and health services.
24. Dr Kisting, Director of ILO/AIDS, explained that the development of workplace policies, programmes and tools for key economic sectors allowed the engagement of the sectoral constituents in addressing HIV and AIDS issues and was thus a strategic priority, also in order to reach out to the informal economy, in particular migrant workers. A long-standing and fruitful collaboration between SECTOR and ILO/AIDS existed, which had been instrumental in producing practical tools in sectors such as transport, education, health, construction, mining, tourism and the postal sector. The joint ILO–WHO–UNAIDS policy guidelines on improving health workers' access to HIV and tuberculosis (TB) prevention, treatment, care and support were the most recent examples of such in-house collaboration, as well as an inter-agency effort involving the World Health Organization (WHO), the ILO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). They were the first international guidelines to assist health sector workers to develop an enabling policy environment and strengthen their access to HIV and TB prevention, particularly by

<sup>2</sup> GB.309/STM/1/2.

protecting them from exposure at the workplace. Recent sectoral work in relation to HIV included: two projects implemented in Zambia and Mozambique in selected education institutions on the use of the ILO–UNESCO model workplace policy on HIV/AIDS in that sector; the validation of the training toolkit on HIV and AIDS in road transport held in the Russian Federation and Uganda; the validation of the toolkit on HIV and AIDS for railway workers held in New Delhi, with the active participation of sectoral unions and employers’ organizations; the validation workshop on the guidelines for HIV in postal services held in conjunction with the Universal Postal Union and UNAIDS in Burkina Faso; and the review and validation of the guidelines on HIV/AIDS for the tourism sector and the training of health workers in 15 hotels, carried out in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (WTO). Emphasizing that the protection of human rights at work was central to HIV prevention, she explained that the effective implementation of workplace policies and programmes was crucial to end stigma and discrimination at the workplace vis-à-vis both formal and informal workers.

25. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the point for decision. Since HIV/AIDS and TB were major issues that affected almost every sector, the ILO had an important role to play, in particular, in the development of useful workplace toolkits and their use in affected regions such as Africa. The ILO code of practice *HIV/AIDS and the world of work: Guidelines for the transport sector* was a good example and demonstrated the value of cross-sectoral work. In relation to the WHO, he asked the Office to clarify the role and amount of cooperation provided by that organization, given that the WHO was in some cases advocating very peculiar policies, as in relation to tobacco for instance. He wondered whether there were formal links between the discussion in the Committee and the discussion on the follow-up to the adoption of Recommendation No. 200 and the related resolution.<sup>3</sup>
26. The Worker Vice-Chairperson thanked the Office for the review. She noted that Global Union federations had welcomed the ILO’s work on HIV/AIDS in the commerce, education, health, maritime, mining, postal services, tourism, transport and other sectors. Trade unions at the national and international level had been directly involved in the development and validation of sectoral guidelines and toolkits. Regarding the health sector, health workers and their associations had been strong advocates of the points set out in the joint ILO–WHO policy guidelines, which had been unanimously adopted at the tripartite expert consultation in July 2010. The joint implementation of these guidelines by governments, workers and employers, as well as by occupational health committees, would provide for a healthier workforce in the sector and strengthen health systems in relation to the provision of quality HIV and TB services. Therefore, the Workers supported the point for decision and encouraged ILO/AIDS and SECTOR to pursue their work with UNAIDS and other UN agencies, as appropriate. She requested the Office, in collaboration with the concerned units, to prepare similar papers providing overviews of sectoral work on occupational safety and health, multinational enterprises and international labour standards. In closing, she emphasized the importance of strengthening in-house collaboration to further the integration of the sectoral dimension into a wide range of ILO technical programmes.
27. The representative of the Government of Brazil congratulated the Office on the document and supported the point for decision. He stated that, among the main principles and values of its national plan on sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, the Brazilian Government attached particular importance to the full implementation of Recommendation No. 200, which provided specific guidance to all member States on measures to prevent any form of discrimination against persons with HIV, broadening and complementing the

<sup>3</sup> GB.309/3/2(Rev.).

Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111). Already before the adoption of the Recommendation, the Brazilian Government had adopted labour legislation that prohibited companies from directly or indirectly requesting HIV testing and prohibited any discriminatory practices in relation to access to and continuation of employment. The legislation also fostered the development of preventive campaigns and programmes to encourage workers to determine their status through voluntary and confidential tests. The state governments, in cooperation with the social actors, would be implementing policies that ensured universal access to prevention, diagnosis and treatment, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination at the workplace. For that reason, his Government attached great importance to the implementation of Recommendation No. 200.

- 28.** The representative of the Government of Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, expressed appreciation for the well-articulated paper prepared by the Office, as well as for the new format for documents submitted to the Governing Body. Africa had been the region worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. He recalled the request made by African countries to the ILO to assist member States in addressing the effects of HIV/AIDS in the workplace. In this regard, he supported the initiatives mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 7, as well as the validation of new guidelines for the retail sector. With regard to the construction sector (paragraphs 11–13), he noted the vital role the construction sector played in employment creation in Africa. The Africa group also supported the efforts made in the health sector, described in paragraphs 18–25, and welcomed the piloting of the new HealthWISE workplace tool in Senegal and in the United Republic of Tanzania. Prevalence and mortality rates were decreasing. Thanks to expanded access to antiretroviral therapy for HIV patients in several countries. Moreover, the number of newly infected children and adults had decreased by 17 per cent between 2001 and 2008 as a result of aggressive prevention programmes combined with treatment and behaviour change. His group endorsed the point for decision.
- 29.** The representative of the Government of India recognized the importance of sectoral efforts to address HIV. The adoption of Recommendation No. 200 had been very timely and provided the necessary mandate and backing to address the issue of HIV at the workplace with greater intensity and focus. The Ministry of Labour and Employment of India had launched a national policy in 2009 and a stakeholder committee has been put in place. He encouraged the Office to continue its work in India, and to expand its work on HIV/AIDS to other sectors such as agriculture, given that sector's large number of informal workers, as well as to sectors with a very young workforce, such as information technology. His delegation supported the point for decision.
- 30.** The representative of the Government of Egypt supported the point for decision and thanked the Office for its efforts in addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS. He considered that sectoral guidelines were very important in limiting the spread of HIV and TB. He supported the point for decision, since health workers belonged to the group of workers most exposed to HIV and TB by the very nature of their professional activities, and he invited the Office to increase its assistance to national programmes in order to eradicate these diseases.
- 31.** The representative of the Government of Kenya endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Africa group and added that the devastating effects of the epidemic and the way it eroded development gains could not be overemphasized. Whereas HIV had decreased in some sectors, it was not true for all sectors of the economy. He recognized Recommendation No. 200 and the related resolution as a milestone for HIV prevention and pointed to the paramount importance of sector-specific guidelines and tools. He appreciated the efforts that had been made by the ILO since the inception of the sectoral work in 2004. The joint guidelines and the global framework would contribute to fighting

the menace. He commended the Office on having secured the involvement of social partners in all its activities but regretted that, despite the achievements made, the road transport sector still required a great deal of support. The free movement agreement recently signed for the East African region had increased traffic considerably in Kenya, in particular in Kenyan ports. He therefore asked the Office to provide the appropriate capacity building, including training, to sustain progress in the sector.

32. The Chairperson asked the Office to provide further information on the procedures observed by the WHO in relation to the adoption of the guidelines and the framework and to explain in more detail the status of development of some of the tools that had been mentioned.

33. Ms Tinoco highlighted the regional and national activities that had recently been undertaken by the Office: validation workshops for guidelines and toolkits had been organized in Jamaica and Mozambique (education); Burkina Faso (tourism), Lao People's Democratic Republic (tourism), Russian Federation and Uganda (transport). The Office had also engaged in other activities, especially in countries where Decent Work Country Programmes had attached priority to work on HIV/AIDS at the sectoral level. Regarding the point for decision, she recalled that an ILO–WHO working group had been established by decision of the Governing Body in June 2010 to develop policy guidelines and frameworks further. At a meeting in July 2010 the tripartite working party of experts discussed and adopted joint ILO–WHO–UNAIDS policy guidelines on improving health workers' access to HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support and the WHO–ILO Global Framework for National Occupational Health Programmes for Health Workers. In response to a question on the progress of work in other sectors, she clarified that the guidelines for commerce and mining still needed to be validated at the national level, following the same process as had been adopted for the tourism sector, and she assured the Committee of the Office's commitment to the development of new sectoral tools where the need existed.

34. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body authorize the publication of the Joint ILO–WHO policy guidelines on improving health workers' access to HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support services, and the WHO–ILO Global Framework for National Occupational Health Programmes for Health Workers as joint ILO–WHO publications.*

## 2. Effect to be given to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings

35. Mr Dragnich introduced the paper before the Committee<sup>4</sup> and informed it that both the Meeting of Experts and the Global Dialogue Forum had been well-attended and successful.

36. The Worker Vice-Chairperson endorsed the points for decision and observed that the excellent set of guidelines demonstrated the high level of social dialogue attained in the meeting. Regarding the Global Dialogue Forum on Strategies for Sectoral Training and Employment Security, she thanked the Office for the efficiency with which the meeting had been organized to ensure that its conclusions could feed into the strategy paper presented to the G20 ministerial meeting. She welcomed the Global Dialogue Forum's conclusions but regretted that they did not give sufficient attention to employment security as part of viable training strategies.

<sup>4</sup> GB.309/STM/2.

37. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the points for decision and welcomed the outcome of the two meetings. He had attended the Global Dialogue Forum in person and had found it very useful.
38. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body:*
- (a) *authorize the Director-General to publish the Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and to promote them together with Convention No. 188;*
  - (b) *authorize the Director-General to communicate the final report of the Global Dialogue Forum on Strategies for Sectoral Training and Employment Security to governments, requesting them to communicate the text to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned; and to the international employers' and workers' organizations and other international organizations concerned; and*
  - (c) *request the Director-General, when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office, to bear in mind the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts as set out in paragraph 5 of GB.309/STM/2, and the recommendations made by the Global Dialogue Forum, as set out in paragraph 9 of the same document.*

### 3. Maritime and transport

#### 3.1. Proposal for the convening of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission

39. Mr Dragnich introduced the paper<sup>5</sup> and said that the Office, after having consulted with the secretariats of the Shipowners' and Seafarers' groups of the Joint Maritime Commission, proposed that a meeting of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission be convened in mid-2011 to discuss the updating of the minimum wage figure for able seafarers.
40. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the ILO minimum wage for able seafarers was important as it influenced the real income for workers in the sector. In recent years, that income had suffered from the volatility of exchange rates, the weakness of the dollar and inflation in the countries of residence of the majority of the world's seafarers. She expressed the hope that the shipowners would come to the table with a mandate to review and revise the existing wage figure.
41. The representative of the Government of Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, recognized the importance of the issue and urged the parties to reach a reasonable conclusion on that overdue item.
42. The Employer Vice-Chairperson noted the comments made, and endorsed the point for decision, but said that the outcome of the meeting could not be predetermined.

<sup>5</sup> GB.309/STM/3/1.

43. In response to a question from the Chairperson, a representative of the Office provided information on the basis for the ILO recommended minimum wage figure for able seafarers.
44. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body approve the convening of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission, in mid-2011, at no cost to the Office.*

### **3.2. Progress report on work on the Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels**

45. Mr Dragnich said he was very pleased to present the paper,<sup>6</sup> as it was another good example of how the ILO worked behind the scenes to ensure coherence throughout the UN system with respect to work in the fishing sector. The publication of the *Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels* as a joint FAO–ILO–IMO publication would demonstrate the importance the ILO attached to the fishing sector and would also directly contribute to the widespread implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188). He took the opportunity to thank the Government of Norway for assisting in the funding of the ILO component of the FAO Workshop on Child Labour in fisheries and aquaculture held in collaboration with the ILO, as that had ensured the participation of Employer and Worker experts in the meeting, who might otherwise not have been represented. That in turn promoted inter-agency policy coherence with respect to child labour in fishing, especially as far as international labour standards were concerned.
46. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that his group fully supported the point for decision.
47. The Worker Vice-Chairperson endorsed the point for decision, and was pleased with the support given by Norway to the ILO's work in the fishing sector.
48. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body approve the publication by the IMO of the Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels as a joint FAO–ILO–IMO publication.*

## **4. Other questions**

### **4.1. Sectoral activities 2010–11**

49. Mr Dragnich introduced the papers before the Committee.<sup>7</sup> The Office had been overwhelmed by the interest in the Global Dialogue Forum on tourism and was consequently proposing to increase the number of participants. He stressed that there was very good collaboration with the WTO, partially owing to the fact that the Secretary-General of the WTO had been Assistant Director-General of the ILO from 2003 to 2006. Other Global Dialogue Forums had also been very successful and well-attended, such as

<sup>6</sup> GB.309/STM/3/2.

<sup>7</sup> GB.309/STM/4/1 and GB.309/STM/4/1(Add.).

those on Strategies for Sectoral Training and Employment Security and on Vocational Education and Training.

50. The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons supported the point for decision.
51. The representative of the Government of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), asked for clarification as to the difference between a Global Technical Workshop and a Global Dialogue Forum and whether the change in the title would affect the content and the outcome of the meeting.
52. The representative of the Government of Japan supported the points for decision, in particular the suggested change of title. The meeting had been tasked with dealing not only with the technical, but also with the political aspects of the issue. The issue was of great importance to Japan, since drivers of trailers carrying intermodal containers were not involved in the packing of those containers and could thus not assure themselves that weight limits were observed and weight distribution was correct. That had led to accidents and overloading and had caused serious incidents. While his Government had introduced a bill to bolster safety procedures for the road transport of intermodal containers, he noted that domestic efforts alone were not enough to truly ensure road transport safety. For that reason, safety measures needed to be implemented globally through effective international rules. Given that the matter could be more fully discussed in the context of a Global Dialogue Forum, Japan supported the change of title and looked forward to participating and positively contributing to the Forum.
53. In response to the questions raised by the representative of the Government of Argentina, a representative of the Office explained that sufficient international standards and training materials existed that dealt with the technical aspects of the packing of containers, whereas there was a lack of coordination and harmonization between the stakeholders in relation to enforcing and promoting those standards. Consequently a Global Dialogue Forum format seemed more appropriate than a Technical Workshop.
54. The representative of the Government of Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, indicated that his group had no objection to the change of title. The change of title would allow a broader discussion on the matter and not arbitrarily limit the work of the meeting to purely technical issues.
55. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body approve:*
  - (a) *a change in the title of the “Global Technical Workshop” to “Global Dialogue Forum on Safety in the Supply Chain in Relation to Packing of Containers”;* and
  - (b) *that one additional Worker and one additional Employer participant, selected after consultations with their respective groups, be invited to attend the Global Dialogue Forum on New Developments and Challenges in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector and their Impact on Employment, Human Resources Development and Industrial Relations.*

#### **4.2. Developments with respect to the issue of medical supplies for seafarers**

56. Mr Dragnich informed the Committee that following the joint publication of the third edition of the ILO–IMO–WHO *International Medical Guide for Ships*, the Office had held discussions with the WHO on the issue of providing guidance on quantities of medical

supplies to be carried on board ships. It was suggested by the WHO and the IMO that a meeting of experts would be convened in 2011 to discuss the matter. The Office would therefore submit a paper to the March 2011 meeting of the Committee proposing a meeting of experts, to be held at no cost to the Office.

- 57.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson took note of the information provided and asked the Office to reconsider its intention to propose in March 2011 that the meeting should be carried out at “no cost to the Office”.

Geneva, 11 November 2010

*Points for decision:* Paragraph 34  
Paragraph 38  
Paragraph 44  
Paragraph 48  
Paragraph 55