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Policy Development Section

POL

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DRAFT MINUTES

Policy Development Section

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Employment and Social Protection Segment

1. The Employment and Social Protection Segment was held on Wednesday, 7 November 2012. It was chaired by Mr Shahmir (Government, Islamic Republic of Iran), as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body. The Employer spokespersons were Mr Anderson on agenda item 1 and Ms Goldberg on agenda items 2 and 3. The Worker spokesperson was Ms Kelly on all agenda items.

First item on the agenda

Labour migration (GB.316/POL/1)

2. *A representative of the Director-General (Officer-in-Charge, Social Protection Sector)* introduced the paper and the draft decision.
3. *The Employer spokesperson* supported subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the draft decision in paragraph 20, as they sought to increase the visibility of the issue of labour migration; to engage the ILO and its social partners in the necessary dialogue; and to feed ILO constituents' inputs into global processes. He accorded full respect to the sovereignty of governments on matters of migration, while recognizing the complexity of the issues, which were multifactorial, context-specific and, in certain cases, sensitive. Real gains could be made through a well-structured system of labour migration that met the needs of workers and enterprises and enjoyed the communities' support. Properly structured labour migration would add to the efficiency of labour markets and create jobs. The intensity of labour migration had increased since the 2004 International Labour Conference (ILC) general discussion and new global dialogue processes had been created. It was now important to highlight the role of social dialogue in those processes, which did not automatically include social partners. As beneficiaries of migrant labour, businesses could help advance dialogue on labour migration where it tended to be polarized. Migration was not only an issue for ministries of the interior since ministries of labour also added considerable value to deliberations. The ILO had a role in producing the required information, in assessing data and case studies, and in building capacity and exchanging information with its constituents.
4. The ILO should continue to engage in dialogue with its constituents on the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), as unethical practices did exist and could undermine support for an orderly system of migration. The promotion of the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration was important. Overall, implementing the 2004 Plan of Action had proven a challenge due to insufficient resources. Regarding the Labour Migration Academy held at the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre), he called for the increased involvement of social partners therein. The Employers' group wished to amend subparagraph (a) of the draft decision in paragraph 20 by inserting the words "effectively operating labour markets offering" before the words "decent work".
5. *The Worker spokesperson* said that the Office had paid insufficient attention to the subject of labour migration, and regretted the lack of ILO visibility in international migration debates. Labour supply drove a large part of migration and the ILO had both the mandate and the instruments to play an important role in that area. Attention should be drawn to the fundamental principle that migrants should be treated as workers rather than as factors of production, and to the four areas of the ILO's response. The Office should step up its work to achieve more ratifications, especially of the Migrant Workers (Supplementary

Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), since its ratification could play a role in reducing anti-immigrant sentiment and allow trade unions to facilitate the integration of migrant workers into their host countries. The ILO should also take up the rotating chair of the Global Migration Group. The 2013 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should recognize that most migration flows were motivated by the search for employment, and focus on promoting decent work for both migrant and local workers, as well as on human rights issues. The United Nations (UN) agencies, and the ILO in particular, should play a role in the governance of migration and should promote the role of social partners in drafting and implementing labour migration laws and policies.

6. Regarding subparagraph (a) of the draft decision in paragraph 20, she requested the Office to take into account the worker priorities identified supra in relation to the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Regarding subparagraph (b) of the draft decision in paragraph 20 and the proposed tripartite forum, given the availability of resources in the current budget, a tripartite meeting should be organized in November 2013 after the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in order to discuss its outcome and follow-up. Possible modalities for convening the tripartite meeting should be presented to the Governing Body in March 2013 and future work priorities on labour migration should be submitted to the Governing Body in March 2014. Consideration should be given to a regular review of, and exchange on, labour migration in the ILO, including the possibility of bringing back the discussion to the ILC.
7. *Speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States*, a Government representative of Cyprus said that Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine aligned themselves with the statement. She explained that well-managed mobility was one of the pillars of the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, which was aimed at achieving mutually beneficial cooperation and policy coherence. Integrating migrants into the labour market, identifying its needs, and combating irregular migration were among the central elements of EU policy. Regarding subparagraph (a) of the draft decision in paragraph 20, the EU had identified a number of priorities: the need to broaden the migration–development nexus in order to address the social and economic implications of considerable South–South migration flows for development; and the need to give more consideration to synergies between migration and other development strategies, such as employment policy and trade, and the recognition of links between migration and development in the post-2015 development framework. Regarding subparagraph (b) of the draft decision in paragraph 20, the EU believed that the ILO, with its long-standing experience in labour-related issues, had a privileged role to play in international discussions on labour migration. The EU encouraged the promotion of the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration and supported the Office’s commitment to raising its profile in global discussions, including in existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms such as the Global Migration Group, where the ILO should seek the chairmanship.
8. The EU suggested that subparagraph (b) of the draft decision in paragraph 20 be amended as follows: “The Governing Body: (b) requests the Director-General to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the ILO’s response to the changing landscape of international labour migration, including the Office’s progress on the promotion of its Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, with a view to better offer an informed contribution to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;” and that a further subparagraph, (c), be added: “further requests the Director-General to submit an oral written report on the outcome of the High-level Dialogue to the October 2013 session of the Governing Body,

and to submit for adoption at the March 2014 session of the Governing Body a plan of work for future action of the Office in this field, on the basis of the above evaluation”.

9. *Speaking on behalf of the Africa group*, a Government representative of the Congo stated that the persistent economic crisis made it difficult for the ILO to attain its protection objectives, particularly since irregular migration was on the rise and compromised workers’ training perspectives, thereby exposing them to exploitation. A notable increase in migration raised questions of migrant workers’ treatment, as well as brain drain in African countries. Bilateral and regional cooperation, social dialogue, social security coordination, and mainstreaming employment and labour rights in national migration policies were valuable mechanisms and the ILO should continue working in those areas with regional African institutions. The Africa group endorsed the draft decision contained in paragraph 20, as amended by the Workers’ group.
10. *The Worker spokesperson* presented a subamendment to the EU’s amendment, summarizing that subparagraph (a) of the draft decision in paragraph 20 had been amended by the Employers; that subparagraph (b) had been amended by the EU; and that a new subparagraph, (c), had been added by the EU. The Workers’ group suggested adding two further subparagraphs to the draft decision in paragraph 20: “further requests the Director-General to organize a tripartite meeting, within the existing resources, enabling the Organization to assess the outcome of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and consider possible areas for ILO follow-up” and “further requests the Director-General to make a proposal for the modalities for the abovementioned tripartite meeting to the March 2013 session of the Governing Body”; and adding the words “and the tripartite meeting” to the end of the EU’s new subparagraph (c), which would become subparagraph (e).
11. *Speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)*, a Government representative of Colombia noted that increased ILO visibility in international forums would serve to highlight migrant workers’ contributions to development and to call attention to their rights, thereby protecting them from unethical recruiters, exploitative criminal networks and discriminatory forms of temporary migration. GRULAC welcomed the participation of the Director-General in the Principals’ meetings of the Global Migration Group. The Global Forum on Migration and Development, while a state-led process, had a civil society component that allowed the ILO’s tripartite voice to be heard. Regional mechanisms such as the South American Conference on Migration were appropriate forums for openly discussing migration issues, including core ILO themes, and it would be important for the ILO to participate in such deliberations via its regional and subregional offices. GRULAC agreed that the Office should identify key priorities for substantive follow-up to the 2013 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.
12. *Speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group (ASPAG)*, a Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that ASPAG countries were among the world’s largest sending and receiving countries. He encouraged the ILO to work with UN treaty bodies to promote its legal instruments on migrant workers. Based on demand, the Office should further strengthen technical cooperation. The close collaboration between the ILO and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in particular, its Forum on Migrant Labour, was laudable. The 2013 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and its follow-up provided an important opportunity for the ILO to exercise its constitutional mandate. It was also important to use ILO tools in the context of the UN’s “Delivering as One” initiative. ASPAG endorsed the amended draft decision.

13. *Speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)*, a Government representative of Zambia endorsed the statement of the Africa group. The ILO should influence labour migration discourses in global forums and establish partnerships with other agencies at the highest level to ensure that labour migration was mainstreamed into the development agenda. In the past, labour migration had been a central theme in southern Africa and presently its dynamics in the region were rapidly changing. He supported the establishment of a global tripartite forum, which would bring together all ILO constituents in broader discussions on labour migration, as the current structures did not adequately accommodate social partners. He approved the draft decision contained in paragraph 20, as amended.
14. *A Government representative of the Republic of Korea* underscored the urgency of mainstreaming decent work into the global debate on international migration. Protecting migrant workers' rights, supporting their integration while in their host countries and curbing illegal stay were important issues for discussion and could benefit from ILO technical cooperation.
15. *A Government representative of India* said that migrant workers made huge contributions to economic and social development in both their host and home countries. India was a major contributor to current global migration flows and had launched initiatives to protect migrants' rights, such as bilateral labour agreements, social security agreements and the Indian Community Welfare Fund. Steps should be taken to develop a comprehensive multilateral framework on the international movement of people and there should be a greater focus on promoting employability, skills portability and the global harmonization of qualifications. He supported the proposed draft decision contained in paragraph 20, as amended.
16. *A Government representative of Japan* expressed his appreciation for the dual policy focus of the ILO on the protection of migrant workers' rights and the efficiency of labour markets. He supported the proposed tripartite meeting, which would be useful for sharing information and experiences, but also noted the importance of avoiding duplication, while stressing the sovereign right of nations to determine their own migration policies.
17. *A Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran* said that labour migration was often addressed in isolation from the labour market and economic considerations. Regional integration would result in the progressive harmonization of the recognition of skills, professional qualifications and social security. Moreover, access to reliable information on the world of work could help reduce vulnerability. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a major host country, was ready to share its experience. He endorsed the proposal to establish a global tripartite forum for periodic discussions on labour migration.
18. Aligning himself with the statement made by ASPAG, *a Government representative of Viet Nam*, lauded the intention of the ILO to raise its profile in global debates. Viet Nam had developed a legal framework for migration, including a code of conduct for recruitment agencies. ILO support in building the capacity of tripartite constituents through technical cooperation was appreciated. The ILO's tripartite knowledge and experience could make a unique contribution to shaping international migration policies. He supported the draft decision contained in paragraph 20, as amended.
19. Supporting the statement made by ASPAG, *a Government representative of Indonesia*, agreed that the ILO tripartite structure was a rich source of perspectives and experiences, particularly in relation to labour markets and workers' protection. Indonesia, as a country of origin, transit and destination, would like to see the integration of ILO instruments on the protection of migrant workers into the UN's "Delivering as One" initiative.

20. Aligning herself with the statements made by the Congo on behalf of the Africa group, and by Zambia on behalf of the SADC, *a Government representative of Zimbabwe*, noted that the debates on migration and development were largely pursued in forums where not all ILO constituents were represented. The three pillars of labour migration, namely development, protection and governance, were all embodied in the Decent Work Agenda. The SADC had mainstreamed labour migration in regional employment and labour policies. She endorsed the draft decision contained in paragraph 20, adding to subparagraph (b) that the envisaged tripartite forum should ensure the involvement of all ILO constituents at the policy level of labour migration.
21. *A Government representative of Switzerland* said that her Government supported the proposal submitted by the EU and that the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development provided a good opportunity for the ILO to share its expertise.
22. *A Government representative of the United States* stated that the ILO, with its mandate, expertise and experience, had a unique and significant contribution to make and an important role to play, especially in protecting migrant workers' rights. Her Government strongly supported continued and strengthened ILO work on labour migration and the tripartite consideration of the issue, as that could inform ILO contributions to existing global migration forums. The suggested amendments to the decisions were acceptable. However, there was no support for a recurrent forum, as that would be costly and divert resources from other important work undertaken by the Office. It would suffice to use existing forums, such as periodic discussions in the Governing Body.
23. *A representative of the Director-General (Deputy Director-General for Policy)* noted the growing demand from constituents for the ILO to influence global efforts on migration. She confirmed that funding had been earmarked for a tripartite meeting, and thanked the Governing Body for the amendments proposed, which were very clear. She added that the work of existing forums would not be duplicated, and that the Office had already expressed interest in chairing the Global Migration Group in 2014.
24. *The Worker spokesperson* said that the discussion had reinforced constituents' almost completely unanimous understanding of the role of the ILO in relation to labour migration, as well as the importance of its work and of increasing the commitment of constituents at the national level to playing a legitimate role in the debate. The Workers would have liked to go faster and further, but were conscious of the value of tripartite consensus.
25. *The Employer spokesperson* saw a strong consensus that it was appropriate for the ILO to work with governments and constituents in helping to bring about a greater capability in dealing with labour migration issues within the framework of its principles. He supported the amendments, as subamended, and observed that they provided a more targeted basis to move forward with a global tripartite forum.

Decision

26. The Governing Body:

- (a) *called on the Office to identify key priorities for substantive follow-up to the United Nations 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and to ensure that the promotion of effectively operating labour markets offering decent work becomes a central element in the discussions on migration and development;*

- (b) requested the Director-General to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the ILO's response to the changing landscape of international labour migration, including the Office's progress on the promotion of its Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, with a view to better offering an informed contribution to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;*
- (c) requested the Director-General to organize a tripartite meeting, within the existing resources, enabling the Organization to assess the outcome of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and consider possible areas for ILO follow-up;*
- (d) requested the Director-General to make a proposal for the modalities for the abovementioned tripartite meeting to the 317th Session (March 2013) of the Governing Body;*
- (e) further requested the Director-General to submit an oral written report on the outcome of the High-level Dialogue to the 319th Session (October 2013) of the Governing Body and to submit for adoption by the 320th Session (March 2014) of the Governing Body a plan of work for future action of the Office in this field, on the basis of the above evaluation and of the results of the tripartite meeting.*

(Document GB.316/POL/1, paragraph 20, as amended by the Governing Body.)

Second item on the agenda

Disability inclusion

(GB.316/POL/2)

- 27. The Office's senior specialists in disability and disability inclusion introduced the paper and the suggested points for discussion and decision.
- 28. *The Employer spokesperson* noted that giving effect to the goal of disability inclusion required an understanding of the criteria and conditions for decisions to employ disabled persons. She acknowledged the importance of the focus on rights and anti-discrimination strategies, and recommended that the Office promote anti-discrimination regulations and other laws that were balanced, proportionate and transparent for employers. However, while equity was important, it was equally important to promote the business case – the commercial and operational benefits of employing a more diverse workforce – so as to stimulate interest among small and large employers in hiring people with disabilities. In addition, the Office should become a source of data and information to highlight the strengths that persons with disabilities often brought to enterprises, helping to challenge stereotypes, address perceptions of risk, and promote good practices. Regarding the business case, there were commercial and economic arguments for employing more disabled persons. They included the fact that a more diverse workforce brought valuable skills, ideas and perspectives to the workplace, and also that persons with disabilities were productive and often had better attendance rates, along with excellent safety records and exemplary job retention rates. Referring to the Global Business and Disability Network (the Network), she welcomed the proposal to expand and strengthen that initiative, in partnership with the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP). She recognized the challenges ahead in making the Network financially sustainable, though she was confident

that the Network model was sound. She concluded by saying that the Employers' group supported the proposed decision, subject to the incorporation of the broader approach reflected in her intervention.

29. *The Worker spokesperson* affirmed that disability inclusion should be grounded in a rights-based approach and that actions to promote it needed to address institutional barriers such as discrimination and social attitudes. Greater attention must be given to double-discrimination issues faced by some groups of workers, including women with disabilities. The Workers' group wished to see Office action include activities to promote adequate infrastructure for people with disabilities such as accessible workplaces. She stressed the importance of the role of governments, legislation, access to education and work, and representation in workers' and employers' organizations. She noted the need for capacity building and added that the Office should strengthen its activities in this regard. She welcomed the work of the Office in promoting the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159), but stated that other standards should be taken into account, including the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Recommendation, 1983 (No. 168); the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); the Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No. 142); as well as the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). She stressed the importance of collective agreements in fostering inclusion of people with disabilities, citing examples where collective bargaining at the national level was creating opportunities for disabled persons. She suggested that the Office collect and disseminate those examples of good practice and arrange capacity building for trade unions, employers and people with disabilities. She agreed with the next phase of the Office's work to promote disability inclusion and suggested that other Office units be involved, in particular those dealing with standards, occupational safety and health, and cooperatives. Attention should also be given to promoting the increased ratification of Convention No. 159. Regarding the draft decision, she asked for clarification on where resources to support a wider disability inclusion initiative would come from, particularly in light of the forthcoming budget discussions. In conclusion, she said that the Workers' group suggested that disability should be included in the programme and budget discussions at the 317th Session of the Governing Body.
30. *Speaking on behalf of ASPAG*, a Government representative of Australia said that the Office should ensure that any new strategies complemented rather than duplicated existing efforts. She proposed that the Office integrate its work on disability inclusion with its four-year action plan regarding the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation. She suggested that the Office's work be guided by the following four priority areas of action: (i) promoting the ratification and effective implementation of relevant ILO Conventions; (ii) developing and sharing knowledge on the elimination of discrimination; (iii) developing the institutional capacity of ILO constituent; and (iv) strengthening international partnerships with the relevant actors.
31. *Speaking on behalf of GRULAC*, a Government representative of Colombia stressed the importance of the ILO aligning its strategy with the work carried out by the UN High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development. She invited the Office to complement the proposed global strategy with an action plan to increase disability inclusion and reduce discrimination. She also stressed the need to promote the ratification and implementation of Convention No. 159. Her group supported the draft decision.
32. *Speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States*, a Government representative of Cyprus said that Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Republic Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine aligned themselves with the statement. She remarked that, in line with Article 32 of the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the European Disability Strategy, the EU was implementing concrete actions to empower people with disabilities. She urged the Office to integrate disability inclusion into its own human resources policies and acknowledged the Network as an excellent example of public–private partnership (PPP). She concluded by supporting the draft decision, provided the following were included: promoting the acquisition of transferable skills, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education and training, improving workplace accessibility and consulting with stakeholders, including persons with disabilities.

33. *Speaking on behalf of the Africa group*, a Government representative of the Congo stated that ILO member States should consider the inclusion of people with disabilities as a matter of fundamental human rights. He suggested that employers needed to understand the UNCRPD and requested that the Office promote further ratification of Convention No. 159. He also expressed support for the strategy outlined and the draft decision.
34. *A Government representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* noted that in his country the rights of people with disabilities were enshrined in the Constitution and labour law. He requested the Governing Body to evaluate the feasibility of the Office employing a greater number of workers with disabilities. He concluded by supporting the draft decision.
35. *A Government representative of India* supported the initiative to promote decent work for all, in particular for people with disabilities. He believed that promoting disability inclusion and tackling discrimination was central to the achievement of fundamental principles and rights at work.
36. *A Government representative of Australia* stressed that the removal of barriers for the participation of people with disabilities could make a significant contribution to a nation's social and economic prosperity. She encouraged the Office to work on four priority areas: (i) capacity building for constituents; (ii) developing disability-related tools and resources to be mainstreamed in ILO publications; (iii) facilitating knowledge sharing; and (iv) strengthening research and data collection.
37. *A Government representative of Egypt* supported the draft decision. He asked the Office for guidance on how to continue working on disability inclusion.
38. *A Government representative of the United States* suggested that the Office should include monitoring and evaluation initiatives in its proposed research strategy. She suggested that research could focus on identifying best practices in legislation and policies including effective strategies that combined social protection benefits with transition to work policies. She also recommended improved data collection on disability at country level. She requested the Office to provide further information on the ILO's role in the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD). She also requested clarification on the extent to which funds from the UNPRPD could help the Office carry out its work. She concluded by supporting the draft decision.
39. *A Government representative of Zimbabwe* supported the statement made by the Africa group. She welcomed the Office's initiative to advance social justice for persons with disabilities. She concluded by supporting the draft decision.
40. *A Government representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran* stressed that progress was needed in areas such as discrimination and retention in employment, promotion of flexible work arrangements, and reasonable accommodation and career development measures. He highlighted the importance of conducting surveys to capture the views of people with disabilities and considered that the Disability Inclusion Initiative was a good basis for moving forward.

41. *A Government representative of Argentina* fully supported the statement made by the representative of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the suggestion that the Office should have a minimum percentage of people with disabilities on its staff to demonstrate its commitment to their employment.
42. *A Government representative of Mexico* said that Mexico had a comprehensive legal framework to promote disability inclusion. She indicated that strong collaboration had been established with the private sector. She emphasized that a change of paradigm was necessary to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities, with a particular focus on human rights. She encouraged the Office to continue analysing good practices.
43. *A Government representative of Brazil* supported the statement made by GRULAC and the Government representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela regarding the establishment of an internal Office policy for the inclusion of workers with disabilities. He supported the draft decision.
44. *A representative of the Director-General* (Deputy Director-General for Policy) referred to the Network as a model for involving firms in promoting disability inclusion. She noted that the Office could incorporate the business case for disability inclusion Office-wide and in its promotional materials and initiatives. She acknowledged questions raised about the budgetary implications with respect to the following five-year Strategic Policy Framework. She emphasized the Office's commitment to ensure coherence between planning, programming and strategy development.
45. *A representative of the Director-General* (Senior Specialist in Disability, Skills and Employability Department), responding to a question concerning the UNPRPD, said that the ILO had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNPRPD and was a member of both its policy board and management committee. The ILO had benefited from funding in six of eight proposals to undertake country-level activities.
46. *A representative of the Director-General* (Senior Specialist in Disability Inclusion, Skills and Employability Department) explained that the Network's long-term plan was to fund activities using membership fees, but as work was in progress some additional funds would have to be sourced. She noted that the Network promoted the human rights and business cases related to disability inclusion and that the formal membership agreement referenced the ILO code of practice on managing disability in the workplace.
47. *The Worker spokesperson* raised two issues that prevented her group from endorsing the draft decision. First, she had proposed that disability inclusion be moved to the 317th Session of the Governing Body and, second, she had expressed concern about the funding of activities, and the Office had not adequately addressed that issue.
48. *The Employer spokesperson* said that the objective of greater inclusion was important, but that standards were only one of the means available to achieve that objective and that the Office needed to take a pragmatic approach. She agreed with the Workers' group on the issue of financing the Network. She pointed to the importance of maintaining the recommended action for the Director-General to report back to the Governing Body in 12 months. She suggested that the Screening Group agree on the timing and the modality of that report.
49. *A representative of the Director-General* (Executive Director, Employment Sector) clarified that the intention of the Office was to inform rather than to discuss the topic in 12 months. He suggested removing the reference in the draft decision in paragraph 35(a). The Director-General and the Office would take the guidance received into account.

50. *A representative of the Director-General (Deputy Director-General for Policy) clarified that the Office was not suggesting that there was a single path for disability inclusion and that it recognized the roles played, not only by employers, but also by governments and trade unions.*
51. *The Worker spokesperson agreed to adopt the amendments proposed to the draft decision and welcomed further discussion within the Screening Group.*
52. *The Employer spokesperson supported the proposal by the Workers' group to discuss the issue in the Screening Group. She stressed that a report must be presented to the Governing Body by the Director-General and requested that the draft decision be amended accordingly.*

Decision

53. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *welcomed the Office's initiative to develop a strategy statement and implementation plan on disability that will include broadening the Disability Inclusion Initiative and reflect the guidance provided, and requested the Director-General to report back as deemed appropriate by the Screening Group;*
- (b) *supported the continuing work of the Office with other United Nations agencies, regional and intergovernmental bodies and multinational companies, as well as with governments and employers' and workers' organizations, in order to promote decent work for persons with disabilities.*

(GB.316/POL/2, paragraph 35, as amended by the Governing Body.)

Third item on the agenda

Discussion about the effect given to the decision adopted in November 2011 on the item entitled Green jobs, decent work and sustainable development, with a focus on the implication for the ILO's programme of work of the outcome of the UNCSD 2012 (Rio +20) (GB.316/POL/3)

54. *A representative of the Director-General (Director, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department) introduced the paper and the draft decision.*
55. *The Worker spokesperson welcomed the strong recognition of the social dimension of sustainable development in the Rio +20 outcome and expressed satisfaction with the role attributed to the social partners in the institutional framework. She was pleased with the numerous references to core issues of the ILO's mandate, including the importance of just transition and fundamental rights at work. However, it was regrettable that the ILO had not also been assigned a lead role on the latter issues as part of the follow-up by the UN system. The ILO should play a key role in advocacy for quality jobs underpinned by rights.*

She endorsed the priorities for follow-up but stressed that it should fully reflect the standards relevant for promoting green and decent jobs and a just transition. Greater efforts should be made to promote social dialogue as a means to ensure a just transition. The Office should further strengthen the capacity of workers' and employers' organizations to engage in discussions about sustainable development.

56. She underlined that, to the extent possible, employment assessment should be disaggregated by gender. As green jobs must be decent jobs, the job quality dimension of greening the economy needed to be addressed – including safety and health. The promotion of social protection floors was another priority. The ILO should work towards three sustainable development goals: full employment, decent work for all, and universal social protection. The formulation of indicators for those goals should build on the decent work indicators already endorsed by the Governing Body. Lastly, she suggested rephrasing paragraph 19(i) so that the implementation of the suggested priorities would reflect the contributions made during the discussion. The forthcoming report on sustainable development, decent work and green jobs for the ILC 2013 general discussion should not be limited to the topics and priorities dealt with in the current report, but deal with a range of issues related to sustainable development and green jobs.
57. *The Employer spokesperson* referred to the overlap between the discussions in the Policy Development and Institutional Sections. Mindful of the earlier suggestions by the Workers' group, she proposed amending the draft decision in paragraph 20 as follows: “The Governing Body: (a) approved priorities (i), (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi), as identified in paragraph 19 of document GB.316/POL/3, and requested the Director-General to take account of the views expressed by the constituents in the debate when giving effect to the agreed priorities; (b) referred the consideration of and decision on the priority suggested in paragraph 19(iv) to the discussion on decent work in the post-2015 development agenda (document GB.316/INS/6) in the Institutional Section; (c) requested the Director-General to reflect the suggested priorities, among others issues, in the forthcoming report on sustainable development, decent work and green jobs for the ILC 2013 general discussion; and (d) recommended that account be taken of the financial implications of the adopted priorities in the Programme, Financial and Administrative Section when preparing the Programme and Budget for 2014–15.”
58. She welcomed the lead role for follow-up on key outcomes of Rio +20 assigned to the ILO within the UN system. She supported adopting a “job lens” in development and growth strategies. She stressed the important role of sustainable enterprises in job creation and the need to green all jobs and make them sustainable. She underlined the importance of employment assessments as the first priority for ILO follow-up. Research, knowledge management and resource mobilization should be geared to that work.
59. *Speaking on behalf of ASPAG*, a Government representative of Australia congratulated the Office on its role in Rio +20 and expressed ASPAG's support for the amended draft decision in paragraph 20. The Office should develop a detailed plan of action for follow-up. He underlined the importance of capacity building for social dialogue, support for sustainable development goals, research and knowledge management. The ILO should work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank and other relevant agencies on topics such as social protection.
60. *Speaking on behalf of the Africa group*, a Government representative of the Congo said that, while sustainable development was at the heart of development policy for African governments, they had received too little support to reduce poverty through green economy strategies. He encouraged the Office to reinforce its strategy as outlined in the document and to provide concrete support to constituents to apply the outcomes of Rio +20 at the

national level with multi-stakeholder participation. He stressed the need to map the impact of climate change as part of employment assessments.

- 61.** *Speaking on behalf of GRULAC*, a Government representative of Colombia reaffirmed the importance of promoting decent work in the context of sustainable development. The Rio +20 outcome document should serve as the framework for future ILO work in that field. She called on the Office to support greater participation by the social partners in the follow-up to the Rio +20 outcomes. ILO technical assistance to assess the employment dimension of the transition was an important contribution. The Office should also explore the positive linkages between national social protection floors, economic development, poverty reduction and environmental protection. Any work on indicators and measurement by the ILO should be coherent with overall UN work and should avoid duplication. The Office inputs should follow the guidance provided by constituents. She emphasized that participation in a possible Office-wide working group on the matter should be open. Office research and knowledge management should focus on the creation of decent work in the promotion of sustainable development, including through small and medium-sized enterprises, and the protection of migrant workers.
- 62.** *Speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States*, a Government representative of Cyprus stated that the follow-up process had to be open and inclusive, with the full participation of civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations, trade unions and local authorities. She welcomed the agreement reached at Rio +20 to pursue a just, global transition to an inclusive green economy. The Office should enhance education and training systems to provide people, in particular women and youth, with the required skills, and should promote the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). She expressed support for the suggested priorities and committed to working with the ILO to actively follow up on the Rio +20 outcome.
- 63.** *A Government representative of the Republic of Korea* noted that many countries were making efforts to create green jobs and to green existing ones. She said that the green economy was the right direction to take and that the Office should support the transition through practical and realistic approaches.
- 64.** *A Government representative of India* said that the approach to poverty eradication and sustainable development should allow for flexibility, taking into account national circumstances and priorities. The emphasis should be on job creation and economic growth, recognizing that green jobs were a means of promoting decent work. Employment assessments and social protection floors should be nationally defined.
- 65.** *A Government representative of Trinidad and Tobago* noted that a well-defined transition plan would result in green jobs, green enterprises and a green economy. He called for action on the challenges posed by the impact of climate change, which was causing job losses and displacement. Addressing the impact of climate change on labour markets should be a priority. The role of the ILO had to go beyond rebuilding infrastructure and address the welfare of workers.
- 66.** *A representative of the Director-General* (Director, Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department) thanked all speakers for their valuable and enriching contributions. The proposed amendment had helped provide clarity regarding what the Office should offer to constituents in support of decent work for sustainable development. Employment assessments were indeed the starting point, shedding light on both opportunities for new jobs and businesses and potential job losses due to climate change or new technologies. The Office was already undertaking work on small and medium-sized enterprises and would pay more attention to labour migration induced by climate change.

He subscribed to the importance given to social protection as a means of achieving social and environmental objectives simultaneously.

67. *A representative of the Director-General (Deputy Director-General for Policy) added that the informal working group on indicators was part of the Office follow-up and not a body to be established at the level of the Organization. There would be an opportunity to continue discussing goals and indicators in the later session on the post-2015 development agenda. She acknowledged the importance of short-term response mechanisms to deal with the immediate impact of climate change.*

Decision

68. The Governing Body:

- (a) approved priorities (i), (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi), as identified in paragraph 19 of document GB.316/POL/3, and requested the Director-General to take account of the views expressed by the constituents in the debate when giving effect to the agreed priorities;*
- (b) referred the consideration of and decision on the priority suggested in paragraph 19(iv) to the discussion on decent work in the post-2015 development agenda (document GB.316/INS/6) in the Institutional Section;*
- (c) requested the Director-General to reflect the suggested priorities, among others issues, in the forthcoming report on sustainable development, decent work and green jobs for the ILC 2013 general discussion; and*
- (d) recommended that account be taken of the financial implications of the adopted priorities in the Programme, Financial and Administrative Section when preparing the Programme and Budget for 2014–15.*

(GB.316/POL/3, paragraph 20, as amended by the Governing Body.)

Social Dialogue Segment

69. The Social Dialogue Segment was held on Thursday, 8 November 2012. It was chaired by Ambassador Major (Government, Hungary), as appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Body. Mr Woolford and Ms Fox were the Employer and Worker spokespersons.

Fourth item on the agenda

Sectoral activities programme 2012–13

(GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.))

70. *A representative of the Director-General (Director, Sectoral Activities Department) presented the first section of the paper, outlining the recommendations adopted by the Global Dialogue Forum on Conditions of Personnel in Early Childhood Education and reminding the Governing Body that the joint FAO/ILO/IMO work in the fishing sector was directly linked with the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 199).*

71. *The Employer spokesperson* (approved the draft decision in relation to the first section of the paper (paragraph 14(a) to (e) of GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.)).
72. *The Worker spokesperson* expressed her group's regret at the lack of substantive agenda items for that session of the Social Dialogue Segment. Social dialogue was at the heart of the ILO's work and needed to be more comprehensively addressed by the Governing Body. She pointed out that there was no shortage of important issues relevant to tripartism, social dialogue and collective bargaining and asked the Office to present substantive proposals to the screening group for each session of the segment in the future. She endorsed paragraph 14(a) to (e), recalling the existence of various initiatives on early childhood education that were taking place at the international level and stressing the urgent need to develop guidelines.
73. Speaking on behalf of the Africa group, *a Government representative of Togo* expressed her satisfaction at the results of the sectoral meetings held. A child's first years were decisive. In that light, statistics on young children in Africa were alarming. Efforts to establish the basis for quality education were, therefore, of capital importance for her continent and required a critical and methodological analysis of existing policies, based on results and problems encountered. The group welcomed the recommendations of the Global Dialogue Forum on Conditions of Personnel in Early Childhood Education and called on the ILO to draw up guidelines and convene a meeting of experts, as proposed. The group also welcomed the initiative to organize the Global Dialogue Forum for the promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and the Meeting of Experts to Adopt Guidelines on Training of Ships' Cooks. It, therefore, supported the draft decision under paragraph 14. Given that the Governing Body had not adopted the proposal under paragraph 9 of document GB.313/POL/4/2 at its 313th Session, her group wondered why that item had not been included on the agenda again.
74. *The representative of the Director-General* introduced the second section of the paper, explaining that a corrigendum had been required, following consultations with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which had indicated the need to postpone the next session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Rome Convention until significant progress had been made, either in relation to the ratification of the newly adopted Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances or in relation to the development of a WIPO instrument on the protection of broadcasting organizations. A new proposal to hold the 21st Session of the Intergovernmental Committee would be submitted to the Governing Body once such progress had been made. In closing, she drew attention to the Appendix, presenting selected highlights of sectoral work undertaken in the first half of 2012, and to work that had been conducted since the time of writing the paper. She referred to document GB.316/POL/INF/1 on sector-specific tools that had been submitted for information only and informed the Governing Body of upcoming sectoral meetings on the oil and gas and the civil aviation sectors.
75. *The Employer spokesperson* supported the draft decision.
76. *The Worker spokesperson* supported the draft decision and thanked the Sectoral Activities Department for the document on sector-specific tools (GB.316/POL/INF/1). Her group noted with satisfaction that work on the promotion of sectoral standards between 2008–12 had led to 66 new ratifications of sectoral Conventions.
77. *The representative of the Director-General* responded to the query made by the Africa group, explaining that during the March 2012 session no consensus had been reached on the proposal in document GB.313/POL/4/2. It had been suggested that the issue be discussed again, but the screening group had not included it on the agenda for the current session.

Decision

78. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *authorized the Director-General to communicate the final report of the Global Dialogue Forum on Conditions of Personnel in Early Childhood Education to governments, requesting them to communicate the text to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned; as well as to communicate the report to the international employers' and workers' organizations and other international organizations concerned;*
- (b) *requested the Director-General to convene in the second half of 2013 a meeting of experts which would consider, with a view to adopting, draft policy guidelines on early childhood education personnel;*
- (c) *took note of the guidelines to assist competent authorities in the implementation of Part B of the Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, the FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, and the safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels (implementation guidelines);*
- (d) *approved the publication by the IMO of the implementation guidelines as a joint FAO/ILO/IMO publication;*
- (e) *authorized the Director-General to communicate the above decisions to the Secretary-General of the IMO and the Director-General of the FAO; and*
- (f) *approved the proposals made in section II in relation to the holding of the Global Dialogue Forum for the promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and the Meeting of Experts to Adopt Guidelines on the Training of Ships' Cooks.*

(GB.316/POL/4(&Corr.), paragraph 14).

Technical Cooperation Segment

- 79. The Technical Cooperation Segment was held on Thursday, 8 November 2012. It was chaired by Mr Okio (Government, Congo). Mr Traore, Mr Mattar and Mr Echavarría Saldarriaga were the Employer spokespersons. The Worker spokesperson was Mr Gómez Esguerra.
- 80. *The Chairperson* invited the Directors of the ILO Regional Offices to give an overview of technical cooperation in their respective regions.
- 81. *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of the ILO Regional Office for Africa) mentioned three developments in the ILO's growing technical cooperation programme in the African region. First, an increasing share of resources had been mobilized locally. By the end of October new approvals totalled nearly US\$100 million, significantly higher than the US\$50 million mobilized in 2011. Nearly half of that amount had been mobilized locally. Engagement with new donors and with joint UN programmes, as well as the EU, had been strengthened. Second, in the wake of the Arab Spring, the ILO's technical cooperation portfolio in North Africa had increased from around US\$11 million to over

US\$70 million in 2012. Third, thematic imbalances in the ILO's technical cooperation portfolio were observed, with employment and, to a lesser extent, labour standards absorbing the most resources.

- 82.** The Regional Office would redress those imbalances, as requested by the Governing Body in March 2012. For instance, the Office was working on a strategy to introduce the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). Moreover, in view of the pressure on delivery due to increased funding, the Office was giving top priority to monitoring the issue from a quantitative and qualitative perspective.
- 83.** *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean) highlighted the structural heterogeneity of the region, with considerable differences between and within countries. In addressing that reality, the Office faced a decline in technical cooperation resources and the need to balance diverging interests with regional priorities. Together with the constituents, the Regional Office had established seven priority areas for the current biennium: freedom of association, sustainable enterprises, labour administration and inspection, youth employment, occupational safety and health, promotion of social protection floors and, lastly, inequality, poverty and gender, including child labour.
- 84.** In order to leverage resources, the Office was moving forward on the development of a short- and long-term strategy based on the following pillars: (i) linking technical cooperation with ILO priorities, in the framework of the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs); (ii) designing innovative technical cooperation models, strengthening South–South cooperation, PPPs and trust funds, as well as engaging with other UN agencies; and (iii) stepping up efforts to disseminate and enhance the visibility of impacts achieved through ILO technical cooperation in the context of crisis, change and reform.
- 85.** *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) stressed that although Asia had achieved unprecedented economic growth, several challenges remained, such as the pursuit of inclusive growth, the vast informal economy and widening income gaps and inequality in access to employment and social services. The priorities of the Asian Decent Work Decade 2006–15 guided programming decisions and regional resource mobilization efforts. Extra-budgetary resources for technical cooperation in the region continued to increase and equalled regular budgetary resources. Nevertheless, those resources were inadequate to meet the needs of the region, and the use of the limited resources should be evaluated.
- 86.** Some 90 per cent of the region's technical cooperation programmes were country-focused. However, new modalities were emerging, such as South–South cooperation, direct trust fund arrangements and partnerships with regional organizations. He underlined the importance of “value for money” and the need for the ILO to be more focused, cost-effective, transparent, impact-oriented and visible. Results-based management was integrated in the design of ILO technical cooperation projects, and continuous investment in the training of constituents and staff was undertaken, including on project design, monitoring and evaluation. ILO visibility had also been increased. The growing scale and importance of technical cooperation in the region required the ILO to invest in better oversight processes to maintain the high quality and impact of ILO programming.
- 87.** *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of the ILO Regional Office for the Arab States) stated that the Arab Spring represented a historic moment for the ILO's efforts to foster an inclusive economic model involving decent work opportunities through sustainable enterprises, higher productivity and growth with equity. The ILO's objectives for the region were fourfold. First, the ILO should seize the opportunity for democratic

reform: the opening up of political systems offered opportunities for respecting workers' rights and pursuing social justice. Independent, democratic and representative workers' and employers' organizations were critical to that process. Second, the ILO should underscore the need for markets that were better regulated, supported by inclusive PPPs, cooperative dialogue between the social partners, and strong labour market institutions. Third, the ILO must tap into the region's youthful potential and revitalize the UN commitment in that regard. Lastly, the ILO should advocate for the establishment of a social protection floor.

88. Delivering on those commitments required addressing the impact of transition, notably on governments, on parliaments and on the constitutions being drafted. As a result of regional turmoil, the development and implementation of DWCPs had been stalled or delayed in several countries (Bahrain, Syrian Arab Republic). New and ongoing DWCPs (Jordan, Oman) were being revisited. Furthermore, the Regional Office was currently more dependent on resources raised by headquarters; and access to resources for countries which had not initiated the transition to democracy was becoming challenging in a context of reduction of donor resources and phasing out of large multi-donor trust funds.
89. Thematic funding was a new feature. The capacity to leverage resources by strengthening partnerships with the UN and promoting collaboration with the private sector was critical in that regard. Expanding collaboration with specialized civil society organizations would be an important feature of future initiatives.
90. The Regional Office had to boost its response capacity by ensuring greater agility in programming processes to address moving targets, and sound internal management and knowledge systems to support the identification of priorities and strategic decision-making.
91. *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of the ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia) pointed out that the common assumption that Europe was a rich region was misguided. Eighteen of the 51 countries belonging to the European and Central Asian region were listed as official development assistance countries. Europe was the centre of the protracted crisis, with increasing negative effects on the labour market, especially for youth. In the eastern part of the region the ILO had to address youth unemployment and the mismatch between skills and labour market needs, as well as labour market segmentation and declining compliance with international labour standards. Labour market institutions and social dialogue needed to be improved; and the seven priority areas submitted to the PFA Section were highly relevant to the European region.
92. The historic peaks in youth unemployment demonstrated the need for additional funds for technical cooperation. Resource mobilization had been challenged by: (i) the assumption that Europe was rich despite the crisis; (ii) funding cuts among traditional donors and the push to fund least developed countries; and (iii) political instability and changing governments in the region, which hampered delivery. The European Commission was the largest donor in the region and its decentralization of funding required, in addition to liaising with the ILO Office for the EU and the Benelux countries at the central level, increased efforts for local resource mobilization and investment in human resources trained for the purpose.
93. The region had also embarked on PPPs and looked forward to signing an agreement with the Russian state enterprise Lukoil and the Spanish multinational Inditex. Furthermore, a funding agreement with the Russian Federation was under negotiation. Lastly, the Regional Office was strengthening cooperation with other UN agencies by mainstreaming the Decent Work Agenda in UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and joint projects.

94. *The Employer spokesperson* took note of what had been said by the Regional Directors on technical cooperation and PPPs in their regions.
95. *The Worker spokesperson* expressed appreciation for the usefulness of the background information on ILO's work in various parts of the world.
96. *A Government representative of Lebanon* thanked the ILO for its cooperation, and the Regional Director for Arab States, Ms Al-Nashif, in particular, for her capacity to enhance activities in Lebanon with regard to domestic workers, social dialogue, freedom of association and the creation of a decent work environment, as well as combating the worst forms of child labour.
97. *A Government representative of Brazil* expressed his appreciation for the presentations.

Fifth item on the agenda

South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward – Revised indicators for the Strategy adopted in March 2012 (GB.316/POL/5)

98. *A representative of the Director-General* (Director, Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARDEV)) thanked partners from the global South for their support to the ILO's South–South cooperation programme, and partners from the North for supporting such cooperation through triangular arrangements. He highlighted the special nature of South–South cooperation as a partnership that went beyond funding arrangements, as it was aimed at sharing expertise and solutions between countries and organizations. The ILO played a facilitating role to make that happen. South–South and triangular cooperation was considered a complement to, not a replacement for, the traditional forms of development cooperation, as cooperation between the industrialized and developing world remained indispensable.
99. In March 2012 the Governing Body had endorsed the proposed ILO Strategy on South–South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), while requesting a more results-based formulation of the indicators for the two outcomes of the Strategy. In reformulating the indicators, the Office had taken account of the ILO's experience in implementing SSTC during the past decade and of the UN operational guidelines on SSTC. He read out the proposed new and revised indicators and expressed his desire for the Governing Body to support the decision point in paragraph 4.
100. *The Employer spokesperson* welcomed the fact that the recommendations of the Governing Body made in March 2012 had been taken into account in the document submitted.
101. *The Worker spokesperson* stressed the importance of training the constituents and the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) participation in designing technical cooperation proposals. He supported the two new indicators proposed for outcome 1 and proposed an amendment to the indicator for outcome 2 with the aim of emphasizing that South–South and triangular cooperation should contribute to promoting the four areas of the Decent Work Agenda.
102. *Speaking on behalf of ASPAG*, a Government representative of Viet Nam pointed out that given the current economic crisis, some advanced and emerging countries from his region were seeking opportunities to play a more active role and were exploring new avenues for

fostering development cooperation, particularly in the framework of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation. He highlighted the fact that more than ever, South–South cooperation had a key role to play, especially in the context of the ILO’s mandate, and that it could make a vital contribution towards mitigating the consequences of the crisis for the most vulnerable workers in the informal sectors in the developing countries.

- 103.** ASPAG strongly supported the identification, validation and dissemination of innovative experience and good practices, supporting skills development and sensitizing ILO constituents to the importance of SSTC outcomes. The revision of the indicators in question would eventually strengthen the results-based approach. ASPAG recognized the commitment of the ILO to play an important role in fostering such partnerships and encouraged the Office to engage constructively with relevant processes of integration and cooperation, to work closely within the multilateral system and with regional organizations, to strengthen and develop partnerships with partners from the global South and the global North, private and public, so as to advance decent work goals around the globe.
- 104.** He particularly welcomed the references in the paper to the recommendations made by the UN Joint Inspection Unit in early 2011 as guidance on the way forward for SSTC and the establishment and expansion of an initiative on SSTC in the ILO. ASPAG supported the decision point in the Office paper.
- 105.** *Speaking on behalf of the group of industrialized market economy countries (IMEC)*, a Government representative of Italy noted with appreciation the two new indicators presented for outcome 1 and the revised indicator for outcome 2. She considered them meaningful and qualitative in the context of a results-based programme and budget. The indicators would give clearer evidence of the impact of the ILO’s activities during future discussions on programme implementation.
- 106.** She recalled that at the March 2012 session of the Governing Body, IMEC had favoured the enhancement of SSTC through the involvement of interested governments and partners in key areas such as the promotion of employment generation, social protection floors, the elimination of child labour, green jobs, knowledge sharing and capacity building. She encouraged the Office’s efforts in the field of SSTC also beyond the biennium 2012–13 in the framework of the Programme and Budget for 2014–15. IMEC supported the point for decision.
- 107.** *Speaking on behalf of GRULAC*, a Government representative of Colombia highlighted the importance of the SSTC in seeking shared solutions and in recognizing that the developing world had innovative and useful experience to offer. The Strategy should help diversify the partners engaged in South–South cooperation, and would contribute to increasingly global participation in such cooperation. GRULAC requested the Office to keep the constituents informed of discussions on the subject held in other UN forums. The ILO, through its tripartite structure, had a key role to play. Participation by the social partners made it possible to set up a network of expertise on the Decent Work Agenda.
- 108.** The speaker concluded by saying that the adoption of the Strategy was the first step towards achieving that goal, and that it would then be necessary to establish a specific programme and assign resources to promote that form of cooperation.
- 109.** *Speaking on behalf of the Africa group*, a Government representative of Zambia welcomed the fact that the indicators would enhance the results-based management approach. The Africa group valued the SSTC initiatives and believed that the proposed indicators would adequately measure the progress made. He supported the decision point in paragraph 4.

- 110.** *A Government representative of Japan* recognized the effectiveness of SSTC, as it provided an opportunity for developing countries to disseminate their expertise to recipient countries. Several multi-bilateral projects were being implemented in cooperation with the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, for instance on promoting social dialogue.
- 111.** He supported the proposed indicators, but emphasized that the indicator for outcome 2 made it difficult to evaluate SSTC activities by governments. He requested the Office to evaluate those activities. The Government of Japan wished to take an active part in implementing technical cooperation in partnership with the ILO in creating SSTC.
- 112.** *A Government representative of India* stated that economic growth and development in the South would shape the global economy in the coming decades and could only be sustained through SSTC. Countries of the South had several commonalities, such as a huge informal sector, similar levels of development and shared problems. Through SSTC, innovative solutions developed by countries of the South could be shared in order to tackle the challenges presented by the informal economy. Success stories could be found in South Africa, India and Brazil. Close interaction between developing countries would provide guidance for designing policies and programmes. SSTC initiatives for 2012–13 would be effective only when commensurate with national needs, circumstances and policies. Broadening SSTC was important in helping to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular poverty eradication. He reiterated that South–South cooperation was not a substitute for North–South cooperation, and encouraged efforts to support SSTC and ILO initiatives for promoting decent work through SSTC. He commended PARDEV for its excellent work. For example, the India–Brazil–South Africa (IBSA) International Conference on South–South Cooperation held in New Delhi in March 2012, organized by the Government of India and the ILO, was a good example of sharing good practices and ideas.
- 113.** The speaker supported the new indicators for outcome 1. He was also in favour of the Decent Work Agenda under the revised indicator for outcome 2, but pointed out that the successful involvement of social partners and non-state actors would be possible only through the national government. A holistic and flexible approach towards the Decent Work Agenda would be more successful.
- 114.** *A Government representative of China* noted that the ILO SSTC had entered a new and practical development stage. The revision of indicators reflected the progress made in SSTC. She reiterated her Government’s support for SSTC, which was different from the traditional North–South cooperation model. It should take into account the real situation in developing countries, fully engage social partners and explore new features of SSTC for project management and implementation. She supported the decision point in paragraph 4.
- 115.** *The representative of the Director-General*, noting the call from ASPAG to work more closely with the multilateral system, asserted that the ILO was already working closely in partnership with the Special Unit for South–South Cooperation of UNDP. The ILO was also an active partner in the third Global South–South Development Expo to be held in Vienna the following week. He took note of the call to continue SSTC throughout 2014–15. The ILO would make relevant proposals in that respect. Concerning the call by the Government of Japan to evaluate South–South cooperation experiences, he announced that that would be done in cooperation with the Evaluation Unit.
- 116.** Noting the amendment to the indicator relating to outcome 2, proposed by the Workers’ group, he read out the amended indicator: “Number of additional or renewed partnerships with governments, social partners, UN agencies and non-state actors in which SSTC contributes to advance the Decent Work Agenda and its four pillars”, and emphasized the addition: “and its four pillars”.

117. *A Government representative of Canada* asked the Workers' group if its proposed change of the indicator meant that partnerships had to advance all four pillars in order to be counted in the indicator.
118. *The Worker spokesperson* stated that his group's proposal to amend the indicators was aimed at reaffirming the decent work policy, with the four strategic pillars as objectives.
119. *The Government representative of India* asked the Office to define the term "non-state actors".
120. *The Government representative of Canada* suggested changing the amendment to "(...), which consists of four pillars", as it was not intended to limit partnerships to those contributing to the four pillars.
121. *A Government representative of Trinidad and Tobago* suggested an amendment to the indicator to include not only UN agencies, but also "other international bodies/agencies". Referring only to UN agencies would exclude, for instance, the Organization of American States.
122. *The representative of the Director-General* proposed deleting the list of possible partnerships from the indicator, and only referring to "partnerships in which SSTC contributes (...)". Replying to the request of the representative of the Government of India, he clarified the meaning of "non-state actors", explaining that while there was no ILO definition of non-state actors, in the ILO's understanding, the term included civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and groups of parliamentarians.
123. *The Employer spokesperson* expressed his agreement with the new proposal.
124. *The Worker spokesperson* insisted on the need to refer explicitly to the four pillars in the point for decision.
125. *The representative of the Director-General* repeated the new wording of the indicator: "Number of additional or renewed partnerships in which SSTC contributes to advance the Decent Work Agenda, which consists of four pillars."

Decision

126. ***The Governing Body endorsed the new indicators for outcome 1 and the revised indicator for outcome 2 of the ILO Strategy on South–South and Triangular Cooperation, as reflected in the discussion.***

(GB.316/POL/5, paragraph 4, as amended.)

Sixth item on the agenda

Public–private partnerships: The way forward (GB.316/POL/6)

127. A short video on PPPs was shown.
128. *A representative of the Director-General* (Director, PARDEV) introduced document GB.316/POL/6, entitled "Public–private partnerships: The way forward", which had been

prepared in response to requests made by the Governing Body at its 301st Session (March 2008). These were to: (i) establish the necessary guiding principles and operational guidelines; (ii) develop and disseminate promotional materials for PPPs; and (iii) report on the progress made in the area of PPPs at subsequent sessions.

129. It was asserted that the role of the private sector in international development was increasingly recognized, that private companies and foundations could further international development through financial contributions, expertise, in-kind support and advocacy, and that the private sector had the potential to offset declines in official development assistance as a result of the global economic crisis.
130. Between 2008 and 2011, the Office had approved 50 PPPs for technical cooperation, totalling US\$33.2 million, which equalled 3.4 per cent of the total amount of extra-budgetary funding over that period. The PPPs in question had supported projects contributing to 13 of the 19 programme and budget outcomes.
131. Three examples were given of how PPPs had promoted decent work and how PPPs could create mutually beneficial situations for target countries and populations, the enterprises and foundations involved, and the ILO, as implementing partner.
132. In July 2009, the Office had issued an internal governance document to ensure that the formulation and implementation of PPPs adhered to the core values and principles of the ILO. PPPs had been incorporated into the enhanced technical cooperation strategy adopted by the Governing Body at its 306th Session (November 2009) and were recognized as a means of action in the Strategic Policy Framework 2010–15. The Office intended to carry out three tasks in relation to PPPs: (i) undertaking an Office-wide consultation on a PPP outreach strategy to guide efforts by the Office to conclude innovative and results-oriented PPPs, which would be finalized before the end of 2012; (ii) developing promotional material, such as a web page on PPPs, factsheets and an updated brochure; and (iii) mapping the corporate social responsibility priorities of the world's largest companies against the various dimensions of decent work, so as to identify areas of common interest and complementary expertise. The ILO's existing PPP portfolio covered various sectors, themes, partners and countries and consisted of a few large, thematic projects and many small-scale, very specific partnerships. The number of partnerships with private companies was relatively small compared with the number of those with foundations and other non-state actors.
133. An internal review of the PPP portfolio had concluded that: (i) partnership with the private sector yielded positive results for all parties involved; (ii) there was a need to streamline the internal PPP procedure, while at the same time ensuring that workers and employers, as well as ACTRAV and ACT/EMP, were consulted at the initial stages of partnership development; and (iii) the Office needed to improve its capacity to better identify areas of common interest between the ILO and the private sector, and to "speak the language of business".
134. The point for decision in paragraph 14 of document GB.316/POL/6 proposed that the Office should continue concluding PPPs and report back to the Governing Body in 2014.
135. *The Employer spokesperson* recalled that the issue of PPPs in the context of the ILO's technical cooperation activities had been proposed by his group. The private sector could help the ILO to achieve its decent work objectives by contributing not only financial resources, but also its expertise and its capacity to innovate and to create jobs and wealth. For preference, that should take place through win-win partnerships.

- 136.** The role of the private sector had been recognized at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in December 2011, as well as in the conclusions of the Rio +20 Conference, as a means of achieving development objectives, particularly for sustainable development. Furthermore, the report of the Global Compact Labour Working Group, established at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, had recommended that varied and sustainable partnerships should be promoted. Establishing a special unit for collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector should contribute to achieving that aim. The reference made to ILO fundamental declarations in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights adopted in 2011 was also underlined. In the same spirit, the Governing Body had recommended that the ILO should integrate the Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy into PPPs and technical cooperation mechanisms.
- 137.** In order to increase its cooperation with the private sector, the ILO should take the concerns of enterprises into account and promote voluntary, flexible partnerships. The Employers' group suggested that efforts should focus on overarching priority issues, while limiting the number of small, ad hoc projects. Successful experiences with PPPs in the areas of disability, child labour and youth employment should be replicated.
- 138.** The Employers' group hoped that employers' organizations would serve as a point of entry for dialogue with the private sector. The International Organisation of Employers and ACT/EMP should be consulted systematically from the outset in discussions to establish any new partnership. Similarly, ACT/EMP and the ILO International Training Centre in Turin should be involved in compiling an inventory of large enterprises and in developing training materials for ILO staff.
- 139.** The Employers' group supported the directions proposed by the Office, on the understanding that there should be shared action and a clear strategy. PPPs had added value for the ILO, but were only one aspect of wider collaboration with business.
- 140.** With regard to the point for decision set out in paragraph 14 of the document, the Employers' group proposed that a new subparagraph (c) be added, requesting the Office to define the term PPP precisely and to report to the Governing Body at a time to be determined by its Screening Group.
- 141.** *The Worker spokesperson* said that the ILO's tripartism should be reflected in the Office's PPP strategy, and that that form of cooperation should not lead to a process of privatizing either the ILO or its funding, which should be provided by member States. He added that the principles and procedures for PPPs adopted by the Governing Body in 2008 should be maintained as the frame of reference for the Office's work.
- 142.** He noted that the majority of resources under PPPs had been allocated to a few areas of work and requested the Office to pursue a more proactive approach to diversification. In addition, he requested more work on internal governance issues in the selection of private enterprises and greater coherence between PPPs, the Decent Work Agenda and the promotion of international labour standards. He emphasized the importance of bearing in mind both the quality of labour relations and trade union participation in the process of selecting enterprises for PPPs. He added that the promotion of PPPs should include social dialogue against a backdrop of freedom of association.
- 143.** With regard to the point for decision, he requested a review of the PPP governance procedure and asked for the proposed report to the Governing Body to be brought forward to 2013. In relation to subparagraph (b) of the point for decision, he requested that a progress report should be submitted in 2013, including detailed country-level information, thematic coverage and information on enterprises participating in PPPs with the ILO.

144. *Speaking on behalf of IMEC*, a Government representative of Italy stated that IMEC shared the view that PPPs could promote the sharing of knowledge and expertise and help to pool resources, with the aim of contributing to sustainable development with mutually beneficial gains for those involved. Furthermore, PPPs could act as a catalyst for reform and innovative practices at the ILO. Given the ILO's tripartite structure, it was well placed, by comparison with other UN agencies, to exploit PPPs, and it was therefore disappointing that the ILO had concluded fewer PPPs than other UN agencies. Private sector expertise was essential in assisting the ILO to achieve its mission. Through PPPs, the ILO could facilitate the incorporation of its values and goals directly into business and the economic sphere, and the introduction of corporate social responsibility principles in the private sector.
145. In view of economic and financial conditions in many member States, PPPs could help to achieve resource diversification. She supported the steps suggested in paragraph 13 of the document and agreed with the proposal to report back to the Governing Body on PPPs in 2014.
146. Over the coming two years, the Office should: (i) provide a clearer understanding of the measures the ILO was taking to engage in promoting PPPs; (ii) deliver more data on resources invested and the return given or expected from PPPs; (iii) provide a more extensive description of the number and scope of PPPs, including their geographical scope; and (iv) clarify further the criteria that would be adopted in creating a more targeted approach to establishing PPPs, and how that approach related to the seven areas of critical importance. She urged the ILO not to lose sight of its core values and strategic priorities in an attempt to make itself more attractive to potential partners and, in that respect, encouraged it to undertake an impact assessment evaluation, as suggested in paragraph 8 of the document. Recent developments within the UN system should be taken into account in acting on the suggested steps forward, as they could have an implication for the ILO's framework on PPPs. A "one-size-fits-all" approach should not be adopted, as individual companies had different needs, and the Office should be able to address the demands of the private sector in terms of quick and timely responses and non-bureaucratic processes. Lastly, she expressed support for the involvement of the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, as suggested in paragraph 13(e) of the document, in developing training materials and delivering training programmes.
147. She expressed support for the point for decision set out in paragraph 14 of the document, taking into account her suggested guidance above, while reserving the right to consider the proposals made by the Employers and Workers.
148. *Speaking on behalf of ASEAN*, a Government representative of Viet Nam welcomed the Office's paper on PPPs and noted the potential of PPPs for mobilizing resources and technical cooperation in various areas. PPPs were a relatively new concept in the ASEAN region, where lack of capacity in the public sector in many countries was an obstacle to establishing them. Enterprise culture needed to be better understood by the public sector so as to make PPPs more attractive. The ILO could take a more systematic approach to assessing potential partners, sharing its experience on PPPs and compiling an inventory of the world's largest companies so as to better facilitate the creation of results-orientated PPPs. Future PPP arrangements should be planned and carried out on the basis of international best practices. ASEAN supported the point for decision in paragraph 14 of the document.
149. *Speaking on behalf of the Africa group*, a Government representative of Zambia commended the Office on the action taken since the matter had been discussed by the Governing Body in 2008. He noted the progress made to incorporate PPPs into the enhanced technical cooperation strategy and the appointment of a specialist to deal with

public–private partnerships. PPPs contributed not only to infrastructure development, but also to labour market management with the aim of enhancing decent work. He urged the Office to take proactive action to increase the relatively small number of partnerships with private companies. He also requested the Office to exert more efforts to develop relevant PPPs, in line with the Governing Body’s 2008 discussion. The need to further increase social dialogue and promote labour standards in PPPs could not be overemphasized. He supported the draft decision set out in paragraph 14 of the document.

- 150.** *A Government representative of the Republic of Korea* highlighted the increasing importance of the private sector, not only financially, but also in advancing innovation, creating wealth, income and jobs, mobilizing domestic resources and, in turn, contributing to poverty reduction. He requested the Office to pursue efforts to follow up on the action suggested in the report, as a 3.4 per cent share of PPPs in total voluntary contributions seemed relatively low. In addition to building internal ILO capacity on PPPs, further efforts were needed to spread cooperation models of PPPs for decent work and to explore the expansion of PPPs to areas such as migrant workers and social enterprises.
- 151.** Following the Busan high-level forum, his Government had launched the Development Alliance Korea in August 2012, composed of stakeholders from businesses, NGOs and academia. The Alliance would seek partnerships with multilateral organizations, international NGOs and countries. The Ministry of Employment and Labour of the Republic of Korea would promote PPPs in the field of employment and labour, in collaboration with the ILO.
- 152.** *A Government representative of France* associated herself with the statement made on behalf of IMEC. PPPs were an operational means for the ILO to work with all those involved in business, raise awareness more effectively of its fundamental principles and increase its technical cooperation resources. It was necessary to preserve respect for the priorities and values of the ILO while adapting programmes to the specific nature of enterprises. In that area, promotional and training materials should be prepared with support from the International Training Centre in Turin.
- 153.** *A Government representative of India* acknowledged that poverty eradication and sustainable development should be the overarching goals, in line with the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). He stressed the usefulness of PPPs in the areas of skills development and employment generation in countries with a large youth population. He emphasized that the eradication of poverty and the provision of employment and basic services to a large section of the population still remained a big challenge. In India, 70 per cent of workers were in the informal sector and 50 per cent were self-employed. PARDEV should work with the cooperative and microfinance units of the ILO with the aim of promoting PPPs in the informal economy. Rather than develop standards for PPPs, there was need for a more flexible approach, because one size would not fit all.
- 154.** *A Government representative of China* agreed that there was a need to establish PPPs and endorsed the five suggestions outlined in the document. The ILO had further potential to enhance PPPs, taking into account the role of employers’ organizations in countries, and the ILO should encourage enterprises to provide the necessary resources to train young people through internships and apprenticeships.
- 155.** *A Government representative of Ghana* supported the statement made on behalf of the Africa group. The financial crisis had renewed interest in PPPs among developed and developing countries, and exploring PPPs as a way of providing better public services through improved operational efficiency was crucial for development. Ghana had forged different forms of PPPs, including on eliminating child labour in the cocoa sector, as

depicted in the video shown at the beginning of the discussion. With assistance from the World Bank, a US\$30 million PPP project had begun to address the lack of a clear and comprehensive policy framework for PPPs in Ghana. She welcomed the guidance in paragraph 13 of the document and supported the draft decision in paragraph 14.

- 156.** *The representative of the Director-General*, after summarizing the different interventions, acknowledged the Employers' request to present a clearer strategy, which was already in progress, and referred to the decision point in that regard. The strategy would prioritize themes, rather than the conclusion of many small PPPs. The programme and budget and areas of critical importance would guide PPPs. ACT/EMP was involved in the early stages, and the strategy would be subject to the revised internal procedure governing PPPs.
- 157.** In reply to the concerns expressed by the Workers, he stressed that respect for workers' rights and mainstreaming the Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy were already part of the PPP procedure and strategy. ACTRAV and ACT/EMP were being consulted on PPPs and would be involved at an earlier stage under the revised procedure.
- 158.** In response to the points raised on behalf of IMEC, he explained that the ILO probably had fewer PPPs than other UN agencies because of its more rigorous selection process. The revised procedure would address further prioritization in line with new priorities, as well as providing a faster and less bureaucratic response to private partners. More detailed information would be available by 2013. He agreed that the Office needed to report on value for money with regard to PPPs, and referred to the section of the PARDEV website covering PPPs and to factsheets. Assessing the impact of PPPs would be discussed with the Evaluation Unit of the ILO. On the role of the International Training Centre in Turin, he added that the Centre had concluded several PPPs and expressed the hope that future PPPs could also benefit from the Centre's expertise and facilities.
- 159.** The imbalance in the distribution of PPPs was explained by the fact that, during the previous biennium, two very large PPPs had been concluded with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and with The MasterCard Foundation, in the areas of microinsurance and youth employment, respectively. The ILO was therefore already working with the Social Finance Programme to respond to the needs of the informal economy. In 2012, a period on which the document did not report, more PPPs had been concluded with companies than with foundations. He confirmed that the Office would analyse the PPP experience of other UN bodies through the Global Compact and the new United Nations Office for Partnerships. Knowledge sharing on PPPs would be incorporated into the Office's strategy. The share of PPPs in the total volume of voluntary contributions to the ILO was set to rise from 3.5 per cent in the 2008–11 period to around 7 per cent in 2012.
- 160.** He read out the point for decision, amended as follows: "The Governing Body requests the Office to: (a) complete an analysis of PPP selection criteria results and lessons learned to support its effort in developing relevant and qualitative PPPs by 2013; (b) refine its strategy with regard to PPPs by 2013; and (c) report back to the Governing Body with information on the geographical and thematic scope and on the participation of ILO constituents in PPPs at a time to be determined by the Office of the Governing Body."
- 161.** *The Employer spokesperson* proposed that subparagraph (b) should be reformulated as follows: "to make proposals in order to clarify and refine its strategy with regard to PPPs for the Governing Body at its October 2013 session".
- 162.** *The Worker spokesperson* highlighted the importance of adding a reference to the guiding principles on PPPs approved by the Governing Body to the draft decision. For his group, it would be preferable to hold the discussion in March 2013.

163. *The Employer spokesperson* agreed to align his group's position on the timing of the discussion with that of the Workers' group, and proposed March 2013 instead.
164. *Speaking on behalf of IMEC*, a Government representative of Italy asked for the reference to October 2013 to be retained, because the Governing Body's agenda for March 2013 would already be overloaded by the Programme and Budget for 2014–15. IMEC would prefer to have a more in-depth discussion in October 2013.
165. *A Government representative of India* requested clarification of the meaning of the terms "relevant" and "qualitative" in subparagraph (a) of the draft decision.
166. *The representative of the Director-General* explained that the term "relevant" referred to the relevance of PPPs to the Decent Work Agenda and to the ILO's area of work. The term "qualitative" referred to PPPs not just as funding partnerships, but also as strategic ones.
167. *A Government representative of India* replied that the meaning of the two terms should be clear in the decision. He asked why the Decent Work Agenda was not mentioned.
168. *The representative of the Director-General* suggested deleting the words "relevant and qualitative", in order to avoid having too long and complicated a text.
169. *Speaking on behalf of IMEC*, a Government representative of Italy reiterated that she would prefer to hold the discussion in October 2013, as it would allow more time for discussion by the Governing Body. Concerning subparagraph (c) of the draft decision, she pointed out that, in accordance with the new compendium, the words "to be determined by the Office of the Governing Body" should read "to be determined by the Screening Group of the Governing Body".
170. *The Worker spokesperson* reiterated that the date should be determined by the Screening Group, and that subparagraph (a) of the draft decision should be based on the conclusions adopted in 2006 by the ILC.
171. *The Employer spokesperson* suggested the following wording for subparagraph (b), following consultation and agreement with the Workers' group: "to make proposals in order to clarify and refine its strategy with regard to PPPs at a time in 2013 to be determined by the Screening Group".
172. *Speaking on behalf of IMEC*, a Government representative of Italy agreed with the suggestion not to refer to a specific month in the draft decision.
173. *The representative of the Director-General* read out the point for decision, as amended: "The Governing Body requests the Office to: (a) complete an analysis of the PPP selection criteria, results and lessons learned to support its effort in developing PPPs by October 2013; (b) to make proposals in order to clarify and refine its strategy with regard to PPPs to be submitted to the Screening Group for a date to be fixed in 2013; and (c) report back to the Governing Body with information on the geographical and thematic scope and on the participation of ILO constituents and PPPs at a time to be determined by the Screening Group of the Governing Body."
174. *A representative of the Director-General* (Deputy Director-General for Management and Reform) questioned the proposed amendment to subparagraph (b). If the issue was to be submitted to the Screening Group, it would be for the Screening Group to determine a date for the Governing Body's discussion. He suggested that it would be more practical for the Governing Body to decide at its present session to discuss the issue in October 2013, as discussing it at the March 2013 session would entail completing preparations by the end of

December 2012. A discussion in October 2013 would be more informative and would allow for a more consolidated paper to be prepared, reflecting an extra six months of experience. If the Governing Body wished to request the Screening Group to determine specifically when in 2013 the issue would be discussed, subparagraph (b) should reflect that clearly.

- 175.** *The Employer spokesperson* suggested maintaining the formulation that had been agreed upon by the Employers, the Workers and IMEC.
- 176.** *The Worker spokesperson* agreed that the date should be decided by the Screening Group, and reiterated that a reference to the guiding principles on PPPs should to be inserted in subparagraph (a) of the draft decision.
- 177.** *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of PARDEV) observed that it would be useful to use the same formulation in subparagraphs (b) and (c), i.e. to refer in both cases to the year 2013: “At a time to be determined by the Screening Group of the Governing Body in 2013”. Regarding subparagraph (a), he suggested adding a reference to the Strategy adopted in 2006, in order to make clear that the subparagraph was in line with the 2006 Strategy.
- 178.** *The Worker spokesperson* agreed to his suggestion.

Decision

179. *The Governing Body requested the Office:*

- (a) to complete an analysis of the public–private partnership (PPP) selection criteria, results and lessons learned, to support its efforts in developing PPPs, in line with the guiding principles approved by the Governing Body at its 301st Session (March 2008), at a time in 2013 to be determined by the Screening Group;*
- (b) to make proposals in order to clarify and refine its strategy with regard to PPPs at a time in 2013 to be determined by the Screening Group;*
- (c) to report back to the Governing Body with information on the geographical and thematic scope and on the participation of ILO constituents in PPPs at a time in 2013 to be determined by the Screening Group.*

(GB.316/POL/6, paragraph 14, as amended.)

Seventh item on the agenda

Enhanced programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories

(GB.316/POL/7)

- 180.** *A representative of the Director-General* (Director of the Regional Office for the Arab States) explained how analyses by research institutes and the World Bank underscored the continuing hardship in the occupied Arab territories. The illusion of an economic boom between 2007 and 2010 had been exposed. Although real GDP did increase, jobs were created, and wage employment went up, the rate of increase had not been fast enough to

absorb new entrants into the job market, and poverty had actually increased. One in two Palestinians was now considered to be poor. The benefits of growth were unevenly shared, the restrictions on movement continued, aid flows had slowed, and this was combined with dramatic fiscal constraints. Consultations with constituents had started with a view to building a strategy, which would include: (i) labour rights, governance and standards; (ii) the promotion of a sustainable economic environment; and (iii) the development of an integrated social security system which was to be extended to all.

- 181.** Social dialogue and capacity-building work had yielded progress in the region, and among other successes a national wage committee had been established. Future work would involve a second phase of social dialogue promotion, continued support for labour migration, gender mainstreaming and work to combat child labour. Work towards sustainable economic development would need to focus on skills development, including in the construction sector and in other areas targeting women. In the area of social and economic vulnerability, there would be a focus on a national social security system, which would hopefully lead to the progressive establishment of a social protection floor. The funding situation was precarious, and there was a need to diversify funding sources.
- 182.** *The Employer spokesperson* expressed the hope that the ILO would secure further technical cooperation and practical inputs for the Arab territories. Many reports had made clear that the economic situation had contributed to the turn of events, and the situation in Palestine and the Arab States was difficult. In March 2012, the ILO Commission of Inquiry had reported that it was unlikely there would be any real improvement in the territories unless discrimination was tackled and obstacles to economic development were removed. He urged the ILO to step up support for technical cooperation programmes in the occupied Arab territories, with particular emphasis on social protection, employment and basic freedoms that would restore human dignity in the region as a whole. The conclusions of the thematic Arab region donor meeting held in 2010 should be implemented.
- 183.** *The Worker spokesperson* acknowledged the work the Office had done in very complicated circumstances. He felt, however, that there should be more analysis of the impact of the occupation and the realities experienced by Palestinians, to make ILO interventions more effective and relevant to the needs of Palestinian workers and their families. The ILO should work to institutionalize inclusive and equitable dialogue.
- 184.** The Workers' group agreed with the three priorities outlined in the report, although it was concerned about the viability of the initiatives under the second, because its undue emphasis on the means of creating a labour supply would have only a limited impact in the absence of demand in the economy. As for the third priority, it should not be confined to private sector workers.
- 185.** *Speaking on behalf of the Africa group*, a Government representative of Zambia expressed his concern that little progress had been made with regard to the economic indicators outlined in paragraph 3. Poverty, unemployment and precarious work continued to dominate. He welcomed the ILO's support for the objectives of the Palestinian National Development Plan, and the strengthening of the tripartite system, explained in paragraphs 4 and 7, respectively. He appreciated the finalization of the overarching Decent Work Strategic Framework for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which he expected would hasten progress towards the goal of achieving decent jobs. The Africa group was concerned at the inconsistency between the present report and the one produced for the Governing Body in November 2011 (GB.312/POL/11, paragraph 6), according to which the Decent Work Strategy had been formulated and validated by the Palestinian stakeholders. He requested clarification of the status of the Strategy. The work to enhance the role of employers in policy development, social and policy dialogue and advocacy by the ILO was commendable. He also commended the work of the Office in supporting an

economic environment conducive to greater access to employment and livelihood opportunities. He noted the success of the pilot project promoting an entrepreneurship culture and self-employment for youth, and welcomed the initiative to establish a national social security strategy for the people of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He urged the Office to continue to use its multilateral influence in supporting a lasting solution to the crisis in the occupied Arab territories.

- 186.** *A Government representative of Qatar* stressed that the Office paper demonstrated the extent of the suffering of people in the occupied Arab territories. Alleviating that suffering presented a challenge for the Organization. Some progress had been made through the efforts of different parties, as explained in paragraph 2. As Palestine was facing a financial crisis, the various parties concerned must provide more assistance. In spite of slight improvements in growth in 2011, the situation remained fragile, and there was a need to revitalize the economy of the occupied Arab territories. Qatar had provided US\$400 million for reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, along with the building of 1,000 dwellings. Other services were planned, including the construction of cultural centres and roads and the creation of jobs. He encouraged the ILO to strengthen its technical cooperation efforts and provide support to the Regional Office and other ILO offices. His Government wished to be kept informed of the results of the Strategy and other issues related to Decent Work. He asked the ILO to devise a plan for different types of assistance in the fields of agriculture and industry. The ILO's efforts to revitalize the national social security fund were appreciated and should be pursued. Devoting more funds to promoting gender equality was socially and economically important, and he would welcome more information on that subject, such as figures on entrepreneurship among women, at the next session. He would also be glad to have a calendar of current and future projects. A table or graph showing ILO activities would help to clearly identify different programmes, projects and indicators.
- 187.** *A Government representative of Egypt* pointed out that the situation in the occupied Arab territories was endangering the creation of an independent Palestinian state. The ILO mission in 2012 had stated that there was no real progress on the social rights of Palestinian workers. At the Governing Body meeting in March 2012 the financial crisis in Palestine had been described as so severe that not even civil servants could be paid. Given the deterioration in Gaza in the humanitarian and labour situation, in addition to the economic situation, illustrated by falling incomes, enhanced technical cooperation was to be welcomed, particularly in respect of workers' rights and improvements in the labour market and in the economic situation, leading to better work opportunities and social security. The slight improvement in the situation of some workers did not reflect the overall situation of Palestinian labour, and did not mean that there was growth in the economy. Growth would only occur when an independent Palestinian state existed. He called on the ILO to make even greater efforts to step up funding for Palestine at a time of crisis.
- 188.** *The representative of the Director-General* agreed to include a timeline and matrix of available funding in the next report. Inconsistencies in the language on decent work were due to the fact that initially, the Palestinian Authority had developed its own national strategy, from which the ILO had identified possible areas of cooperation. The Office had a total of only US\$800,000, including US\$500,000 from Qatar, on which to draw to deliver a very ambitious programme. The limited resources, as well as the situation of occupation, made it difficult to tackle the underlying root causes, and the Regional Office was now endeavouring to recalibrate. The area of social protection was new, and child labour had been one of the most pressing issues. Portable skills development was one way of tackling the situation of economic growth without jobs in the long run. Although there were not so many results in the area of social dialogue, she felt the agenda had developed well.

Outcome

189. *The Governing Body took note of the report and invited the Office to take account of the observations and guidance provided during the discussions.*

Eighth item on the agenda

Implementation of the Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy in Colombia (GB.316/POL/8)

190. *A representative of the Director-General (Director, PARDEV) introduced the report, updating the ILO's technical cooperation programme in Colombia in response to the Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy.*
191. *The Employer spokesperson described a number of changes that had taken place in recent years in Colombia, resulting in considerable improvements to the purchasing power and quality of life of its citizens. Workers' rights were now being respected, and although there was still work to be done employers were determined to pursue those improvements on the road to peace.*
192. *The Worker spokesperson confirmed the changes described by the Employers. Progress had been made in recent years in complying with international standards, and there had been a positive impact on freedom of association. However, Colombia was still one of the most unequal countries in the world, and there were still serious labour problems, affecting both the stability in the world of work and the quality of life of the workers.*
193. *He acknowledged the efforts by the Government to protect trade unionists, and appealed to it to guarantee effective enjoyment of freedom of association. Finally, he urged the ILO to continue accompanying Colombia through its process of peace and development.*
194. *The Government representative of Colombia said compliance with the 2006 Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy was illustrated in three ways: (i) improved social dialogue by means such as the setting up of the Standing Negotiation Committee on Labour and Wage Policies, in which the proposal for restructuring the Ministry of Labour had originated; (ii) the enhancement of the system of labour inspection, monitoring and control; and (iii) the promulgation of the law on hazards at work. There was still much to be done, and budget provision would accordingly be made for the year 2013. He was anxious to continue working with the ILO, which had acted as a guide on the way towards growth in the economy and in employment. Support in the form of technical or economic assistance from Canada, Switzerland and Norway, and the ongoing project funded by the Department of Labor of the United States, were essential for continuing to make progress towards a society in which all the rights of workers, employers and civil society were respected.*

Outcome

195. *The Governing Body took note of the report.*

(Document GB.316/POL/8.)

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