



Governing Body

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GB.319/POL/4

Policy Development Section
Social Dialogue Segment

POL

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FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Sectoral Activities Programme 2012–13 and 2014–15

Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the outcomes of the sectoral meetings held in the first part of 2013 and the proposals made in relation to sectoral meetings for 2014–15 (see the draft decisions in paragraphs 12, 22 and 26).

Relevant strategic objective: To strengthen tripartism and social dialogue (Outcome 13: Decent work in economic sectors).

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: The proposals made will be carried out within the existing budgetary allocations.

Follow-up action required: The Office will be required to take action as set out in the decision paragraphs.

Author unit: Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: None in addition to those mentioned in this document.

Executive summary

Section I deals with the effect to be given to the recommendations of the Global Dialogue Forum on the Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Civil Aviation Industry, held from 20 to 22 February 2013, and the Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), held from 15 to 17 May 2013.

Section II contains proposals relating to the programme for sectoral work for 2014–15, and includes further details regarding the proposal to hold a meeting on “technical aspects, skills and occupational safety and health in extreme climatic conditions in the oil and gas industry”. It also contains proposals relating to the dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of meetings proposed for 2014, which have already been approved as part of the programme for sectoral work for 2014–15.

I. Effect to be given to the recommendations of sectoral meetings

A. Global Dialogue Forum on the Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Civil Aviation Industry (20–22 February 2013)

1. In accordance with the Sectoral Activities Programme for 2012–13, adopted by the Governing Body,¹ the Office organized the Global Dialogue Forum on the Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Civil Aviation Industry, which was held in Geneva from 20 to 22 February 2013.
2. The Chairperson of the Forum was Ambassador Roderick van Schreven (Netherlands). The Government group coordinator was Mr Niyonkuru (Burundi). The Employers' and Workers' group coordinators were Mr Stienen (Netherlands) and Mr Richardson (United Kingdom) respectively.
3. The Forum was attended by 144 participants, including 55 Government representatives and advisers,² as well as 57 Worker and 17 Employer participants, and 15 observers from international governmental organizations (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
4. The Forum addressed recent changes in the civil aviation industry, identified safety and health issues, and discussed social dialogue and sustainability with a view to reaching a consensus on a common approach that could contribute to a more sustainable civil aviation industry.
5. The points of consensus reached by the Forum, which are included in the report of the discussion, also contain recommendations for future action by the ILO and its Members.³
6. These recommendations included inviting the Director-General of the ILO to consult with the Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on ways to strengthen cooperation between the ICAO and the ILO on matters of common interest. The points of consensus reached by the Forum were conveyed to the Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6) of the ICAO, which was held from 18–22 March 2013. Following exchanges of information, a meeting between the Office and the ICAO was scheduled for 16 September 2013 to explore the possibility of developing a Memorandum of Understanding. The Office agreed to facilitate, no later than 12 months after the Forum and at no cost to the Office, an assessment of the progress made on the implementation of the points of consensus by the tripartite constituents.

¹ GB.310/STM/1, para. 39; GB.310/PV, para. 161.

² Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Congo, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Iraq, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Panama, Poland, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

³ GDFCAI/2013/11.

B. Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)
(15–17 May 2013)

7. In accordance with the Sectoral Activities Programme for 2012–13, adopted by the Governing Body,⁴ the Office organized the Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188), which was held in Geneva from 15 to 17 May 2013.
8. The Chairperson of the Forum was Captain Nigel T. Campbell (South Africa). The Government group coordinator was Mr Shinguadja (Namibia). The Employers' and Workers' group coordinators were Mr Van der Zwan (Netherlands) and Mr Razafindraide (Madagascar) respectively.
9. The Forum was attended by 98 participants, including 66 Government representatives and advisers,⁵ as well as 12 Worker and 11 Employer participants, and nine observers from IGOs and NGOs.
10. The participants discussed social and labour issues facing the fishing sector and how the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), could address them. Participants shared the experiences and challenges they had faced in ratifying and implementing the Convention and recommendations were made for future action to promote Convention No. 188. The points of consensus reached by the Forum, including the recommendations for future action, are included in its report.⁶
11. Since convening the Forum, and as of 15 August 2013, Morocco and South Africa have ratified the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), joining the earlier ratifications of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Argentina. In accordance with its Article 48(2), the Convention will come into force 12 months after the date on which the ratifications of ten Members, eight of which are coastal States, have been registered with the Director-General.
12. *The Governing Body:*
 - (a) *authorizes the Director-General to communicate the final reports of the Global Dialogue Forum on the Effects of the Global Economic Crisis on the Civil Aviation Industry and of the Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) to governments, requesting them to communicate the reports to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned; as well as to the international employers' and workers' organizations and other international organizations concerned;*

⁴ GB.310/STM/1, para. 33; GB.310/PV, para. 161.

⁵ Algeria, Argentina, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, China, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia.

⁶ GDFWF/2013/10.

- (b) requests the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for future work, the recommendations for future action by the ILO made by these two Forums.*

II. Sectoral work 2014–15

A. Proposed meeting to address “technical aspects, skills and occupational safety and health in extreme climatic conditions in the oil and gas industry”

13. At its 317th Session (March 2013), the Governing Body examined GB.317/POL/5, which contained proposals for sectoral work for 2014–15.
14. One proposal called for the holding of either a meeting of experts to adopt a code of practice or guidelines, or a tripartite sectoral meeting to examine “technical aspects, skills and occupational safety and health in extreme climatic conditions in the oil and gas industry”.
15. The reason for presenting two alternative formats to the Governing Body in March 2013 was that the sectoral advisory bodies had proposed that the topic be addressed by a tripartite sectoral meeting. However, this proposal was also the subject of discussion at the Global Dialogue Forum on Future Needs for Skills and Training in the Oil and Gas Industry (12–13 December 2012). The Forum suggested that a meeting of experts to adopt a code of practice or guidelines should be held instead of a tripartite sectoral meeting.
16. A tripartite sectoral meeting appeared to be the preferred format during the discussions held by the Governing Body in March 2013. However, a number of speakers requested clarification on the wording “extreme climatic conditions”.
17. Therefore, the Governing Body decided to postpone its decision regarding the format of the meeting and asked the Office to provide the requested clarification at its October 2013 session.
18. Since no standing definition of the phrase “extreme climatic conditions” exists within the ILO, the Office consulted experts from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, which is the UN system’s authority on the state and behaviour of the earth’s atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, its climate and the resulting distribution of water resources. Issues related to weather, climate and the water cycle transcend state boundaries, making international cooperation essential for the successful application and development of related policies. The WMO provides the framework for such international cooperation. It also provides technical definitions within its areas of competence.
19. According to the WMO, there is no global, common definition of “extreme climatic conditions”. “Extreme weather events”, a phrase closely related to the one in question, are associated with dynamical and thermal disturbances that affect the atmospheric circulation and last from several hours to a few weeks. Occurrences over more extended time periods are referred to as “climate extremes”. Types of extreme weather events may include, inter alia: wind storms, tropical cyclones, persistent heavy rainfall, prolonged heat waves or cold waves, severe snow storms, droughts or floods. Weather and climate extremes can – but do not always – cause great damage and have an impact on both social and physical factors, such as human lives and the built environment. Their impact depends on the level of

vulnerability and exposure of the population, economy and infrastructure to these events. For the sake of simplicity, both extreme weather events and extreme climate events are referred to collectively as “climate extremes”.⁷

20. According to the WMO, another way to define “extreme conditions” is to use statistical distribution. Extreme events lie at the edge of the probability distributions of their physical parameters (low probability of occurrence). For example, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a climatic extreme (extreme weather or climate event) is defined as “the occurrence of a value of a weather or climate variable above (or below) a threshold value near the upper (or lower) ends of the range of observed values of the variable”.⁸ Applying this technique allows for a more objective identification of climate extremes across the different climate zones around the world. A couple of days of snow in the Russian Federation would not be considered an extreme climatic event, whereas in Africa it would be. The WMO’s “Guidelines on Analysis of extremes in a changing climate in support of informed decisions for adaptation” provide additional technical details on this analysis.⁹
21. In view of this, the Office suggests that, in the context of the proposed meeting, “extreme climatic conditions” be understood to refer to “climate extremes”, as defined in paragraph 19 above. The purpose of the meeting would thus be to examine the effects of “climate extremes” on selected decent work issues in the oil and gas industry, namely skills requirements, occupational safety and health and technological issues.
22. ***The Governing Body endorses the proposal to hold a tripartite meeting with the purpose set out in paragraph 21, as part of the programme for sectoral work for 2014–15.***

B. Upcoming meetings

23. Following the discussion and adoption of a programme for sectoral work for 2014–15¹⁰ by the Governing Body at its 317th Session (March 2013), the Office proposes that six meetings be held in 2014.
24. Furthermore, the Office proposes that the dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the first five meetings reflect those listed in the appended table.
25. Proposals for meetings to be held in 2015, for the last meeting to be held in 2014, as well as for the selection of countries to be invited to nominate experts to take part in the Meeting of Experts for the shipping sector (proposed to be held from 13 to 17 October 2014), will be submitted at future Governing Body sessions.
26. ***The Governing Body endorses the proposals made in the table appended to GB.319/POL/4 relating to the dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the meetings listed therein.***

⁷ Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation – Summary for policymakers, IPCC, 2012, p. 3.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *Guidelines on analysis of extremes in a changing climate in support of informed decisions for adaptation*, WMO, 2009, pp. 14–17 and appendix, pp. 49–52.

¹⁰ GB.317/POL/5; GB.317/POL/PV/Draft, para. 101.

Appendix

Programme of sectoral meetings 2014

Meetings approved by the Governing Body	Proposed dates	Proposed duration	Proposed title	Proposed purpose	Proposed composition (G-E-W)
Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission (item 22 in the column "sectoral advisory body recommendations" of the table appended to GB.317/POL/5)	26–27 February 2014	Two days	Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission	The purpose of the meeting is to discuss updating the minimum monthly basic pay or wage figure for able seafarers referred to in the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (Guideline B2.2.4) (which revises a similar provision in the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187)), and to make the appropriate recommendation to the Governing Body of the ILO.	Six shipowners; six seafarers. ¹
Global Dialogue Forum (public service sector) (item 13 in the column "sectoral advisory body recommendations" of the table appended to GB.317/POL/5)	2–3 April 2014	Two days	Global Dialogue Forum on Challenges to Collective Bargaining in the Public Service	Tripartite participants will discuss how the economic and financial crisis has impacted collective bargaining in the public service and other challenges to the development of good labour relations, with a view to adopting points of consensus on a way forward, based on the results of the discussion of the General Survey 2013.	All Governments; six Employers; six Workers; observers.
Global Dialogue Forum (media and culture sector) (item 18 in the column "sectoral advisory body recommendations" of the table appended to GB.317/POL/5)	14–15 May 2014	Two days	Global Dialogue Forum on Employment Relationships in the Media and Culture Sector	Tripartite constituents will address employment relationships in the media and culture sector (excludes graphical subsector), with a view to adopting points of consensus that would encourage future programme development and inform policy-making on the selected topic at the international, regional and national levels.	All Governments; six Employers; six Workers; observers.
Global Dialogue Forum (textiles, clothing, leather and footwear industries) (item 10 in the column "sectoral advisory body recommendations" of the table appended to GB.317/POL/5)	23–25 September 2014	Three days	Global Dialogue Forum on Wages and Working Hours in the Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear Industries	Tripartite participants will discuss ways to address wages and working hours in the TCLF industries, taking into account the national contexts and the related international labour standards, with a view to adopting points of consensus that would inform future policy development.	All Governments; ten Employers; ten Workers; observers.

Meetings approved by the Governing Body	Proposed dates	Proposed duration	Proposed title	Proposed purpose	Proposed composition (G-E-W)
Meeting of Experts (shipping sector) (item 21 in the column "sectoral advisory body recommendations" of the table appended to GB.317/POL/5)	13–17 October 2014	Five days	Meeting of Experts on Maritime Occupational Safety and Health	The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and adopt an ILO Handbook on guidance on implementing the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and on the occupational safety and health of seafarers.	Six Government experts; six shipowner experts; six seafarer experts; observers.

¹ The Standing Orders of the Joint Maritime Commission provide, in Article 1, that: "(1) The Joint Maritime Commission set up by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall consist of two members appointed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, representing respectively the employers' group and the workers' group of the Governing Body, and of forty members nominated by the International Labour Conference at a session dealing with maritime questions, twenty of whom shall be selected by the shipowners' delegates and twenty by the seafarers' delegates at the Conference. (2) It shall also include four deputy shipowners' members and four deputy seafarers' members appointed respectively by the shipowners' delegates and the seafarers' delegates at the Conference." Article 14 further provides that "(1) During any session the Commission may set up subcommittees to discuss any of the items on its agenda. The Chairman of the Commission or, in his absence, the representatives of the employers' and workers' groups of the Governing Body alternately, shall preside over such subcommittees. (2) The Commission may also recommend to the Governing Body that tripartite subcommittees be convened to discuss any matter appropriate for consideration by such a subcommittee. (3) The Standing Orders of the Joint Maritime Commission shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the meetings of subcommittees."

At recent meetings of the Subcommittee on Wages (2011), the composition was six shipowners and six seafarers (and their respective advisers); there was no Chairperson, with the Director of SECTOR acting as Secretary-General of the meeting.

