

## **Sixth item on the agenda: Evaluation of the Impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008**

### **Reports of the Committee for the Social Justice Declaration: <sup>1</sup> Summary of proceedings**

1. The Committee for the Social Justice Declaration, established as a Committee of the Whole by the International Labour Conference at its first sitting on 30 May 2016, was originally composed of 175 members (82 Government members, 29 Employer members and 64 Worker members). To achieve equality of strength, each Government member entitled to vote was allotted 928 votes, each Employer member 2,624 votes and each Worker member 1,189 votes. The composition of the Committee was modified four times during the session and the number of votes attributed to each member adjusted accordingly. <sup>2</sup>
2. The Committee elected its Officers as follows:

*Chairperson:* Mr M. Candia Ibarra (Government member, Paraguay) at its first sitting

*Vice-Chairpersons:* Ms R. Hornung-Draus (Employer member, Germany) and Mr M. Norddahl (Worker member, Iceland) at its first sitting

<sup>1</sup> The proposed resolution submitted by the Committee for adoption by the Conference are published in *Provisional Record* No. 13-1.

<sup>2</sup> The modifications were as follows:

- (a) 31 May: 199 members (100 Government members with 536 votes each, 32 Employer members with 1,675 votes each and 67 Worker members with 800 votes each);
- (b) 1 June: 216 members (106 Government members with 2,701 votes each, 37 Employer members with 7,738 votes each and 73 Worker members with 3,922 votes each);
- (c) 2 June: 220 members (107 Government members with 2,850 votes each, 38 Employer members with 8,025 votes each and 75 Worker members with 4,066 votes each); and
- (d) 7 June: 136 members (109 Government members with 152 votes each, eight Employer members with 2,071 votes each and 19 Worker members with 872 votes each).

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*Reporter:* Mr A. Bonilla García (Government member, Mexico) at its fourth sitting

3. At its sixth sitting the Committee appointed a Drafting Group to prepare and submit a draft outcome document for its review. It was composed as follows:

*Government members:* Ms M. Koks (Estonia), Ms E. Akkerman (Netherlands), Mr M. Hobby (New Zealand), Mr D. Duan (China), Ms J. Barrett (USA), Mr J. Mesa (Uruguay), Ms K.E.K. Toure (Côte d’Ivoire), Mr L. Dlamini (Swaziland)

*Employer members:* Ms R. Hornung-Draus (Germany), Ms D. Rudelli (France), Mr G-F. Lamy (Canada), Mr A. Meyerstein (USA), Mr S. Barklamb (Australia), Mr R. Bhardwaj (India), Mr S.A. Hadj Sadok (Algeria), Ms T. Cohen (South Africa)

*Worker members:* Mr M. Norddhal (Iceland), Mr I. Veyrier (France), Ms T. Moore (Barbados), Mr K. Ross (USA), Mr M. Perica (Australia), Mr B. Ntshalintshali (South Africa), Ms D. Montero de Oleo (Dominican Republic), Ms K. Boonstra (Netherlands)

4. The Committee had before it Report VI entitled *Advancing social justice: Reviewing the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization*, prepared by the International Labour Office (hereinafter the Office report), for discussion of the sixth item on the agenda of the Conference: “Evaluation of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008”.
5. The Committee held nine sittings.

## Introduction

6. The representative of the Secretary-General, Mr Gregory Vines, Deputy Director-General for Management and Reform of the International Labour Office, outlined the context in which the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (the Declaration) had been adopted in 2008 at a time of widespread uncertainty in the world of work and growing concerns with the course of globalization across the globe and its impact on workers, employers and governments. At the same time, consensus had emerged among the member States of the ILO that there was a need for the ILO to help achieve an improved and fair outcome for all. He said that the Declaration placed full and productive employment and decent work at the centre of economic and social policies, and institutionalized the concept of decent work based on the four strategic objectives: employment promotion, social protection, social dialogue and tripartism, and fundamental principles and rights at work. Given their inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive nature, these objectives were to be pursued through an integrated approach together with the cross-cutting issue of gender equality and non-discrimination. The Declaration had been implemented through three levels of action. The first level concerned the action of member States and representative organizations of employers and workers. The second concerned the assistance of the ILO to its Members according to their diverse national needs and circumstances. To that effect, the ILO had to review and adapt its institutional practices in order to enhance governance and capacity building and to make the best use of its human and financial resources as well as of

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the unique advantage of its tripartite structure and standards system. The third level concerned the role of international and regional organizations in promoting decent work.

7. According to the provisions of the Declaration, the Conference was expected to evaluate the impact of the Declaration, including steps taken to promote its implementation and to draw conclusions regarding future action. The evaluation was also intended to inform the ILO's centenary in 2019, the Strategic Plan for 2018–21 and the ILO's follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). He highlighted the ties between this Committee and the other committees of this year's Conference which would deal with subject matters related to decent work in global supply chains and decent work for the transition from war to peace, as well as the Director-General's Report to the Conference on the End to Poverty Initiative, one of seven centenary initiatives, and the 2030 Agenda. He concluded by setting out the proposed points for discussion and the elements of a possible outcome document of the Committee's work.

## Opening statements <sup>3</sup>

8. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that the Declaration had institutionalized the concept of decent work. She asserted that it was important that the four pillars of decent work, namely fundamental principles and rights at work, employment promotion, social protection, and social dialogue were viewed as interdependent and interconnected. The Declaration was adopted in 2008 just prior to the economic crisis, the consequences of which were still being felt. While some of the cyclical issues emanating from the crisis had been mitigated, structural elements such as informality, long-term unemployment and youth unemployment had not been adequately addressed. In light of the numerous challenges and changes to the world of work since 2008, the evaluation of the impact of the Declaration was of utmost importance to the Employers' group.
9. The Declaration was a governance tool. Its objective was not only the promotion of ILO Conventions, but to address the diverse realities in member States. She called upon the Office to mobilize all of its means of action to promote its constitutional objectives and to strengthen the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to achieve the strategic objectives. Although the context had changed since 2008, the principles of the Declaration had not, and its relevance was as important as ever. The ILO needed to be dynamic and flexible and develop new and innovative approaches in giving effect to the Declaration.
10. The Committee's evaluation of the impact of the Declaration should focus on the actions that have been taken, the degree to, and areas in, which they had made a difference, including the impact of these actions on constituents, and the degree to which the Declaration had led the Office to change its modus operandi. The actions taken in the area of social protection that culminated in the adoption of Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), the adoption of the Standards Review Mechanism as well as improvements in the functioning of the Conference and the Governing Body, were successes that were attributable, at least in part, to the Declaration. Nevertheless, more needs to be done to respond to the needs of constituents and the recurrent discussions need to be adjusted so that they can fulfil their intended purpose: they should address the ILO's operational policies, including technical cooperation, the technical and research capacity of the Office, and its priorities and programmes of action. In addition, it was important to align the Declaration

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all statements made by Government members on behalf of regional groups or intergovernmental organizations are reported as having been made on behalf of all government members of the group or organization in question who are Members of the ILO and are attending the Conference.

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with the 2030 Agenda and in particular Goal 8 on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, so as to enhance policy coherence, as outlined in the Declaration.

- 11.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the challenge facing the Committee was to distil the discussion of the Declaration into policy messages and points of action for the ILO and its constituents. He stated that the Declaration reflected a global consensus on the need for a social dimension to globalization and that it had codified the four strategic objectives of fundamental principles and rights at work, employment promotion, social protection, and social dialogue, as interdependent, interrelated and mutually supportive. The Declaration recognized freedom of association and collective bargaining as enabling rights for the achievement of decent work and highlighted the cross-cutting issue of gender equality and non-discrimination. Despite the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration, there remained clear deficits. Work on employment and social protection had been accorded more attention and more success had been achieved than with respect to fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue. Social dialogue had in many cases been reduced to tripartite consultation. The deadline to achieve universal ratification of the eight fundamental Conventions by 2016 would not be met given the 123 missing ratifications. He noted that while decent work and gender equality were being referenced in trade agreements and development cooperation partnerships, these were not being implemented in practice.
- 12.** There was a need to make better use of the tools set out in the Declaration. The recurrent discussions were both a policy tool for each strategic objective and a governance tool to better link ILO action to the needs of constituents. Those discussions should be better linked to the General Surveys prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) so as to place standards as a cornerstone of ILO activities and to enable the ILO to provide targeted technical assistance to member States to overcome existing obstacles to ratification of ILO instruments. The Governing Body should institute a follow-up to recurrent discussions as a standing item on its agenda. In addition, greater efforts were required to ensure that decent work would become a framework to shape policies and legislation in the context of the 2030 Agenda, including in a new generation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) based on decent work indicators.
- 13.** The Workers' group did not agree with the assertion in the Office report that the global economic institutions had taken sufficient steps to promote decent work since 2008. There was evidence that austerity measures pushed for by some of these institutions had increased inequalities, undermined social dialogue and destroyed collective bargaining mechanisms. The respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, employment promotion, social protection, and social dialogue were in fact enabling rights and the cornerstones of a sustainable recovery and of just societies. Inequality and instability were common results when decent work was not placed at the centre of economic and social policies. The evaluation of progress in advancing the Declaration provided an opportunity to strengthen its implementation, and the findings and recommendations of the evaluation should feed into and guide the development of the ILO Strategic Plan for 2018–21.
- 14.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States (hereinafter referred to as the EU and its Member States), and the Government members of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Norway, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, welcomed the opportunity to review the impact of the Declaration, which represented one of the ground-breaking declarations of the ILO. The Declaration was an important political expression of support for the Decent Work Agenda and its four strategic objectives. It had served as important guidance for the EU and its Member States, since the EU strived to ensure that inclusive economic growth and development went hand in hand with social justice, human rights, including core labour

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standards, and sustainable environmental practices and policy frameworks. That objective was at the core of the Europe 2020 Strategy and of several key EU policies in the areas of trade and development. The EU pursued the promotion of the Decent Work Agenda both within the EU and in the EU's external policies. The Declaration moreover offered the perfect framework for the ILO contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

- 15.** While the Declaration had been adopted at a critical moment in time and at the start of a prolonged economic crisis with severe effects on social and employment policies worldwide, the Declaration remained as relevant today as in 2008. It reaffirmed the mandate of the ILO in the current economic reality that was characterized by profound structural transformations of the world of work, and it underlined that violation of fundamental principles and rights at work could not be used as comparative advantage for trade purposes.
- 16.** Areas for improving the implementation of the Declaration included: the role of the ILO, the Office and its constituents in promoting the Declaration; the planning and organization of recurrent discussions; and the way to best meet Members' needs in fulfilling the potential of the Declaration. The EU and its Member States expected that the Committee's evaluation would probably lead to a short resolution reaffirming the relevance of the Declaration, accompanied by an annex or a set of conclusions that would spell out specific actions to be undertaken to better promote the Declaration and to render future work more impactful and effective. The timing for this Conference discussion was excellent with regard to the upcoming deliberations on the ILO's new strategic plan, its biennial programme and budget, and the preparations for the centenary in 2019.
- 17.** The Government member of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific group (ASPAG), complimented the Office on all the valuable measures taken to implement the objectives of the Declaration. It was vital to fully realize the integrated pursuit of the strategic objectives while placing decent work at the centre of economic and social policies at the national and regional levels, and in the multilateral system. To accomplish the ambitious objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Declaration it was imperative to institutionalize even more ambitious, fully inclusive and non-discriminatory measures for its implementation, particularly regarding the financing and transfer of technology and associated know-how, through meaningful global partnerships. The exchange of good practices on successful initiatives for decent work and to promote decent work through mutual support on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis, as well as through trade and investment agreements and agreements relating to migration were needed.
- 18.** The Government member of Switzerland said that the Office report revealed that continued commitment would be necessary to give full effect to the Declaration. By adopting the Declaration, ILO Members had pledged to implement an integrated policy of decent work in accordance with national conditions. In order to strengthen the coherence of government policy and multilateral action, Switzerland had established a strategy of engagement with the ILO in 2013. The full realization of the principles of the Declaration was of strategic importance for the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions, and to ensure that globalization benefited the greatest number of people. The evaluation presented an opportunity for the ILO to play a vital role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Goal 8.
- 19.** The Government member of China supported the statement made on behalf of ASPAG and expressed his Government's appreciation of the quality report prepared by the Office. He stated that in 2016, China would host the G20 Employment and Labour Ministers Meeting, whose outcome document would be aimed at achieving decent work with an emphasis on job generation through innovation and vocational training. He expressed China's support of the integrated approach to decent work under the Declaration and provided examples of measures adopted in China to give effect to the Declaration in terms of job generation and

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improvement of social security and social dialogue, as well as promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work.

- 20.** The Government member of Sudan, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, welcomed the satisfactory and important report by the Office, which had highlighted the important historical context in which the Declaration had been adopted. The Africa group appreciated the special attention that had been paid to the changing global context, to the persistent development challenges and opportunities, action taken by Members, including exchanges of good practices, the need for institutional capacity building, and the focus on the special needs of developing countries.
- 21.** The Government member of France emphasized that the Declaration would only prove its full value when all countries would have ratified the eight fundamental Conventions, since ratification and implementation of these and other Conventions was the only way of securing the commitment of member States to respect fundamental principles and rights at work. She flagged the need to review the modalities of the recurrent discussions. She further reiterated her Government's continued support for measures designed to enhance policy coherence in the context of the "Delivering as One" approach that had been adopted by the United Nations (UN). In order to strengthen the ILO's role in the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and particularly Goal 8, the ILO needed to improve its analysis and research capabilities, as well as its ability to collect and use data to underpin its work in support of the SDGs.
- 22.** The Government member of Canada noted that the scope of the Declaration was vast and represented a cornerstone of the ILO's work. By institutionalizing the concept of decent work, the Declaration had brought out the primary intention embodied by the four strategic objectives. It was all the more pertinent today, as witnessed by the integration of decent work into the 2030 Agenda.
- 23.** The Government member of Kenya supported the intervention made by Sudan on behalf of the Africa group. He said that the review of the impact of the Declaration provided an opportunity to assess the promotion and implementation of the strategic objectives of the ILO and to set out a course of action so that its full potential could be achieved. Much remained to be done in Africa, particularly in landlocked countries. Of the four strategic objectives only two, namely employment and social protection, had been fully embraced. The ILO, its constituents, and international and regional organizations would need to redouble their efforts to address the concerns in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 24.** The Government member of Turkey stated that the 2008 crisis had affected both financial and labour markets. The resulting problems were global rather than national and required a global commitment to tackle the problems through an integrated and comprehensive policy approach to foster a strong, sustainable and inclusive growth, and decent work.
- 25.** The Government member of Zimbabwe indicated that his country had taken various initiatives regarding the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda. Despite attempts to increase women's participation in the economy, women remained largely under-represented in the labour market, except in the informal sector. Social protection remained a challenge owing to the general weak economic performance.
- 26.** The Government member of the United States expressed her country's support for the Decent Work Agenda with its four strategic objectives. The key benefit of the Declaration was the institutionalization of the Decent Work Agenda which made the concept easily accessible and understandable to those outside the ILO. The assessment of the concrete impact of the Declaration was, however, difficult as it was not possible to determine whether

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certain developments were to be attributed specifically to the Declaration itself or whether they had occurred because of the ILO's mandate and pursuit of the four strategic objectives. Therefore, the Committee's focus should be to identify concrete priority areas for future ILO action.

27. The Government member of India underlined her Government's support of the Declaration and the fundamental principles and rights at work, and welcomed the idea of awareness raising and exchange of experiences contained in the Declaration. She underlined that international labour standards should not be used for protectionist purposes in trade.
28. The Government member of Philippines stated that the employment plan 2017–22 of the new Philippines Government had been adopted in a tripartite manner and took into consideration the Decent Work Agenda, the 2030 Agenda, as well as the ILO Future of Work centenary initiative.
29. The Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Geneva said that her organization considered the Declaration and the Decent Work Agenda as relevant in 2016 as it had been in 2008. Although progress had been made in meeting the objectives set by the millennium development goals (MDGs), there remained significant gaps. For example, 830 million people were classified as working poor, living on under US\$2 a day, and more than 197 million people were unemployed globally. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda represented a renewed commitment by governments and the international community as a whole, to address the most difficult challenges of our time. According to the findings of the UN Joint Inspection Unit, UNDP was one of the most advanced agencies in terms of mainstreaming the Decent Work Agenda. The UNDP Human Development Report explored the relationship between work and human development and called for a new social contract and global deal to implement the Decent Work Agenda. UNDP was fully committed to strengthening coherence and partnerships within the UN system, to better respond to the requirements of the new development context, and considered that the ILO was an essential part of that process.
30. The Worker Vice-Chairperson, while noting the challenge of implementation, valued the constructive, positive and informative discussions which reaffirmed the spirit of consensus that had been reached in 2008 when the Declaration was adopted.
31. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Worker Vice-Chairperson on the positive mood and spirit of the opening discussions, noting that that augured well for the work of the Committee. Given the importance of the Declaration, it was essential that it served to address the needs of people, and that implied that its implementation must be accepted as a shared responsibility.

## **Setting the stage: the changing global context**

32. The special guest at the opening sitting, Professor Iain Begg, Professorial Research Fellow at the European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science provided evidence for the continuation of globalization across regions, particularly in Africa which had been catching up. He outlined globalization as a consequence of policy and regulatory changes, underlying drivers – technology, communications, demography and corporate organization – and flows of knowledge, information and people. He cautioned against the “tyranny of averages” which could yield only a partial picture of the real world. Globalization could have benign effects on jobs and social inclusion, but it could also lead to such malign effects as intensified competition and a race to the bottom. While it could be argued that globalization had created more prosperity overall, there had also been losers such as displaced workers and, in many contexts, social and economic progress had been fragile.

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He outlined how globalization had affected, and was closely linked to, the ILO's strategic objectives, and highlighted the need to develop new welfare models to adapt to changing global context. He highlighted the different approaches to, and challenges of, social dialogue and industrial relations which needed to be accommodated to national contexts and new production models. Finally, he also highlighted the importance of investment in social and human capital for dealing with future challenges, making a strong case for strengthening social capital and emphasizing the value of early educational interventions and empowerment of people.

- 33.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson responded to Professor Begg's intervention by stating that he agreed with the issue that had been raised regarding the dangers of policies addressing only the "average". On the other hand, he challenged the idea of outdated industrial relations and the alleged reduced relevance of conventional or traditional models of industrial relations. For the workers, the fundamental principles of collective bargaining and industrial relations remained the same whatever the sector, be it industry or the service sector for example. It was also important to highlight that although globalization continued apace, the world was still one of independent states which had different laws and regulations so there was a definite role for international organizations like the ILO to ensure a level playing field.
- 34.** In response to Professor Begg's presentation, the Employer Vice-Chairperson raised two issues. She stated that the principles and fundamental nature of social dialogue did not change in relation to which sector of the economy was being considered. However, there were challenges in that regard in relation to workers in the informal economy and those who were self-employed as they were often neglected or marginalized and therefore typically not adequately embraced by existing processes. She continued by questioning the notion that migration was the result of globalization. It was true that was partially the case but there were political issues, including conflict and failed states that were also very important variables to consider.
- 35.** A Worker member from France, in response to Professor Begg's presentation, said that the social model needed to be adapted in the face of globalization. However, labour was not a commodity and it was crucial that the Declaration re-established social justice. The observance of international labour standards needed to be considered as goals and not as constraints in the context of economic policies. The ILO therefore had a major role to play within the multilateral system in redressing the balance in favour of social justice.
- 36.** A Government member of Lesotho commented that it was necessary to clarify whether the Declaration was fit for purpose and to what extent it had addressed the issues raised by Professor Begg.
- 37.** Professor Begg, in reply to the questions raised, reasserted that new economic models, to some extent, did lead to changes in industrial relations especially in light of heterogeneous and fragmented production processes such as in relation to global supply chains. As to the question about what the ILO could do, one element was to address the issues through international labour standards, another was to provide a platform for the exchange of experiences. On the question of migration it was necessary also to highlight the challenge of how to integrate refugees, displaced people and labour migrants into labour markets. Professor Begg agreed with the Employer Vice-Chairperson that issues relating to migration were often more of a political nature and that therefore solutions to these issues had typically been difficult.
- 38.** The representative of the Secretary-General thanked Professor Begg. He emphasized that the Declaration was not a stand-alone document and was linked to the ILO Future of Work and the End to Poverty centenary initiatives and to the 2030 Agenda. The importance of maintaining a balance between economic, social and also environmental policies, and the

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ILO's role in facilitating that, was underlined. Progress could be made by building on the strengths of the ILO, namely social dialogue and tripartism and international labour standards.

## **General discussion**

### **Point A: General review of the impact of the Declaration and the identification of overall considerations for future action**

39. The Chairperson opened the session by outlining discussion point A. He noted the need to draw conclusions on the impact of the Declaration with respect to the four strategic objectives; to identify the main challenges and opportunities for further action to achieve full potential of the Declaration in the changing context of the world of work.
40. The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that the report provided a good basis for discussions of the Declaration. He noted that the implementation of the Declaration had been immediately confronted with the need to address the consequences of the 2008 financial crisis. To that effect the ILO had adopted in 2009 a “Global Jobs Pact”, designed to put decent work at the centre of the recovery. However, governments that had adopted stimulus packages had quickly come under severe pressure when international and regional financial and economic institutions had urged them to implement austerity measures. There had been devastating results in many parts of the world where an erosion of social justice characterized by rising unemployment and attacks on labour protection and fundamental principles and rights at work, which was all in stark contrast with the goal of social justice as embodied in the commitments expressed at the time of the adoption of the Declaration in 2008. Despite various measures taken to build bridges between the ILO and international financial institutions, more needed to be done to achieve the Declaration's full potential, in particular for a greater role of the ILO in interaction with those institutions.
41. Referring to the Preamble of the Declaration, the ILO had an obligation to “promote the ILO's standard-setting policy as a cornerstone of ILO activities by enhancing its relevance to the world of work, and ensure the role of standards as a useful means of achieving the constitutional objectives of the Organization”. However, progress made in that regard was disappointing and the deadline set for universal ratification of the eight fundamental Conventions would not be met given a deficit of 123 ratifications. In the run-up to the ILO's centenary in 2019, there was a need to intensify efforts, with particular focus on the ratification of Conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining.
42. DWCPs needed to be reframed to ensure full integration of, and balance across, the four strategic objectives with increased tripartite ownership at the national level. The integration of decent work into the 2030 Agenda offered a renewed framework to promote decent work and develop DWCPs in all countries, not just those in the developing world. It also provided an opportunity to involve economic and financial ministries in developing decent work strategies. The development of clear decent work indicators, including in respect of rights and social dialogue, would be important to facilitate that process. In a world of growing interdependence and complexity and the internationalization of production, social dialogue and tripartism, within and across borders, were ever more relevant to achieving solutions and to strengthening social cohesion and the rule of law. However, social dialogue had often been undermined or ignored in the face of austerity measures and that had resulted in policies that undermined the Declaration and created decent work deficits, inequality and instability. Therefore it was important for the ILO to play a more prominent role in global economic policy development and governance.

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43. At the national level, most of the provisions concerning the responsibility of Members to realize the four strategic objectives remained unanswered. These included the regional and national strategies for decent work, the indicators and statistics, the review by member States as regards ratification and implementation of ILO instruments with a view to achieving an increasing coverage of each of the strategic objectives and the sharing of good practices.
  44. With reference to the cross-cutting issue of gender equality and non-discrimination, he stated that member States and the social partners had failed to adequately integrate it in the implementation of the Declaration. Apart from some progress in respect of gender-inclusive decent work indicators, the number of “gender-weak” or “gender-blind” ILO projects had actually increased from 72 per cent in 2010 to 77.5 per cent in 2016. The ILO’s report *Women at Work Trends 2016* outlined an increasing gender pay gap and informality, higher unemployment and little social protection coverage – including in respect of maternity protection. The implementation of the Declaration called for policies and measures that systematically reflected the gender dimension in order to achieve greater social cohesion. In that respect there was a clear failure of implementation. In addition, this year’s CEACR general report revealed growing discrimination against migrants and rising incidents of xenophobia.
  45. The Employer Vice-Chairperson emphasized that the Declaration was a very important governance tool for the ILO. While there was general understanding on the underlying principles of the Declaration, there was a shortfall in its application as a governance tool, which was reflected in the replies to the questionnaire sent by the Office in preparation of the report. The recurrent discussions had so far been a missed opportunity to understand the diverse needs of the Members.
  46. With reference to DWCPs, she noted that they were a vehicle for implementing the Declaration and it was important to take into account countries’ needs and priorities. She stated that in a number of countries the Office had imposed its own priorities and hence neglected the real needs of constituents. That undermined the constituents’ ownership of DWCPs, constrained its prospects and reflected a failure to embrace the full spirit of the Declaration. DWCPs must be grounded in realistic assessments of what could be achieved in a member State given particular circumstances including socio-economic conditions and resource availability.
  47. Social partners needed to be responsible and were an indispensable factor for the success of social dialogue. She highlighted the Oslo Declaration: Restoring confidence in jobs and growth, adopted at the ILO Ninth European Regional Meeting in 2013. Responsible social dialogue required responsible social partners, which should be highlighted as an essential element for fruitful dialogues.
  48. Decent work indicators and statistics were important tools that helped the ILO to better understand the diverse realities and needs of countries. However, it was important to note that while there were some aspects of decent work that are measurable such as employment and working time, among others, other aspects are unfortunately not. Coming up with inappropriate indicators on immeasurable aspects of decent work risks leading to incorrect diagnosis of a country’s situation. She reminded that the decent work indicators as they currently stand have not been approved or discussed at the Governing Body and called for a discussion at the Governing Body on them.
  49. The Employers’ group supported the principles behind the fundamental Conventions. However, it was important to note that any push for ratification had to take into account a country’s specific needs and contexts. Obstacles to ratification were not merely related to a lack of political will, but related to legal and technical complications embodied in the

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standard itself. It was hence important to start a debate on that subject matter. To that effect, the establishment of a Standards Review Mechanism was a very important development.

- 50.** She stressed the importance of enterprise development and private sector investment to job creation and called for a strengthened role of the private sector in the ILO's work. She highlighted the need for more attention to be given to the 2007 Conference Conclusions concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises and to the ILO Enterprise centenary initiative.
- 51.** Turning to the relationship between the Declaration and SDGs, she stated that it was crucial for the ILO as well as for all international organizations not to intervene in areas which were not of its competency so as to ensure that the institutions deliver on their mandates in a coherent and complementary manner. The ILO's Future of Work centenary initiative and other centenary initiatives also needed to be directed by these principles.
- 52.** The Government member of Saudi Arabia, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), reiterated the importance of achieving decent work, including its four strategic objectives, which should be implemented in a comprehensive manner. He affirmed the importance that his region had given to the topic of social justice and emphasized the importance of pursuing that objective at national, regional and international levels. He cautioned that despite concerted efforts, unemployment levels, particularly for youth, remained a persistent challenge. It was the shared desire of the GCC and the ILO to take an integrated approach to decent work and social justice. It was essential to ensure that social justice be achieved in conjunction with SDGs. Greater assistance was needed from the ILO to support countries in implementing those objectives. GCC countries were committed to ensuring that best practices for achieving decent work be shared, including through a special focus on partnerships as displayed in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.
- 53.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States and the Government members of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, and Georgia, noted the value of the Declaration in articulating an integrated approach to decent work. She stated that the fact that the Decent Work Agenda had been placed at the heart of the 2030 Agenda was one of the main achievements of the Declaration. Since it was no longer conceivable to discuss the challenges in the field of social affairs and employment without referring to decent work, it was now time to focus on more practical approaches that would make a concrete difference on the ground, including by fostering greater engagement with partners, tailoring technical assistance, and more substantive and results-oriented discussions at the Conference.
- 54.** The EU had made explicit references to decent work in various EU priority areas including social, human rights, employment, trade, development, public procurement and neighbourhood strategies. She noted the slowdown in the number of ratifications of fundamental and governance Conventions and called for that to be addressed. The EU remained committed to the universal ratification and implementation of those Conventions, which are promoted as part of EU trade and development policies.
- 55.** It was necessary to increase political support and invest in more structured and strategic debates around decent work including better use of DWCPs. She emphasized that a one-size-fits-all approach to decent work was not feasible given the differences between countries. However, social exclusion and inequalities must be identified and solutions mainstreamed in every country programme along with social dialogue, employment, and social protection, as well as ensuring compliance with core labour standards. More efforts were needed to showcase how an integrated approach to decent work was more efficient and yielded better results. Future efforts of Members should be based on Part II of the Declaration, and the ILO was called upon to provide tailor-made, evidence-based advice and assistance on how to

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implement the integrated approach of the Declaration in practice. She emphasized that the Office and in particular the Research Department could do more to showcase scalable decent work initiatives to member States. The decent work indicators, as part of the 2030 Agenda, provided an opportunity to rethink how progress on decent work could be monitored and supported.

- 56.** ILO Regional Meetings could include more substantive discussions on best practices and recurrent discussions could be tailored to allow more interaction and exchanges with other international organizations and experts. She affirmed that the Declaration had had an impact on reinforcing and operationalizing the Decent Work Agenda, but now efforts must focus on how to strengthen and promote an integrated approach in practice.
- 57.** The Government member of Japan urged that an increased emphasis on social protection was needed since that continued to represent a challenge in the Asia and Pacific region, particularly in South-East Asia. She noted that the persistent income inequalities in the region demanded that more technical cooperation be devoted to expanding social safety nets as well as improving occupational safety and health. Increased technical cooperation was needed to respond to such challenges and to fully realize the objectives contained in the Declaration.
- 58.** The Government member of Norway said that following the adoption of the Declaration, Norway had intensified efforts to promote workers' rights on a global level, establishing a comprehensive strategy based on the Decent Work Agenda. Such efforts had led to improved coordination between relevant ministries as well as coherent policy portfolios, to allow the Government to speak with one voice in a variety of international forums. She stated that how individual countries choose to implement the Declaration would ultimately reflect their vision on the future of work and the developments that they aim to achieve nationally. The DWCPs might serve as a tool and the Regional Meetings as an arena to exchange views on how to implement decent work. She reiterated that the Oslo Declaration from the 2013 European Regional Meeting contained relevant, concrete and concise suggestions for improving ILO means of action which should help inform the current exercise.
- 59.** The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, affirmed continued support for the Declaration. Such support was evidenced by a number of meetings organized between states by the African Union to share information about the Declaration and find solutions for its application. He noted that in response to the Declaration, a number of countries had created ministerial employment departments and had undertaken additional reforms including qualitative and quantitative expansions of social security programmes.
- 60.** The Government member of China recalled that the Declaration stipulated that each member State was to determine how it could achieve the Decent Work Agenda. He proposed a mutual promotion and implementation of the Declaration and the 2030 Agenda. The ILO should also strengthen its development cooperation strategy with regard to the 2030 Agenda and DWCPs. He noted that the demand for support on issues within the ILO remit had surpassed the capacity of the ILO to respond and therefore increased efforts were needed by all, including member States, to promote Goal 17. An effective development cooperation strategy should also aim to help developing countries promote decent work including through South–South cooperation and public–private partnerships.
- 61.** The Government member of Canada recognized the efforts made by the ILO to mainstream gender equality and non-discrimination in its programming and invited the ILO to continue and scale up these efforts in future actions. It was also important that the ILO continue to support member States in capacity building to fully implement standards after their ratification, including through DWCPs.

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- 62.** The Government member of the United States recalled challenges in the world of work, including global unemployment and underemployment, inadequate labour laws and lack of capacity to implement existing labour laws, which could in turn increase the risk of such exploitation as child labour, forced labour and workplace discrimination. Profound changes in the world of work, including technological advances, increased use of subcontracting, short-term hiring and new forms of employment, were presenting new challenges such as reduced scope for freedom of association and collective bargaining, greater exposure to workplace safety and health hazards, longer working hours and fewer social protection benefits.
- 63.** The 2030 Agenda included the essentials of the Decent Work Agenda and therefore represented an opportunity for the ILO to integrate the Decent Work Agenda into national, regional and global policies, strategies and programmes. The ILO should continue to provide expert advice and support for the development of decent work indicators as part of the 2030 Agenda, specifically concerning the protection of fundamental principles and rights at work, as that was a key aspect for achieving decent work and in particular Goal 8. The ILO should also provide technical assistance to help strengthen countries' capacities for collecting and analysing data. The ILO should continue to raise awareness, facilitate the exchange of good practices and produce sound evidence-based research to advance decent work. It was also important to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize global partnerships for development, in line with Goal 17. There was also opportunity for expanding and improving DWCPs and to shift resources to Decent Work Country Teams. Priority should also be given to ensure UN Country Teams receive necessary training on the Decent Work Agenda.
- 64.** The ILO should also continue efforts to promote capacity building and assist constituents in implementing the four strategic objectives, at the national level as well as in bilateral and multilateral initiatives. Technical assistance should be directed at assisting member States in revising their national labour laws in line with international labour standards and further promote capacity building for labour administration and inspection. She concluded that the ILO should focus on the key priorities of its mandate and strengthen its evaluation function, especially impact assessments, in order to demonstrate the impact of its work.
- 65.** The Government member of India reminded the Committee that the Declaration called upon the ILO to "review and adapt its institutional practices to enhance governance and capacity building in order to make best use" of its resources and "of the unique advantage of its tripartite structure and standards system", with a view to assisting its Members in their efforts to implement the four strategic objectives. The introduction of recurrent discussions had been a welcome step. Participatory approaches to the Decent Work Agenda were seen as the best means of implementation and the ILO was well placed to provide the necessary technical and financial support. The ILO should also continue to work as a facilitator, build capacity and share both knowledge and best practices with a view to making communities more sustainable while taking into account country-specific needs.
- 66.** It was also important to take into account informality and socio-economic disparities. As monitoring and evaluation were invaluable for the continuous improvement of any organization, it was suggested that ILO Conventions and Recommendations be reviewed periodically to ensure their continued relevance. That should, however, not result in any additional reporting burden for member States.
- 67.** There was also a need for greater collaboration between international organizations to increase their efficiency and enable them to improve the sharing of best practices. The core mandate of the ILO could be better fulfilled by strengthening its partnerships. With the emergence of global supply chains, there needed to be a greater emphasis on labour laws that were compliant with ILO standards and which avoided protectionist trade measures.

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68. The Government of India was a firm believer in tripartism and the Prime Minister had recently re-emphasized that India would continue to adhere to the principles of tripartite consultation. It was important to remember that these principles were relevant in both the formal and informal sectors. Therefore, it was crucial to find a means to foster social dialogue with the informal or unorganized sector, perhaps through expanded tripartism with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the civil society. The ILO had a central role to play in capacity building and improving dialogue with social partners and the unorganized sector.
69. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Employers that the Declaration should be used as a governance tool but argued that it should also be used as a policy tool and that that dimension was sometimes overlooked. He also agreed that DWCPs should not be the result of a top-down approach from the Office but rather needed to be developed through bottom-up approaches, involving social partners at every step. Responding to the issue raised by the Employers' group in relation to the Oslo Declaration and responsible social partners, he stated that the Oslo Declaration in fact referred to responsible social partnerships rather than responsible social partners.
70. With reference to the ILO Constitution, including the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944), which provided the ILO with the responsibility to examine and consider all international economic and financial policies in the light of the fundamental objective of social justice, he stressed that the ILO should do more to intervene in economic and financial matters. In closing, he said that the ILO should place high priority in developing decent work indicators because it was important to ensure information on decent work was accurate and up to date at all times. Finally, he agreed with the statement by the Representative of the EU that there was a need to follow up on the ratification and implementation of ILO governance and fundamental Conventions.
71. The Employer Vice-Chairperson reacted to the debate about whether the Declaration was a governance or policy tool. She emphasized that the Declaration was first and foremost a governance tool, and the purpose of the recurrent discussions, as well as the evaluation of the Declaration in this Committee, was not to discuss new labour and social policies but rather whether current policies have worked. In terms of the Oslo Declaration, she agreed that the text referred to responsible social partnerships but that implicitly meant that social partners needed to be responsible too. There was also agreement on the interpretation of the Declaration in terms of the ILO's mandate with regard to economic and financial policies, and that the ILO should determine how those policies impacted social and labour policies. That did not mean, however, that the ILO should be involved in economic policy making.

## **Point B: Recurrent discussions**

72. The Chairperson stated that discussion point B of the report would focus on the impact of the recurrent discussions in responding to Members' needs. The Chairperson outlined that the Committee should look at the content, sequence and frequency of recurrent discussions; the preparation of the Office report, modalities of the Conference Committee discussions, and how these could be coordinated with General Surveys. The discussion was also expected to focus on actions to strengthen and more systematically implement the outcomes of recurrent discussions and on how they could be better linked with the work of the Governing Body, the programme and budget, the setting of the Conference agenda, and the reform of Regional Meetings.
73. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that the purpose of the recurrent discussions was to understand and better meet the diverse needs of Members. The Declaration defined the purpose of recurrent discussions as "to determine how the ILO can more efficiently address

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these needs through coordinated use of all its means of action; determine the necessary resources to address these needs and, if appropriate, to attract additional resources; and guide the Governing Body and the Office in their responsibilities". While acknowledging the success of the recurrent discussion on social protection that had led to the adoption of Recommendation No. 202, she underscored that, in general, recurrent discussions had not produced the results expected. Recurrent discussions had become somewhat general, superficial and unspecific, and were often mere general policy discussions. Their conclusions tended to be weak in terms of providing practical guidance to the Office. While it was typically difficult to establish a causal link between an ILO intervention and an outcome, there had been inadequate attempts to proceed to an evaluation to see if policies had worked in different national contexts. General Surveys with a wide range of instruments had not made it possible to allow for an in-depth analysis of the reasons behind non-ratification.

- 74.** She proposed to revise recurrent discussions by focusing more on operational policies, that is, on the results of existing policies and actions of the Organization, namely to see if established policies and operational methods have worked or not, and whether they need to be changed, rather than get into substantial policy development. Where the problem is a policy that does not work or the lack of policy, it should then be further discussed in an appropriate manner, either through a general discussion or a meeting of experts or, as in the case of social protection, in a properly set up standard-setting process. A specific set of rules might be needed to discuss how to make the recurrent discussions different from general discussions.
- 75.** Furthermore, the outcome of recurrent discussions should more directly feed into the programme and budget cycles with focused, concise and action-oriented conclusions. Given that the programme and budget is a two-year cycle, recurrent discussions could focus each year on two of the four strategic objectives in order to cover all four of them in a four-year strategic planning cycle. Recurrent discussions better aligned to the programming cycle would strengthen the governance function of the Declaration. Without such changes, the Employers' Vice-Chairperson questioned the value of continuing with the recurrent discussions. Finally, she noted that there was an opportunity to better align the recurrent discussions to the follow-up and review of the SDGs at the UN level through the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF).
- 76.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson recalled the preparatory discussions in 2007 before the adoption of the Declaration in 2008. At the time, the Workers' group had supported the idea of cyclical reviews covering the four strategic objectives and up-to-date instruments, with the intention to use the recurrent discussions as an instrument to contribute to internal and external policy coherence for the achievement of social justice through decent work. Recurrent discussions had a dual function: as a governance tool they provided tripartite guidance to the Governing Body, directed the Office in its preparation of the programme and budget, and identified priorities for research and other relevant action. In some cases, outcomes of recurrent discussions had fed into the agenda of the Conference. As such, the recurrent discussions were a tool to define priority areas of action based on constituents' needs.
- 77.** However, recurrent discussions were not only a governance tool, but also provided an opportunity to review policies and trends under each strategic objective to ensure that Office action responded appropriately to developments in the world of work. If the four objectives were to be discussed within a two-year cycle, it would be difficult to properly address trends which were likely to demonstrate more manifest changes over a long time frame. Therefore the four objectives needed to be examined over a longer cycle. The results of the first seven-year cycle of recurrent discussions which would be completed next year with a second discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work, had shown some positive results

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and had served to identify where more needed to be done. The adoption of Recommendation No. 202, the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), and the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, were clear indicators of positive outcomes of the recurrent discussions held and its contribution to the ILO's standard-setting agenda. However, some recurrent discussions had indeed lacked sufficient focus and a clearly defined framework. In the future, greater efforts would be needed to clearly differentiate recurrent discussions from general discussions. It was hence important that the Committee provided guidance on a framework to identify the focus for future recurrent discussions.

- 78.** With regard to the sequence of the recurrent discussions, the original plan had been a cycle of four to five years. The final decision to opt for a seven-year cycle might, in retrospect, have proven too long to allow for timely responses to new trends and changes in governance or the socio-economic realities in the world of work. He suggested reverting to the original proposal of a five-year cycle, allowing a discussion on the four objectives, with a separate discussion on the complementary but distinct topics of social security and labour protection that would be too broad to be adequately addressed within a one-year discussion. The possibility to hold another review at the end of the next cycle was also a possible consideration.
- 79.** The Committee could also consider the option of establishing an annual review by the Governing Body on progress made by the Office and constituents in giving effect to the conclusions of the recurrent discussions. That would need to be an integrated approach, including standards and covering efforts made by other organizations of the multilateral system in making progress towards decent work. At the same time, the discussions at the Governing Body could also feed into the contribution that the ILO and member States would need to make on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While the exact modalities of such a discussion could be further elaborated by the Governing Body, it would be important to already make a commitment to such a review at this Conference.
- 80.** The recurrent discussion was designed to address topics that had been neglected or not properly addressed in the past such as: minimum living wages and basic income; the importance of the employment relationship; the role of the Office to give consideration of all international economic and financial policies; a strong social economy; and a viable public sector. Constituents needed to be given an opportunity to provide guidance for new areas of action by the Organization to allow the topics relevant to them to find their way into the recurrent discussions. The recurrent discussions should therefore allow for a debate covering the global state of affairs relating to the four strategic objectives in order to identify topics which were of emerging importance.
- 81.** In that regard it was also important to enhance the impact of the reports under article 19 of the ILO Constitution used for General Surveys which were discussed by the Committee on the Application of Standards and whose objective primarily consisted in the identification of obstacles to ratification, as well as to identify gaps in existing standards. Therefore article 19 reports provided an ideal basis to identify specific issues for discussion during the recurrent discussions. Furthermore, enhancing the impact of the General Surveys would also create positive synergies with the standards initiative, not only with the Standard Review Mechanism, but also with what is the day-to-day work of the ILO of promoting the ratification and also implementation of ILO standards. The follow-up to article 19 General Surveys should be strengthened and form an integral part of the reviews of each strategic objective undertaken by the Governing Body.
- 82.** Another dimension that needed to be better addressed in each recurrent discussion related to Part II(B)(iii) of the Declaration which gave an opportunity to member States to review “their situation as regards the ratification and implementation of ILO instruments with a

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view to achieving a progressively increasing coverage of each of the strategic objectives”. To allow the choice of standards under the General Surveys to feed into the recurrent discussions in consistency and coherence with the Standards Review Mechanism, the Workers’ group called for a decision on the cycle and sequence of the recurrent discussion by the present session of the Conference. The participation of international institutions in the discussion around the Declaration was an important innovation that had begun this year. The Workers’ group considered that practice useful and it should be included in future recurrent discussions on all the strategic objectives. That practice would help enhance policy coherence with actors such as other UN agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO), regional organizations and banks.

- 83.** Furthermore, recurrent discussions needed to be used to promote greater policy coherence at national level between ministries and government institutions, which was also crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 84.** The outcomes of each recurrent discussion needed to find a way into the programme and budget of the ILO. The Workers’ group proposed a specific allocation in the budget reserved for follow-up to recurrent discussions’ conclusions and decisions. The policy-related recommendations should be submitted to the Governing Body and be translated into concrete follow-up such as new research, meetings of experts, and new standard setting.
- 85.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States and the Government members of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, stated that the recurrent discussions offered the opportunity to identify a shared and updated vision for the practical implementation of the integrated approach and the choice of priorities for future action related to the strategic objectives. The recurrent discussions and the related General Surveys also enabled the ILO, its constituents and stakeholders to advance knowledge and foster debate in areas with an uneven rate of ratification of Conventions.
- 86.** Although recurrent discussions had led to important results, the overall impact had been limited and the challenge was to reshape them as strategic and operational discussions. The aim should be full alignment with the Declaration’s focus on the interrelated nature of the strategic objectives, integration of the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and non-discrimination and policy coherence for decent work. The present seven-year cycle needed to be shortened to allow for better alignment with the ILO Strategic Plan for 2018–21 and relevant processes within the UN system. That would in turn enable the ILO to improve its responses to developments in the world of work, prevent repetition of discussions and help decrease the reporting burden upon governments. Furthermore, the current format was in need of revision to include broader participation with international and regional organizations, international NGOs and other relevant players.
- 87.** The Government member of China suggested that positive consideration be given to setting the recurrent discussions as a standing committee of the Conference and to having terms of reference regarding the content and the format of the recurrent discussions with more flexibility and more interactive debate. Consideration should be given to agreeing on a new cycle of the recurrent discussions in line with the proposed follow-up and review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda. He also supported the idea of using the recurrent discussions for sharing information and good practices. He underscored the governance role of the Declaration and the need to incorporate the outcomes of recurrent discussions into the programme and budget.

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- 88.** The Government member of Japan supported the earlier statement made on behalf of ASPAG. She reiterated that the recurrent discussions of the four strategic objectives in the Conference was important and effective in order to share knowledge and experience among the ILO and its member States as well as to establish priorities. However, it was important to remain flexible and adaptable given the challenges and changes in the world of work, as these might bring about a need for other modalities for undertaking the recurrent discussions.
- 89.** The Government member of the United States attached great importance to the role of the recurrent discussions but noted that there remained significant room for improvement. She suggested that a limited number of focused, non-overlapping guiding questions aimed at eliciting relevant discussion by Committee participants could increase the utility of recurrent discussions, and added that the discussions should produce succinct, focused, concrete conclusions and recommendations on which the Office can draw in its policy development and programme and budget planning. She stated that it would be important to continue recurrent discussions on fundamental principles and rights at work since they comprised the Global Reports provided for in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up (1998 Declaration) but was not convinced of the need to include a recurrent discussion on every Conference agenda. She considered it premature, and possibly unnecessary to institutionalize the recurrent discussions with the establishment of a standing committee.

### **Point C: ILO means of action**

- 90.** The Chairperson introduced point C on the coordination of ILO means of action, based on its unique tripartite structure and standards system. He noted that particular focus should be given to strengthening the use of standards in achieving the ILO's objectives; improving the use of DWCPs, taking into account development cooperation needs and national strategies relating to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change; strengthening research, knowledge and technical capacity to further operationalize the integrated approach to decent work; and guidance for the ILO Strategic Plan for 2018–21.
- 91.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that the Declaration called upon the ILO to review and adapt its institutional practices to enhance capacity building in order to make efficient use of resources and more effectively assist its Members in implementing the four strategic objectives. He stated that it was important for the Committee to focus on two issues: a better focus on priority issues with an integrated approach and a more effective intervention model. He noted the need for improvements in the working methods of the ILO to reflect an integrated approach to addressing the four strategic objectives in both the work of the Office and at the national level.
- 92.** There was also a need for increased focus on the promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work and of social dialogue, noting that employment and social protection tended to receive more attention. He stated that the fundamental principles and rights at work provided a coherent group of rights and enabling conditions. While much of the information provided on social dialogue tended to focus on tripartite consultation procedures, there was a need to ensure that social dialogue and tripartism were promoted as objectives both in and of themselves. He stressed that each of the strategic objectives merited equal importance and attention.
- 93.** With reference to the Office report on ILO programme implementation 2014–15, he said that there was too much focus on new processes and working methods and too little on the actual results and impact at country level. More information was needed on lessons learned and efforts had to be made to better measure ILO results at the country level.

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- 94.** There was also a need to better prioritize the Office's focus areas to ensure that the four strategic objectives were better addressed in an integrated and coherent manner. Such efforts required that the ILO's mandate be implemented and monitored in a coherent and consistent manner in relation to the ILO Strategic Plan for 2018–21, the DWCPs, and enhanced use of article 19.
- 95.** The ILO Strategic Plan for 2018–21 should provide a coherent intervention model regardless of the areas, outcomes, regions, sectors or groups of workers that the constituents had chosen to focus on. The model should include as key elements issues of governance, respect for rights and capacity building for constituents. That model should serve as a basis for funding, developing DWCPs and measuring results. Minimum budgetary allocations as well as a sufficient number of specialists should be available at headquarters and in the field to address each of the three elements.
- 96.** It was important to ensure a continued focus on the Decent Work Agenda and to further develop decent work indicators in the next strategic planning period. That would serve as a crucial element in streamlining the Office's work in general and in relation to the 2030 Agenda.
- 97.** He recalled the introduction of DWCPs in 2004 and reaffirmed that they should reflect all of the ILO's strategic objectives and be grounded in the involvement of the tripartite constituents in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the country programmes. Social partners were not only principal beneficiaries of DWCPs, but key actors in the whole process. Therefore, DWCPs should assist governments in creating the conditions necessary for social dialogue and respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work as well as other international labour standards. He said that the ILO should make signing and funding DWCPs conditional upon full tripartite involvement and on the establishment of high-level tripartite steering committees to ensure ownership and engagement of the social partners. He also said that the ILO should only accept DWCPs that addressed all four pillars of decent work, and that the results-based management framework should be amended to encompass that precondition, and also consider increasing the number of priority areas in each DWCP from three to four. Moreover, the ILO should ensure that all programmes contain a specific focus on international labour standards. It was also important that the Office continue to focus on capacity building of social partners in order to ensure their full participation in the development and evaluation of DWCPs.
- 98.** It was further noted that the ILO should align itself with the 2030 Agenda using the Declaration and the Decent Work Agenda as a basis for more and greater integration within the UN system at country level, particularly through the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). It was, however, important to remain clear about the tripartite nature of the ILO in relation to other UN agencies, funds and programmes, and ensure that the social partners were at the heart of those activities.
- 99.** Further to a number of agreements at the global level to address climate change, consideration should be given to include more information and detailed analysis of the actions taken or needed to promote a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all in a new generation of DWCPs. It was necessary to use decent work indicators to measure progress in DWCPs and as measurement criteria for the outcomes in the programme and budget. The ongoing process of developing decent work scans would have to be aligned with that exercise. Moreover, it was important to ensure coordination and cooperation between Office staff in the field and at headquarters, and to raise the profile of the Guidelines for consultations with the Bureaux for Employers' and Workers' Activities, adopted by the Governing Body in March 2006.

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- 100.** He reiterated the need to better use article 19 to identify obstacles faced by Members in ratifying ILO Conventions and to better target technical assistance. Article 19 General Surveys should also be used to identify gaps in ILO standards and setting the Conference agenda. He reiterated the Workers' group's support for a five-year thematic cycle which needed to be aligned with the work of the Standards Review Mechanism. It was necessary to link the choices of standards under the article 19 General Surveys to future recurrent discussions.
- 101.** He proposed to develop peer reviews for decent work as envisaged in Part II(A)(iii) and Annex, Part II(D)(ii) of the Declaration, with further discussion on how the ILO could provide assistance to member States to promote the strategic objectives within the framework of bilateral and multilateral agreements as referred to in Part II(A)(iv). It was proposed that the details of that peer review system be reviewed by the Governing Body. Peer reviews would further promote an integrated approach to decent work and increase consistency with the 2030 Agenda.
- 102.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson strongly affirmed the Employers' group support and endorsement of the Declaration. She explained that her concern regarding standards was more with the application of standards and in better understanding the reasons behind non-ratification.
- 103.** Turning to the discussion on point C, she noted that the Employers' group was pleased with the progress on the reform of the Governing Body and the Conference. It was important to continue that work to allow constituents the space for social dialogue and not pre-empt the conclusions of discussions. The reduction in the length of Conference sessions in particular had allowed for a greater participation by all constituents which had increased the quality of social dialogue. She also commended the documents produced for the Governing Body and the Conference which were shorter in length and used less jargon.
- 104.** The Employers' group also welcomed the Standards Review Mechanism and hoped that the process would lead to concrete results.
- 105.** Some shortfalls were also raised. There was a need for the ILO to achieve more concrete results as measured by clear, measurable and achievable indicators. She said that indicators should be developed to show clearly how ILO actions had had an impact on the lives of people. There was a clear opportunity to do that in the context of the new Strategic Plan for 2018–21. It was also useful to keep in mind that the ILO had a wide range of means at its disposal to achieve the objectives of the Declaration of which international labour standards were only one. Others included technical assistance, advisory services, capacity building, research and information collection and sharing.
- 106.** She also noted the importance of better understanding the drivers at the heart of contemporary challenges so that these could be adequately addressed. That related to various areas under the ILO remit but particularly to the lack of understanding on the barriers to ratification of standards which prevented the Office from overcoming and addressing that challenge. There was also a need to strengthen the capacities of social partners to ensure that the views of their membership were properly reflected and that the Office was able to respond to the real issues of constituents and the people they represent.
- 107.** It was important to better understand constituents' needs. ILO publications sometimes relied on high-level macro statistics, which while they may reveal that there is a problem, they fail to reveal the nature of the problem. Thus, it is often necessary to break down or unpack in order to better understand issues in specific national contexts. In that regard, it was also important that a number of definitions on the diverse forms of work be revised to reflect labour market situations. The ILO should continue working to provide enhanced guidance

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to national statistical offices to collect data in order to better understand developments in the world of work. Sound statistical data are needed to inform policy decisions so as to fully realize the objectives of the Declaration.

- 108.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States and the Government members of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, and Georgia, expressed the view that the inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive nature of the four strategic objectives as outlined in the Declaration needed to be better taken into account when defining the future priorities of the ILO. The ILO was moving in the right direction and the reforms already implemented in terms of working as “One ILO” were welcomed although there was more to be done. There was a need to reflect on how Regional Meetings could be transformed. The Regional Meeting that had resulted in the Oslo Declaration was to be considered as a good practice in that regard.
- 109.** It was important for the ILO to enhance its authority within its policy domain through developing and implementing improved evidence-based policies. In that regard, research activities were vital as well as the need to become more visible and effective in communicating successes, progress made and results achieved.
- 110.** To have greater impact at the national level, the ILO needed to increasingly work in close cooperation with the UN system, in particular with the UN Country Teams as well as other multilateral and regional organizations. In addition, DWCPs were identified as good vehicles to implement the Decent Work Agenda at the national level. The Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board provided a good example of cooperation for developing and exchanging knowledge and implementing coherent policies on social protection. Such methods of work were becoming ever more important in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
- 111.** The ratification and implementation of fundamental international labour standards remained an area of crucial importance for the ILO. In that regard, the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, should be taken into account. The Office report to the Committee had shown that since 2008 the increase in the number of new ratifications had slowed. It was disappointing and assisting member States to ratify Conventions remained a priority. The Standards and Future of Work Initiatives could help the ILO to rethink its approach to standards. Although it was necessary to identify gaps that needed to be filled by new standards, it must be recalled that more standards were not necessarily always the answer in addressing deficits or gaps in implementation. There was a need to work closely with constituents in order to achieve widely ratified, authoritative standards.
- 112.** The Government member of Cameroon, on behalf of the Africa group, said that the Declaration and its implementation had given rise to a number of ratifications of ILO Conventions in the Africa region. Despite the countries’ efforts, the effective application of ratified Conventions at national level was complex and difficult. The ILO therefore needed to support member States in the application of ratified Conventions at the same time as it ensured a higher level of ratification. DWCPs had been established in a number of member States in Africa which had had a beneficial effect on unemployment, social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue. However, the efforts of countries remained limited due to resource constraints and the prevalence of large informal sectors. In such a context, the challenges were great. While being aware that more was needed to be done at national level, it was impossible to achieve the strategic objectives spelled out by the Declaration without international and regional solidarity. In that sense the ILO was requested to continue to strengthen support to member States in Africa. He stated that achieving social justice on a global level was of concern to everyone and that a single country was not able to achieve it on its own. The current challenges that European countries were facing with migration were an illustrative example in that regard.

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He supported the proposal of the Employers' group to revise the definition of unemployment, for the current definition did not adequately reflect the reality in African countries.

- 113.** The Government member of Egypt supported the intervention of Cameroon on behalf of the Africa group. The Declaration was possibly the most important step taken by the ILO since the 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia and the 1998 Declaration. It was a reaffirmation of ILO values and the ILO's key role in helping to achieve progress and social justice in the context of globalization. For its implementation, Egypt had been working with the ILO in the framework of a number of projects which referred to child labour and in particular the elimination of its worst forms, and the effective transition from school to work in the context of increasing youth employment. The application of the fundamental principles and rights at work had been improved through the establishment of a labour dispute settlement mechanism. Nevertheless, the country needed further assistance and funding in order to implement the four strategic objectives enshrined in the Declaration.
- 114.** The Government member of Brazil informed about its permanent agenda on decent work, which had been adopted by 18 government bodies in consultation with the most representative employers' and workers' organizations. Its executive board meets once a year to assess the impact of implementation of activities and to approve the programme of work for the next year. The Decent Work programme in Brazil was based on an integrated approach, bringing together various government structures at national, state and local level, including the Labour Inspection, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the judiciary and civil society representatives. The ILO and other international organizations, such as the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), had been stimulated to contribute to the efforts to combat poverty and to reduce social inequalities. Renewed awareness of government, social partners and civil society about the importance of the strategic objectives enshrined in the Declaration was important.
- 115.** The Government member of the United States confirmed the relevance of the inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive nature of the four strategic objectives set forth by the Declaration. Nevertheless, that did not exclude setting priorities, which was necessary to ensure an effective and efficient use of the ILO's limited resources. International labour standards were at the heart of the ILO and should be a priority for ILO action. The Standards Initiative was important and the Committee should not prejudge the outcomes of the ongoing Standards Review Mechanism.
- 116.** Fundamental principles and rights at work should be more fully integrated into the development and implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes, and the ILO should strengthen its collaboration in the field with a view to integrating the strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda into UN Development Assistance Frameworks. It was essential that the Office continue to strengthen and refine its research and analytical capacities to better inform policy-making. The ILO's exploration of the challenges and opportunities presented by, and potential responses to, key issues related to the future of work was particularly important in that regard. Finally, in order to facilitate future assessments of the impact of the Declaration, it would be helpful to clearly align the Strategic Plan for 2018–21 to the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda.
- 117.** The Government member of Canada recalled that the tripartite structure of the ILO was at the heart of the Organization. She stated that with regard to future action on international labour standards, the focus should be on providing support on capacity development of member States to implement ratified Conventions and not merely on the promotion of new ratifications. With reference to recurrent discussions, it was important to avoid duplicating work under way in other contexts such as the Standards Review Mechanism.

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- 118.** The Government member of India supported the comments of previous speakers regarding capacity building and standard setting. However, regarding the peer review, she believed that its usefulness needed to be examined at greater length as a learning and governance tool as it might result in an additional oversight and reporting burden on member States. India therefore did not support the concept of the peer review.
- 119.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson acknowledged the clarifications provided by the employers to the effect that the employers fully supported the Declaration in its existing form. He reiterated that while the world was in constant change, there was no change in the key elements enshrined in the fundamental principles and rights at work. As for the recurrent discussions, he recalled that the last recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work had led to the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930. He restated that strong social partners were fundamental to ensure good and balanced outcomes. The Workers' group welcomed and concurred with various interventions from governments, including those from the EU, the Africa group, Brazil and the United States.
- 120.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson acknowledged the important and rich contributions made by governments. She reaffirmed that the Employers' group indeed did not strive for a modification of the Declaration and expected that the Workers' group would not try to introduce changes to the Declaration.
- 121.** As to obstacles in ratification, she reaffirmed that it was essential to look at the reasons behind that and to have a flexible approach. In countries with large informal sectors, the focus should be placed on a better application of ratified Conventions and efforts to extend their coverage to the informal sector. Those efforts needed to be accompanied by an approach to enable the transition from the informal to the formal economy. Such a realistic approach was essential if progress and positive changes in workers' lives were to be achieved.

***Interactive exchange with high-level representatives  
of international organizations on improved policy  
coherence and coordination for decent work  
and sustainable development***

- 122.** The Chairperson opened the session by outlining that the purpose of the panel was to review and discuss policy coherence, with a focus on the contributions made by international organizations in implementing the Declaration. He asked Mr Stephen Pursey, Director of the ILO Multilateral Cooperation Department to moderate.
- 123.** In the opening round of interventions, Mr Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) underscored that the 2030 Agenda aimed to end poverty irreversibly along a sustainable development pathway by 2030, and stressed that decent work was critical to meet that challenge. In responding to a second question on what could be done better by international organizations to promote decent work, Mr Seth stressed that much had already been done well. The analytical work to establish the 2030 Agenda had been successful, in no small part due to ILO contributions, and a clear message had been given that economic growth alone was not enough to foster sustainable development. The quality of growth was fundamental. That called for comprehensive and integrated policies and enhanced social dialogue, without which the 2030 Agenda would not be realized.
- 124.** He noted that it would have been better if less time had been taken up by ideological struggles on the role of states, markets and systems of political governance, and emphasized

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that it was now widely recognized that inclusive growth, decent work and sustainable development can only be addressed in the specific context of each country. Three major transitions were needed to be made to bring about sustainable development: a transition in terms of food systems and their relationship with the environment; in transition to sustainable energy for all; and to sustainable and better managed urbanization. In order to foster these transitions, the UN system needed to provide integrated services, and promote comprehensive policies and approaches at the country level.

**125.** Ms Najat Rochdi, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Cameroon, stated that decent work and social protection was at the very heart of leaving no one behind. She emphasized that job creation was of key importance for the future of Cameroon, particularly for its young people who should not be seen as a problem but as part of the solution. In response to a question concerning the experience in Cameroon of implementing an integrated approach to decent work and sustainable development, Ms Rochdi said that the United Nations, as a value-based organization, should play a supportive, facilitating role, to bring all important stakeholders together to promote social justice and decent work. Job creation for youth was fundamental for social cohesion and for fostering hope and trust. Cameroon had a large youth population who did not tend to engage in trade unions or associations of different types, making it essential to reach out to youth to give them a voice.

**126.** Attention should be paid to transforming key sectors of the economy through an integrated approach, including agriculture which is the main source of employment. The United Nations could also drive the legislative change required to create an enabling environment to foster decent work, in particular by facilitating communication between the various relevant ministries and stakeholders, and promoting dialogue at all levels. An integrated approach was also required with regard to the efforts made by international financial institutions and development partners in order to ensure that their activities were aligned with national priorities and visions. It was particularly important to avoid a silo approach to complex problems. While the ILO is the lead agency with regard to employment and decent work, engaging other organizations working in the important sphere of sustainable development was likely to yield more and better results.

**127.** Mr Rob Vos, Director of Agricultural Development Economics at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), said that the FAO had embraced decent work largely because the agricultural sector and rural economy is the source of so much employment, but is also where decent work deficits are often to be found. Three-quarters of the world's poor were living in rural areas where subsistence farming was their main livelihood source. Typically, agriculture was not generating enough income due to low productivity and poor working conditions. Improving those underlying challenges in the agriculture sector was central to producing better jobs and eradicating hunger. In the context of the SDGs, the challenge was to transform agriculture to ensure it was climate smart and environmentally sustainable. It was also necessary to find ways to make agriculture more attractive to young people in order to address future food security concerns and to provide decent jobs.

**128.** In response to a question concerning the challenges ahead and the world of agriculture, Mr Vos said that the FAO had learnt four main lessons from efforts to implement decent work in agriculture. First, there were no simple solutions. Considerable efforts were being made to implement international labour standards in agriculture – a sector in which child labour was often prevalent – and much joint work was done between FAO and ILO in that regard. The second lesson had been on the importance of policy coherence, without which transformative change could not be achieved. While the Organization worked closely with agriculture ministries, engaging ministries of labour and infrastructure in the work of the Organization was essential but had not been easy. The third lesson pertained to the need to

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empower people to drive change. Farmers, particularly those working in small units, needed to be empowered to overcome the limits to economies of scale and develop the necessary skills to be agents of change. Fourth, incentive structures and investment criteria needed to change. Investment should not be guided by profit alone, but rather by the principles of sustainable development, environmental protection, social sustainability, decent working conditions and economic efficiency. In that regard, he noted that while some innovative projects had been successful, the challenge continued to be to scale up innovative approaches and achieve bigger impact. One vehicle for that could be through public–private partnerships.

- 129.** Mr Luc Christiaensen, Lead Economist in the Jobs Group of the World Bank, said that it was the goal of the World Bank Group to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and promote shared prosperity. He noted that labour was typically the major asset for people living in poverty, and pointed out that 600 million new jobs would be needed by 2030. From a poverty reduction perspective, it was important to address numerous challenges through a jobs lens. In that regard, he noted the importance of considering demographic challenges, particularly in Africa which would be home to nearly 2 billion people by 2050. More jobs were needed in Africa in order to meet the ever-growing number of jobseekers. There was also a need to consider both the supply and demand side of labour to ensure a more coordinated and integrated approach. The challenge of addressing informality was also critically important. In that regard, the importance of an integrated approach was evident. He called for more dialogue and collaboration with the ILO on matters like macroeconomic policies, enterprise development and employment diagnostics.
- 130.** Mr Marc Bacchetta, Counsellor, Economic Research and Statistics Division in the WTO, said that evidence showed that trade could contribute to employment if accompanied by appropriate policies. Countries that had been open to acknowledging and building the association between trade and employment growth had moved up the development ladder. While trade was often the key to economic growth, that growth did not necessarily mean growth in jobs, even less growth in decent jobs. For that, complementary policies and a supportive enabling environment and policy framework were required. Governments had a key role to play in enhancing the ability of workers to seize the opportunities created by trade by ensuring appropriate opportunities for training and the development of new skills. Social dialogue could contribute to good policy design and countries with well-established policies in that regard were often best placed to foster economic growth. Mr Bacchetta further said that the prospects on trade were not so bad, since members of the WTO still discussed possibilities to open their markets to facilitate trade, and because agreements on bilateral and regional levels had been important in fostering renewed trade growth.
- 131.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson, speaking in her own capacity and not on behalf of the Employers’ group, said that listening to the exchange of views of the representatives of different international organizations left her in a perplexed state of mind. She stated that the factors influencing growth and development were well known but despite all the work carried out by the various international organizations, there was little progress in many areas. Small projects were not enough to bring about the large-scale transitions needed in many countries.
- 132.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that interactive exchange was a good opportunity to enhance dialogue with other organizations and identify ways of achieving greater policy coherence, as called for in the Declaration. He asked why the World Bank Group had introduced the concept of “good jobs” instead of decent work, and safeguards in loan agreements. The World Bank Group did not reflect the ILO core labour standards. He referred to the World Bank’s report *Balancing Regulations to Promote Jobs*, which affirmed that well-designed labour regulations could help avoid inefficient and inequitable outcomes. He asked how the World Bank Group was ensuring that its policies and practices in relation

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to decent work were being implemented in the field, and also about its approach to integrating gender equality into its work. He finally asked the WTO what its window was for a more just trading system, and for more information on which partnerships had facilitated integration of decent work into the work of the FAO.

- 133.** The Government member of Norway stated that an important element of the 2030 Agenda was national ownership. In that regard, international organizations should not compete for funding, but offer their support to countries in their implementation efforts and according to the mandates and comparative advantage of the different international organizations. He called upon the ILO to develop a strategic approach to working with other international and regional organizations for decent work and sustainable development as part of its Strategic Plan for 2018–21.
- 134.** The Government member of China referred to Goal 17 on global partnerships for sustainable development. He questioned how the United Nations would support its implementation, given that that Goal involved many stakeholders. He asked the Representative of FAO to elaborate how young persons could be attracted to work in agriculture, and he asked the World Bank Representative about the impact of financial policies on decent work. Finally, he asked the WTO about whether the Organization had carried out research on the impact of labour provisions in regional trade agreements.
- 135.** The Government member of Canada referred to the notion of dignity in work which was key to the successful implementation of the Declaration and the 2030 Agenda. She asked for the experts to provide more information about what they saw as the key challenges when it came to advancing decent work within the 2030 Agenda at the country level.
- 136.** The Government member of Cameroon provided information on the policies and programmes to implement the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda in his country. These covered fiscal policies establishing an enabling environment for enterprises; support for agricultural cooperatives; social protection measures; labour legislation; and reform of the education system. To promote social dialogue, a tripartite commission was established in which all organizations of employers and workers were represented. To consolidate success, he called on continued support from the UN system and all other development partners.
- 137.** The Government member of Switzerland highlighted the challenges related to the elimination of child labour in agriculture, noting that there were no simple solutions to that problem, and asked about the approach of the FAO in that regard.
- 138.** The Government member of the Netherlands agreed with the view that trade was an important driver for both economic growth and poverty reduction. Since global discussions on trade often only focused on the dimension of economic growth, she asked what would be required to ensure greater policy coherence at the national level, between relevant ministries and to address trade, growth and decent work issues in an integrated way in order to reap the full benefits of trade for growth and development.
- 139.** The Government member of the United States highlighted the importance of policy coherence and collaboration and asked what the greatest obstacles to successful collaboration were at the country level.
- 140.** The Government member of South Africa observed that none of the panellists had mentioned the United Nations concept of “Delivering as One”. He wondered whether that reflected that a silo approach to development had returned.

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- 141.** In response to the interventions, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Cameroon said that a shift in mindsets, as well as strong support from heads of agencies, were necessary to move from a situation of competition between UN organizations to greater coherence and cooperation, and to “Delivering as One”. She said that despite deficiencies, the UN system had an extremely important role to play in Cameroon and other countries, and particularly because of its normative framework which could make a difference in people’s lives and in which the UN system could take pride.
- 142.** The Representative of FAO said that “Delivering as One” had probably not been specifically mentioned as it was now taken for granted, although there was still room for improvement. Responding to the point raised about the lack of concrete progress, he suggested that there were examples of important results. For example, the number of people suffering food insecurity had halved in the past 25 years. Although there was still some way to go, the main ingredients for success had been to improve agriculture conditions and expand access to social protection. Experience had also shown that although many agricultural labourers were in the informal sector, they could be reached with well-targeted social protection policies. There were challenges, however, as much agricultural production was not sufficiently environmentally sustainable, nor had there been much success in attracting young people back to agricultural work. In terms of tackling child labour there had been a focus on raising awareness of health and safety issues for children working on family farms, and providing parents with income opportunities that would take away the need for poor families to use their children due to poverty. Recognizing that policy coherence and coordination were key to achieving decent work and sustainable development, he asked what governments were doing, or should do, to better coordinate the work of different ministries, and to collaborate on addressing increasingly complex and interdependent development issues.
- 143.** The Representative of the World Bank Group pointed out that it was sometimes difficult to measure success in international development work. He pointed out that the World Bank Group was making various efforts to integrate aspects of decent work into its operations, and that the report on Balancing Regulations to Promote Jobs was an important step in that regard. He added that gender equality was an important cross-cutting area for the World Bank Group.
- 144.** The Representative of the WTO clarified that the vision of the WTO should be understood as the vision of its members and not that of the secretariat. He pointed out that with the adoption of the 1996 Singapore Ministerial Declaration, the WTO accepted that the ILO was the competent body as concerns labour standards. Turning to the question from the Representative of China, he said that the WTO had not studied the effects of the integration of labour provisions in trade agreements, but that the ILO would publish such a study shortly. He emphasized that there was a need for trade specialists and labour specialists to collaborate to bring about as much coherence in policies as possible.
- 145.** The Executive Director of UNITAR concluded by stating that all stakeholders should come together to support member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In terms of putting a new generation of sustainable development plans into action, he suggested a number of steps for all stakeholders to give effect to the 2030 Agenda: (i) to properly measure progress against the SDGs; (ii) to give policy coherence a relevant place in planning and implementation of actions; (iii) to look for linkages and provide relevant policy advice; and (iv) to give assistance to resident coordinators so as to implement a coherent approach at the country level.
- 146.** The Chairperson thanked the moderator, the members of the panel and the delegates for their active contribution to a successful interactive exchange.

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## Point D: Partnerships and policy coherence

- 147.** The Chairperson opened the session and announced the list of nominees to the Drafting Group of the Committee. He introduced discussion point D by outlining that the intention was to discuss the contribution of other international and regional organizations to decent work, and how to promote greater policy coherence and coordination with these organizations and other actors for the achievement of the strategic objectives. He suggested that the Committee could focus on the actions that could be taken by Members and the Office in that regard. He welcomed the President of the International Labour Conference and the Employer, Worker and Government Vice-Chairpersons to the deliberations of the Committee.
- 148.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson expressed appreciation for the initiative of the high-level exchange, noting that such efforts could help foster policy coherence. She highlighted the importance of building coherence and complementarities across UN agencies in a mutually supportive manner, noting that other organizations had a clearer mandate and stronger capacity to deal with specific policy areas that were relevant to decent work in areas such as trade, monetary and fiscal policy, education and environment. She stated that the ILO should collaborate with those organizations to fulfil the objectives of the Declaration. There was also a need for greater coherence at regional and subregional levels and to ensure that the multilateral system would become more responsive to real world challenges such as informality.
- 149.** It was important to identify the resources needed to achieve particular development objectives and mobilize resources accordingly. While collaboration should be promoted, it was necessary to avoid duplication of work being undertaken by other organizations. The ILO should continue its positive engagement with the private sector since enterprises created jobs and job creation formed the basis for attaining the objectives of the Declaration. An enabling environment that allowed all enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to grow was essential in facilitating the transition from informal to formal jobs. Increased efforts were needed by the Office to promote the Conference Conclusions concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises (2007) and the Enterprise Initiative. Work on the enabling environment for sustainable enterprises was highlighted as being particularly important and valuable.
- 150.** She noted that many lessons could be drawn from the private sector with respect to the drivers of job creation and to becoming more efficient, practical and results-oriented. The Employers' group endorsed the Director-General's Enterprise Initiative and hoped it would lead to better engagement with the private sector. She also endorsed the enterprise policy adopted by the Governing Body and flagged the vital role of the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP) and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) as entry points for the ILO to engage with the private sector.
- 151.** She said that the 2030 Agenda provided a good opportunity for the ILO to further promote policy coherence and coordination within the multilateral system, in particular around Goal 8. She emphasized that through their active involvement, constituents could make a big contribution to achieving the SDGs, including to the formulation and implementation of national strategies for sustainable development. The Declaration provided the framework within which the ILO should help achieve the SDGs. In that regard, she stated that the Employers' group had strong objections to the way in which certain indicators related to Goal 8 had been defined, and proposed that the Governing Body should have a discussion to consider more appropriate indicators.
- 152.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson expressed his appreciation for the format and content of the previous sitting and the contributions from the high-level representatives of other

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international organizations. He concurred with the Employer Vice-Chairperson on the need to give increased attention to and help facilitate a transition from informal to formal employment in line with Recommendation No. 204.

- 153.** He noted that the Declaration called upon the ILO to contribute to policy coherence for decent work and sustainable development at several levels, including by speaking with one coherent voice on issues such as economic, labour, trade and finance policies, as well as ensuring that the strategic objectives adopted by member States were integrated into the work of regional and subregional economic communities and development banks. At the international level, it was important that trade, finance and economic organizations promoted an integrated approach to achieving the Declaration in consistence with their respective mandates.
- 154.** The 2030 Agenda reflected much greater awareness of the centrality of decent work to sustainable development at national levels and in the international system. However, the understanding of each of the four strategic objectives appeared to be uneven, and decent work was most often simply equated any kind of jobs. At the country level, many UNDAFs contained elements of decent work, but most included objectives related to employment and enterprise development only.
- 155.** He noted that an evaluation conducted by the UN Joint Inspection Unit showed that few UN agencies had mainstreamed decent work into their operations, with the notable exception of the FAO. While the Office report was often rather upbeat about progress on policy coherence, extolling work on G20 declarations, improved collaboration with the World Bank Group, joint studies with the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and progress made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Workers' group disagreed with that overly positive assessment. He noted that policies and activities supported by those entities were too often harmful to decent work and thwarted efforts to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.
- 156.** He stressed that the ILO had a mandate to intervene on economic policy matters dating back to its constitution, underscoring that it would not be possible to achieve the objectives of the Declaration without aligning economic policies to those strategic objectives. He illustrated that point by referencing the cases of Greece, Chile and Iceland in the aftermath of financial crises, where the Bretton Woods Institutions, especially the IMF, had insisted on policy interventions that were detrimental to decent work. Those examples illustrated how strong social partners and real social dialogue provided safeguards for the objectives of the Declaration in relation to policy responses from national governments and international and regional economic and financial institutions in the wake of the crises. In Greece, serious decent work deficits had resulted from the interventions of the Troika, and also in the case of Chile, where social dialogue was sidelined and ignored. In contrast, in Iceland, strong social partners and a robust social dialogue with the Government had enabled Iceland to refuse the loan conditionalities of the IMF, resulting in a stabilized economy, stable economic growth and a reduction in unemployment. He added that there were often inconsistencies between what organizations like the IMF preached and what they practised.
- 157.** He noted that the Governments represented in the Committee were the same as those represented on the IMF Executive Board and questioned why they had not insisted that the IMF endorse the core international labour standards. If the objectives of the Declaration were to be realized, different arms of the same government needed to be coherent. To overcome such shortcomings, he suggested that governments ensure that different line ministries, including finance and trade ministries, embrace the tenets of the Declaration and ensure that its contents are reflected in the policies and operations of international organizations whose mandates covered economic, finance and trade.

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- 158.** He added that one practical method of achieving better coherence with economic and financial institutions, as well as with NGOs and other non-state actors, was to make better use of the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), including through regular tripartite meetings with the social partners and all relevant line ministries. Furthermore, the ILO should provide active assistance to the global and regional international financial institutions to develop and operationalize safeguards in line with the Declaration. Moreover, the ILO should monitor trade agreements and examine their impact on social justice, and it should improve its presence and capacities to alert regional and global institutions in cases of violations of the Declaration.
- 159.** He underscored that the ILO should pursue cooperation agreements with regional and international agencies, which should focus less on formal declarations of intent and more on concrete country-level interventions to promote decent work. Focusing on the 2030 Agenda, he stated that governments should ensure that their national action plans on the SDGs be developed in consultation with the social partners and include as a minimum, references to Goal 8 and also to target 1.3 on social protection systems.
- 160.** Noting that the 2030 Agenda established a process for voluntary reviews at regional and global levels, he called upon the ILO to initiate a similar process for periodic national voluntary reviews in the Governing Body on the implementation of Goal 8, as well as other relevant targets to display a renewed political commitment in the world of work to achieving the Declaration as well as the 2030 Agenda. Such an initiative was consistent with the peer reviews called for in the Annex of the Declaration.
- 161.** The 2030 Agenda provided a ripe opportunity for the ILO to develop integrated policy advice to member States based on all four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. It was important for the ILO to work alongside the World Bank Group and the IMF to provide credible macroeconomic policy advice to ministries of finance as well as ministries of labour to ensure positive decent work outcomes. That required the ILO to increase its capacity on macroeconomic policies. New partnerships were also needed with the international financial institutions to promote Goal 8 at country level.
- 162.** Progress on developing appropriate decent work indicators and statistics needed to be accelerated in order to monitor progress and realize the decent work targets of the SDGs. He stated that the Workers' group supported the proposal to convene an ILO tripartite forum on decent work for sustainable development for ILO leadership on decent work related goals.
- 163.** While the Workers' group remained supportive of the Office's initiative relating to SDG target 8.7, he cautioned that it must be considered as part of a broader initiative to achieve Goal 8 which fully integrated the four strategic objectives and placed a particular focus on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. It was important to avoid making the same mistakes as in the past where technical cooperation on child labour had overshadowed all of the other labour rights in the same way as employment had overshadowed all the other objectives.
- 164.** The Government member of Sudan, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the Africa group, said partnerships and policy coherence were crucial to achieving the four strategic objectives of the Declaration, without which employment promotion, social protection, tripartism and social dialogue, along with the fundamental principles and rights at work, would remain a pipe dream. Advancement of social justice at the global level would also serve to enhance and support regional and national efforts, which should always reflect the spirit and objectives of the Declaration. Stronger partnerships should be established with non-state actors to complement social dialogue and with a view to strengthening and promoting inter-sector partnerships in all countries.

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- 165.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, as well as of the Government members of Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, said that the Declaration constituted a useful entry point for the ILO and its constituents to engage with other relevant organizations. An integrated approach was needed for social development and economic and trade policy, which could only be achieved through stronger and more strategic partnerships between international and regional organizations, trade unions, enterprises and other non-state actors. The recent growth in public–private partnerships was welcomed. The ILO should offer advice and support in the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda, but also serve as a repository of knowledge, bringing together the experiences of governments, trade unions and employers’ organizations. The Organization had a key role to play in the promotion of policy coherence by enhancing the capacity of labour ministries. Partnerships should be used to promote social dialogue and increase the impact of the ILO in all aspects of the world of work.
- 166.** The Government member of Brazil said that coherent and effective partnership programmes were very beneficial to the ILO, including South–South partnerships and trilateral cooperation programmes which could advance work on the four strategic objectives and foster greater coherence and coordination with national, regional and international organizations. Moreover, he stressed that ILO development cooperation projects and technical assistance were key to strengthening institutional capacities and human capital in member States. The ILO should not only foster partnerships with other international organizations, but also facilitate governments’ and social partners’ cooperation with those organizations in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Global partnerships were central to efforts to eliminate forced labour and child labour, which could only be achieved through an integrated approach. Social justice should be the goal of all labour-related policies. The 2030 Agenda offered a new impetus to the Decent Work Agenda, which must be optimized.
- 167.** The Government member of Canada said that ILO initiatives should focus on information gathering, research and analysis, and should foster information exchanges, collaboration and partnerships between governments and social partners. Good practices should be disseminated to inform policies and programmes at the national level. The ILO also had a key role to play in raising awareness about the importance of decent work in other international forums, with a focus on cooperation, taking care to avoid duplication while building synergies. A coherent, inter-sectoral approach was particularly important in the context of efforts to meet the SDGs.
- 168.** The Government member of Egypt underscored the importance of the Declaration as being vital to the coordination of international cooperation between organizations in the implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work. She noted that the strategic approach of the Declaration in relation to policy coherence and partnerships was fully consistent with the 2030 Agenda. National development strategies in the context of the 2030 Agenda should indeed take into account the participation of employers’ and workers’ organizations and of civil society. The ILO should ensure that the promotion of decent work was in harmony with efforts to meet the SDGs. Efforts to build partnerships with other organizations should be enhanced. She suggested that the ILO could develop an operational plan and set up an office for partnerships to coordinate the work of all stakeholders in the context of the Declaration.
- 169.** The Government member of the United States said that her country had long been advocating ILO engagement with international and regional organizations and global economic institutions to foster an enhanced understanding of the Decent Work Agenda and to promote coherence on key labour and employment issues. Partnerships were important for advancing the Decent Work Agenda, and at the national level coordination among government agencies and consultations with social partners would be essential to attaining the SDGs. The launch

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of Alliance 8.7, which referred to Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda and called for effective measures to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour in all its forms, was particularly appreciated. The proposal to establish a thematic platform to facilitate UN system coordination, as described in the report *The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda* presented by the Director-General to the present session of the Conference, deserved special attention. However, further information on the ILO's vision and its future role would be required. ILO strategic partnerships with a variety of actors should be supported and enhanced, to enable the Organization to better integrate the different perspectives and strengths that those stakeholders could bring to its work to advance social justice.

- 170.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson welcomed the comments regarding the need for synergies and complementarities in the operations of international organizations, and underscored that the ILO should be a strong partner to the business community. Social dialogue and a coherent, consistent approach to cooperation were crucial. She reaffirmed that although core principles did not change, there was no one-size-fits-all industrial relations model. Governments should uphold the spirit and letter of Convention No. 144, whether they had ratified it or not. Concerning the respect for human rights by businesses with international operations, she drew attention to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights which established an authoritative global standard to ensure that companies respected human rights in their own operations and throughout their business relationships.
- 171.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson concluded by acknowledging the constructive discussions, confirming the Workers' group commitment to the Declaration, and the importance of partnerships and policy coherence in rising to the challenge of realizing the goal of decent work in the context of the 2030 Agenda. He noted that the discussion would help the Committee to reach clear and concise conclusions.

## Discussion of the draft resolution

- 172.** The Chairperson thanked the Drafting Group and the Secretariat for their work in preparing the draft resolution and highlighted that the work of the Drafting Group truly reflected the values of social dialogue. He noted that 59 amendments had been submitted for consideration.
- 173.** The representative of the Secretary-General began by clarifying how the terms "Members" and "member States" had been used in the draft resolution. He explained that, for the purpose of the present resolution, "Members" referred to the tripartite constituents, governments, employers' and workers' representatives, and "member States" referred to governments. He stated that that was fully consistent with how those terms had been used in the Declaration.
- 174.** The Chairperson noted linguistic corrections intended to better align the three language versions of the title of the draft resolution and this was adopted, taking into account the corrections made to the French and Spanish versions.

## Paragraph 1

- 175.** The Government member of the United States, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, introduced an amendment to replace the words "four strategic objectives of employment, social protection, social dialogue and tripartism, and fundamental principles and rights at work, which are inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive" by "four inseparable, interrelated, mutually supportive strategic objectives of employment, social protection, social dialogue

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and tripartism, and fundamental principles and rights at work”. She noted that the amendment was of an editorial nature and did not affect the substance of the paragraph.

- 176.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 177.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson also agreed with the amendment, but that the word “and” should be inserted between “interrelated” and “mutually”, to reflect the exact wording of the Declaration.
- 178.** The Government member of the United States, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, agreed with the Workers’ proposal. The Government member of Brazil also supported the amendment, as subamended.
- 179.** The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 180.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew an amendment, which was no longer relevant in light of the previously adopted amendment.
- 181.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, introduced an amendment to add “also” when referring to gender equality and non-discrimination as cross-cutting issues, in order to reflect adequately that they were also part of the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work.
- 182.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, in light of the explanation provided. The Government member of Mexico also supported the amendment.
- 183.** The Government member of Sudan proposed a subamendment, to replace “also” by “as well as” to avoid repetitions. The proposal was seconded by the Government member of Algeria.
- 184.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, did not second the subamendment because it would alter the meaning of the sentence. She reiterated that the aim of the amendment was to highlight that the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and non-discrimination were part of the four strategic objectives.
- 185.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the proposed subamendment, which was therefore not accepted.
- 186.** The amendment was adopted and paragraph 1 was adopted as amended.

## **Paragraph 2**

- 187.** The Government member of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, introduced an amendment to replace “responding to the urgent call for” by “playing”, to accurately reflect the role of the ILO and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 188.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment, since the need to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was urgent and represented something to strive for. The amendment would weaken the text.
- 189.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Workers’ group and did not support the amendment, preferring the original wording as agreed by the Drafting Group.

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190. The amendment was withdrawn and paragraph 2 was adopted without amendment.

### **Paragraph 3**

191. The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an editorial amendment affecting only the French version of the draft resolution.

192. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

193. The amendment was adopted and paragraph 3, as amended in the French version, was adopted.

### **Paragraph 4**

194. Paragraph 4 was adopted without amendment.

### **Paragraph 5**

195. The Government member of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, introduced an amendment to insert the word “recent” before “economic crisis” to specify that the economic crisis in question was the one that had occurred soon after the adoption of the Declaration.

196. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

197. The amendment was adopted and paragraph 5 was adopted as amended.

### **Paragraph 6**

198. The Government member of Switzerland, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, introduced an amendment to insert the words “facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy” after “ratification of standards”, since the prevalence of the informal economy remained problematic.

199. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, which reflected an important issue and responded to concerns raised by some member States from Africa.

200. The Employer Vice-Chairperson also supported the amendment.

201. The Government member of Mexico and the Government member of Brazil considered that the transition from the informal to the formal economy was an element of decent work and the implementation and ratification of standards, and therefore did not need to be included explicitly in paragraph 6.

202. The amendment was adopted.

203. The Government member of Brazil withdrew an amendment, which was supported by the Government member of Mexico, to insert the words “governance and” after “including”.

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**204.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew an amendment to insert the word “to” after “each other”.

**205.** Paragraph 6 was adopted as amended.

### **Paragraph 7**

**206.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, introduced an amendment to delete “of the International Labour Office” after the words “Governing Body”. Although the correct title was “Governing Body of the International Labour Office”, it was preferable to refer simply to the “Governing Body”, since this would avoid any misunderstanding and was the generally used term.

**207.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**208.** The amendment was adopted and paragraph 7 was adopted as amended.

### **Paragraph 8**

**209.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an editorial amendment affecting the French version of the draft resolution only.

**210.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**211.** The amendment was adopted.

**212.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an editorial amendment to insert “for” between the words “and” and “informing”, to make the sentence clearer.

**213.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**214.** The amendment was adopted and paragraph 8 was adopted as amended.

### **Paragraph 9**

**215.** The Government member of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, introduced a linguistic amendment to make the sentence clearer.

**216.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**217.** The amendment was adopted.

**218.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the Government members of the IMEC group, introduced an amendment to replace “and the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and non-discrimination” by “and gender equality and non-discrimination also as cross-cutting issues”, in order to align this with the amendment introduced under paragraph 1 and to ensure consistency in the text.

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219. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
220. The Government member of Switzerland asked whether the French term “égalité entre hommes et femmes” was the correct translation of the English term “gender” and the Spanish term “género”.
221. The Chairperson confirmed, after consultation with the Office, that it was indeed the terminology used by the ILO.
222. The amendment was adopted and paragraph 9 was adopted as amended.

## **Paragraph 10**

223. Paragraph 10 was adopted without amendment.

## **Paragraph 11**

224. The Government member of Mexico, seconded by the Government member of Brazil, proposed an amendment to insert “policies and” before “strategies”, since it was important to ensure policies and strategies were well coordinated.
225. The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
226. The amendment was adopted and paragraph 11 was adopted as amended.

## **Paragraph 12**

227. Paragraph 12 was adopted without amendment.

## **Paragraph 13**

### ***Subparagraph (a)***

228. The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, proposed an amendment to insert “, development of capacities and skills of individuals” after the word “economy” because when referring to the issue of employment it was also important to refer to such types of human resource development issues.
229. The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment because it was important to retain the agreed language from the Declaration.
230. The Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment.
231. The amendment was rejected.
232. The Government member of Brazil, seconded by Mexico, proposed an amendment to replace the words “a viable” by “the” in subparagraph 13(a) in order to add more precision to the meaning of the sentence.

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233. The Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment as it was preferred to retain the agreed language from the Declaration.
234. The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment.
235. The Government member of Sudan did not support the amendment and presented a subamendment, seconded by Algeria, to delete “a” before “viable”.
236. The Government member of Switzerland did not support the amendment nor the subamendment.
237. The amendment and subamendment were rejected.
238. The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph (b)***

239. The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, proposed an amendment to insert “and healthy and safe working conditions” after “fruits of progress”, since it was an important issue that was not included under social protection and social security and labour protection.
240. The Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment because she stated that it was included as part of labour protection.
241. The Worker Vice-Chairperson requested clarification from the Office on whether or not healthy and safe working conditions were considered as part of labour protection.
242. The representative of the Secretary-General clarified that the Declaration indeed included occupational health and safety as part of labour protection according to the provisions in the Declaration.
243. The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment on the grounds that it was not desirable to limit the scope of the subparagraph by singling out one issue.
244. The Government member of Brazil reiterated that the amendment would give more emphasis to the importance of healthy and safe working conditions in the resolution and, by extension, in the Declaration.
245. The Government member of Switzerland did not support the amendment.
246. The Government member of the Netherlands did not support the amendment because it was not desirable to single out an issue which was already included as part of labour protection.
247. The amendment was rejected and the subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph (c)***

248. The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

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### **Subparagraph (d)**

249. The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, proposed to introduce the words “nature of” between the words “immutable” and “fundamental principles”, to be consistent with the language of the Declaration.
250. The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment since it was not possible to “promote the nature of something”.
251. The Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment for the same reasons.
252. The amendment was rejected and the subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

### **Subparagraph (e)**

253. The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, proposed to introduce the word “also” after the words “gender equality and non-discrimination”, to align this with the amendment introduced under paragraph 1 and to ensure consistency in the text.
254. The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
255. The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.
256. Paragraph 13 was adopted as amended.

### **Paragraph 14**

257. The Government member of Norway, speaking on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, proposed to delete the words “In order to reach the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration” from the beginning of paragraph 14 in order to make the paragraph more succinct.
258. The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment because it would weaken the text and it was important to emphasize the importance of, and commitment to, the Declaration.
259. The amendment was withdrawn and paragraph 14 was adopted without amendment.

### **Paragraph 15**

#### **Subparagraph 15.1**

260. The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed to replace, in the Spanish version, the words “Asegurarse de” with the word “Asegurar” in the first line of subparagraph 15.1 as it was a more accurate translation of the English and French texts.
261. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
262. The subparagraph was adopted as amended.

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### ***Subparagraph 15.2(a)***

263. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed to replace, in the French version, the word “Cibler” with the word “Cadrer”, as it was a more accurate translation of the English and Spanish texts.
264. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.
265. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed to replace, in the French version, the words “en prise avec” with the words “ancrées dans”, as it was a more accurate translation of the English and Spanish texts.
266. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
267. The Government members of Côte d’Ivoire, seconded by the Government member of Burkina Faso and the Government member of Algeria, proposed a subamendment to replace the words “en prise avec” with the words “en cohérence avec”.
268. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the subamendment because it changed the meaning of the subparagraph.
269. The Government member of Switzerland did not support the subamendment.
270. The subamendment was rejected.
271. The amendment, as proposed by the Employer Vice-Chairperson, was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

### ***Subparagraph 15.2(b)***

272. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed to replace the words “Adopt modalities to ensure that the general surveys and related discussion by the Committee on the Application of Standards contribute to the recurrent discussions as appropriate” with the words “Adopt appropriate modalities to ensure that general surveys and related discussion by the Committee on the Application of Standards contribute to the recurrent discussions”, in order to make the paragraph clearer.
273. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
274. The Government member of the United States did not support the amendment since it placed unnecessary restrictions on the Governing Body and limited its scope of action.
275. The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, agreed with the Government member of the United States and did not support the amendment.
276. The Government member of Switzerland did not support the amendment.
277. The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew the amendment.

### ***Subparagraph 15.3(a)***

278. The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

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### ***Subparagraph 15.3(b)***

- 279.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to insert the word “the” before the word “reporting” in the English text, and to replace the words “faire rapport” by the words “les rapports” in the French text to make it grammatically correct, so that the English and French texts were consistent.
- 280.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 281.** The amendment was adopted.
- 282.** The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, proposed to insert the words “good practices” after the word “outcomes”, arguing that lessons learned were not always synonymous with good practices, as these lessons could be learned about a bad practice.
- 283.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and suggested a subamendment to use the words “las buenas practicas” in the Spanish version.
- 284.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment.
- 285.** The Government member of the Netherlands, supported by the Government member of the United States, did not agree with the amendment because they did not consider that the reference to “good practices” belonged in that paragraph dealing with the programme and budget. Furthermore, the issue was already referenced in a more appropriate part of the draft resolution.
- 286.** The Government member of Mexico emphasized that there were indeed good practices that the Office might take into account related to the programme and budget.
- 287.** The Government member of Brazil agreed with the Government member of Mexico and added that if “good practices” was not accepted, then “lessons learned” should be deleted as well.
- 288.** The Government member of Norway did not support the amendment.
- 289.** The Government member of Switzerland did not support the amendment, stating that lessons learned included also good practices.
- 290.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

### ***Subparagraph 15.3(c)***

- 291.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, proposed an amendment to insert “capacity” after “institutional learning” because that reflected more directly what was needed.
- 292.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 293.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

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**Subparagraph 15.3(d)**

294. The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, withdrew an amendment to delete “should” and “or similar forums”.
295. The Government member of the Netherlands, on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, proposed a grammatical amendment to replace “forums” by “fora”.
296. The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the proposal.
297. The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

**Subparagraph 15.4(a)**

298. Two identical amendments were presented by the Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, to delete after “further strengthen”, the words “where appropriate”. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that his group’s amendment had been presented in tandem with a second amendment, which would be introduced subsequently.
299. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the proposed amendment.
300. The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported the amendment, on the understanding that it would be adopted in conjunction with the subsequent amendment.
301. The amendment was adopted.
302. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to add the words “according to their needs” after “organizations of employers and workers”, to ensure that capacity strengthening was needs-based.
303. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of Brazil supported the amendment.
304. The amendment was adopted.
305. The Government member of Brazil introduced an amendment to insert the word “meaningful” before “effective”. Policies could be efficient, yet not reach those most in need. The insertion of “meaningful” would thus add value to the subparagraph.
306. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed with the sentiment in which the amendment had been proposed, but considered that “effective” referred to the impact of policies and thus the addition of “meaningful” was unnecessary. He did not support the amendment.
307. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed a subamendment to replace “meaningful” by “relevant”.
308. The subamendment as proposed by the Employers’ group was supported by the Government members of Mexico and Brazil, and by the Workers’ group.
309. The Government members of Norway and the United States, and the Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, did not support the subamendment or the amendment, on the grounds that they served to complicate the text.

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**310.** In view of the broad support expressed, the amendment was adopted as subamended by the Employers' group.

**311.** The subparagraph was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraphs 15.4(b) and (c)***

**312.** The subparagraphs were adopted without amendment.

**313.** Subparagraph 15.4 as a whole was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph 15.5(a) and (b)***

**314.** The subparagraphs were adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph 15.5(c)***

**315.** The Government member of Mexico, seconded by the Government member of Brazil, introduced an amendment to replace the subparagraph by "Further enhance Members' capacity to produce, use and share statistics and information covering all four strategic objectives, as well as information on best practices, including through voluntary national peer reviews".

**316.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**317.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson wished to hear the views of the Government members before pronouncing a position on the matter.

**318.** The Government member of Zimbabwe said that since "statistics" were part of "information" the explicit reference to "statistics" was not necessary.

**319.** The Government members of Algeria and the United States supported the amendment.

**320.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**321.** The amendment was adopted.

**322.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, introduced an amendment to insert the words "as well as gender equality and non-discrimination as cross-cutting issues," after "strategic objectives" to ensure that statistics on gender equality and non-discrimination were included in comprehensive data collection and information sharing.

**323.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**324.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph 15.5(d)***

**325.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to replace the subparagraph by "Further develop, through the Governing Body, a framework for decent work indicators that allows Members to measure their progress towards decent work according to their national

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needs and circumstances”. The amendment was intended simply to clarify the syntax of the subparagraph.

**326.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**327.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph 15.5(e)***

**328.** The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

**329.** Subparagraph 15.5 as a whole, was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph 15.6(a)***

**330.** The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph 15.6(b)***

**331.** The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, presented an amendment to replace “financial” by “economic” in the reference to “international and regional financial institutions”, since “financial” was too specific and would preclude the involvement of relevant institutions, such as the WTO.

**332.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed a subamendment to insert “economic and” before “financial”.

**333.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of Switzerland supported the amendment, as subamended.

**334.** The Government member of Mexico proposed a further subamendment, to replace “economic and financial” by “relevant”.

**335.** The Government member of Brazil said he would prefer either the original amendment or that as subamended by the Government member of Mexico. The term “financial” made the subparagraph too restrictive.

**336.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment proposed by the Government member of Mexico.

**337.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported by the Government member of the United States, said that replacing “financial” by “relevant” would reduce the subparagraph to a reiteration of subparagraph (a), which referred to “relevant international, regional and national organizations”. She supported the subamendment as proposed by the Employers’ group to add “economic and” before “financial”.

**338.** In light of the position stated by the Government members of the Netherlands and the United States, the Government member of Mexico withdrew his subamendment.

**339.** The amendment, as subamended by the Employers’ group, was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

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### **Subparagraphs 15.6(c) and (d)**

340. Subparagraphs 15.6(c) and (d) were adopted without amendment.

### **Subparagraph 15.6(e)**

341. The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to insert a footnote, “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, to add more clarity to the text.

342. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of the Democratic Republic of the Congo supported the proposed amendment.

343. The amendment was adopted.

344. The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, proposed an amendment to delete “appropriate” since all ILO activities were tripartite and such a reference would be redundant and constrain the work of the ILO.

345. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the proposed amendment.

346. The Government member of the United States was in favour of keeping “appropriate” because it would give the ILO more flexibility to work effectively and efficiently as required by the particular context.

347. The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the Government member of Switzerland did not support the amendment.

348. The Government member of Norway recalled that the paragraph was about taking the lead on Goal 8 which would need to be a shared responsibility, requiring the ILO to work not only with its tripartite partners, but also with organizations such as the World Bank Group. She therefore did not support the amendment.

349. The Government member of Colombia said that “appropriate” added value to the text and therefore did not support the amendment.

350. The Government member of Brazil asked for clarification from the Office about whether or not leaving the word “appropriate” would constrain the ILO in its work. He stated that there were many instances where the ILO already worked with just one or two of the social partners, but the word “appropriate” did not feature in such agreements.

351. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that “alliances” associated with Goal 8, as referred to in the paragraph, may not always require engagement with the social partners because this depended on the type of activity being undertaken. He noted that the tripartite partners would nonetheless always be kept apprised of such matters through the Governing Body.

352. The Government member of Brazil added that Brazil supported and participated in South–South and Triangular Cooperation with the ILO, but that the word “appropriate” was not used. He asked whether the social partners had the same interpretation.

353. The Worker Vice-Chairperson recalled that the resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on social dialogue (2002), subparagraph A.12.(15) mentions “appropriate

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involvement of worker and employer representatives” and therefore it would be redundant to include the word “appropriate” in this text.

**354.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment for the same reason as expressed by the Worker Vice-Chairperson.

**355.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph 15.6(f)***

**356.** The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph 15.6(g)***

**357.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to insert the word “ILO” before “public-private partnerships”, in order to clarify that the text did not refer to partnerships at the national level.

**358.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of Colombia supported the amendment.

**359.** The amendment was adopted.

**360.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to replace “Recommendation No. 204” by “the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204)”, which was the official title of this recommendation and made the text more understandable.

**361.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

**362.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph 15.6(h)***

**363.** The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph 15.6(i)***

**364.** The Government member of Mexico, seconded by the Government member of Brazil, proposed an amendment to insert “and complementarity between” after “promote the implementation of”, so as to add value to the text and to highlight complementarity between Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda and the ILO Development Cooperation Strategy.

**365.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, agreeing that it added value to the text.

**366.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that the meaning of the amendment was not clear. She proposed a subamendment of a linguistic nature, to insert “its complementarity with” after “the 2030 Agenda and”.

**367.** The amendment was adopted as subamended.

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- 368.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to insert a footnote to subparagraph 15.6(i) after the words “Goal 17” with the words “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” so as to add clarity.
- 369.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 370.** The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

### ***Subparagraph 15.6(j)***

- 371.** The Government member for Mexico, seconded by the Government member of Brazil, proposed an amendment to the Spanish and French versions to replace the words “más amplios” with “de amplio alcance”, and the words “grands projets et programmes de developpment” with the words “programmes de developpment de grande portée” respectively. He argued that when referring to something being larger it was necessary to clarify what was the object of comparison.
- 372.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed a subamendment to replace the words “grands projets et programmes de development” with “projets et programmes de development plus importants”, and proposed that the English and Spanish versions remain as they were.
- 373.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of Switzerland supported the subamendment.
- 374.** The Government member of Mexico proposed another subamendment to replace the words “más amplios” with “de más amplio alcance”, and the words “grands projets et programmes de developpment” with the words “programmes de developpment de plus grande portée” respectively.
- 375.** The amendment was adopted as sub-subamended.
- 376.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew an amendment, the spirit of which was already reflected by the amendment just adopted. She introduced an amendment to the French version to replace the word “Mobiliser” by “Rechercher”, in order to clarify that additional resources were being sought, and not simply a reallocation of resources internally.
- 377.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment and proposed a subamendment to replace the French word “mobiliser” by the word “solliciter” which better reflected the idea that additional resources were being sought.
- 378.** The Government member of the Netherlands said that she supported whichever amendment best reflected the idea of seeking and attracting new resources.
- 379.** The Government member of Switzerland supported the suggestion of the Government member of the Netherlands and proposed a further amendment to replace the word “Rechercher” with the word “Attirer”.
- 380.** The Chairperson observed that “attirer” was the word used in the Declaration and was also in line with the Spanish word “atraer”.
- 381.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the use of the word “attirer”, because it was most appropriate and was also used in the Declaration.

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- 382.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson withdrew his subamendment and supported the subamendment by the Government member of Switzerland.
- 383.** The amendment was adopted as subamended and the paragraph was adopted as amended.
- 384.** The representative of the Secretary-General put forward a proposal by the Office to modify the French and Spanish translations of subparagraph 15.2(b) in order to make them more consistent with the agreed English text. In French the word “les” had been replaced by the word “des”, and the words “le cas échéant” had been replaced by the words “comme il convient”. In Spanish the word “cuando” had been replaced by the word “según”.
- 385.** The Committee supported the proposed changes and paragraph 15 was adopted as amended.

## **Paragraph 16**

### ***Subparagraph (a)***

- 386.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to insert the words “and in national strategies for sustainable development” after the words “2030 Agenda”, to make the content broader and more specific in order to include the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda also at the national level.
- 387.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 388.** The Government member of the Netherlands, while welcoming the reasoning of the amendment, did not support it. She argued that it was not necessary to specify the national dimension as it was implicit that the Decent Work Agenda needed to be introduced in national policy also in the context of the 2030 Agenda. If the word “national” was included then so too should the word “regional”, in order to not restrict the scope of strategies advocated in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
- 389.** The Government member of Switzerland, following the reasoning of the Government member of the Netherlands, proposed a subamendment to add the words “including in national strategies for sustainable development” after the words “2030 Agenda”.
- 390.** The Government member of Mexico supported the thrust of the subamendment and, seconded by the Government member of Brazil, proposed to add the words “including in national and regional strategies for sustainable development” after the words “2030 Agenda”.
- 391.** The Government member of Canada supported the sub-subamendment.
- 392.** The Government member of the United States supported the sub-subamendment. However, in order to encompass the broadest range of strategies, she suggested to add after the words “2030 Agenda”, “including in relevant national and regional strategies for sustainable development”.
- 393.** The Government member of the Netherlands supported the latest subamendment from the Government member of the United States.
- 394.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported this latest amendment.
- 395.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support the inclusion of the word “relevant”, for it was necessary to be more concrete; otherwise the text risked becoming meaningless.

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- 396.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that he had initially agreed with the insertion of the word “relevant”, but wanted to listen to the views of the Government members before expressing again his opinion. After doing so, he agreed with the Employer Vice-Chairperson that the word “relevant” should not be retained.
- 397.** The Government members of Sudan and, upon further reflection, the Netherlands did not support the inclusion of the word “relevant”, as that was somewhat redundant and unnecessary.
- 398.** The amendment was adopted as subamended and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

***Subparagraph (b)***

- 399.** The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

***Subparagraph (c)***

- 400.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, introduced an amendment to delete the word “line” in order to keep the sentence as broad as possible.
- 401.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the proposed amendment, adding that the main point of this paragraph was to ensure policy coherence across ministries.
- 402.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 403.** The Government member of Mexico clarified that all ministries were competent in different areas. He thought that the proposed amendment needed to be considered together with the next amendment to be proposed by the Government member of Brazil which he seconded.
- 404.** However, the Government member of Brazil withdrew his amendment and supported the amendment introduced by the Government member of the Netherlands.
- 405.** The Government members of Lesotho and Sudan supported the amendment.
- 406.** The amendment was adopted.
- 407.** The Government member of the United States, on behalf of the Government members of the IMEC group and the EU Member States, proposed an amendment to delete the words “with concerned ministries and”. She suggested that the promotion of policy coherence required consultation with the social partners.
- 408.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that this amendment needed to be considered in conjunction with the subsequent amendment to be proposed by the Employers’ group to replace the word “with” by “among”. Although consultation across ministries should happen automatically, reality showed that this was often not the case. Therefore, she did not support the amendment.
- 409.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support the amendment introduced by the Government member of the United States, but said that he could support the related amendment mentioned by the Employer Vice-Chairperson.
- 410.** The Government member of the United States withdrew her amendment in light of the lack of support.

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- 411.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced the amendment to replace the word “with” by “among”. She referred to her previous indications and clarified that the language referred to the fact that the ministries should consult among themselves and with the social partners.
- 412.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and the amendment was adopted.
- 413.** The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, proposed an amendment to insert a new subparagraph after subparagraph (c) to read “promote sustainable enterprises”. He stated that this was not reflected in any other part of draft resolution.
- 414.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 415.** The amendment was adopted.
- 416.** The Government member of Brazil, seconded by the Government member of Mexico, proposed an amendment to insert a new subparagraph to read “Foster cooperation among member States, as well as between member States and international organizations on sharing national and regional good practices gained from the successful implementation of initiatives with a decent work element”. He explained that this would capture what was included under paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 of the Declaration.
- 417.** The Government member of the Netherlands stated that she did not object to the inclusion of the proposed text but it should include reference to the Members not just member States.
- 418.** The Government member of Brazil said that he was flexible as concerned language but it was important to keep the elements mentioned in the proposed amendment. He agreed to insert reference to the social partners, if necessary.
- 419.** The Government member of Mexico stated that this was a unique opportunity to apply the clarifications given by the representative of the Secretary-General with regard to the use of the terms “Members” and “member States”. In the light of these clarifications, it was suggested to delete the word “States” and use the term “Members”.
- 420.** The Government member of the Netherlands stated that the proposed subamendment implied the insertion of the text in a different place, since paragraph 16 dealt with the responsibilities of the member States only.
- 421.** The Government member of Brazil, taking into consideration the indications of the Government member of Mexico and the Government member of the Netherlands, said that the paragraphs of the Declaration he wished to reflect were in the chapter on Methods of Implementation that seemed to be general. However, if the word “States” was deleted it was indeed necessary to place the text elsewhere in the resolution.
- 422.** The Government member of Sudan introduced a subamendment to replace the word “element” by “elements”, but it was not seconded.
- 423.** The Government member of Lesotho suggested to place the amendment as subparagraph 15.6(h).
- 424.** The representative of the Secretary General said, however, that paragraph 15 related to the ILO’s support for Members. He suggested that the new subparagraph be added as “(g)” in paragraph 13. As that covered areas that needed to be promoted, it would then read “cooperation among Members as well as between Members and international organizations

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on sharing national and regional good practices gained from the successful implementation of initiatives with a decent work element”. This placement would ensure the clause could support achievement of the full potential of the Declaration.

- 425. The Government member of the Netherlands supported the suggestion.
- 426. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of Brazil agreed with the proposal as to the location of the amendment.
- 427. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed with the proposed text and location.
- 428. The amendment was adopted as subamended with the text to be placed under paragraph 13.
- 429. Paragraph 16 was adopted as amended.

## **Paragraph 17**

### ***Subparagraph (a)***

- 430. The Government member of Switzerland, on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, proposed to replace “for the integration of” by “to integrate” in order to make the wording more dynamic with the inclusion of a verb rather than a noun.
- 431. The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons supported the proposed amendment.
- 432. The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended.

### ***Subparagraph (b)***

- 433. The subparagraph was adopted without amendment.

### ***Subparagraph (c)***

- 434. The Government member of the United States, on behalf of the EU Member States and the IMEC group, put forward an amendment to clause (iii) to replace “accompanied by ... Social Justice Declaration” by “including specific deadlines and appropriate measurable targets and indicators” which was intended to clarify and specify the text.
- 435. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment as it made the text clearer.
- 436. The Employer Vice-Chairperson also supported the amendment.
- 437. The amendment was adopted.
- 438. The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to replace in clause (iv) “outcome document” by “Resolution”.
- 439. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Government member of the Democratic Republic of Congo supported the amendment.
- 440. The amendment was adopted and the subparagraph was adopted as amended in clauses (iii) and (iv).

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441. The Government representative of Mexico asked the Secretariat whether the document should be referred to as a “resolution” or “proposed resolution”.
442. The representative of the Secretary-General replied that the ILO practice was to use the term “resolution” in the body of the text and “proposed resolution” in the title of the document.
443. The Government member of the United States questioned whether it should have an upper case “R” or lower case “r”.
444. The Chairperson noted that it should be a lower case “r” and that the resulting change was merely a grammatical correction rather than an amendment and did not need to be adopted as such.
445. Paragraph 17 was adopted as amended.

## **Paragraph 18**

446. The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to replace the word “above” by “in this resolution” to make it clear that “the action outlined” was not limited to Section IV, but referred to the entire resolution.
447. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
448. The amendment was adopted and paragraph 18 was adopted as amended.
449. The representative of the Secretary-General proposed, on behalf of the Office, the following minor corrections to clarify and make more accurate certain parts of the text:
- in paragraph 1, “ILO” would need to be added before “Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization” as it was part of the formal title;
  - in paragraph 5, “(2009)” would need to be added after “Global Jobs Pact”;
  - in subparagraph 15.6(f) “United Nations” would need to be added before “High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development”;
  - in subparagraph 15.6(g) of the English version, the “Enterprise Initiative” would need to be corrected to read “Enterprises Initiative”.
450. The Government member of Mexico inquired about the use of uppercase letters in this title in the English version while the other languages used lower case letters.
451. The Chairperson replied that this different use of upper and lower case letters between languages was correct, the French version was entirely correct but the Spanish version would need an upper case I in “iniciativa”.
452. The Committee approved the corrections and the proposed resolution was adopted as a whole.

## **Closing statements**

453. The Worker Vice-Chairperson expressed his appreciation to all members of the Committee for helping to achieve a successful outcome built on a strong consensus. He thanked the

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interpreters for their efforts in facilitating effective communication. The professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by the Office were appreciated. He thanked the Chairperson for his inclusiveness and diplomacy in guiding the work of the Committee. He noted that although the Employers' and Workers' groups may have had differing views on certain issues, they had a common vision in reaffirming their joint commitment to the principles of the Declaration. Government members had provided valuable inputs which helped generate a better understanding of the current realities faced in individual countries. He underscored that it was a pleasure to have worked with each member of the Committee in a spirit of mutual respect.

- 454.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson fully concurred with the words of the Worker Vice-Chairperson. She expressed great satisfaction with the work of the Committee. She noted being pleased to have benefited from the very positive mood and inputs from all participants, based on a common understanding of, and commitment to, constructive dialogue. The rich exchanges provided an opportunity to gain knowledge on the unique perspective shared by each of the Members. The tripartite discourse and concrete proposals would make the implementation of the Declaration more relevant in the real world and therefore directly affect the lives of people. She thanked the Chairperson and the Worker Vice-Chairperson for their excellent cooperation which was a good example of social dialogue and partnership. She expressed appreciation for the tireless efforts by the Office, the Secretariat and the interpreters to help to achieve a successful outcome. The support provided by ACT/EMP and the IOE to the Employers' group, as well as the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to the Workers' group, was invaluable for the successful organization and preparation of the social partners.
- 455.** The Government member of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States and of the Government of Switzerland, thanked the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for guiding the Committee to its conclusion. The process had been long, but the tone had always been constructive. She thanked the social partners for the positive dialogue which helped gain valuable insights into their priorities and concerns as well as their perception on the role of governments. She noted that the sitting on partnerships with international organizations had been particularly interesting and useful. The resolution would be a valuable tool for guiding governments and social partners to work together in a timely and coherent manner, while underscoring the importance of ensuring follow-up in practice. It had been a particular pleasure to act as spokesperson for the EU Member States which, despite comprising a diverse group, always managed to find consensus. She thanked the Office and especially the interpreters for their tireless efforts in helping to achieve a successful outcome.
- 456.** The Government member of the United States reiterated the appreciation shown by other speakers. She said that the Declaration represented the breadth of the ILO's mandate, its strategic objectives and everything it aimed to do. The resolution was the result of some hard thinking about how the ILO and its constituents could achieve the strategic objectives. She looked forward to the forthcoming Governing Body discussions related to the resolution.
- 457.** The Government member of Mexico stated that, in his role as rapporteur, he intended to inform the Conference plenary about the spirit and goodwill that had been evident in the Committee. The discussions had been characterized by a sense of responsibility and awareness and he expected that the resolution would impact the lives of many people. He underscored that the outcome displayed the true strength of tripartism. He also thanked the Secretariat and the interpreters for helping to achieve a successful outcome.
- 458.** The Chairperson expressed his gratitude to everyone who had been part of the Committee. He thanked the members for their perseverance and their demonstration of social dialogue, which underpinned the strength of the ILO. He said it had been a great personal honour for

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him to chair the Committee as well as an honour for his country, Paraguay. He recalled that at the opening sitting he said that the work would not be easy and that there would be many challenges, but the quality of the resolution demonstrated that the Committee had surpassed its objectives. The resolution represented a powerful conclusion and consensus which furthered the objectives of the Declaration. The Committee had been characterized by strong teamwork which resulted in an outcome that was both achievable and sustainable. He thanked the Secretariat and the interpreters for their contributions to the success of the work of the Committee. Finally, he brought the work of the Committee to a close by calling for success in advancing social justice through decent work.

Geneva, 8 June 2016

*(Signed)* M. Candia Ibarra  
Chairperson

R. Hornung-Draus  
Employer Vice-Chairperson

M. Norddahl  
Worker Vice-Chairperson

A. Bonilla García  
Reporter

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## Appendix

### Fate of amendments to draft resolutions

1. The following amendments were adopted:  
D.50, D.5, D.52, D.53, D.54, D.4, D.31, D.55, D.27, D.56, D.13, D.58, D.22, D.7, D.6, D.10,  
D.41, D.61, D.16, D.39, D.15, D.14, D.62, D.26, D.17, D.36, D.18, D.25, D.12, D.19, D.49,  
D.23, D.33, D.34, D.47, D.45, D.20, D.21
2. The following amendments were adopted, as subamended:  
D.46, D.38, D.37, D.11, D.9, D.24
3. The following amendments were rejected:  
D.43, D.44, D.42, D.57, D.60
4. The following amendments were withdrawn:  
D.29, D.51, D.32, D.30, D.59, D.28, D.40, D.8, D.35, D.48



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