

International Labour Conference, 107th Session, 2018



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Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body

Report I(C)

Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the International Labour Conference for the year 2017–18

International Labour Office, Geneva

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This report on the work of the Governing Body is submitted to the Conference in accordance with section 5.5.1 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. It covers the period since the last general session of the Conference (June 2017): that is, the 330th (June 2017), 331st (November 2017) and 332nd (March 2018) Sessions of the Governing Body. It focuses only on the highlights of the Governing Body's year, on the basis of the respective agendas, and does not cover any matter otherwise before the Conference.

For more extensive and detailed information on the work of the Governing Body, including the minutes of the three sessions under consideration, and the documents submitted to the committees and to the Governing Body itself, I invite you to refer to the Governing Body website.¹

I. Institutional Section

1. Agenda of the International Labour Conference²

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body considered a strategic approach to future agenda-setting of the Conference. It decided to include on the agenda of the 109th Session (2020) of the Conference an item on the withdrawal of the Prevention of Industrial Accidents Recommendation, 1929 (No. 31). It provided guidance in relation to the agenda of the Centenary session (2019); and on the setting of the Conference agenda beyond 2019, both as regards the strategic approach and the seven subjects under consideration: a just transition of the world of work towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all; apprenticeships; inequalities and the world of work; resolution of individual labour disputes; non-standard forms of employment; decent work in the world of sport; independence and protection in public service.³

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body took a number of decisions in relation to the agenda-setting of the Conference. First, it placed on the agenda of the 108th Session of the Conference (2019), beyond the standing items, a standard-setting item (second discussion) on violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work. Second, it included an item related to the Future of Work Initiative with a view to the adoption of an important outcome document, possibly a declaration. It also requested the Director-General to further develop the nature and format of the item and to present first ideas regarding the outcome document for further consideration by the Governing Body in November 2018. Third, it included an item related to the organization of debates and events connected to the Centenary, and requested the Director-General to further develop the nature and format of this item. Fourth, it requested the Office to take note of the guidance provided in relation to the setting of the Conference agenda beyond 2019. Lastly, it provisionally placed an item on the approval of the proposed amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, on the agenda of the 107th Session (2018) of the Conference, subject to the submission of any amendments adopted by the Special Tripartite Committee in April 2018.⁴

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/gb/lang--en/index.htm>.

² GB.331/INS/2, GB.331/INS/2(Add.) and GB.332/INS/2.

³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593279/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622549/lang--en/index.htm.

2. Matters arising out of the work of the 106th Session (2017) of the International Labour Conference

Follow-up to the resolution concerning fair and effective labour migration governance ⁵

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body reviewed the plan of action giving effect to the conclusions of the general discussion on fair and effective labour migration governance that had been adopted by the Conference in June 2017. The follow-up action plan will guide the work of the Office concerning labour migration during the period 2018–22 and align with the time frame agreed by the constituents of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on relevant priority areas of action. It will also contribute to the ILO's wider role at the global level, including in relation to its inputs to the development and implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). ⁶ The Governing Body's discussions on the action plan took into consideration the difficult and complex issues raised during the Conference debates, the successful conclusions leading to the resolution, and the importance of the ILO's leadership in supporting member States' implementation of the Global Compact in areas of labour migration.

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take into account its guidance in pursuing the five-year plan of action giving effect to the conclusions concerning fair and effective labour migration governance and to draw on it in preparing future programme and budget proposals, and in developing resource mobilization initiatives. It also agreed to hold, in the last quarter of 2018, a tripartite meeting of experts to discuss and agree on a definition of recruitment fees and related costs, which would report its conclusions to the Governing Body at its 335th Session (March 2019). ⁷

Follow-up to the resolution concerning employment and decent work for peace and resilience ⁸

In 2017, the Conference adopted the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205), following a two-year process of standard setting and tripartite consultations. ⁹ It also adopted the resolution concerning employment and decent work for peace and resilience, ¹⁰ which invites governments, employers and workers to give full effect to Recommendation No. 205.

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body endorsed the integrated strategy for action, including its set of priorities, proposed by the Office for the period 2018–23 to follow up on Recommendation No. 205. The proposed strategy for Office follow-up aimed primarily to support constituents in the development and implementation of local, national and regional strategies and measures that would give practical effect to the guidance. It also aimed for this unique normative platform to advocate the ILO's core mandate and values and to play a leading role in employment and decent work initiatives in contexts of crisis

⁵ [GB.331/INS/4/1\(Rev.\)](#).

⁶ *ibid.*, p. i.

⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592497/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸ [GB.331/INS/4/2](#).

⁹ [Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the International Labour Conference for the year 2016–17](#), pp. 23–24.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

prevention and response through invigorated cooperation and joint initiatives among international and regional organizations. The strategy, which built on decades of extensive Office work in crisis response, consisted of four complementary and mutually reinforcing components: (1) awareness raising and advocacy; (2) policy advice, development cooperation and capacity development; (3) knowledge development and dissemination; and (4) international cooperation and partnerships. In light of the great deal of internal and external coherence and coordination required for effective crisis response, the Office will put in place a coordination function to ensure a coherent interdisciplinary and intra-Office approach to respond to crises, in line with the decision of the Governing Body at its 320th Session (March 2014) concerning ILO technical cooperation in fragile States.¹¹

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take into account its guidance in pursuing the plan of action for the implementation of Recommendation No. 205, and to draw on it when preparing future programme and budget proposals and developing resource mobilization initiatives; and to communicate the resolution concerning employment and decent work for peace and resilience to the governments of member States, national employers' and workers' organizations and partner agencies in the multilateral system.¹²

Follow-up to the resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work¹³

In October 2017, the Governing Body was invited to provide guidance on the proposed plan of action to support constituents, based on their established and expressed needs, to meet their obligation as member States to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work in an integrated manner. The discussion¹⁴ reaffirmed strong tripartite support for the fundamental principles and rights at work and recalled that the principles and rights applied to all member States, irrespective of the status of ratification of the core Conventions, and that they covered four equally important categories.

The Governing Body urged member States to renew their commitment to the goal of universal ratification and effective implementation of fundamental Conventions in the lead-up to the 20th anniversary of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998 Declaration), the tenth anniversary of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 (Social Justice Declaration) and the ILO Centenary. It demonstrated strong support for the overall objective and structure of the plan of action, in particular its intent to focus on the needs and circumstances of member States, addressing implementation gaps. The Governing Body welcomed the development of capacity-building programmes, training materials on the implementation of labour provisions in trade agreements, and the development of indicators and methodologies with a view to establishing global estimates on discrimination and freedom of association and collective bargaining.

The Governing Body supported the decision draft and provided the Director-General with guidance on the implementation of the plan of action, requesting him to consider the plan of action when preparing future programme and budget proposals and developing

¹¹ [GB.320/PV](#), para. 542.

¹² http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_590065/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³ [GB.331/INS/4/3\(Rev.\)](#).

¹⁴ [GB.331/PV](#), paras 103–124.

extra-budgetary resource mobilization efforts.¹⁵ This guidance covered, inter alia, the inclusion of the social partners in any meetings on the development of indicators, further collaboration among all stakeholders to protect workers' rights and improve working conditions in supply chains, and the adoption of a phased approach when introducing fundamental principles and rights at work in the informal economy and in non-standard forms of employment.

3. Review of annual reports under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work¹⁶

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body was invited to examine developments and trends concerning the fundamental principles and rights at work in countries that have not yet ratified the relevant fundamental Conventions and the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930. Although a number of steps have been taken to meet the outstanding requests of reporting States under the Annual Review, more action is required. Further efforts to refresh the universal ratification campaign by establishing ambitious, clear and achievable targets could be considered, especially bearing in mind that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the 1998 Declaration. Moreover, the “50 for Freedom” campaign to end modern slavery, launched by the ILO in collaboration with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), has raised awareness of the call to ratify the Protocol and these efforts should be pursued.¹⁷

On this occasion, the Governing Body invited the Director-General to further take into account its guidance on key issues and priorities, including as to the interest in the further elaboration of reporting tools with a view to facilitating online reporting and data analysis; requested the Office to address simplified questionnaires to the constituents regarding the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930; and reiterated its support for the mobilization of resources with regard to further assisting member States in their efforts to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work, through universal ratification and action, and in particular, to combat the global scourge of forced labour including trafficking in persons.¹⁸

4. The Standards Initiative: Implementing the workplan for strengthening the supervisory system¹⁹

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body approved an electronic document and information management system for the supervisory bodies; the preparation of a guide on established practices across the supervisory system; and financial arrangements for both measures. It deferred consideration of all remaining matters concerning the implementation of the workplan for strengthening the supervisory system to its 332nd Session,²⁰ however,

¹⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_590066/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁶ GB.332/INS/3.

¹⁷ *ibid.*, p. vi.

¹⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622426/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁹ GB.331/INS/5 and GB.332/INS/5(Rev.).

²⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB331/ins/WCMS_594271/lang--en/index.htm.

it did not reach a decision at its 332nd Session. The discussions at both sessions, as well as the informal consultations organized by the Office in between these sessions, nevertheless provided significant guidance for the refinement of a wide-ranging package of measures aimed at delivering a coherent and transparent supervisory system and fostered a convergence of views on the decisions to be taken in this regard. Discussions were structured in two parts. First, actions prioritized for examination by the Governing Body included the operation of the article 24 representation procedure; the streamlining of regular reporting on the application of ratified standards; and the potential of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), to further support member States giving effect to the standard-setting decisions of the Conference and enhance the role of the supervisory machinery in providing that support. Second, actions considered by the Governing Body for guidance on the next steps included a regular conversation between the supervisory bodies; codification of the article 26 procedure; and further steps to ensure legal certainty as envisaged in article 37 of the Constitution.²¹ A review of the implementation of the workplan in the context of a broad review of the Standards Initiative is foreseen for the 334th Session (November 2018) of the Governing Body.

5. Complaints made under article 26 of the ILO Constitution

Complaint concerning non-observance by Guatemala of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), made by delegates to the 101st Session (2012) of the International Labour Conference under article 26 of the ILO Constitution²²

This article 26 complaint was filed at the 101st Session (2012) of the Conference.

At its 331st Session, welcoming the agreement reached on 2 November 2017 by the Guatemalan tripartite constituents, the Governing Body: (a) urged the Guatemalan Government, together with the Guatemalan social partners and with the technical assistance of the Office and of its representative in Guatemala, to devote all the efforts and resources needed to implement the national tripartite agreement aimed at settling the unresolved matters in the roadmap; (b) encouraged the international community to contribute, by providing the necessary resources, to the implementation of the national tripartite agreement and to the Office's corresponding technical assistance; and (c) deferred until its 332nd Session (March 2018) the decision on the appointment of a commission of inquiry.²³

At its 332nd Session, taking due note both of the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the national tripartite agreement of November 2017 and of the efforts under way in this respect, the Governing Body: (a) urged the Guatemalan Government, together with the Guatemalan social partners, with the support of the IOE and ITUC, and with the technical assistance of the Office and of its representative in Guatemala, to continue to devote all the efforts and resources necessary to achieve the complete implementation of the national agreement aimed at settling the unresolved matters in the complaint and the roadmap; (b) encouraged the international community to contribute to

²¹ GB.331/INS/5.

²² GB.331/INS/12(Rev.), GB.331/INS/12(Add.) and GB.332/INS/9(Rev.).

²³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592272/lang--en/index.htm.

the implementation of the national agreement and to the corresponding technical assistance of the Office by providing the necessary additional resources; and (c) deferred the decision on the appointment of a commission of inquiry until its 333rd Session (June 2018).²⁴

Complaint concerning non-observance by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of the Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention, 1928 (No. 26), the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), made under article 26 of the ILO Constitution by several delegates to the 104th Session (2015) of the International Labour Conference²⁵

This article 26 complaint was filed at the 104th Session (2015) of the Conference.

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body, seriously concerned with and deeply regretting the lack of progress with respect to the decisions taken at its previous sessions: (a) urged the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to engage in good faith in a concrete, transparent and productive dialogue based on respect for employers' and workers' organizations with a view to promoting solid and stable industrial relations; (b) urged, for the last time, the Government to institutionalize before the end of 2017 a tripartite round table to foster social dialogue for the resolution of all pending issues, and to invite to that effect an ILO high-level mission led by the Officers of the Governing Body, to meet with government authorities, FEDECAMARAS and their member organizations and affiliated companies, as well as trade unions and leaders from all social sectors; (c) requested the Director-General of the ILO to make available all necessary support in that regard and the Officers of the Governing Body to report back on the ILO high-level mission at the 332nd Session of the Governing Body (March 2018) on the determination of whether concrete progress had been achieved by means of the social dialogue fostered by the tripartite round table; and (d) suspended the approval of a decision on the appointment of a commission of inquiry pending on the report of the high-level mission at its 332nd Session of the Governing Body.²⁶

On 13 December 2017, the Office addressed a communication to the Government to begin preparing the high-level mission. On 15 December 2017, the Government formalized its invitation to the mission, which was scheduled to take place from 29 January to 1 February 2018. Through the Office, numerous contacts ensued between the Officers of the Governing Body and the Government in order to coordinate the details of the mission. Throughout the preparation of the mission, all the proposals and decisions of the Officers of the Governing Body were taken unanimously. The Officers agreed on – as a matter of principle and in accordance with established practice – the utmost importance of safeguarding the autonomy of the mission with regard to its agenda, recalling that it was within the purview of Officers' attributions to determine with whom the mission should meet. This was without prejudice to the necessary coordination with the Government. On 22 January 2018, the Government informed the Office that it had not been possible to institutionalize the tripartite round table called for in the Governing Body decision, but

²⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_621446/lang--en/index.htm.

²⁵ GB.331/INS/14(Rev.), GB.332/INS/10(Rev.) and GB.332/INS/10(Add.).

²⁶ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB331/ins/WCMS_594276/lang--en/index.htm.

stated that nothing impeded its constitution during the mission. On 25 January 2018, the Officers submitted to the Government a detailed agenda of meetings for the high-level mission.²⁷ By communication of 25 January 2018, the Government raised two sets of objections to the agenda submitted by the Officers, and transmitted a modified plan of work for the mission, which removed the meetings envisaged with several trade unions and leaders of other social sectors. This exclusion was considered by the Officers as contrary to the mandate of the mission and incompatible with fundamental ILO principles and Conventions. Consequently, by communication of 26 January 2018, the Officers relayed their assurances that the agenda submitted was within the mandate of the mission and requested the Government to confirm that undertaking the meetings with the different entities and trade unions listed in the agenda submitted would not entail any difficulty for the conduct of the mission. In the absence of such confirmation from the Government, which maintained its objections, the Officers concluded that the necessary conditions were not in place for the mission to be conducted fully and effectively. Consequently, the high-level mission could not be carried out.²⁸

At its 332nd Session, deeply concerned with the lack of any progress with respect to its previous decisions, in particular as to the establishment of a social dialogue table and action plan, which it had urged the Government, for the last time, to institutionalize before the end of 2017, and regretting the impossibility to carry out the high-level mission it had recommended at its preceding session, due to the objections raised by the Government to the mission's agenda, the Governing Body decided that a commission of inquiry should be established and approved its financial implications.²⁹

6. Reports of the Committee on Freedom of Association: 382nd and 383rd Reports³⁰

During the three Governing Body sessions under review, the Committee on Freedom of Association examined 72 cases and, in 37 cases, followed up on the measures taken by member States to give effect to its recommendations. The Committee continued to observe a large increase in the number of complaints against alleged violations of freedom of association submitted to the special procedure, but also noted with interest significant positive developments in the matters before it. In June and November 2017, the Governing Body adopted the recommendations set out in the 382nd and 383rd Reports of the Committee and also adopted the Reports as a whole.³¹ The 384th and 385th Reports, as well as the first Annual Report of the Committee, will be examined by the Governing Body at its 333rd Session.

²⁷ GB.332/INS/10(Rev.), p. 1.

²⁸ *ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622625/lang--en/index.htm.

³⁰ GB.330/INS/4 and GB.331/INS/15.

³¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/WCMS_559215/lang--en/index.htm and http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592691/lang--en/index.htm.

7. Review of the implementation of ILO–ISO agreements³²

At its 328th Session (October 2016), the Governing Body decided to extend the pilot implementation of the 2013 Agreement between the ILO and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) strictly for the time necessary for the ILO's effective participation in the completion of ISO 45001,³³ which is the ISO international standard on occupational safety and health management systems. An information note was subsequently issued in order to report progress to the 329th Session (March 2017) of the Governing Body. At its 331st Session, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to terminate the 2013 ILO–ISO Agreement, refrain from further cooperation with the ISO until further notice and issue a public statement explaining the reasons for termination. The Governing Body also authorized the Director-General to issue an ILO policy position on ISO 45001.³⁴

8. Review and possible revisions of formats and standing orders for meetings³⁵

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body considered a document containing draft standing orders for tripartite meetings convened by the Governing Body, which were preceded by an Introductory Note.³⁶ Following the debates, the Governing Body decided to defer the decision on this agenda item to its 332nd Session and requested the Director-General to facilitate tripartite consultations to help broker a consensus-based decision.³⁷ A document was submitted to the Governing Body at its March 2018 session³⁸ following several rounds of tripartite consultations; however, a decision on this item was further deferred.

9. Follow-up to the resolution concerning remaining measures on the subject of Myanmar adopted by the Conference at its 102nd Session (2013)³⁹

As follow-up to the resolution concerning remaining measures on the subject of Myanmar adopted by the Conference at its 102nd Session (2013), the Governing Body at its 331st Session: (a) urged the continued cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the ILO for the elimination of forced labour through the extension of the Supplementary Understanding beyond 31 December 2017; (b) expressed serious concern about the Government's failure to renew the Memorandum of Understanding and associated Action Plan for the Elimination of Forced Labour and requested the

³² GB.331/INS/10.

³³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB328-decision/WCMS_534687/lang--en/index.htm.

³⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592322/lang--en/index.htm.

³⁵ GB.331/INS/7 and GB.332/INS/7.

³⁶ GB.331/INS/7.

³⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_590110/lang--en/index.htm.

³⁸ GB.332/INS/7.

³⁹ GB.331/INS/11 and GB.332/INS/8.

Government to finalize these immediately; (c) urged the Government to engage in the process of labour law reform to promote freedom of association through genuine and effective tripartite dialogue and in line with international labour standards; (d) noted the progress made under the current Framework for ILO Engagement in Myanmar and in the development of a Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) in which the elimination of forced labour was included as a core component; (e) requested the Director-General to report on forced labour cases received by the ILO at each future Governing Body session and to provide a comprehensive update on further progress to the 332nd Session of the Governing Body; and (f) delayed the implementation of the DWCP until such time as the Memorandum of Understanding and associated Action Plan for the Elimination of Forced Labour and the Supplementary Understanding were renewed.⁴⁰

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body: (a) noted the significant progress made on some of the issues referred to in the decision taken at its 331st Session; (b) urged the Government to engage in the process of labour law reform to promote freedom of association through genuine and effective tripartite dialogue and in line with international labour standards; (c) welcomed the tripartite negotiation and endorsement of a DWCP in which the elimination of forced labour is included as a core component, and encouraged member States to support its implementation; (d) welcomed the extension of the Supplementary Understanding and agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding and associated Action Plan on the Elimination of Forced Labour until 31 December 2018; and (e) decided that the reporting to each Governing Body session on cases of forced labour, as referred to in its November 2017 decision, would no longer be required.⁴¹

10. Follow-up to the resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work: Framework for recurrent discussions⁴²

At its 105th Session (2016), the Conference evaluated the impact of the Social Justice Declaration, and adopted a resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work. The resolution requested the Director-General to submit to the Governing Body, in November 2016, detailed proposals relating to the modalities of recurrent discussions.⁴³ At its 328th Session, the Governing Body provided guidance on the framework for recurrent discussions and requested the Office to prepare, in light of the discussion, a revised framework for deliberation and adoption at its 331st Session.⁴⁴

The Governing Body discussed and adopted a framework for recurrent discussions at its 331st Session.⁴⁵ The framework provides guidance on the effective functioning of recurrent discussions in four key areas: preparation of the report for recurrent discussions; organization of its Conference discussion; outcome document and its follow-up; and synergies between recurrent discussions and the article 19 General Surveys.⁴⁶

⁴⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593665/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622437/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴² GB.331/INS/3.

⁴³ Resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work.

⁴⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB328-decision/WCMS_534571/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593269/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴⁶ GB.331/INS/3 and GB.332/PFA/1.

11. Report of the Director-General

Follow-up to the ILO Centenary Initiatives ⁴⁷

In November 2017, the Director-General reported on progress regarding implementation of the seven Centenary Initiatives as requested at the 319th Session (October 2013) of the Governing Body. ⁴⁸ The Governing Body provided its guidance on, in particular, the End to Poverty Initiative, the Green Initiative, the Women at Work Initiative and the Future of Work Initiative and requested the Director-General to facilitate the strong involvement of constituents in their implementation. ⁴⁹ The Director-General welcomed the Governing Body's strong interest and support and emphasized the alignment of all seven Initiatives with the ILO's programme and budget for the upcoming biennium. He provided additional information on the progress of the Global Commission on the Future of Work and the ILO's preparations for its centenary year in 2019. The Governing Body requested that the next annual report on progress regarding the Centenary Initiatives should be submitted at its 334th Session. ⁵⁰

12. Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference ⁵¹

At its 331st and 332nd Sessions, the Working Party continued its review of the structure and functioning of the ILO's three main governing organs: the Governing Body, the International Labour Conference and Regional Meetings.

Governing Body

Discussions concentrated on the composition of the Governing Body ⁵² and on the shared aim of the three groups to secure a more balanced distribution of Government seats between the four ILO regions, to make all seats elective and to eliminate the distinction between regular and deputy seats, through the entry into force of the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, 1986. To this end, the Governing Body, on the recommendation of the Working Party, requested the Director-General to continue promotional efforts for the ratification of this Instrument, including through direct contacts with member States, ⁵³ and decided that the matter should become a standing item on the agenda of subsequent March and November Governing Body sessions until the amendment entered into force. ⁵⁴

⁴⁷ GB.331/INS/18/1.

⁴⁸ GB.319/INS/3/1.

⁴⁹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_590068/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵⁰ *ibid.*

⁵¹ GB.331/INS/17 and GB.332/INS/12.

⁵² GB.331/WP/GBC/1 and GB.332/WP/GBC/1.

⁵³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593667/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622836/lang--en/index.htm.

International Labour Conference

The Working Party continued its analysis of the reforms to the functioning of the Conference with a view to its ongoing improvement, bearing in mind the constraints and opportunities of the reduced two-week format. Based on its analysis of the functioning of the 106th Session of the Conference,⁵⁵ the Working Party recommended trialling at the 107th Session of the Conference in 2018 further simplifications in the opening formalities of the Conference, including registration in committees, and reinforced the need to ensure early preparation of all aspects of the Conference so as to ensure the most efficient use of the two weeks of the Conference.⁵⁶ This review included the outcome of the informal tripartite consultations on the working methods of the Committee on the Application of Standards that had been held during the 331st and 332nd Sessions of the Governing Body.

In accordance with a decision adopted by the Governing Body at its 331st Session, the Working Party also received a first progress report⁵⁷ on the inter-sessional consultations, with a view to finalizing a comprehensive package of amendments to the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference for validation by the Working Party and possible approval by the Governing Body in March 2019 as part of the Governance Initiative.⁵⁸ This first round of consultations sought constituents' views on a first set of proposed amendments aimed primarily at the deletion of certain obsolete provisions or the revision of such provisions to bring them into line with current practices.

Regional Meetings

The Working Party continued its review of the role and functioning of Regional Meetings, initiated in March 2017,⁵⁹ which led to the adoption of a consolidated revised version of the Rules for Regional Meetings and a proposal for their submission to the 107th Session of the Conference for confirmation in accordance with article 38 of the Constitution of the ILO.⁶⁰ This revision of the Rules includes the principle that each member State is invited as a full Member to only one Regional Meeting, while the Governing Body retains discretion of inviting on a case-by-case basis any member State as an observer to other Regional Meetings.⁶¹

The Governing Body is expected to finalize the review of the role and functioning of Regional Meetings, with the adoption of a revised Introductory Note to the Rules for Regional Meetings, at its 334th Session.⁶²

⁵⁵ GB.331/WP/GBC/2/1.

⁵⁶ GB.332/WP/GBC/2 and http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622836/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵⁷ GB.332/WP/GBC/3 and http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622836/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593667/lang--en/index.htm.

⁵⁹ GB.329/WP/GBC/4(Rev.), GB.331/WP/GBC/3(Rev.) and GB.332/WP/GBC/4.

⁶⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622836/lang--en/index.htm.

⁶¹ GB.332/INS/12.

⁶² http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_622836/lang--en/index.htm.

13. Follow-up to the resolution concerning small and medium-sized enterprises and decent and productive employment creation adopted by the Conference at its 104th Session (2015): Progress report on the implementation of the action plan ⁶³

Background

The resolution concerning small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and decent and productive employment creation, with accompanying conclusions, was adopted by the 104th Session of the Conference. A follow-up action plan was accordingly approved by the Governing Body at its 325th Session (October 2015), and a first progress report was requested and delivered in November 2016. The Governing Body considered that the Office had made good progress in implementing the action plan, which covers two biennia (2016–19).

Second progress report

In November 2017, the second progress report on the implementation of the action plan concerning the 2015 conclusions concerning SMEs and decent and productive employment creation was presented to the Governing Body.

The following key achievements as of August 2017 were reported: ⁶⁴

- A concept note for the review of the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises (ESEE) programme with a view to its expansion had been developed. A review team that included the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP) had been established, and the review had almost been completed.
- A research report on good practices for the procurement of goods and services from SMEs by large enterprises within supply chains was published in May 2016. ⁶⁵
- The collection of more evidence on what works in SME development, in particular in relation to the improvement of working conditions and the three dimensions of enterprise sustainability, such as:
 - A new series of issue briefs on What Works in SME Development had been launched, and four issue briefs had been published. ⁶⁶
 - One ILO project had been selected to pass external audit of their results measurement systems; discussions with another ILO project were ongoing and were expected to undergo an external pre-audit in accordance with the results measurement standard of the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) before the end of the biennium.

⁶³ [GB.331/INS/6](#).

⁶⁴ *ibid.*, pp. 4–6.

⁶⁵ *Good procurement practices and SMEs in global supply chains: What do we know so far?*

⁶⁶ http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/boosting-employment-through-small-enterprise-development/WCMS_547155/lang--en/index.htm.

- The ILO and DCED had organized the 2016 Global Seminar on Results Measurement, covering key issues such as the measurement of job creation in projects on private sector development.
- In February 2017, the ILO had organized a conference on the latest evidence on how to create more and better jobs through a market systems approach to the promotion of SMEs. Results of written evaluations of the seminars confirmed that more than 70 per cent of participants could apply the evidence presented.
- In line with the target, seven additional EESE country assessments and action plans for improvements of the enabling environment were under preparation.
- In order to support the development of a new EESE component on the formalization of informal SMEs, an additional specialist position had been created and filled, and the new product offer on enterprise formalization had been published.
- Three related extra-budgetary technical cooperation (XBTC) project proposals had been submitted, of which two had been approved and one was pending approval.
- A concept note specifying the ILO's approach to promoting growth-oriented SMEs, for submission to donors, had been produced in 2016.

14. Report of the Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin ⁶⁷

The 80th Session of the Board of the International Training Centre (ITC) of the ILO was held in Turin from 26 to 27 October 2017. The report of the meeting was submitted to the 331st Session of the Governing Body. The Governing Body took note of the report of the meeting. ⁶⁸

15. Results of the implementation of the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016–17, and outline of the subsequent proposed Action Plan ⁶⁹

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body examined the paper concerning the results of the implementation of the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016–17 and outlining proposals for the subsequent Action Plan. The Governing Body was invited to provide guidance on the finalization and implementation of the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018–21, including with respect to monitoring and reporting issues. It was also invited to request the Director-General to take into consideration its guidance in pursuing the ILO's mandate to promote gender equality in the implementation of the ILO Strategic Plan and the corresponding programme and budgets, and in facilitating extra-budgetary resources. ⁷⁰

The Governing Body reaffirmed the centrality of gender equality in the work of the ILO and acknowledged overall progress in the implementation of the ILO Action Plan for

⁶⁷ GB.331/INS/16(Rev.).

⁶⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593666/lang--en/index.htm.

⁶⁹ GB.332/INS/6.

⁷⁰ *ibid.*

Gender Equality 2016–17, while pointing to some areas warranting greater attention. It also welcomed the elements proposed for the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018–21 and the suggestion of aligning its reporting period with that of the United Nations (UN) System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

The Governing Body: (a) requested the Director-General to finalize and implement the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018–21, in light of the lessons learned from previous action plans, the revised UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, and the UN System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity, and taking into account its guidance; (b) instructed the Office to conduct monitoring that coincided with the reporting period for the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, while maintaining separate reporting to the Governing Body on progress made at the mid-point of implementation, as well as on implementation results and proposed approaches of future action plans; and (c) requested the Director-General to take into consideration its guidance in pursuing the ILO’s mandate to promote gender equality in the implementation of the ILO Strategic Plan for 2018–21 and the two corresponding programme and budgets, and in facilitating extra-budgetary resources.⁷¹

II. Policy Development Section

16. Employment and Social Protection Segment

Outcome 2: Ratification and application of international labour standards⁷²

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body provided guidance regarding the implementation of the strategy for outcome 2 of the Programme and Budget for 2016–17. This guidance was particularly useful for implementing outcome 2 in the current biennium. Translating the ILO’s normative agenda into tangible improvements at country level remains the main focus of the strategy. One of its key features is the development, initially on a pilot basis, of country-level “strategic approaches”: mid-term national targets for the ratification and application of international labour standards to be pursued based on national tripartite consultations. These targets incorporate recommendations of the Standards Review Mechanism and are backed by more robust support for reporting, capacity building and awareness raising that is provided in collaboration with the ILO’s field structure and the ITC. These steps to further enhance the virtuous cycle of guidance, support and reporting, including through the use of extra-budgetary resources, should ultimately further a Decent Work Agenda more firmly embedded in the 2030 Agenda.

Outcome 8: Protecting workers from unacceptable forms of work⁷³

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body discussed the strategy and the main areas of focus of outcome 8: Protecting workers from unacceptable forms of work, as well as the progress that had been made thus far. Many delegates welcomed the twin focus on preventing and eliminating unacceptable forms of work and on promoting the fundamental principles and rights at work, while improving the material working conditions of the

⁷¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/ins/WCMS_621426/lang--en/index.htm.

⁷² GB.331/POL/1.

⁷³ GB.331/POL/2.

workers concerned. They also highlighted the need for disseminating and replicating successful intervention models and referred to South–South and triangular cooperation as an important vehicle in this regard. Joint initiatives and partnerships with the UN and other relevant international agencies on issues such as child and forced labour, as well as the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment were welcomed. There was also support for the strategy’s link with the forthcoming ILO instrument(s) on violence and harassment in the world of work. Greater attention should be paid to eliminating problems relating to occupational safety and health when addressing unacceptable forms of work and to improving compliance with the law. More in-depth analysis of the obstacles to the exercise of freedom of association, especially by groups of workers who were more vulnerable to unacceptable forms of work and faced greater difficulties in organizing, would also be in order. The Governing Body requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance in implementing the strategy for outcome 8 for the biennium 2018–19.⁷⁴

Follow-up discussion on the voluntary peer-review mechanisms of national employment policies⁷⁵

Following a request by the Governing Body in October 2016⁷⁶ for further details on a possible voluntary employment policy peer-review mechanism with the objective of promoting knowledge sharing and mutual learning on good practices among ILO members, the Governing Body discussed in March 2018 a more systematic and detailed set of proposals submitted by the Office⁷⁷ for such a review process.

The Office proposed four policy peer-review mechanisms, taking into account the discussion and guidance provided by the Governing Body in October 2016. The options presented differed in their geographical scope and the nature of the review process, as well as in their costs. Options 1.A and 1.B envisaged a peer-review mechanism with a global scope, while options 2.A and 2.B envisaged a peer-review mechanism with a subregional scope. Options 1.A and 2.A described a full peer-review process. In a full peer-review, a reviewing country would pair with a country under review and undertake study visits in order to produce a peer assessment. Mutual learning and experience sharing would thus happen both at this early stage and subsequently during a tripartite meeting. Options 1.B and 2.B described a partial peer-review process. In a partial peer review, the country would do a self-assessment, in cooperation with the Office; the peer learning and exchange of information would take place *ex post* during a tripartite workshop.⁷⁸ All options were voluntary, were facilitated by the Office and were intended to review policies against the agreed framework of comprehensive employment policies included in the resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on employment⁷⁹ adopted at the Conference in 2014.

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body requested the Office to hold tripartite inter-sessional consultations on drafting further detailed proposals regarding document

⁷⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_589106/lang--en/index.htm.

⁷⁵ GB.332/POL/1(Rev.).

⁷⁶ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB328-decision/WCMS_534184/lang--en/index.htm.

⁷⁷ GB.332/POL/1(Rev.).

⁷⁸ *ibid.*, pp. 1 and 3.

⁷⁹ [Resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on employment.](#)

GB.332/POL/1(Rev.), so that the issue could be examined for decision at its 334th Session.⁸⁰

17. Social Dialogue Segment

Sectoral meetings held in 2017 and proposals for sectoral work in 2018–19⁸¹

At its 330th Session, the Governing Body approved the list of intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to be invited to the Meeting of Experts to Adopt a Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Shipbuilding and Ship Repair (22–26 January 2018).⁸²

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body discussed and authorized the follow-up to two meetings held in the first half of 2017. It authorized the Director-General to publish the guidelines on decent work and socially responsible tourism, arising from the Meeting of Experts to adopt Guidelines on Decent Work and Socially Responsible Tourism (20–24 February 2017). It also examined the conclusions, including the recommendations for future action, of the Tripartite Meeting on Improving Employment and Working Conditions in Health Services (24–28 April 2017) and subsequently requested the Director-General to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth and to take into account its guidance in the implementation of the Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Economic Growth.⁸³ The Governing Body decided not to include in the programme of meetings for 2018–19 the proposed meeting of experts on the promotion of decent work on plantations. Having endorsed the programme of sectoral meetings for 2018–19 at its 329th Session,⁸⁴ the Governing Body discussed and endorsed the dates, duration and composition of meetings envisaged for the first half of 2018.⁸⁵

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body discussed and authorized the follow-up to the Tripartite Meeting on Issues relating to Migrant Fishers (18–22 September 2017). It authorized the Director-General to publish the code of practice on safety and health in opencast mines, arising from the Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in Opencast Mines (16–20 October 2017). In light of the adoption of the programme of sectoral meetings for 2018–19,⁸⁶ the Governing Body endorsed the proposals relating to the dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of meetings envisaged for the second half of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019.⁸⁷

⁸⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pol/WCMS_620836/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸¹ GB.331/POL/3 and GB.332/POL/2.

⁸² http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/WCMS_560520/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588890/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547561/lang--en/index.htm and GB.329/POL/4, Appendix II.

⁸⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588890/lang--en/index.htm and GB.331/POL/3, appendix.

⁸⁶ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547561/lang--en/index.htm.

⁸⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pol/WCMS_620834/lang--en/index.htm and GB.332/POL/2, appendix.

Outcome 7: Promoting workplace compliance through labour inspection ⁸⁸

In October 2017, the Governing Body was invited to provide guidance on the strategy to promote workplace compliance through labour inspection, by reviewing the main areas of intervention, means of action and results achieved during the biennium. ⁸⁹ The discussion ⁹⁰ reaffirmed that an effective, transparent and credible labour inspection was essential to the attainment of decent work, and confirmed its central importance to the ILO's mandate. The Governing Body demonstrated strong support for the Office's strategy and the three key expected changes that it intended to achieve. The Governing Body welcomed, in particular, the development of practical tools, the implementation of the flagship programme, the quality of the capacity building, technical assistance, legal and policy advice provided by the Office, and supported the building of partnerships and research methodology to achieve its goals.

The Governing Body supported the draft decision and requested the Director-General to take account of its guidance in developing and implementing the strategy for outcome 7 of the Programme and Budget for 2018–19 on “Promoting safe work and workplace compliance including in global supply chains”. ⁹¹ This guidance included, *inter alia*, recommending further collaboration among all stakeholders, the establishment of effective follow-up/evaluation mechanisms and the expansion of activities to other countries; promoting the value of capacity-building programmes tailored to the specific needs of countries and constituents, including employers and workers; the sharing of good practices; and drawing on lessons learned when designing and implementing DWCPs.

Follow-up to the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour (Buenos Aires, 14–16 November 2017) ⁹²

In March 2018, the Governing Body considered a paper providing an overview of the follow-up to the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour (Buenos Aires, 14–16 November 2017) and its main outcome document, the Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment. ⁹³ The Governing Body endorsed the Declaration and requested the Office to support its implementation in conjunction with the ILO Plan of Action for the period 2017–23 to give effect to the conclusions concerning the second recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work. It also reconfirmed its commitment to the elimination of child labour and forced labour; requested the Office, in cooperation with the Alliance 8.7, to organize before the Vth Global Conference a mid-term review of the progress made in eliminating child labour and forced labour; and encouraged the General Assembly of the United Nations to declare the year 2021 as International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. ⁹⁴

⁸⁸ [GB.331/POL/4](#).

⁸⁹ *ibid.*

⁹⁰ [GB.331/PV](#), paras 590–617.

⁹¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588896/lang--en/index.htm.

⁹² [GB.332/POL/3](#).

⁹³ *ibid.*

⁹⁴ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pol/WCMS_620845/lang--en/index.htm.

18. Development Cooperation Segment

Enhanced programme of development cooperation for the occupied Arab territories ⁹⁵

In November 2017, the Governing Body was informed of progress that had been made and planned ILO interventions under the development cooperation programme in the occupied Arab territories. The Office reported progress in enhancing employment and livelihood opportunities for Palestinian women and men; promoting labour rights and improved labour market governance; and the development of a comprehensive social security system. ⁹⁶ The Governing Body took note of this progress and commended the ILO for all its efforts in implementing the first Decent Work Programme (DWP) 2013–17 and developing the new DWP 2018–22, in consultation with government institutions and social partners. The Governing Body expressed support for the new DWP and took note of the fact that it retained all three priority areas of the first DWP, while putting greater emphasis on strengthening social dialogue and freedom of association. The Governing Body also took note of the need for resource mobilization and expanded partnerships to support the full implementation of the new DWP, particularly with regard to the operationalization of the newly established Palestinian Social Security Corporation (PSSC) and the promotion of social dialogue, both of which are important in the context of state-building efforts.

ILO cooperation with the tobacco industry in the pursuit of the Organization's social mandate ⁹⁷

At its 329th Session, the Governing Body decided to defer consideration of this issue until its 331st Session and requested the Director-General to provide additional information to that session. ⁹⁸ The additional information requested related to: (1) the impact of the existing public–private partnerships (PPPs) with the tobacco industry and potential alternative sources of funding; (2) ILO cooperation with the member agencies of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (UNIATF), particularly those that work on alternative livelihoods in tobacco-growing communities; and (3) potential legal obligations under the Model Policy. Following the discussion at its 331st Session, the Governing Body did not reach a consensus on the issue and called on the Director-General, taking into account all views expressed during that session, to present to the 332nd Session of the Governing Body an integrated ILO strategy to address decent work deficits in the tobacco sector. ⁹⁹

An integrated ILO strategy to address decent work deficits in the tobacco sector ¹⁰⁰

Not having reached consensus at its 331st Session on the matter of accepting funding from the tobacco industry for ILO work, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to submit an integrated strategy to address decent work deficits in the

⁹⁵ [GB.331/POL/6](#).

⁹⁶ *ibid.*

⁹⁷ [GB.331/POL/5](#).

⁹⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB329-decision/WCMS_547563/lang--en/index.htm.

⁹⁹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593298/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁰ [GB.332/POL/5](#).

tobacco sector for consideration at its 332nd Session.¹⁰¹ The discussion of this strategy was curtailed by ILO staff strike action, and the decision was deferred to the 334th Session of the Governing Body to be held in October–November 2018.

ILO South–South and triangular cooperation and decent work: Recent developments and future steps¹⁰²

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body discussed a paper entitled “ILO South–South and triangular cooperation and decent work: Recent developments and future steps”, which outlined future steps and recommended that they be taken into account in the implementation of the South–South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) strategy for the current biennium (2018–19). The aims of an expanded SSTC programme were described in paragraph 22 of the paper.¹⁰³

The Employers’ group, the Workers’ group, Asia and the Pacific group (ASPAG), the group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), the Africa group, the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP) and a number of countries expressed their support for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South–South Cooperation in 2019 (BAPA+40). Requests were made for the ILO to engage with UN inter-agency processes and to enhance the multilateral development cooperation system on the matter so as to avoid the duplication of work. Good practices in SSTC in all regions, as well as the support for the Turin Centre through SSTC scholarships, were welcomed. The draft decision was adopted unanimously.¹⁰⁴

19. Multinational Enterprises Segment

Review of the MNE Declaration follow-up mechanism comprising promotional activities and an information-gathering system¹⁰⁵

In March 2018, the Governing Body discussed the promotional activities and information-gathering system for the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration). It was the first discussion following the Governing Body’s unanimous adoption of the revised MNE Declaration. Promotional activities included: awareness raising and capacity building at the global and regional level; the operations of the ILO Helpdesk for Business; country-level assistance and development cooperation; promotion at the national level/promotion by tripartite appointed national focal points; and collaboration with other international and intergovernmental organizations. The information-gathering mechanism included information on regional follow-up through the collection of information directly from tripartite constituents; the preparation of regional reports on the promotion and application of the MNE Declaration in the region and the preparation of the tripartite special sessions during the ILO Regional Meetings; and information on capacity building for national statistical offices. The paper also reported on the other operational tools (that is, company–union dialogue and the interpretation procedure for the examination of disputes concerning the

¹⁰¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_593298/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰² GB.332/POL/4.

¹⁰³ *ibid.*, para 22.

¹⁰⁴ GB.332/POL/PV/Draft, paras 56–70.

¹⁰⁵ GB.332/POL/6.

application of the MNE Declaration) now listed in Annex II of the revised MNE Declaration and on initiatives taken to further mainstream the MNE Declaration within the ILO. The report highlighted the significant outcomes of and lessons learned from the new follow-up mechanism, such as the references made to the instrument in many policy documents of other organizations and member States. The appendix to the paper comprised the “Global report on multinational enterprises, development and decent work”, a summary report of the four regional reports on the promotion and application of the MNE Declaration in Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and Europe following the completed cycle of four Regional Meetings.¹⁰⁶

The Governing Body took note of the information contained in document GB.332/POL/6 and requested the Office to take into account its guidance on enhancing the further recognition and implementation of the MNE Declaration.¹⁰⁷

III. Legal Issues and International Labour Standards Section

20. Legal Issues Segment

Incomplete delegations to the International Labour Conference and Regional Meetings¹⁰⁸

On the basis of the resolution concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the ILO, adopted by the Conference at its 56th Session (1971), the Governing Body regularly examines reports by the Office on member States’ failure to participate in sessions of the Conference or in Regional Meetings or to accredit full tripartite delegations. At its 331st Session, the Governing Body examined such a report,¹⁰⁹ which covered the period June 2014–June 2017, during which the 103rd (2014), 104th (2015), 105th (2016) and 106th (2017) Sessions of the Conference took place, as well as the 18th American Regional Meeting (October 2014), the 13th African Regional Meeting (November–December 2015) and the 16th Asia–Pacific Regional Meeting (December 2016). Various proposals for promoting tripartite participation, including through strengthening the role of the Credentials Committee, were made during the discussion. The Governing Body urged member States to comply with their constitutional obligations to accredit full tripartite delegations to sessions of the Conference and Regional Meetings. It also requested the Director-General to continue to monitor the situation of member States which fail to accredit a tripartite delegation to sessions of the Conference and Regional Meetings, taking into account the guidance provided by the Governing Body.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pol/WCMS_621055/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁸ GB.331/LILS/1.

¹⁰⁹ *ibid.*

¹¹⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592273/lang--en/index.htm.

Follow-up to the discussion on the protection of Employers' and Workers' delegates to the International Labour Conference and members of the Governing Body in relation to the authorities of a State of which they are a national or a representative ¹¹¹

This agenda item had been examined by the Governing Body at its 325th (November 2015), 326th (March 2016) and 328th (November 2016) Sessions. Its further examination was then postponed until its 332nd Session. The document prepared by the Office for the latter session proposed a revised draft Conference resolution amending Annex I of the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies. The aim of revising Annex I was to grant limited immunities to Employers' and Workers' delegates to the Conference and Regional Meetings, as well as to Employer and Worker members of the Governing Body, with a view to protecting their independence and the unhindered discharge of their official functions in the ILO in relation to the authorities of a State of which they are nationals or of which they are or have been representatives. Taking into account the limited time made available for comprehensive analysis of the document prepared by the Office, the Governing Body postponed this item to its 334th Session with a view to the submission of a draft resolution to the following session of the Conference. The Governing Body also requested the Office to recirculate the document to member States by the end of the 332nd Session and schedule a consultation process including informal tripartite consultations in order to find a viable approach. ¹¹²

Composition of the International Labour Conference: Proportion of women and men in delegations ¹¹³

The Office also submits regular reports to the Governing Body regarding the proportion of women and men in delegations to the Conference and Regional Meetings. Such a report was submitted to the Governing Body at its 332nd Session. It covered the period from June 2012 to June 2017, during which the 101st (2012), 102nd (2013), 103rd (2014), 104th (2015), 105th (2016) and 106th (2017) Sessions of the Conference took place, as well as the Ninth European Regional Meeting (April 2013), 18th American Regional Meeting (October 2014), 13th African Regional Meeting (November–December 2015) and the 16th Asia–Pacific Regional Meeting (December 2016). ¹¹⁴ The Governing Body urged all groups to aspire to achieve gender parity among their accredited delegates, advisers and observers to the Conference and Regional Meetings. It requested the Director-General, after every Conference as well as Regional Meeting, to continue to bring the issue to the attention of Members and groups that had not reached the minimum target of 30 per cent of women's participation with the goal of gender parity, and to periodically report to the Governing Body on obstacles encountered, as well as measures taken by tripartite constituents to achieve gender parity. It also requested that the Report of the Director-General list delegations that meet the long-standing minimum target of 30 per cent participation. Lastly, it requested the Office to continue hosting workshops for all groups, including social partners and those outside Geneva, who might need assistance to reach gender parity in delegations. ¹¹⁵

¹¹¹ [GB.332/LILS/1](#).

¹¹² http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/lils/WCMS_621449/lang--en/index.htm.

¹¹³ [GB.332/LILS/2](#).

¹¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹¹⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/lils/WCMS_621587/lang--en/index.htm.

21. International Labour Standards and Human Rights Segment

The Standards Initiative: Report of the third meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (Geneva, 25–27 September 2017) ¹¹⁶

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body approved the recommendations of the third meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG); welcomed the steps taken by the SRM TWG to ensure the sustainability of its process; and looked forward to receiving recommendations on how to ensure that follow-up to the SRM TWG was implemented as a matter of institutional priority, and how to ensure coherence and consistency in the standards policy framework in relation to occupational safety and health (OSH) instruments. It also noted that the SRM TWG had decided to adopt a three-classification system in relation to its work reviewing standards.

Moreover, in light of the SRM TWG's consideration of 19 instruments concerning OSH (general provisions and specific risks), the Governing Body decided that those instruments should be considered to have the classifications recommended by the SRM TWG and requested the Office to take the necessary follow-up action. It also requested the Office to prepare, for consideration for inclusion at the earliest dates possible in future agendas of the Conference, proposals for possible standard-setting items on biological hazards and ergonomics, on the consolidation of the instruments concerning chemical hazards, and on the revision of the instruments concerning guarding of machinery. It further requested the Office to commence work on technical guidelines on biological hazards and chemical hazards, and to consider the regular review of the 2011 code of practice on safety and health in the use of machinery at a later date.

In relation to the preparations for future meetings of the SRM TWG, the Governing Body decided that the SRM TWG would examine the 11 instruments concerning OSH (specific branches of activity), labour inspection and labour administration, within the revised initial programme of work, in its fourth meeting, which would take place from 17 to 21 September 2018.

Lastly, the Governing Body took a decision on the financial arrangements for two meetings of the SRM TWG to be held during the biennium 2018–19, estimated at US\$795,200. ¹¹⁷

Choice of Conventions and Recommendations on which reports should be requested under article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), of the Constitution in 2019 ¹¹⁸

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body was invited to consider the choice of instruments on which governments should be requested to submit reports under article 19 of the ILO Constitution, which would be covered in the General Survey to be prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) in 2019 for discussion at the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards in 2020. The Governing Body determined that the report should cover the following instruments relating to the strategic objective of employment: the Employment

¹¹⁶ GB.331/LILS/2 and GB.331/LILS/2(Add.).

¹¹⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592276/lang--en/index.htm.

¹¹⁸ GB.331/LILS/3.

Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), and the Employment Policy (Supplementary Provisions) Recommendation, 1984 (No. 169); the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159), and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Recommendation, 1983 (No. 168); the Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177), and the Home Work Recommendation, 1996 (No. 184); the Employment Relationship Recommendation, 2006 (No. 198); and the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204). The Governing Body requested the Office to prepare the article 19 report form on the selected instruments for consideration and approval at its 332nd Session; however, the discussion on the article 19 report form was postponed until its 333rd Session.¹¹⁹

IV. Programme Financial and Administrative Section

22. Programme Financial and Administrative Segment

ILO programme implementation 2016–17¹²⁰

In March 2018, the Governing Body examined the biennial report on the implementation of the ILO programme concerning the period 2016–17¹²¹ and its complementary new web-based Decent Work Results Dashboard providing detailed performance information by country, by region and by outcome. This report focused on the ILO's performance in the biennium as measured by the ten policy outcomes, the three enabling outcomes, and the three cross-cutting policy drivers. Its format and content took into account guidance provided by the Governing Body at previous sessions and included additional financial data on ILO expenditure. The Governing Body noted the improved structure of the implementation report and welcomed the online dashboard, the section on “lessons learned, challenges and future prospects” and the aggregated analysis of achievements per strategic objective. It suggested further improvements to facilitate comparison between commitments in the programme and budget and achievements by the end of the biennium. It also encouraged the Office to further improve performance reporting as a critical building block of results-based management and accountability, including financial reporting that provided a comprehensive overview of how resources are spent, and to focus more on qualitative assessment methods in future programme implementation reports. The Office took note of the observations and guidance provided during the discussions and committed to continue addressing challenges in results measurement in the context of the implementation of the Programme and Budget for 2018–19 and the development of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2020–21.

Update on the headquarters building renovation project¹²²

In October 2017 and March 2018, the Governing Body received updates on the progress of the headquarters building renovation project. The Governing Body was informed of the key developments, the upcoming works, as well as the updated financial situation, noting that savings were being generated by the value engineering approach.

¹¹⁹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_592321/lang--en/index.htm.

¹²⁰ GB.332/PFA/1.

¹²¹ *ibid.*

¹²² GB.331/PFA/1 and GB.332/PFA/3.

The Governing Body was also informed that a study on perimeter security of the headquarters building was being undertaken.

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body reviewed the comprehensive update on work required for the renovation of lower floors (phase 2) and the Office proposals for potential financing, including through the development of vacant ILO land (lot 4057). Without prejudice to future decisions on the financing of further renovations, the Governing Body approved the use of resources in the Building and Accommodation Fund up to an amount of 600,000 Swiss francs (CHF) to finance further studies of land development of lot 4057 and requested further inter-sessional consultations on phase 2 of the building renovation project. It decided to defer further decisions to its 334th Session.¹²³

Financial arrangements for the renovation of the ILO Country Office for Brazil¹²⁴

In October 2017, the Governing Body reviewed an Office paper on the renovation of the premises of the ILO Country Office for Brazil, which was constructed and donated to the ILO by the Brazilian Government in 1984. The Governing Body took note of the current status of the building and the different options for renovation and authorized the use of the Building and Accommodation Fund to cover the unfunded portion of the cost of the planned renovation, estimated at \$1.15 million.¹²⁵

Knowledge Strategy 2018–21¹²⁶

In October 2017, the Governing Body considered an Office paper regarding a new Knowledge Strategy 2018–21, which built on the achievements and lessons learned during the implementation of the Knowledge Strategy 2010–15 and its extension into 2016–17. Guided by the three components outlined in the 2016 resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work, the new Knowledge Strategy contained three objectives, aiming to make further progress in developing the ILO's pivotal role as a global centre of excellence in labour statistics, research, knowledge management and policy development in all areas relevant to the world of work. The Governing Body endorsed the Knowledge Strategy 2018–21 and requested the Director-General to take into account its guidance in implementing the strategy.¹²⁷

Information Technology Strategy 2018–21¹²⁸

In October 2017, the Governing Body considered an Office paper regarding a new Information Technology (IT) Strategy 2018–21, as well as a final report of progress on the implementation of the transitional IT Strategy for 2016–17. The new IT Strategy contained three outcomes for a more efficient, more insightful and more collaborative ILO. It also identified the risks, synergies and cross-cutting issues associated with the implementation of these outcomes. The Governing Body endorsed the IT Strategy 2018–21, taking into account the views expressed during its discussion; and endorsed, in principle, the

¹²³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pfa/WCMS_621452/lang--en/index.htm.

¹²⁴ GB.331/PFA/6/1.

¹²⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588269/lang--en/index.htm.

¹²⁶ GB.331/PFA/4.

¹²⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_587928/lang--en/index.htm.

¹²⁸ GB.331/PFA/5.

reactivation of the Information Technology Systems Fund, with any regular budget contributions to be determined in the context of future programme and budget discussions, noting that the implementation of the IT Strategy would be adjusted according to the available level of funding.¹²⁹

23. Audit and Oversight Segment

Audit and oversight

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body considered the tenth annual report¹³⁰ of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (IOAC) on its work from May 2017 to January 2018. The Governing Body took note of the report and provided guidance to the Office.

At the same session, the Governing Body considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor for the year ended 31 December 2017,¹³¹ which contained significant findings resulting from internal audit and investigation assignments conducted by the Office of Internal Audit and Oversight (IAO) in 2017. The Governing Body noted with satisfaction that no major weaknesses had been identified in the ILO's system of internal control and requested the Office to ensure the appropriate implementation of the recommendations made.

Evaluations

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body considered a report¹³² on the ILO's evaluation activities during 2016–17 as measured against its results-based strategy, which also included reporting on the overall effectiveness of the Office, drawing on a recent meta-study on decent work results based on a sample of project evaluations. The Governing Body took note of the report, endorsed the recommendations contained therein, including the updated ILO Evaluation Policy (2017), and confirmed the evaluation priorities for the 2018–20 programme of work.¹³³

At the same session, the Governing Body considered a report¹³⁴ presenting a summary of the findings of three high-level evaluations of strategies and DWCPs: on strategy and actions for creating and extending social protection floors; on the ILO's field operations and structure; and on DWCPs, strategies and actions in the Mekong subregion. The Governing Body took note of the independent evaluations and requested the Director-General to take into consideration the recommendations of these evaluations and to ensure their appropriate implementation.¹³⁵

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body considered an Office paper regarding the ILO's results-based Evaluation Strategy for 2018–21.¹³⁶ The Strategy operationalized the ILO's Evaluation Policy 2017, which was endorsed by the Governing Body at its previous

¹²⁹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_587929/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³⁰ GB.332/PFA/6.

¹³¹ GB.332/PFA/7.

¹³² GB.331/PFA/8.

¹³³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588270/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³⁴ GB.331/PFA/9.

¹³⁵ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588271/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³⁶ GB.332/PFA/8.

session, and proposed three outcomes for enhanced capacities and systems, enhanced value and stronger knowledge base of evaluation, and the results framework thereof. The Governing Body endorsed the Evaluation Strategy 2018–21¹³⁷ and provided guidance to the Office on specific enhancements such as cluster evaluations, evaluation of sustainability and gender issues, and improved accessibility of evaluation information.

Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU): Reports of the JIU

In October 2017, the Governing Body reviewed and took note of a summary¹³⁸ of the JIU's annual report for 2016, its programme of work for 2017 and the six JIU reports and related recommendations that were directly relevant to the ILO.

24. Personnel Segment

Human Resources Strategy 2018–21¹³⁹

In October 2017, the Governing Body considered an Office paper regarding the Office's Human Resources Strategy for the period 2018–21. The paper contained the Office's proposal to strengthen and develop an efficient, effective results-based human resource function for an agile and responsive ILO. It was aligned with the ILO's Strategic Plan for the same period. The paper focused on increased organizational agility, staff engagement, and efficiency. It also addressed synergies, cross-cutting issues, external partnerships with the Turin Centre and the UN Common System and identified key associated risks. Following some comments from constituents regarding, in particular, lessons learnt from implementing new tools, processes and procedures related to the previous Human Resources Strategy, efforts to increase the number of staff from less than adequately represented countries, and the identification of risks, the Governing Body endorsed the Human Resource Strategy 2018–21 and requested the Director-General to take into account the guidance provided by the Governing Body in implementing the strategy.¹⁴⁰

Update on the decisions taken by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) at its 85th Session regarding the post adjustment index for Geneva¹⁴¹

At its 331st Session, the Governing Body considered an update provided by the Office on the decisions taken by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) at its 85th Session regarding the post adjustment index¹⁴² following the 2016 cost-of-living surveys in headquarters duty stations. The Governing Body was invited to provide guidance to the Office regarding the implementation of the ICSC decision in July 2017, taking into account the ILO's strong commitment to the UN common system but also the methodological shortcomings, as well as the legal and managerial implications of the ICSC decision. Following discussions, the Governing Body, noting that a review of the

¹³⁷ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pfa/WCMS_620818/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³⁸ GB.331/PFA/10.

¹³⁹ GB.331/PFA/13.

¹⁴⁰ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB331/ins/WCMS_594274/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁴¹ GB.332/PFA/11.

¹⁴² GB.331/PFA/16(Rev.).

methodology and of the conclusions of the report on the matter by a team of expert statisticians would be undertaken by the ICSC before its next session, decided that the application of the revised post adjustment index for Geneva would be considered for final decision at its 332nd Session.¹⁴³ Some members of the Governing Body expressed concerns that the delay created by this decision would weaken the UN common system.

At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body was informed of the latest developments regarding this issue of the post adjustment for Geneva.¹⁴⁴ The ILO reiterated its strong commitment to the UN common system, recognizing that the ICSC is the competent body for determining the post adjustment component of the salaries of staff in the Professional and higher categories. The ILO also reaffirmed its willingness to actively and fully cooperate with the ICSC to improve the post adjustment methodology. However, the Office once again drew the attention of the Governing Body to the methodological shortcomings identified by the independent expert nominated by the ICSC, as well as to the legal and managerial implications of the implementation of the ICSC decisions. Following long and intense discussions between constituents, the Governing Body took note of the legal issues, risks and serious shortcomings associated with the implementation of the 2016 cost-of-living survey results and requested the Office to continue actively engaging with the ICSC to reform the post adjustment and other salary survey methodologies, with the full involvement of the staff representatives.

Matters relating to the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO¹⁴⁵

In March 2018, the Governing Body decided to recommend to the 107th Session of the Conference the renewal of the terms of office of Mr Barbagallo (Italy), Ms Diakité (Côte d'Ivoire), Ms Hansen (Canada), Mr Moore (Australia) and Sir Hugh Rawlins (Saint Kitts and Nevis) for three years each.¹⁴⁶

In October 2017 and March 2018, the Governing Body considered two Office papers¹⁴⁷ on the recognition of the Tribunal's jurisdiction by other international organizations. It approved the recognition of the Tribunal's jurisdiction by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and took note of the intentions of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) to discontinue their recognition of the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, as well as the cessation of activities of the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC). It accordingly confirmed that these three organizations would no longer be subject to the competence of the Tribunal with effect from the date of the Governing Body decisions.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴³ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588679/lang--en/index.htm.

¹⁴⁴ GB.332/PFA/11.

¹⁴⁵ GB.331/PFA/15, GB.332/PFA/12/1(Rev.), GB.332/PFA/12/2 and GB.332/PFA/12/3.

¹⁴⁶ GB.332/PFA/12/2.

¹⁴⁷ GB.331/PFA/15 and GB.332/PFA/12/1(Rev.).

¹⁴⁸ http://www.ilo.org/gb/decisions/GB331-decision/WCMS_588686/lang--en/index.htm and http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB332/pfa/WCMS_620823/lang--en/index.htm.

V. High-Level Section

25. Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization (WP/SDG)

Reform of the United Nations: Implications for the ILO ¹⁴⁹

The Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization met at the 332nd Session of the Governing Body to discuss the implications of the United Nations Secretary-General's UN reform initiatives for the ILO, particularly his proposals for reform of the United Nations development system (UNDS). ¹⁵⁰ The Working Party was honoured by the presence of the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms Amina J. Mohammed, who addressed ILO constituents on the UNDS reform proposals and responded to questions.

The Director-General stressed the ILO's commitment to a strengthened UNDS and the overriding objective of delivering more integrated, efficient and accountable support to member States for implementing the 2030 Agenda. He noted that some issues around the UNDS reform were complex by virtue of the high level of ambition of the Secretary-General's proposals.

ILO constituents were supportive of the Secretary-General's proposals, recognizing the critical need to reduce fragmentation, increase coherence and improve efficiency. Opportunities for the ILO were acknowledged, particularly with regard to demonstrating the value added of a tripartite model of policy-making to a wider audience and expanding the influence of the ILO and its constituents in promoting decent work and international labour standards. The reform could open new avenues for employers' and workers' organizations to engage in national sustainable development planning and contribute views from the real economy.

Some key challenges were also noted, however. Constituents expressed concern about how the ILO's specific tripartite governance structure and normative activities, both part of its constitutional mandate, would be recognized and incorporated into the reform measures and how the ILO's supervisory mechanisms would continue to function in relation to the new frameworks at country level. Many speakers also sought greater clarity as to how the ILO's normative mandate would be reflected in national planning processes. Employer, Worker and Government members alike stressed that UN Resident Coordinators in a reformed UNDS would need to recognize the mandate and specificity of the ILO and the special status of ILO constituents as decision-makers within it.

With regard to the Secretary-General's specific proposals, constituents believed that redefining the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and separating Resident Coordinators' functions from the UNDP representative would advance the division of labour and integrated support at country level. Several Government members supported the strong call for greater efficiency in UN country operations. Regarding common premises and services, further information was needed about budgetary implications for agencies in order to assess whether the investment would be worth the potential efficiency gains. Emphasizing that the establishment of ILO country offices and development cooperation was grounded on tripartite decisions and often

¹⁴⁹ [GB.332/HL/1](#).

¹⁵⁰ [Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet](#): Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/684-E/2018/7).

related to the ILO's supervisory functions, constituents stressed that the measures to streamline UN country teams and individual agencies' country presences should preserve the ILO's capacity to fulfil its mandate to support the implementation of the normative frameworks. Constituents from all three groups requested further clarification on the proposals for a new approach to partnerships and the prospective roles for the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Global Compact. The Secretary-General's request for increased funding for the Resident Coordinator system as part of a funding compact with member States was considered a particular challenge.¹⁵¹

The Office paper did not contain a draft decision; however, participants were informed that measures contained in the anticipated UN General Assembly resolution requiring Governing Body approval would be brought to a subsequent session of the Governing Body for debate and decision. My report of the discussions was shared with the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms Mohammed; the President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Ambassador Chatardová (Czech Republic); and the co-facilitators of the inter-governmental negotiations on the repositioning of the UNDS, Ambassadors Boukadoum (Algeria) and Petersen (Denmark).

26. Strategic Policy Segment

Decent work for sustainable development¹⁵²

At its 328th Session, the ILO Governing Body decided to dedicate a high-level discussion to the ILO contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) of ECOSOC. At its 332nd Session, the Governing Body held a high-level session to discuss the ILO's contribution to the 2018 HLPF on the theme "transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". The HLPF would examine Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 (water and sanitation), 7 (energy), 11 (cities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and 15 (terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity) and their interlinkages to each other and the other SDGs, concluding with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

ILO constituents appreciated the balanced and integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development provided by the document and stressed the view that the goals of economic development, social justice and environmental sustainability are the only means for creating more resilient societies.

They recommended that the HLPF build on and promote the ILO's Green Initiative and ILO's *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all* to create policy-response capacity to integrate the decent work dimension in the transition to sustainable development.

They highlighted the importance of broad based social dialogue and capacity building and in particular of: (i) ensuring an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises through policy convergence; (ii) encouraging economic and fiscal incentive policies to support the transition to low-carbon solutions; (iii) anticipating changing skill requirements and planning for the implementation of accessible and economically viable social protection policies to accompany the transition; (iv) providing for evaluations of the economic and employment impacts of all sustainability measures; (v) focusing on a

¹⁵¹ GB.332/HL/PV/Draft, paras 1–73.

¹⁵² GB.332/HL/2.

bottom-up approach and capacity building; (vi) promoting the relevant international labour Conventions linked to the theme and the selected SDGs of the 2018 HLPF.

They recommended that the ILO focus on SDG 8 while engaging with other international organizations, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in its support of the environment-related goals.¹⁵³

VI. Conclusion

This report represents a succinct account of the actions taken by the Governing Body of the ILO under my tenure as its Chairperson, for the period June 2017–June 2018, which I submit to the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference for its information.

¹⁵³ [GB.332/HL/PV/Draft](#), paras 74–105.