



Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body to the Conference for the year 2007–08

This report on the work of the Governing Body is submitted to the Conference in accordance with article 14 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. It covers the period since the last general session of the Conference (June 2007), i.e. the 299th (June 2007), 300th (November 2007) and 301st (March 2008) Sessions of the Governing Body. Based on the items on the agendas of the respective sessions, it focuses only on the highlights of the Governing Body's year, and does not cover matters that are otherwise before the Conference.

For more extensive and detailed information on the work of the Governing Body, including the minutes of its 299th, 300th and 301st Sessions (June and November 2007; March 2008) or the documents submitted to the committees and the Governing Body itself, please refer to the Governing Body Internet site.¹

1. International Labour Conference

Matters arising from the work of the 96th Session (2007)

Follow-up to the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and the Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199), and related Conference resolutions

Following the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and the Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199), at the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body discussed in November 2007 how these instruments should be followed up by the ILO.² The Governing Body requested the Director-General to: (i) take all the necessary measures for the promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and its accompanying Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199), in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the 96th Session (June 2007) of the International Labour Conference, taking into account the resources available for the promotion of international labour standards as well as for sectoral activities under the regular budget and any voluntary contributions that could be obtained from extra-budgetary donors; (ii) make concrete proposals in due course to the Governing Body, with regard to the implementation of those resolutions as well as of the other resolutions reproduced in the appendix to document GB.300/3/1.

Follow-up to the adoption of the conclusions on the promotion of sustainable enterprises

In November 2007, the Governing Body was informed of the initiatives taken by the Office to follow up on the conclusions on the promotion of sustainable enterprises which were adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 96th Session in June 2007. It took note of a new training programme to be piloted in partnership with the International Training Centre of the ILO entitled “Sustainable enterprise promotion through good workplace practices and human resources management” as well as of other advocacy events, training and technical cooperation projects under discussion with the social partners.³

Agenda of the 97th Session (2008)

Following discussions at the June 2007 session of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO’s Capacity and further tripartite consultations in October 2007, the Governing Body decided, in November 2007, to place the following item on the agenda of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference (2008): “Strengthening the ILO’s capacity to assist its Members’ efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization: Continuation of the discussion on strengthening the ILO’s capacity and possible consideration of an authoritative document, possibly in the form of a Declaration or any other suitable instrument, together with any appropriate follow-up, and the form they may take”.⁴

As foreseen in the programme of work adopted by the Governing Body in November 2007, the Office prepared a draft containing the elements of a possible authoritative text, which were the subject of informal tripartite consultations in February 2008. Other aspects of the mandate given by last year’s Conference were considered by the Governing Body at its March 2008 session.⁵

Agenda of the 99th Session (2010)

In November 2007, the Governing Body had before it a document containing proposals for an initial discussion on items which could be placed on the agenda of the 99th Session (2010) of the International Labour Conference and beyond. Following this initial discussion, six proposals were submitted to the Governing Body in March 2008 for examination and possible decision.⁶ The Office paper highlighted the fact that the agenda of the 99th Session of the Conference should include a second discussion on the item entitled “Strengthening national responses to HIV/AIDS in the world of work” (with a view to the adoption of an autonomous Recommendation). In addition, it noted that one of the outcomes of the 2008 Conference discussion on strengthening the ILO’s capacity could be cyclical reviews in relation to the strategic objectives, which would be discussed each year by the Conference and would therefore be a standing item on its agenda. Should this occur, it could be envisaged that the first cyclical review would be realized in 2010.

The Governing Body consequently decided to place on the agenda of that session a technical item on decent work for domestic workers for a standard-setting discussion and to defer the selection of the third technical item, which would complete the agenda of that session of the Conference, to its November 2008 session.⁷

Working Group on the International Labour Conference

In November 2007, the Working Group on the International Labour Conference reviewed the practical implementation of the changes introduced at the 2007 session of the Conference, in particular as regards the new format tested at that session, and recommended that some proposed amendments be taken into account when planning the 2008 session. The Governing Body approved the recommendations made by its Working Group and decided that the mandate of the Working Group should be renewed to permit it, during its March 2008 session, to decide upon the final details regarding the organization of the 2008 session of the Conference.⁸ In line with this mandate, the Working Group met in March 2008 for a final examination of detailed proposals concerning the organization of the 97th Session and the Governing Body approved its recommendations.⁹

Requests from international non-governmental organizations and from the Republic of Maldives to be represented at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference

Further to the recommendations made by the Officers of the Governing Body in November 2007 and March 2008, the Director-General was authorized to invite to the 97th Session of the Conference a number of employers' and workers' organizations and other international non-governmental organizations which had expressed a special interest in the work of the committees dealing with agenda items.¹⁰ Further to the recommendation of its Officers, the Governing Body also authorized the Director-General to invite the Republic of Maldives to be represented by a delegation of observers at the 97th Session of the Conference.¹¹

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

Introduction by the ILO Declaration Expert-Advisers to the compilation of annual reports

In March 2008, the Governing Body examined the observations and recommendations made by the Expert-Advisers¹² concerning the achievements of the annual review and the way forward, particularly within the framework of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), and in the context of the second discussion on strengthening the ILO's capacity to be held at the 97th Session of the Conference. The Governing Body reiterated its continuing support to the Annual Review, the Global Reports and the technical cooperation to give effect to the principles and rights at work.. Genuine implementation of the principles and rights at work was required. Principles and rights at work should be fully applied, particularly through DWCPs and greater coherence in international cooperation. The country baselines created under the annual review were considered a useful innovation and fuller use should be made of this information by the Office.

3. The United Nations and reform

In November 2007, the Governing Body discussed an information document¹³ on recent progress in the reform of the United Nations (UN) known as “Delivering as One”. The Director-General gave an update on recent developments, in particular the new reporting mechanism of the UN Development Group, coordinating the “Delivering as One” reform, to the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) chaired by the UN Secretary-General. Information was provided on the *Toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work*.

The Employers’ and Workers’ groups stressed the safeguarding of the tripartite character of the ILO that could not be diluted in common UN undertakings. The special characteristics of the ILO had to be recognized by the UN. Qualified ILO participation in UN reform was therefore encouraged.

Several Government representatives welcomed full ILO participation in UN reform whilst agreeing that there was a need to safeguard the specific characteristics of the ILO. A number of speakers welcomed the inclusion of productive employment and decent work indicators under the Millennium Development Goals. The country application of the Toolkit was supported.

Developments in the multilateral system: The World Bank *Doing Business* report

In November 2007, the Governing Body discussed a document on the World Bank *Doing Business* report.¹⁴ The Employers emphasized the importance of a competitive workplace and respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work. The Office was urged to work together with the World Bank. That work should be designed within a tripartite context. The Employers’ group suggested that a meeting could be arranged with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to seek common ground, to improve the indicators, resolve problems and promote better cooperation within the multilateral system.

According to the Workers, the *Doing Business* report suggested that countries with fewer regulations would provide a better business environment and have higher rates of job creation. The Workers found that the World Bank was overtly contradicting its own commitment to respect core labour standards, pointing to a lack of policy coherence. They requested the Office to arrange a high-level meeting with the President of the World Bank and with key executive directors of the Bretton Woods institutions, so that the Workers could provide input to make the indicators more relevant.

Many Government representatives endorsed the substance of the Office document. Some agreed that the *Doing Business* “employing workers” indicator raised concerns as it appeared to indicate that the best investment options were to be found where there was minimum social protection and maximum flexibility. Several Government representatives pointed out that the World Bank’s *Doing Business* report, as it stood, positively discouraged countries from ratifying ILO Conventions. The ILO should therefore work with the World Bank to address these concerns. Cooperation between the ILO and the World Bank would be profitable to both institutions.

4. The ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality

The Action Plan for Gender Equality, as the implementing instrument for the ILO’s gender equality policy issued by the Director-General in 1999, was favourably received by

all members of the Governing Body in November 2007.¹⁵ Government representatives welcomed the detailed Action Plan and its alignment with the Programme and Budget for 2008–09, including the use of targets and indicators, and the strategies supporting tripartite constituents' capacity and efforts to promote gender equality. The Employers stressed the importance of formal mechanisms in organizations and other groups to mainstream gender, the importance of sharing know-how and good practices, and of working with gender-sensitive partners. The Workers recognized the Action Plan as a mechanism to enhance national-level gender mainstreaming efforts, stressing that DWCPs were the right context in which to aim for progress – and identify gaps – in achieving gender equality. A special challenge at the national level was moving from “de jure” to “de facto” equality for women and men.

5. Enhanced programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories

In November 2007,¹⁶ the Governing Body discussed the progress made over the past year by the ILO in the occupied Arab territories in response to the rising levels of poverty, hardship and growing unemployment identified in the Director-General's annual Report to the International Labour Conference. The Regional Director for the Arab States introduced the newly formulated programme of assistance developed in August 2007 which aims at poverty reduction and decent employment for Palestinian women and men.

The Employers' and Workers' groups and Government representatives highlighted the many challenges facing the Palestinian people and stressed the importance of the timely implementation of the proposed programme. The financial contributions received from Saudi Arabia and Turkey and earmarked for the occupied Palestinian territories were acknowledged and thanks were expressed. The need to increase resource mobilization to support employment was underscored.

6. Implementation of the ILO Plan of Action for Migrant Workers

In March 2008, the Governing Body examined an information document on the implementation of the ILO Plan of Action for Migrant Workers.¹⁷ It acknowledged with satisfaction the substantive activities carried out under the Plan on protection of migrant rights, promotion of the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, capacity-building activities including training programmes, technical cooperation programmes and support to global forums. It was emphasized that the ILO had a unique role to play, given its rights-based approach and the tripartite framework involving governments and social partners.

The Office was requested to intensify efforts for promotion of migrant worker Conventions and the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration including related technical assistance for countries. There was a call for further ILO technical assistance in several areas: expanded activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region; support to countries to develop labour migration policies with social partners; information and awareness-raising campaigns for migrant workers; protecting the rights of temporary migrant workers; assistance for migrants including skill certification and reintegration assistance through enterprise development. The Governing Body also called for close collaboration with other concerned international and regional agencies, and active interaction with the 2008 Global Forum on Migration and Development.

7. Complaints under article 26 of the ILO Constitution

Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

A Supplementary Understanding was signed by the Government of Myanmar on 26 February 2007, establishing a mechanism through which victims of forced labour could seek redress. In November 2007, the Governing Body examined the functioning of this mechanism up to the end of September 2007¹⁸ and the latest developments during the months of October and November 2007.¹⁹ On the basis of the discussion held, the Governing Body adopted the following conclusions:

The Governing Body considered all of the information before it including the comments and information provided by the Permanent Representative of Myanmar. It noted the progress reported in the operation of the Supplementary Understanding (SU) up to the time of public demonstrations and their suppression at the end of September 2007, including the educational activity that had been jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Labour and the ILO.

The Governing Body, however, expressed its serious concern at the Government's crackdown in response to the recent peaceful protests. In this respect, it noted with deep regret the imprisonment of persons exercising their fundamental right to freedom of association and the freedom of expression it entails, and called on the Government to comply fully with its responsibilities in accordance with Convention No. 87, which it has ratified. The long prison sentences given on 7 September 2007 to six activists should be reviewed and the persons concerned released. The Governing Body also noted with concern the detention of persons associated with the facilitation of forced labour complaints under the SU. This clearly contradicted the sense of the SU and the Governing Body called on the Government to immediately release those persons, in particular Daw Su Su Nway and U Min Aung.

The Governing Body expressed its full support for the United Nations Country Team in Myanmar and its leadership, expressing its deep regret at the Government's recent decision that the Resident Coordinator should leave the country.

The Governing Body recognized that the situation in Myanmar is unstable. It urged the Government to continue the dialogue process, in a balanced and results-orientated manner, towards domestic reconciliation and forward-looking solutions to the current difficulties. It was too early to fully assess what impact the recent civil unrest and its suppression has had on the current and future operational prospects of the SU. The Governing Body further agreed that, whilst the ILO activity for the eradication of forced labour was an important contribution to efforts to improve the rights and lives of citizens in Myanmar, it cannot be considered in isolation and is dependent on the general environment and the evolution of current dialogue initiatives.

The Governing Body therefore called on the Government of Myanmar to make at the highest level an unambiguous public statement that all forms of forced labour are prohibited throughout the country and will be duly punished. The Government should ensure that the mechanism provided by the SU remains fully functional with no further detention or harassment of complainants, facilitators or others, and that it fully applies to the military authorities. Full attention should be given to preventing the recruitment of child soldiers.

The Governing Body further called for the putting into place of an appropriate network towards ensuring the nationwide application of the SU, including in the combat zones, and to ensure that forced labour victims are able to easily access the complaints mechanism. It is understood that the SU concluded on 26 February 2007 may be extended. It instructed the Office to undertake a full review of the operation of the SU for submission to the Governing Body at its March 2008 session together with recommendations for both the Supplementary Understanding's future and the ILO's ongoing role in Myanmar.

Finally, the Governing Body again recalled that all these activities had to serve and strengthen the objective of ending forced labour in Myanmar through the full implementation

of the recommendations of the 1998 Commission of Inquiry and all of the related decisions of the International Labour Conference and the Governing Body.

In March 2008, the Governing Body further reviewed the Supplementary Understanding²⁰ and the results of the ILO's mission to Myanmar, from 25 to 28 February 2008, during which an extension of the trial period of the Supplementary Understanding was signed.²¹ The following conclusions, drawn from the discussion, were adopted by the Governing Body:

The Governing Body considered all the information before it, including the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar.

The Governing Body welcomed the extension of the trial period of the operation of the Supplementary Understanding (SU) for a further 12 months as of 26 February 2008. In so doing, it expressed its strong expectation that during this extension period the SU would be applied in full and according to the original intent. This included, in particular: the freedom of complainants to access the complaints mechanism without fear of harassment or reprisal; the need to urgently reproduce the SU in the appropriate local languages and ensure its wide dissemination together with other awareness-raising materials; the freedom of movement of the Liaison Officer to carry out his responsibilities; and the requirement that penalties imposed on the perpetrators of all forms of forced labour were meaningful and enforced.

The Governing Body again called on the authorities of Myanmar at the highest level to make an unambiguous public statement – disseminated in the appropriate local languages – reconfirming the prohibition of any form of forced labour and their ongoing commitment to the enforcement of that policy, including through the application of the SU.

The Governing Body recognized that certain awareness-raising and educational activities had recently taken place. However, it expressed its serious concern at the lack of awareness of both relevant government policy and obligations under Convention No. 29 as evidenced by continuing reports of harassment of persons associated with supporting the operation of the SU. Of particular concern to the Governing Body was the case of U Thet Wai who whilst on bail still had two outstanding charges against him. The Governing Body expected that U Thet Wai and other persons who had been associated with activities against forced labour, in line with the objective of the SU, remain free and experience no further harassment. The Governing Body reaffirmed its call for the immediate release of Su Su Nway and U Min Aung, as well as the six labour activists whose cases were to be reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Concerning the comments made on freedom of association and the rights of all trade unions, the Governing Body underlined that this had been clearly addressed in the conclusions on Case No. 2591 of the Committee on Freedom of Association, the report of which was adopted at this session of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body drew once again the attention of the Government to its past conclusions and decisions as well as those of the International Labour Conference in the expectation that these matters be efficiently addressed. The Governing Body requested the Liaison Officer to provide an update of the situation to the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference in connection with its special sitting on the application of Convention No. 29 in Myanmar. The Governing Body called on the Government to strengthen its cooperation with the ILO, and in particular with the Liaison Officer, to ensure the effective operation of the SU and the implementation of the obligations under Convention No. 29 to prohibit the use of forced labour as well as the recruitment of minors into the military.

Observance by the Government of the Republic of Belarus of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)

In November 2007, the Governing Body had before it a document for debate and guidance,²² which recalled the discussion in the 2007 Conference Committee on the Application of Standards in respect of the application of Conventions Nos 87 and 98 by Belarus and further information relating to a high-level Office mission which had taken place from 20 to 23 June 2007,²³ as well as information provided directly by the Government of Belarus. On that occasion, the Governing Body adopted the following conclusions:

The Governing Body took note of the information given by the Minister of Labour of Belarus and welcomed the Government's stated intention to reach agreement between all parties concerned on the question of trade union legislation.

The Governing Body underlined that solutions based on consensus and dialogue had to be aimed at the full implementation of the recommendations of the 2004 Commission of Inquiry. All trade unions and employers' organizations should be able to function freely and obtain recognition in law and in practice.

The Governing Body noted that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations would be reviewing the state of the legislation and its conformity with Conventions Nos 87 and 98 at its upcoming meeting.

While expecting that significant progress towards satisfactory solutions would be made in Belarus, the Governing Body would, in an appropriate way, review the developments at its March 2008 session.

In March 2008, the Governing Body examined a report on this matter²⁴ and adopted the following conclusions:

The Governing Body takes note of the information contained in the statement of the Minister of Labour. It also takes note of all other statements made in this discussion, and allegations that harassment and violations of trade union rights continue despite the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

The Governing Body deeply regrets that no specific progress has been made towards the implementation of those recommendations since its last review of this question in November 2007 and urges the Government of Belarus to ensure that workers' and employers' organizations can carry out their activities in full freedom.

As it is highly probable that the situation in Belarus will be further discussed at the Conference, the Governing Body urges that national tripartite action towards solving the problems identified by the Commission of Inquiry takes place and can be recorded at that stage.

8. Representations under article 24 of the ILO Constitution

Representation alleging non-observance by Japan of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159), made under article 24 of the ILO Constitution by the National Union of Welfare and Childcare Workers

Representation made under article 24 of the ILO Constitution by the Federation of Maritime Transport Trade Unions (FPRMT) alleging non-observance by the Russian Federation of the Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Convention, 1996 (No. 179)

Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 1, of the Standing Orders governing the procedures for the examination of representations, these two representations were submitted in November 2007 to the Officers of the Governing Body who reported to the Governing Body on the receivability of these representations.

On the basis of the recommendations made by its Officers, the Governing Body decided that these two representations were receivable and set up, for each of them, a tripartite committee to examine them.²⁵

Report of the Committee set up to examine the representation alleging non-observance by France of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), made under article 24 of the ILO Constitution by the Confédération générale du travail – Force ouvrière

In November 2007, the Governing Body approved the report of the tripartite committee set up to examine a representation alleging non-observance by France of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158).²⁶ The issues relating to freedom of association (Conventions Nos 87 and 98) had been referred to the Committee on Freedom of Association.

The Governing Body invited the Government, in consultation with the social partners, to take such measures as may be necessary: (i) to ensure that the exclusions from the protection provided by the laws and regulations implementing the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), are in full conformity with its provisions; and (ii) to give effect to Article 4 of the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982

(No. 158), by ensuring, in accordance with that Convention, that “contracts for new employment” can in no case be terminated in the absence of a valid reason.

The Governing Body entrusted the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations with following up the questions raised in the report with respect to the application of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), and decided to make the report publicly available and close the procedure initiated by the representation of the Confédération générale du travail – Force ouvrière, alleging non-observance by France of Conventions Nos 111 and 158.

9. Freedom of association

During the past year, the Committee on Freedom of Association examined 188 cases, and in 174 cases followed up the measures taken by member States to give effect to its recommendations. While observing an important increase in the number of complaints against alleged violations of freedom of association submitted to the special procedure, the Committee continued to note with interest significant positive developments in the matters before it, including the release of detained trade union leaders and members. In November 2007 and March 2008, the Governing Body took note of the introduction to the 348th and 349th Reports of the Committee on Freedom of Association, and adopted the recommendations of the Committee on Freedom of Association on each case, as reflected in its 348th and 349th Reports.²⁷

10. Programme, financial and administrative issues

Programme and Budget for 2006–07

In March 2008, the Governing Body decided to propose, in derogation of article 11.5 of the Financial Regulations, to transfer the full amount of the net premium earned during 2006–07 amounting to 32,270,415 Swiss francs (CHF), to the Building and Accommodation Fund.²⁸ The Governing Body also considered the use of resources available in the Special Programme Account totalling CHF35.8 million (US\$31.4 million).²⁹ The Governing Body decided to transfer US\$22.1 million to the Building and Accommodation Fund, and to approve investments in security of ILO staff and premises totalling US\$1.5 million. The Governing Body requested the Office to submit a document, following consultations, to its November 2008 session further detailing an allocation of resources to support technical programmes in countries for the remaining US\$7.8 million.

Programme implementation in 2006–07

In March 2008, the Governing Body discussed a report on programme implementation during 2006–07, which is also submitted to the 2008 session of the Conference. The report is more detailed than earlier ones, and gives information both on results achieved and on the ILO’s concrete contribution to those results. While noting an overall improvement in clarity and results orientation, the Governing Body called for better measurement of results and more explicit and detailed discussion of problems encountered and lessons learned.

Evaluations

In November 2007, the Governing Body took note of the Annual Evaluation Report for 2006 on the evaluation policy and strategy. It also noted the follow-up to evaluation reports presented to the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee in 2006. Furthermore, it urged the Office to implement immediately measures to strengthen and benefit from its evaluation function, including the prompt establishment and implementation of a policy on follow-up to evaluations and of a system for tracking management response to recommendations emerging from evaluations.³⁰ The Governing Body also requested the Director-General to take into consideration the findings and recommendations outlined in the independent evaluation of the ILO country programmes for Argentina and Ukraine.^{31 32}

Audits

In March 2008, the Governing Body noted the report of the Chief Internal Auditor for 2007, and the report on follow-up action taken by the Office on the report of the Chief Internal Auditor for 2006. The Governing Body also approved the Internal Audit Charter underpinning the mandate and authority of the Chief Internal Auditor.³³

Independent Oversight Advisory Committee

In November 2007, the Governing Body approved the establishment of an Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (IOAC) on a trial basis for a period of four years. It also requested that the Director-General commission a review of the IOAC to be conducted during its third year of operation and to report to the Governing Body thereon.³⁴ In March 2008, the Governing Body appointed Mr Gil Beltran (Philippines); Mr Denys Chamay (Switzerland); Mr Reckford Kampanje (Malawi); Mr Arto Kuusiola (Finland); Mr Oscar Maffe (Argentina) as members of the IOAC.³⁵

Technical meetings reserve for 2007–08

In November 2007³⁶ and March 2008,³⁷ the Governing Body agreed that the following four meetings were to be financed by the technical meetings reserve for 2008–09: Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), in the 21st Century; Business Responses to the Demographic Challenge; the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Measurement of Decent Work; and the Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the List of Occupational Diseases.

Results-based management

In November 2007, the Governing Body discussed a progress report on the Office's results-based management (RBM) strategy. It endorsed further steps to implement the RBM strategy, including a six-year Strategic Policy Framework (SPF) to be submitted in November 2008 following tripartite consultations at the March 2008 Governing Body and 2008 International Labour Conference.³⁸ In March 2008, the Governing Body reviewed a preliminary paper on the SPF. Its discussions emphasized the importance for the SPF of priorities emerging from DWCPs, the outcome of the discussions on strengthening the ILO's capacity (SILC), the field structure review, management strategies and lessons learned from programme implementation. The Governing Body also endorsed the results-based knowledge-sharing strategy submitted by the Office.

Field structure review

In November 2007, the Governing Body considered a brief progress report on the field structure review. In March 2008, the Governing Body discussed a set of proposals outlining a review of the field structure. Broadly agreeing to the proposals, the Governing Body requested the Office to carry out additional analysis and consultations, in line with the original terms of reference, and produce a document in March 2009 giving further details of the Office proposals.³⁹

Human resources management

The Governing Body received a status report on the implementation of the Human Resources Strategy. Reports were also received relating to recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) on common system entitlements which were approved by the Governing Body.⁴⁰

International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin

In November 2007, the Governing Body endorsed the broad strategy defined by the Working Party on the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin (ITC–ILO)⁴¹ and requested the Office to put in place with the ITC–ILO the necessary arrangements for this strategy to be implemented. The Governing Body also requested the Director of the Centre to initiate a resource mobilization strategy for the ITC–ILO, in close coordination with the ILO, especially the Department of Partnerships and Development Cooperation (PARDEV).⁴²

ILO accommodation

The Building Subcommittee of the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee met in November 2007 and March 2008. In March 2008, the Governing Body approved the renunciation and sale of the leasehold on the parcel of land identified as parcel 3924, on terms to be negotiated by the Director-General.⁴³ The Governing Body also authorized the Director-General, subject to the approval of the transfer of resources from the net premium earned and/or the Special Programme Account, to charge expenditure of up to CHF6 million to the Building and Accommodation Fund to cover the costs of an expert team for the development of the master plan and the bidding and contract administration processes for Phase II. The Building Subcommittee also received reports on other ongoing renovation work on the headquarters building and considered documents relating to financing options for the renovations of the headquarters building

Information technology

The Information and Communications Technology Subcommittee of the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee met in November 2007. The Governing Body considered and approved a revised information technology strategy.

11. Legal issues and international labour standards

Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference and Rules for Regional Meetings

In November 2007 and March 2008, the Governing Body recommended to the Conference a number of actions concerning the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference. In particular, it invited the Conference to confirm the *Interim provisions* relating to the verification of credentials adopted on a trial basis in 2004, having given them a positive evaluation. Accordingly, the Governing Body called upon the Office to continue to add entries to the database on the verification of credentials, as permitted by resources made available for this purpose, and requested the Office to prepare a document for the November 2008 session of the Governing Body addressing both legal and practical means by which the representation of Employers and Workers at the International Labour Conference could be facilitated, in particular focusing on the discrepancy between accredited and registered delegates.⁴⁴ Furthermore, the Governing Body invited the Conference to adopt other changes to the Standing Orders, including an amendment to article 5, paragraph 1, of this text, concerning the appointment of the Credentials Committee, and requested the Office to present directly to the Conference, after consultation with the Officers of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards, proposals aimed to ensure gender equality in the Conference Standing Orders.⁴⁵

During its March 2008 session, the Governing Body approved revisions to the Rules for Regional Meetings and requested the Office, as for the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, to present directly to the Conference, after consultation with the Officers of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards, proposals aimed to ensure gender equality also in this text.

The campaign for the ratification of the 1997 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution

At its November 2007 session, the Governing Body called on all governments that have not yet ratified or accepted the 1997 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution to do so without delay and requested the Director-General to instruct the Office to redouble its efforts to encourage ratification or acceptance, in particular by: encouraging systematic inclusion of the question of ratification or acceptance of the 1997 constitutional amendment in consultations with the governments, employers and workers in the countries concerned; organizing a brief special event at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference (2008), at which countries can deposit their instruments of ratification or acceptance of the 1997 constitutional amendment, and their instruments of ratification of any international labour Convention with the Director-General, and at which all countries having ratified or accepted the 1997 constitutional amendment can be publicly recognized; taking other appropriate initiatives to achieve the goal of entry into force of the instrument in the nearest possible future.⁴⁶

The status of privileges and immunities of the International Labour Organization in member States

The Governing Body continued the consideration of this item and renewed the invitation, on its behalf, to the member States concerned to accede to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and apply Annex I relating to

the ILO in the very near future. It requested the Office to continue to report periodically on the situation of privileges and immunities in the member States and, in particular, in the context of DWCPs, the “Delivering as One” UN pilot countries and the field structure review. Furthermore, it invited the Office to consider further measures to address, from the perspective of risk assessment and risk reduction, the lack of recognition of privileges and immunities in those member States that were not yet a party to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies or had not applied Annex I relating to the ILO.⁴⁷

Agreement between the International Labour Organization and the World Tourism Organization

The Governing Body approved the text of the proposed agreement between the International Labour Organization and the United Nations World Tourism Organization, and authorized the Director-General or his representative to sign the agreement on behalf of the ILO.⁴⁸

Improvements in the standards-related activities of the ILO: Possible approaches and an interim plan of action to enhance the impact of the standards system

At its November 2007 session, the Governing Body approved the elements of the interim plan of action to enhance the impact of the standards system, taking into account the comments made during the discussion in the Committee, and invited the Office to submit a paper at its next session on the specific issues agreed upon with a view to following the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.⁴⁹

In March 2008, the Governing Body endorsed the recommendations made by its Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards and invited the Office: (a) to continue to implement the interim plan of action approved at its November 2007 session in light of the comments made during the November 2007 and March 2008 sessions; (b) to make appropriate arrangements in view of holding consultations on standards policy not later than November 2008; (c) to make appropriate arrangements in view of holding consultations on the status of Convention No. 158 and Recommendation No. 166 not later than November 2008; and (d) to prepare a report on the implementation of the interim plan of action to the 303rd Session of the Governing Body (November 2008).⁵⁰

Project on economic dynamics of international labour standards

In November 2007, the Governing Body endorsed the recommendations made by its Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards concerning a multi-sectoral interdisciplinary research project on the economic dynamics of international labour standards, involving five interdisciplinary research teams in different areas (social security, occupational safety and health, skills and vocational training, working time and equality).⁵¹

Requests for reports on the application of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), under article 22 of the Constitution

The Governing Body approved the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards which had discussed a document proposing to postpone until 2009, the request for the regular reports due by member States that had ratified Convention No. 185.⁵² The Governing Body noted that ratifying member States had not yet been able to provide the independent evaluation reports required by the Convention which would facilitate the work of the supervisory bodies in assessing whether the member State concerned had established the necessary system. It also drew attention to the fact that as ratifying member States were pioneering the implementation of the Convention, they might need one or two additional years to establish the facilities necessary for issuing of SIDs.

Form for reports on the application of unratified Conventions and Recommendations (article 19 of the Constitution): The Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151), the Labour Relations (Public Service) Recommendation, 1978 (No. 159), the Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154), and the Collective Bargaining Recommendation, 1981 (No. 163)

In March 2008, the Governing Body adopted the abovementioned report form, as amended.⁵³

Forms for reports on the application of ratified Conventions (article 22 of the Constitution): The Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)

In November 2007, the Governing Body adopted the amended report form for the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187),⁵⁴ and in March 2008, it also adopted the report form for the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), as amended.⁵⁵

12. Supplementary reports of the Director-General

Further developments in relation to the drafting of an international instrument on shipbreaking/ship recycling

In November 2007, the Governing Body took note of a progress report⁵⁶ on the cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and on the participation by the ILO in the development of the IMO Draft International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

Implementation of the Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy in Colombia

In November 2007, the Governing Body took note of a report⁵⁷ on the progress made in implementing the Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy in Colombia, which had been signed by the representatives of the Government, employers and trade unions of Colombia in Geneva on 1 June 2006. In March 2008, the Governing Body had before it a report⁵⁸ concerning the high-level mission undertaken to Colombia in November 2007 as a result of the commitment that had been made at the International Labour Conference in June 2007 to carry out such a mission, in order to identify new requirements to guarantee the effective implementation of the Tripartite Agreement and of the technical cooperation programme in Colombia.

Measuring decent work

The issue of measuring decent work was discussed at both the November 2007 and the March 2008 sessions of the Governing Body.⁵⁹ The Governing Body proposed that the Office: (i) hold a tripartite meeting of experts in 2008 to discuss a template of indicators across the four dimensions of decent work that could be used in the assessment of progress towards decent work at the country level; (ii) continue work on the development of statistical methodologies and develop a global programme to strengthen the capacity of member States to monitor and assess progress towards decent work; (iii) investigate the scope for using techniques of textual analysis of narrative reports to yield indicators of progress with respect to all aspects of decent work, but especially for those qualitative dimensions that did not easily lend themselves to statistical measurement; (iv) test an ILO template for new country profiles of decent work in two countries; (v) submit a progress report to the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in December 2008; and (vi) present a technical report to the Governing Body in 2009 on establishing a mechanism for measuring progress towards decent work based on country profiles.

Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (Geneva, 22 November–7 December 2007)

The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations held its 78th Session in Geneva from 22 November to 7 December 2007. It adopted a report which, in accordance with the usual practice, has been printed as a Conference document⁶⁰ and was submitted in March 2008 to the Governing Body, which took note of it.

Activities of the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) in 2006–07

The Governing Body took note of a report⁶¹ setting out the objectives, achievements, shortcomings and financial situation of the Centre and indicating the current trends in its activities.

Possible collaboration between the ILO and the International Organization for Standardization in the field of occupational safety and health management systems

Following the decision adopted at its March 2007 session to request the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to refrain from developing an international standard on occupational safety and health management systems (OSH-MS), the Governing Body took note of the report⁶² on further developments and underscored the importance of ensuring that the necessary resources were available to promote the authority and work of the ILO in areas relating to OSH-MS.

The ILO at 90: Countdown to a century of social progress

The year 2009 will mark the 90th anniversary of the ILO and the Director-General has proposed that the Office and constituents take advantage of this occasion to raise the profile of the ILO and reinforce its position as the leading source of knowledge and expertise on the world of work. High-level national events based on the theme of social dialogue on decent work for a fair globalization are planned in as many countries as possible, together with media and communication activities. The ILO Century Project, which is addressing the history of the ILO, will also contribute to the 90th anniversary celebration. The Governing Body took note of these plans,⁶³ stressing the need for tripartite consultation and consensus in the planning process and the avoidance of unnecessarily costly activities.

Resolution regarding the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

In March 2008, the attention of the Governing Body was drawn to the text of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 62/203 regarding the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries⁶⁴ and in particular to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13–19 of the resolution, which are addressed to the UN system and international organizations and which concern the strengthening of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for 2001–10.

13. Report of the Officers of the Governing Body

Appointment of the Director-General

In November 2007, the Governing Body decided that the question of the action to be taken regarding the appointment of the Director-General should be placed on the agenda of its March 2008 session. In March 2008, the Governing Body confirmed that the election should take place at its November 2008 session and that the Rules governing the election of the Director-General, which it had adopted in 1988,⁶⁵ should apply to the aforementioned appointment. It also specified that candidatures submitted by a member State of the Organization or by a member of the Governing Body would have to be received by the Chairperson of the Governing Body by 11 a.m. on Friday, 17 October 2008 at the latest, to be taken into consideration.

14. Multinational enterprises

In November 2007, the Governing Body took note of the discussion held in the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises on the four items which were on its agenda.⁶⁶ During the March 2008 session of the Governing Body, the Subcommittee had before it three items, including: (i) an update on the programme to give an orientation on international labour standards, and the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration); (ii) a proposal for evaluating the effect given to the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy; and (iii) strategic priorities for 2008–09.

With regard to the first point, the MNE helpdesk is intended to provide expert advice on the realization of international labour standards and the MNE Declaration. The Governing Body endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee to request the Office to start implementation of a helpdesk, taking into account the views expressed by the Subcommittee in its discussion and to refer any related financial questions to the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee.

With regard to the second point, it was decided to suspend the four-yearly cycle of surveys and complete the exercise proposed. This exercise is intended to provide insights into a new approach that could capture and promote the effect of the MNE Declaration. Finally, with regard to the third point, the Governing Body took note of the discussion and support of the Subcommittee concerning the five strategic priorities for promoting the MNE Declaration.⁶⁷

15. Employment and social policy

In November 2007, the Governing Body took note of the discussion held by the Committee on Employment and Social Policy on the following items which were on its agenda: Overview of the Global Employment Agenda implementation; Implementation of the Global Employment Agenda: An update; Collective bargaining and the Decent Work Agenda; and The Decent Work Agenda in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs): Recent developments.⁶⁸

The Office presented in March 2008 a “Progress evaluation of the Global Social Trust pilot project”⁶⁹ to the Committee on Employment and Social Policy. In the light of the review and the fact that there is not yet sufficient experience with the collection of contributions from individuals, a final decision on the future of the GST initiative was premature. The Governing Body requested the Office to continue its work on the GST initiative along the agreed lines.⁷⁰

The Committee on Employment and Social Policy had before it a proposed strategy to launch a substantially expanded women’s entrepreneurship development (WED) programme. The strategy is based on four technical pillars: creating an enabling environment for WED, institutional capacity building, development of tools and services for women entrepreneurs, and research and impact assessment. There was broad consensus to support the strategy, subject to the Office amending it to incorporate the concerns expressed in the debate, in particular by the Workers. The concerns included a more explicit reference to rights at work, to conditions of work and to cooperative forms of enterprises, as well as having tripartite programme advisory committees in all countries where the programme is active. The Governing Body endorsed the WED strategy and decided to invite donors to provide financial support for the programme.⁷¹

16. Sectoral and technical meetings and related issues

In November 2007 and March 2008, the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues discussed additional proposals for sectoral activities to be held in 2008–09 and determined the purpose, duration and composition of activities to be held in 2008. In relation to new activities, in November 2007, the Governing Body endorsed the activities proposed for manufacturing; infrastructure, construction and related industries; public services and utilities; and education and research.⁷² In March 2008, it decided that a regional tripartite workshop on improving safety and health in mining for selected Asian countries should be held, and agreed that a workshop to promote the ratification of the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), be held in October 2009.⁷³ In November 2007 and March 2008, the Governing Body also endorsed the purpose, composition, duration and dates of the meetings on agriculture, oil and gas activities, the maritime sector and the global dialogue forum on commerce,⁷⁴ as well as the composition, duration and dates of the global dialogue forum on decent work in local government procurement for infrastructure provision, as proposed.⁷⁵

In response to the Governing Body's request that the Director-General proceed, in consultation with the constituents, to discuss and, if possible, to agree on an agenda and date for the meeting with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Office reported back to the Committee in March 2008. Based on the information provided,⁷⁶ the Governing Body: endorsed the dates of the third session of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping, to be held in Geneva on 29–31 October 2008; approved the recommendation that the delegation be composed of ten ILO representatives (five Employer representatives and five Worker representatives) at no cost to the Office, five Basel Convention representatives and five IMO representatives; and requested the Director-General to communicate its decision to the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and to the IMO Secretary-General.

At its November 2007 and March 2008 sessions, the Governing Body also decided on the effect to be given to the recommendations made by sectoral and technical meetings. It noted the reports of the Symposium on Labour and Social Aspects of Global Production Systems: Issues for Business⁷⁷ and the International Workers' Symposium on the Role of Trade Unions in Workers' Education: The key to Trade Union Capacity Building.⁷⁸ It also noted the report of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Updating the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)⁷⁹ and its resolution concerning the updating and adoption of ISCO. It authorized the Director-General to publish ISCO-08, and requested him to consider the wishes expressed by the Meeting when drawing up proposals for the future work of the Office.

With regard to sectoral meetings, the Governing Body authorized the Director-General to communicate to the relevant actors the *Notes on the proceedings* of the Tripartite Meeting on the Production of Electronic Components for the IT Industries: Changing Labour Force Requirements in a Global Economy⁸⁰ and of the Tripartite Meeting on the Impact of Global Food Chains on Employment⁸¹ as well as to publish the final report of the Meeting of Experts to Examine Instruments, Knowledge, Advocacy, Technical Cooperation and International Collaboration as Tools with a View to Developing a Policy Framework for Hazardous Substances.⁸² It also requested the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for the future work of the Office, the wishes expressed by the meetings in their conclusions and the set of recommendations of the Meeting of Experts to Examine Instruments, Knowledge, Advocacy, Technical Cooperation and International Collaboration as Tools with a View to

Developing a Policy Framework for Hazardous Substances which contains a plan of action for the ILO.

Collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Maritime Organization

As in previous years, the Governing Body discussed the collaboration with other UN agencies on sectoral issues. It noted the report⁸³ of the Joint ILO/World Health Organization (WHO) Meeting on the Revision of the *International Medical Guide for Ships (IMGS)* and the publication of the *IMGS* by WHO as a joint WHO/IMO/ILO publication and requested the Office to confer with WHO, in consultation with the constituents concerned and taking into account the established practices between the two organizations, with the view to proposing an appropriate mechanism to review on a five-year basis and revise as appropriate the *IMGS*, as well as assessing the financial implications of supporting this process.

17. Technical cooperation

During its November 2007 session, the Committee on Technical Cooperation discussed the following issues: (1) the ILO's technical cooperation programme 2006–07; (2) the implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs); (3) the implementation report on resource mobilization for technical cooperation; and (4) technical cooperation priorities and action plans regarding the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.

Reviewing in November 2007 the ILO's technical cooperation programme 2006–07, the Governing Body: encouraged the Director-General to further strengthen technical cooperation in all regions with emphasis on Africa and least developed countries, resource mobilization, and effective delivery; confirmed that the ILO should continue to play its role in contributing to the UN system's efforts to maximize the coordination, coherence and relevance of operational programmes; and requested the Director-General to further integrate the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin into the delivery of the ILO's technical cooperation programme.⁸⁴

The Governing Body called upon the Office to provide at its future sessions, on a regular basis, status reports highlighting the formulation, content, implementation, outcomes and impact of DWCPs in so far as technical cooperation was concerned.⁸⁵

With regard to the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Governing Body endorsed the plan of action on the principle and right of non-discrimination and requested that it be kept informed of the implementation of the activities proposed.⁸⁶

In March 2008, the Governing Body endorsed a policy on public–private partnerships. The Governing Body requested the Office, after consultations with the tripartite constituents, to establish and apply operational guidelines, on the basis of the guiding principles, and to develop and disseminate promotional materials for public–private partnerships. It also requested the Office to regularly report on public–private partnerships.⁸⁷

18. Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization

Decent work for sustainable development – The challenge of climate change

In November 2007, the Working Party held a panel discussion on decent work for sustainable development – the challenge of climate change. The panel included Mr Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Under-Secretary General, Mr Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr Supachai, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mr Farrow, Head of Environment at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), and Mr Nieto, Secretary for Occupational Safety, Health and Environment from the *Comisiones Obreras* trade union of Spain and President of Sustainlabour.

The Governing Body members greatly appreciated the presentation by the various panellists and the message which was conveyed of the need for the ILO and its tripartite constituents to meet the challenges posed by climate change. They stated that the ILO had a clear role to play in addressing the employment impacts of climate change, especially in developing countries.⁸⁸

Report of the ILO Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization

In March 2008, the Minister for Labour and Social Solidarity of Portugal, Mr Vieira da Silva, recalled the key outcomes of the ILO Forum, which had been held in Lisbon from 31 October to 2 November 2007. He said that the Forum had been a clear success and underlined the support that the Decent Work Agenda had received from a wide range of actors outside the tripartite networks, from international and regional organizations to many organizations of civil society. He suggested holding another ILO Forum in the future to add political momentum to the debate on decent work and to prompt stronger action. In their comments, most members of the Governing Body referred to the “Lisbon Spirit” – the special atmosphere that had characterized the Forum – and hoped that this spirit would be maintained as the ILO was moving into the future. The ideas generated at the Forum would be processed through the tripartite institutional mechanisms of the ILO, especially in the preparation of the Strategic Policy Framework for 2010–15.

Current prospects and policies for decent work: The challenge of multilateral cooperation and policy coherence for a fair globalization

Mr Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, was a guest speaker at the March 2008 session. He outlined his vision of an inclusive and sustainable globalization which was focused on improving the situation of people across the globe. This required quality jobs, better social conditions and opportunities for individual development. The World Bank was pleased to be building a closer working relationship with the ILO on this agenda and he outlined several areas in which collaboration was already taking place. He also acknowledged that some points of difference remained between the two organizations and these topics would be the subject of further discussion in the future.

There was a broad consensus within the Governing Body on the value of deepening collaboration between the ILO and the World Bank. This “partnership through dialogue” was encouraged and the Governing Body requested the Director-General to continue his discussions with President Zoellick and report back to the Working Party at a suitable time.

19. International Institute for Labour Studies

Report of the 49th Session of the Board

In November 2007, the Governing Body took note of the report of the 49th Session of the Board⁸⁹ which contained a summary of the discussions held by the Board on the Programme and Budget for 2008–09, the report of the Director and the acceptance of contributions and gifts in support of the Institute’s activities.

20. Regional Meetings

Arrangements for the Eighth European Regional Meeting

Given that the Seventh European Regional Meeting was held in Budapest, Hungary, in February 2005, it was proposed that the Eighth Regional Meeting be scheduled for the beginning of 2009, exactly four years after the previous Regional Meeting. Since the Government of Portugal had expressed an interest in hosting the Eighth European Regional Meeting in Lisbon, the Governing Body decided that Lisbon, Portugal, which hosts an ILO Office, would be the venue for the Eighth European Regional Meeting, which would be held in early 2009.⁹⁰

Report and conclusions of the 11th African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, 24–27 April 2007)

In November 2007, the Governing Body had before it the report⁹¹ of the Meeting, with four appendices, which included the conclusions of the Meeting, the summary of a high-level panel discussion on “Partnerships for Decent Work in Africa” and the report of the Credentials Committee of the Meeting which was brought to the attention of the Governing Body at the specific request of the Credentials Committee, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 5, of the Rules for Regional Meetings.

The report contained the adopted Decent Work Agenda in Africa (2007–15). This medium-term planning framework builds on the Plan of Action adopted by the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September 2004) and includes 17 time-bound targets.

The report also contained a resolution unanimously adopted on Africa’s representation on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. Further to a request made by the Governing Body in June 2007, a comprehensive document on the matter of criteria for geographical and country representation within the Governing Body was prepared by the Office and submitted by the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards⁹² at the same session of the Governing Body.

Referring to the resolution on Africa's representation contained in the document, the representatives of African Members of the Governing Body requested that the issue of the composition of the Governing Body be placed on the agenda of the March 2008 session of the Governing Body. In March 2008, the Governing Body considered the matter further (see below).

21. Governing Body

Composition

The Governing Body considered in March 2008 the resolution concerning the composition of the Governing Body adopted at the 11th African Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization (Addis Ababa, 24–27 April 2007) and requested the Director-General to prepare a concrete proposal on the composition of the Governing Body, which could address expeditiously both the number of non-elective seats and their geographical distribution, for submission to the November 2008 session of the Governing Body.⁹³

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Notes

- ¹ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/index.htm>.
- ² GB.300/3/1.
- ³ GB.300/3/2.
- ⁴ GB.300/2/1, para. 8.
- ⁵ GB.301/17/10(Rev.).
- ⁶ GB.301/2.
- ⁷ GB.301/2, para. 9.
- ⁸ GB.300/11, para. 16.
- ⁹ GB.301/9, para. 7.
- ¹⁰ GB.300/Inf.3 and GB.301/Inf.3.
- ¹¹ GB.301/18/1.
- ¹² GB.301/3.
- ¹³ GB.300/4.
- ¹⁴ GB.300/4/1.
- ¹⁵ GB.300/5.
- ¹⁶ GB.300/7.
- ¹⁷ GB.301/4.
- ¹⁸ GB.300/8.
- ¹⁹ GB.300/8(Add.).
- ²⁰ GB.301/6/1.
- ²¹ GB.301/6/2.
- ²² GB.300/9/1.
- ²³ GB.300/9.
- ²⁴ GB.301/17/4.
- ²⁵ GB.300/21/2 and GB.300/21/3.
- ²⁶ GB.300/20/6.
- ²⁷ GB.300/10 and GB.301/8.
- ²⁸ GB.301/10/1(Rev.), para. 42.
- ²⁹ GB.301/PFA/1/3(Add.).
- ³⁰ GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 229.
- ³¹ GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 240.
- ³² GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 256.
- ³³ GB.301/10/1(Rev.), para. 213.
- ³⁴ GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 67(b).
- ³⁵ GB.301/10/1(Rev.), para. 276.
- ³⁶ GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 174.
- ³⁷ GB.301/10/1(Rev.), para. 252.

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- ³⁸ GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 126.
- ³⁹ GB.301/10/1(Rev.), para. 190.
- ⁴⁰ GB.300/12/2(Rev.); GB.301/10/2.
- ⁴¹ GB.300/PFA/6/3.
- ⁴² GB.300/12/1(Rev.), para. 82.
- ⁴³ GB.301/10/1(Rev.), para. 267.
- ⁴⁴ GB.300/13(Rev.), para. 12.
- ⁴⁵ GB.301/11(Rev.), para. 33.
- ⁴⁶ GB.300/13(Rev.), para. 28.
- ⁴⁷ GB.301/11(Rev.), para. 13.
- ⁴⁸ GB.301/11(Rev.), para. 41.
- ⁴⁹ GB.300/13(Rev.), para. 95.
- ⁵⁰ GB.301/11(Rev.), para. 84.
- ⁵¹ GB.300/13(Rev.), para. 140.
- ⁵² GB.300/13(Rev.), paras 108 and 109.
- ⁵³ GB.301/11(Rev.), Appendix V and para. 99.
- ⁵⁴ GB.300/13(Rev.), Appendix III and para. 115.
- ⁵⁵ GB.301/11(Rev.), Appendix VI and para. 106.
- ⁵⁶ GB.300/20/2.
- ⁵⁷ GB.300/20/4.
- ⁵⁸ GB.301/17/2.
- ⁵⁹ GB.300/20/5 and GB.301/17/6.
- ⁶⁰ International Labour Conference, 97th Session, 2008, Report III, Parts I(A) and I(B).
- ⁶¹ GB.301/17/3.
- ⁶² GB.301/17/7.
- ⁶³ GB.301/17/8.
- ⁶⁴ Appended to GB.301/17/9.
- ⁶⁵ As reproduced in the appendix to GB.301/7.
- ⁶⁶ GB.300/14.
- ⁶⁷ GB.301/12.
- ⁶⁸ GB.300/15(Rev.)
- ⁶⁹ GB.301/ESP/3.
- ⁷⁰ GB.301/13(Rev.), para. 59.
- ⁷¹ GB.301/13(Rev.), para. 82.
- ⁷² Contained in Part B of GB.300/STM/1.
- ⁷³ Both proposals are contained in GB.301/STM/1.
- ⁷⁴ Proposed in Part A of GB.300/STM/1.
- ⁷⁵ Proposed in GB.301/STM/1.
- ⁷⁶ GB.300/STM/5/2 and GB.301/STM/6.

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- ⁷⁷ GB.301/STM/7.
- ⁷⁸ GB.301/STM/8/1.
- ⁷⁹ GB.301/STM/3/2 and MEPFHS/2007/11.
- ⁸⁰ GB.300/STM/2/1 and TMITI/2007/10.
- ⁸¹ GB.301/STM/3/1 and TMFCE/2007/11.
- ⁸² GB.301/STM/3/3 and MEPFHS/2007/11.
- ⁸³ GB.300/STM/6/1.
- ⁸⁴ GB.300/17, para. 35.
- ⁸⁵ *ibid.*, para. 60.
- ⁸⁶ *ibid.*, para. 81.
- ⁸⁷ GB.301/15, para. 28.
- ⁸⁸ GB.300/18(Rev.).
- ⁸⁹ GB.300/19(Rev.).
- ⁹⁰ GB.300/20/1.
- ⁹¹ GB.300/6.
- ⁹² GB.300/LILS/4.
- ⁹³ GB.301/5.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1. International Labour Conference	1
Matters arising from the work of the 96th Session (2007)	1
Follow-up to the adoption of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and the Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199), and related Conference resolutions.....	1
Follow-up to the adoption of the conclusions on the promotion of sustainable enterprises.....	2
Agenda of the 97th Session (2008).....	2
Agenda of the 99th Session (2010).....	2
Working Group on the International Labour Conference.....	3
Requests from international non-governmental organizations and from the Republic of Maldives to be represented at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference	3
2. Review of annual reports under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work	3
Introduction by the ILO Declaration Expert–Advisers to the compilation of annual reports	3
3. The United Nations and reform	4
Developments in the multilateral system: The World Bank <i>Doing Business</i> report.....	4
4. The ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality.....	4
5. Enhanced programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories	5
6. Implementation of the ILO Plan of Action for Migrant Workers.....	5
7. Complaints under article 26 of the ILO Constitution	6
Observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	6
Observance by the Government of the Republic of Belarus of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)	8
8. Representations under article 24 of the ILO Constitution	9
Representation alleging non-observance by Japan of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159), made under article 24 of the ILO Constitution by the National Union of Welfare and Childcare Workers	9
Representation made under article 24 of the ILO Constitution by the Federation of Maritime Transport Trade Unions (FPRMT) alleging non-observance by the Russian Federation of the Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Convention, 1996 (No. 179)	9

	Report of the Committee set up to examine the representation alleging non-observance by France of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), made under article 24 of the ILO Constitution by the Confédération générale du travail – Force ouvrière.....	9
9.	Freedom of association	10
10.	Programme, financial and administrative issues.....	10
	Programme and Budget for 2006–07	10
	Programme implementation in 2006–07.....	10
	Evaluations.....	11
	Audits.....	11
	Independent Oversight Advisory Committee	11
	Technical meetings reserve for 2007–08	11
	Results-based management.....	11
	Field structure review	12
	Human resources management	12
	International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin	12
	ILO accommodation	12
	Information technology.....	12
11.	Legal issues and international labour standards.....	13
	Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference and Rules for Regional Meetings	13
	The campaign for the ratification of the 1997 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution	13
	The status of privileges and immunities of the International Labour Organization in member States.....	13
	Agreement between the International Labour Organization and the World Tourism Organization.....	14
	Improvements in the standards-related activities of the ILO: Possible approaches and an interim plan of action to enhance the impact of the standards system	14
	Project on economic dynamics of international labour standards.....	14
	Requests for reports on the application of the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), under article 22 of the Constitution	15
	Form for reports on the application of unratified Conventions and Recommendations (article 19 of the Constitution): The Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151), the Labour Relations (Public Service) Recommendation, 1978 (No. 159), the Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154), and the Collective Bargaining Recommendation, 1981 (No. 163).....	15

	Forms for reports on the application of ratified Conventions (article 22 of the Constitution): The Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)	15
12.	Supplementary reports of the Director-General.....	15
	Further developments in relation to the drafting of an international instrument on shipbreaking/ship recycling	15
	Implementation of the Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy in Colombia	16
	Measuring decent work.....	16
	Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (Geneva, 22 November–7 December 2007).....	16
	Activities of the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) in 2006–07.....	16
	Possible collaboration between the ILO and the International Organization for Standardization in the field of occupational safety and health management systems ..	17
	The ILO at 90: Countdown to a century of social progress	17
	Resolution regarding the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.....	17
13.	Report of the Officers of the Governing Body	17
	Appointment of the Director-General.....	17
14.	Multinational enterprises	18
15.	Employment and social policy.....	18
16.	Sectoral and technical meetings and related issues.....	19
	Collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Maritime Organization	20
17.	Technical cooperation.....	20
18.	Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization	21
	Decent work for sustainable development – The challenge of climate change	21
	Report of the ILO Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization	21
	Current prospects and policies for decent work: The challenge of multilateral cooperation and policy coherence for a fair globalization.....	21
19.	International Institute for Labour Studies	22
	Report of the 49th Session of the Board	22
20.	Regional Meetings	22
	Arrangements for the Eighth European Regional Meeting.....	22
	Report and conclusions of the 11th African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, 24–27 April 2007)	22
21.	Governing Body.....	23
	Composition.....	23

