International Labour Conference, 105th Session, 2016

Report VI

Advancing social justice

Reviewing the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization

Addendum

Suggested points for discussion, preliminary building blocks for an outcome document and arrangements for the Conference discussion

I. Introduction

1. At its 326th Session (March 2016), the Governing Body reviewed proposed arrangements for the evaluation of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (Declaration) by the International Labour Conference at its 105th Session in June 2016. As requested by the Governing Body, an informal tripartite consultation was held on 14 April 2016 to finalize the detailed proposals to be submitted to the Conference on the specific arrangements for the discussion, as well as possible outcomes. [1]

2. The Conference may wish to consider the following suggestions for points for discussion, preliminary building blocks for an outcome document and arrangements for the Conference discussion, which reflect the views expressed during the informal tripartite consultation.

II. Suggested points for discussion

3. The following four suggested points for discussion are based on the areas for action set out in Chapter 5 of Report VI. They are intended to facilitate preparations for the discussion at the Conference. The proposed sequence is aimed at enabling the Conference to focus on each specific set of issues, while fostering linkages between them to feed into a coherent overall outcome.

[1] GB.326/WP/GBC/1(Rev.), paras 33–37, GB.326/INS/13, para. 18(a) and decision dec-GB.326/INS/13, para. (a).

A. *General review of the impact of the Declaration and identification of overall considerations for future action*

- What conclusions can be drawn from the review of the impact of the Declaration, including the steps taken for its implementation, with particular reference to promoting the integrated pursuit of the ILO's strategic objectives?
- What are the main challenges and opportunities for the further implementation of the Declaration arising out of the changing global context?
- What key considerations should guide future ILO action to achieve the full potential of the Declaration through an integrated approach, with particular reference to:
  - the universal implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work, including the universal ratification of fundamental Conventions and policy measures to ensure "a just share of the fruits of progress for all";
  - the promotion of social dialogue and tripartism;
  - mutually reinforcing the implementation of the Declaration and the implementation by the ILO and its Members of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and
  - the continued strengthening of the ILO's methods of work and means of action, with particular reference to the ratification and effective implementation of standards and development cooperation?

B. *Recurrent discussions*

- What conclusions can be drawn regarding the impact of recurrent discussions in better understanding and responding to Members' needs in relation to each of the strategic objectives?
- What action should be taken to strengthen recurrent discussions as a knowledge tool for the regular updated review of trends and policies relating to the strategic objectives, and as a governance tool to facilitate the selection of priorities for future action, with particular reference to:
  - their content, sequence and frequency;
  - the preparation of the Office report and modalities of the Conference discussion, including the terms of reference of the Conference Committee and enhanced coordination with the examination of General Surveys by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards; and
  - the strengthened and more systematic implementation of the outcomes of recurrent discussions, including their mainstreaming in the work of the Governing Body and the Office, and coordination with the programme and budget, the setting of the Conference agenda and the reform of Regional Meetings?

C. *ILO means of action*

- What conclusions can be drawn regarding the impact of the Declaration on the coordination of ILO means of action, based on its tripartite structure and standards system?
- What action should be taken in this regard, with particular reference to:

- strengthening the role of standards as a means of achieving all of the ILO's objectives, including through the enhanced use of article 19 of the Constitution to inform processes such as recurrent discussions and the Standards Review Mechanism;
- improving the use of Decent Work Country Programmes to consolidate efforts for the integrated pursuit of all the strategic objectives, taking into account development cooperation needs, the implementation of national sustainable development strategies relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change;
- strengthening research, knowledge and technical capacity to further operationalize the integrated approach to decent work, having regard to Part II(B) of the Declaration, including through a well-informed and up-to-date understanding of its contribution to sustainable development, a strategic approach to institutional capacity building, and awareness raising; and
- providing guidance for the ILO Strategic Plan 2018–21?

D. Partnerships and policy coherence

- What conclusions can be drawn regarding the impact of the Declaration on partnerships and greater policy coherence for the achievement of the strategic objectives?
- What action should be taken by Members and the Office to promote the ILO's objectives, with particular reference to:
  - supporting Members' efforts to promote the ILO's objectives, in collaboration with the social partners, including in the framework of bilateral, subregional and regional integration processes and regional and other cooperation mechanisms;
  - promoting greater coherence between the ILO and international, regional and other organizations and strengthening the ILO's role in the multilateral system;
  - establishing stronger and more strategic partnerships with non-State entities and economic actors, taking into account the ILO Centenary Enterprise Initiative?

III. Preliminary building blocks for an outcome document

4. The outcome document would seek to provide a coherent framework for achieving the full potential of the Declaration in a rapidly changing world of work. Further clarifying the purpose of the outcome document as early as possible will help to determine what is expected of the Conference, the required follow-up action by the Governing Body and the Office, and the guidance to be provided by the Conference.

5. The following may be considered as possible building blocks for an outcome document:

- **Opening paragraphs** covering the results of the evaluation, which could: briefly recall the main features of the Declaration, including its built-in evaluation process; present general conclusions on the evaluation arising from the discussion, including key considerations for future action by the Organization and its Members; and the desirability of further evaluations.

- **A part identifying priority areas for action** to further strengthen the impact of the Declaration by ILO Members and the Organization, which may cover the scheme of recurrent discussions and the coordination of ILO means of action, partnerships and policy coherence, with the overriding objective of making the best use of the unique advantage of the ILO's tripartite structure and standards system.
- **A part focusing on follow-up,** which would frame the action to be taken by the Governing Body and the Director-General to give effect to the outcome document, specifying the institutional linkages with existing mechanisms and relevant ongoing strategic processes or discussions.

6. The Office is expected to refine the above elements which will be subject to further consultations prior to the Conference before being made available to the Committee with a view to facilitating the drafting of the outcome document. The Conference will decide on the form of the outcome document, having regard to the need to ensure the required visibility vis-à-vis employers' and workers' organizations and other international and regional organizations.

IV. Proposed arrangements for the Conference discussion

7. In November 2015, the Governing Body decided to recommend to the Conference that the evaluation of the impact of the Declaration be conducted by a Committee of the Whole.

8. The Committee of the Whole would hold its first formal session in the afternoon of Monday, 30 May, and complete its discussion on Wednesday, 8 June, at the latest.

9. Two internationally recognized experts will be invited to make introductory statements at the first sitting of the Committee on how the global economic and social context has changed since 2008, as well as on trends and drivers that will transform the future world of work.

10. The Declaration provides that "interested multilateral organizations will be given the opportunity to participate in the evaluation of the impact and in the discussion" [2] at the Conference. In this regard, high-level representatives from international and regional organizations will be invited to speak in an interactive exchange session. Their views would complement the information provided in Report VI on the important contribution that international and regional organizations have made to policy coherence for decent work through the pursuit of the Declaration's objectives, including the lessons learned.

11. In light of the views expressed during the informal tripartite consultation on 14 April, it is tentatively proposed that the work of the Committee be organized in the following four main stages:

(1) **Consideration of the suggested points for discussion** (see the proposals in section II above): from the afternoon of Monday, 30 May to the afternoon of Thursday, 2 June. At the end of each day, the Officers of the Committee would meet to identify key elements that could be included in the draft outcome document for the consideration of the tripartite drafting group.

(2) **Preparation of a draft outcome document by a tripartite drafting group established by the Committee:** members of the drafting group would preferably be

[2] Declaration, Annex, Part III(C).

appointed at the end of the day on Tuesday, 31 May. The drafting group would meet on Friday, 3 June and Saturday, 4 June. It is also recommended that the drafting group start informal exchanges before their work begins on Friday, 3 June. The draft outcome document would be distributed to the groups and posted on the web page of the Committee on Sunday, 5 June.

(3) **Submission of amendments:** Monday, 6 June, in the afternoon.

(4) **Discussion of amendments submitted by Committee members and adoption of the outcome document:** from Tuesday, 7 June to Wednesday, 8 June.