Agenda of the International Labour Conference

Decent work in global supply chains (general discussion item for the 105th Session (2016) of the Conference)

The general discussion, and any related conclusions, could offer guidance to constituents on how they could address opportunities and challenges resulting from global supply chains (GSCs). The discussion could also help the ILO to better understand constituents’ capacity-building needs and identify potential areas for future work, including further research needs and the promotion of the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. In addition, the conclusions could provide an opportunity for the ILO to further develop partnerships with non-state entities and economic actors, as well as international and regional organizations with mandates in closely related fields.

With a view to identifying policies, good practices, programmes and tools to achieve productive employment and decent work in GSCs, it is proposed that the discussion could consider:

- key structural changes, trends and drivers, as well as the economic dimension of GSCs and their inter-linkages, including their contributions to national and local economic development;
- the implications of GSCs (including gender-specific effects) on job creation, skills development, distribution of employment, and working conditions, including wages, working time and occupational safety and health;
- the effects of GSCs on the nature of the employment relationship, as well as on collective bargaining and social dialogue;
- policies and good practices to promote backward and forward linkages, the integration of local SMEs, cooperatives and other companies into GSCs, and transitions to formality;
- strategies to accelerate skills upgrading, improve organizational procedures and increase productivity and sustainability;
- the role of international labour standards and, in particular, fundamental principles and rights at work;
- strategies that build on multiple, complementary approaches to achieving workplace compliance;
- the distinct roles and responsibilities of employers and workers at the national and international levels as well as of governments, including government’s role in law enforcement;
- the role of organizations representing workers and employers at the global level, including by sector, in view of the opportunities for cross-border social dialogue; and
- the role of multinational enterprises in the promotion of decent work in GSCs.