8 March 2016

OUTCOMES OF 1ST MEETING OF THE ILO STANDARDS REVIEW MECHANISM TRIPARTITE WORKING GROUP - FEBRUARY 2016

Dear Members and Partners,

As previously announced, the first meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG) took place from 22 to 25 February 2016 at ILO headquarters in Geneva.

The Employers succeeded in building a constructive working relationship with Workers and Governments. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jan Farzan (Germany) and attended by the 32 members of the SRM TWG. Mr Luc Cortebeeck and Mr Alberto Echavarría Saldarriaga were appointed Vice-Chairpersons respectively by the Workers’ and Employers’ groups. Other Employer representatives included: Jørgen Rønnest, Mthunzi Mdwaba, Garance Pineau, John Kloosterman, Sonia Regenbogen, Chris Syder and Juan Mailhos.

The SRM TWG made the following five recommendations to the GB:

1. Dates of the next meeting: It is proposed that the next meeting take place during the week of 10-14 October 2016.

2. Initial Programme of Work: In line with its terms of reference, the SRM TWG discussed its work programme and decided, after constructive discussion, to recommend that the GB approve an initial programme of work that reviews a total of 232 international labour standards organised into 20 thematic sets of instruments grouped by strategic objectives including: all standards that were reviewed by the "Cartier Working Party" (CWP) and not classified as up-to-date and all standards that the CWP did not review as they were recent at the time, i. e. adopted between 1984 and 2001. The SRM TWG decided to exclude from the initial programme all standards classified as up-to-date by the CWP, all recent standards, i.e. adopted after 2000, all fundamental and governance Conventions (C. 87, 98, 29, 105, 100, 111, 138, 182, 81, 129, 122, 144) and any accompanying Recommendations. These standards may still be reviewed once the initial work programme has been completed.
3. **Agenda for the next meeting**: The TWG decided to review at its **next** meeting **five of the above 20** sets of standards. These five consist of all the unfinished follow-up to the standards identified as outdated by the CWP. The purpose of the review of all instruments classified as outdated is to decide on what to do with them. One option for action regarding **outdated Conventions** that entered into force is "**abrogation**", i.e. the complete removal of a Convention, including all its legal effects (this is an available option since October 2015 with the entering into force of the ILO constitutional amendment that introduced the possibility for "abrogation"). For outdated **Conventions that have not entered into force** (or are no longer in force) and Recommendations, consideration will be given to "**withdrawal**". The Office will prepare background papers for the review of outdated standards providing in particular information on: original purpose of the outdated standards; rationale of the CWP decision for classifying the respective standard as outdated; any follow-up action taken so far which will be made available to TWG members at least one month before the next meeting.

4. **Maritime Instruments**: The SRM TWG also decided to recommend to the GB that it refer the maritime instruments to the **Special Tripartite Committee** established under Article XIII of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

5. **Advisers to Government representatives**: The SRM TWG decided that SRM TWG Government representatives **may be accompanied by up to eight advisers** (2 per region).

A report of this meeting and its outcomes will be submitted to the GB (LILS.3/2) for discussion at its March 2016 session, but is not available at the time of writing.

The Employers' proposal (English version only) on possible scope, methodology and classification of international labour standards prepared for the first SRM TWG meeting may be accessed via the link in the side panel.

Kind regards,

**Linda Kromjong**

*Secretary-General*