**Informal Tripartite Consultations on the Working Methods of the Committee on the Application of Standards (3 November 2018)**

**Two-page summary of the Office Background Note**

**ISSUES**

1. ***Proposal for possible improvements to the working methods of the CAS (Section I)***

There is a proposal to produce Part II of the CAS report as a verbatim record like for the plenary session of the Conference, rather than a summary record. It was suggested that this would guarantee a higher level of transparency, timeliness and accuracy. The Office further proposes the discussion of the CAS on the General Survey should also follow this approach. This would mean that Part I of CAS report (General Report) would contain: a summary of the general discussion, the outcome of the discussion on the General Survey, the recommendations made with respect to cases of serious failure and the conclusions adopted on individual cases.

1. ***Special Centenary arrangements (Section II)***

In June 2019, the ILO Centenary Conference will hold its second discussion of the standard setting item on violence against men and women in the world of work.

The Office has launched a Centenary focus on the universal ratification of the fundamental Conventions and the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention.

In November 2019, the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) will hold a special round table to discuss on broad global reflections on the future of international supervision. This would also include the launch of a special Centenary publication on the impact of work of the CEACR in recent decades.

During the 107th ILO session (May-June 2018), there was a call for the Office to organize a high-level event during the ILO Centenary on freedom of association and collective bargaining involving constituents, representatives of the CFA, the CEACR and the tripartite CAS.

1. ***Discussion of the General Survey (Section III)***

There was general acknowledgment that insufficient time was allocated to the discussion on General Survey and an agreement to reduce the time allocated to opening items to permit additional time for discussion.

There are several suggestions to enhance the discussion and follow-up of General Surveys:

* Promoting the ratification of standards and their implementation by non-ratifying countries;
* Strengthening institutional discussions by informing the Standards Review Mechanism and ILC agenda-setting processes;
* Formulating set of questions during informal tripartite consultations every March for the discussion of General Surveys;
* Clarifying the role and utilization of experts during the discussion of the General Survey.

Summary of views at the last session (March 2018)

* **Worker:** recognised the importance of this discussion and supported the proposal for a standing item and requested the Office for more information about the experts.
* **Employer:** supported the proposal for reducing the time allocated to the opening items and the minimum reporting times, and to introduce a more user-friendly, standardized procedure by limiting the number of instruments covered and allowing delegates to make more focused statements. Voiced concerns that outside experts should be used only for exceptional cases.
* **Western European Group:** supported the inclusion of General Survey as a standing item and agreed for more information on outside experts. Suggested strengthening the links between SRM and the discussion on the General Survey.
* **Eastern European Group:** supported to link the results of the General Survey to the SRM.
* **Canada:** supported including a standard item on General Survey but questioned the feasibility of adding additional elements to the already heavy packed agenda.
* **GRULAC:** suggested the governments to bring their best experts on the topic to contribute to the discussion and considered that it was for the Governing Body to decide whether the General Survey could be a standing item on the agenda
* **Director of the ILS Department:**  clarified that the proposal intended to allow appointment of complementary experts for highly technical situations.
1. ***Participation in the informal tripartite consultations (Section IV)***

During the March 2017 meeting, the meeting rejected the proposal to increase Government representative and the proposal to give observers the floor.

Summary of views at the last session (March 2018)

* **GRULAC:**  expressed that the meeting would benefit from more government participations and proposed involving four Government representatives per region, thus in total of 16. Alternatively, one additional government representative from each region for a total of 12 and allowing observers to take the floor and speak once.
* **Africa:** supported increase in government participation.
* **Employer:** opposed the proposal as the composition of the meeting would be unbalanced.
* **Worker:** opposed the proposal noting that expanding the meeting would inhibit constructive debate.
* **Western European Group:** noted that observers could be allowed to take the floor as long as there is enough time.
* **Chairperson:** suggested that the government could identify a group of speakers from each region to speak since the meeting never utilized the full nine government speakers.
1. ***Seating arrangements at the CAS (Section V)***

There is an issue of insufficient seating in the meeting room and a proposal for introducing seating limitations. The meeting decided that a set number of seats (2-3) could be allocated to each delegations and additional members could follow the meeting from the adjacent room. This seating allocation does not apply to the delegation of the country concerned by the discussion.

**POINTS FOR DECISIONS**

1. The production of the Part II of the CAS report and the discussion of the CAS on the General Survey as a verbatim record or a summary record. (refer to Issue 1)
2. The options for enhancing discussions of General Survey. (refer to Issue 3)