

Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance

▶ Questionnaire

At the first meeting of the Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD), which was held on 11 December 2020, it was agreed that the members of the working group would be invited to express their views on the understanding and scope of the notion of democratization of the ILO's governance for the purpose of informing the discussions of the second meeting of the working group to be held in January 2021 and developing a possible programme of future work.

Accordingly, the Office has prepared the following questionnaire, bearing in mind that the Centenary Declaration and its accompanying Resolution are the framework within which the TWGD should carry out its work. The Office would be grateful if the replies could be sent by Wednesday 6 January 2021 to JUR@ilo.org.

1. Do you consider that the notion of democratization refers to aspirations of Member States regarding specific aspects of the functioning of governance organs, such as composition, decision-making, voting power, organization and access to meetings? Please elaborate and provide concrete examples.

The notion of democratization refers to all those aspects, and all those aspects need to be taken into account, when it comes to reviewing the composition of the Governing Body, standing orders of the ILC, standing orders of expert and technical meetings etc. Geographical / regional balance is an important element here.

2. Do you consider that 'democratization of tripartite governance' concerns the ILO Governing Body only or should also cover the International Labour Conference and other aspects of ILO governance?

The main focus should be on the composition of the Governing Body. In addition, instead of the GB the ILC should be the responsible body for approving the Director General after submission of the appointment by the GB.

3. Based on the above, which aspects of democratization – in addition to those addressed in the 1986 constitutional amendment – would you consider the TWGD should examine in priority? Please specify.

In more than 30 years it has not been possible to establish adequate approval for the Amendment to enter into force. In our view there are good arguments for keeping non-elective seats in the Governing Body, which ensures continuity of the

Governments' work in the Governing body. Against this background, the proposal to extend the number of permanent members of the Governing Body is still on the table: extending the number of permanent members from 10 to 12, while ensuring regional balance through a geographical requirement, guaranteeing each of the four regions at least two seats. We would be open to consider doubling the number of GB seats, according to the respective provision in the 1986 amendment.

4. In your view, which are the core principles that should be guiding ILO's action towards democratization of its governance? Please specify.

The core principle that needs to be strengthened is the adequate representation of all regions within the Governing Body.

5. Do you have any concrete proposals for the second meeting of the TWGD and/or its future programme of work?

See answer to question 3. We would welcome to discuss further proposals regarding the composition of GB seats, in order to ensure full, equal and democratic participation in the governance structure.