

Governing Body 343rd Session, Geneva, November 2021

Policy Development Section

Social Dialogue Segment

Workers' Group Comments

DOCUMENT FOR BALLOT BY CORRESPONDENCE

GB.343/POL/2

The workers' group thanks the Office for the document. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in global production and economy has shown that there is a need to develop industrial policies that are sustainable and resilient not only economically, but that take into consideration the environmental emergency.

All the recent conclusions and recommendations of the tripartite sectoral meetings have highlighted the relevance of the MNE declaration. This ILO important declaration should be considered in all the sectoral recommendations and policy briefs, as it provides guidance for constituents to align industrial policies with development objectives, as well as a clear framework for the respect of human and labour rights. Therefore, we encourage the Office to increase efforts for the promotion and implementation of the MNE declaration in relation to sectoral policies.

In relation to the meetings held in 2021, despite of all the difficulties and challenges related to virtual meetings, all of them were conducted successfully. However, we hope the situation will permit a return to face to face meetings to allow full participation and exchanges among constituents.

The workers group welcomes the conclusions of the **Technical meeting on the future of work in the automotive industry** that are of a high relevance for an industry that is in a midst of major transformations, from the battery production to the mobility models. These changes require a broad Just transition, and for that goal, the support of the Office is highly important. We call the Office to organize, as soon as possible, the workshops and dialogue platforms agreed in the conclusions, with a particular focus on the global south, and we reiterate our engagement to collaborate with the Office and social partners in the ILO future work for the automotive sector.

The workers group welcomes the conclusions of the **Technical meeting on the future of work in the education sector**, which highlight that "Education is not a Commodity" and convey that investing in the decent work of educators and providing adequate working conditions includes developing policies and practices to provide adequate income for education professionals, ensure occupational safety and health, including mental health, psychosocial support, protection from violence and harassment and access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for educators, address the increase in workload and issues related to the wellbeing and work-life balance of educators. These rights are being impacted by a series of challenges, including hybrid and blended learning models and the increasing use of education technology, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and armed conflicts. In the development of future work arising from these conclusions, we encourage the Office to give special attention to the topic of working conditions of teachers and education personnel.

The Workers group welcomes the agreement reached in the resumed session of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission in September 2021, in relation to the update of the ILO minimum wage figure for seafarers and on the figure used as a basis for recalculation, as per the Maritime Labour Convention. We support the convening of the subsequent meetings, that are of a key importance for the improvement of workers wages.

Finally, we would like to stress that the upcoming **Technical meeting on COVID 19 and sustainable recovery in the tourism sector**, should have a particular focus on decent work and OSH. Despite lockdowns and travel restrictions, hotels have continued to play a vital role during the COVID-19 pandemic, as quarantine centres; as accommodation for medical personnel; as refuges for victims of domestic violence. At the same time, many hotels closed and millions of hotel workers have been laid-off. This meeting, should build on the existing ILO standards and sustainable tourism guidelines, to improve working conditions and health and safety of workers in the sector.

With these comments, we support the decision points.

IMEC Statement

GB 343 IMEC statement POL 2 Sectoral Meetings held in 2021 and proposals for the sectoral work in 2022-2023

This statement is being submitted on behalf of IMEC.

IMEC takes note of the revised schedule of meetings, supports the decision point 23 and endorses the proposed meetings in appendix I and II.

IMEC takes note of the outcome of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of a resolution concerning the ILO minimum monthly basic pay or wage for able seafarers. We welcome the invitation to the Governing Body to arrange a meeting of the Subcommittee with the goal to update the minimum monthly basic wage. This will be of great benefit to Seafarers, especially in light of the pandemic.

Furthermore, IMEC welcomes the updated Sectoral Briefs, as mentioned in section 3 of the paper. Taking in the impact of the pandemic, providing guidance and tools to assist in protecting workers sustaining enterprises and sharing best practices in a wide range of sectors contributes to the (ILO's) human-centred COVID-19 recovery.

IMEC supports the ILO approach to sectoral work involving the promotion of decent work across the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. An approach which also includes addressing issues of gender equality and non-discrimination and is focused on the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work which calls for a human centred approach to the future of work by promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all through, amongst others, sectoral policies that promote decent work and enhance productivity.

We also welcome the conclusions adopted at the technical meeting on the Future of Work in the Automotive Industry and the Technical meeting on the Future of Work in the Education Sector in the context of lifelong learning for all, Skills and the Decent Work Agenda.

We support the Office's continuing commitment to further strengthen strategic partnerships across the multilateral system to promote policy coherence and to leverage support for decent work for all. We thank the Office and the members of the sectoral advisory body for their work. The programme is well-balanced in attention to specific sectors and to topics that are important to discuss within those sectors. Thus, IMEC supports the decision point.



European Union

Written Statement

ILO Governing Body, 343rd session

1st to 13th November 2021

Sectoral meetings in 2021 and proposals for sectoral work in 2022-23

GB.343/POL/2

Geneva, 29 October 2021

- SUBMITTED IN WRITING -

ILO Governing Body, 343rd session

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EU Statement

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro* and Serbia* and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

We align with the written statement submitted by IMEC.

We restate our strong support for the ILO approach to sectoral work which we firmly believe is a means to achieve the goal of decent work for all.

In this spirit, we welcome the work done to review the sectoral meetings, especially in light of adaptations needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the focus on a just transition to environmental sustainability and green jobs, promoting decent and sustainable work in global and domestic supply chains and achieving several targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, in the framework of multilateral coherence.

The importance and value of social dialogue was visible in the actions taken to respond to the Pandemic and the ongoing recovery.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Office for the organization of the Sectoral Meetings held so far in 2021. The positive spirit with which all constituents engaged in the discussions led to fruitful debates and constructive outcomes in these challenging times.

We warmly welcome the acceptance of our proposal for a Tourism focussed meeting and it's scheduling in 2022. We see great merit and relevance in the meeting on COVID-19 and sustainable recovery in the Tourism Sector. We particularly welcome the focus on Occupational Safety and Health which has become such a prominent part of the response to the pandemic. We look forward to the meeting in May 2022, and to exploring the best possible strategies and good practices that work towards a safe and sustainable recovery and

**The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

to advance the resilience of tourism into the future, in particular, through reskilling and upskilling.

We welcome the outcome of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of a resolution concerning the ILO minimum monthly basic pay or wage for able seafarers and its invitation to the GB to convene a meeting of the Subcommittee for the purpose of updating the minimum monthly basic wage which will be of benefit to Seafarers who have been significantly affected by the pandemic.

We also welcome the conclusions adopted at the technical meeting on the Future of Work in the Automotive Industry and the Technical meeting on the Future of Work in the Education Sector in the context of lifelong learning for all, Skills and the Decent Work Agenda.

The EU and its MS would like to thank the Office for scheduling the meeting on the protection of whistle-blowers in the public service sector and we support the timetable for sectoral meetings in 2022 as set out in Appendix 1 of Office Paper (25-29/04/22).

We would also like to reiterate our call to the Office in focusing ILO sectoral work on the transition to formality and to put on record, once again, our interest in a tripartite meeting of experts on ensuring decent work in the platform economy as suggested by the Office in doc GB.341/INS/3/1 and GB343/INS/15.

We support the Office's continuing commitment to further strengthen strategic partnerships across the multilateral system to promote policy coherence and to leverage support for decent work for all. We thank the members of the sectoral advisory body for their work.

Thus, the EU and its Member States support the decision point and ILO sectoral work and endorse the proposed meetings in Appendix 1 and 2.