



Draft resolution concerning the coherence of the multilateral system

Presented by Mr Jean-Jacques Elmiger, titular Government delegate, Switzerland and supported by Mr Gilles de Robien, titular Government delegate, France

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO), meeting in its 100th Session, on the 1 June 2011,

Recalling the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944) and, in particular, its sections II and IV,

Having in mind the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998),

Considering the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (2004), in particular its paragraph 513,

Reaffirming the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008),

Considering the Global Jobs Pact (2009),

Considering the conclusions adopted by the G20 leaders at the London and Pittsburgh Summits, confirmed during the Toronto and Seoul Summits,

Recalling that full employment and the improvement of living standards are not only part of the ILO's constitutional objectives of social justice and progress, but also of constitutional purposes of the international organizations competent for finance, trade and economy;

Observing that the overall increase of wealth made possible by globalization is resulting in too slow a reduction in poverty and inequalities and is not being translated into sufficient job creation to reduce unemployment particularly among the younger generations that are the most affected;

Convinced:

- (a) that the persistence of these imbalances may not only reduce the prospects of a decent life for younger generations but may affect global demand and economic growth, as well as social cohesion;

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- (b) that it can also undermine both the credibility of the organizations concerned as a whole as well as the very foundations of an open society and economy;
 - (c) that, even though such imbalances are well known and have been documented and deplored by the international community in numerous texts, they have not been sufficiently attacked at their roots nor as to their institutional causes, which hinders the coherence of policies and activities aimed at implementing objectives and principles deemed common;
 - (d) that the ILO, the only international organization which unites those creating, those occupying and those regulating jobs, is in this respect endowed with specific responsibilities, whilst also facing a unique opportunity: to make a concrete contribution to this common cause on the occasion of the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC);
 - (e) that on the basis of the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, it can make this contribution through measures that promote greater institutional coherence in a concrete and practical way and in particular ensure that:
 - (i) the international organizations concerned better take into account the impact of their policies and activities on their respective objectives and in particular, regarding the ILO, those regarding sustainable job creation and peoples' legitimate aspirations to participate in the growth of the wealth which they help generate in order to attain a decent existence;
 - (ii) member States' internal and external coordination in the conduct of their social, economic, financial and trade relationships is strengthened;
 - (iii) the universal implementation of the fundamental principles and rights at work that the ILO tripartite constituents recognized as a condition for a fairer distribution of wealth and burdens related to globalization become more effective;
 - (f) that the resorption of these imbalances is a long-term endeavour and that it makes it even more necessary to complete the aforementioned measures through the implementation of an appropriate Social Protection Floor;

Adopts the present resolution by which the ILO intends to contribute to greater coherence through concrete institutional measures, with a view to (A) strengthening partnerships with the organizations concerned; (B) enabling better policy coordination between and within member States; (C) strengthening universal implementation of the fundamental principles and rights at work as "rules of the game" for the social dimension of globalization; (D) implementing a Social Protection Floor.

A. STRENGTHENING CONCRETE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED AND THE ILO

The ILC is convinced that, in order to better take into account the impact of their activities on the social objectives they have in common and in order to better coordinate their programmes and activities, the organizations concerned should be more closely associated and in a more institutionalized way within the ILO discussions and activities.

To that end, the ILC, without prejudice to any cooperation agreements that may be signed at a later stage on a reciprocity basis, requests the Director-General to submit to the

Governing Body, at one of its next sessions, proposals based on the 2008 Declaration¹ and aiming at:

- (i) associating more closely the organizations concerned with the work and discussions of the ILC, particularly with regard to recurrent reports and reviews;
- (ii) inviting the international organizations concerned to engage in debate at every session of the ILC, on the basis of a document prepared in collaboration with them, concerning evaluation of the social impact of financial, economic and trade policies with a view to promoting and optimizing programme and activity coordination at country level.

B. ENABLING BETTER POLICY COORDINATION BETWEEN
AND WITHIN MEMBER STATES

Convinced that improved coordination between and within member States would enable better coherence and efficiency for the international organizations' action as well as good global governance, the ILC:

- (a) Recalls the commitment all Members made in the 2008 Declaration “to take appropriate steps for an adequate coordination between positions taken on behalf of the member State concerned in relevant international forums (...)”;²
- (b) Requests the Director-General:
 - (i) to submit at the next session of the Governing Body a feasibility study, drawing upon practices in other international organizations, as regards the possibility of institutionalizing a tripartite and voluntary coordination review framework that would allow cross-fertilization of experiences among Members, and
 - (ii) to formulate proposals enabling governments to solicit technical assistance from the International Labour Office with a view to reinforcing their internal coordination through social dialogue.

C. STRENGTHENING UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL
PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS AT WORK AS “RULES OF THE GAME” OF THE
SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALIZATION

- (a) The ILC reminds all its Members of:
 - (i) the commitments they have made arising from the Programme of Action and the Declaration adopted unanimously by the 1995 Copenhagen Social Summit;³
 - (ii) the importance of the effective implementation of these principles and rights in order to enable “the persons concerned to claim freely and on the basis of

¹ cf. Section II(C).

² cf. Section II(B)(iv) of the 2008 Declaration.

³ In particular commitment 3(i) concerning fundamental Conventions of the ILO and their ratification.

equality of opportunity their fair share of wealth which they have helped to generate”;⁴

- (b) the ILC therefore calls upon the Director-General to make every additional effort possible with a view to an effective and universal application of the core labour standards:
- (i) through the International Labour Office’s presence at the G20;
 - (ii) by submitting to the Governing Body proposals for arranging, when appropriate, a progressive transition between the minimal obligations that must be fulfilled by ILO member States – as defined by the 1998 Declaration – and a level of protection equivalent to that which would render possible adhesion to the Conventions concerned;

D. IMPLEMENTING A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR

The ILC considers that, besides the above-mentioned measures and with a view to attaining a greater social and economic sustainability, a fairer distribution of the wealth and the burdens related to globalization – including in favour of younger generations – would be facilitated significantly by the setting up, through modalities adapted to each country, of a Social Protection Floor. It strongly encourages current efforts in this area and hopes to welcome proposals on this matter in due course.

The ILC requests the Director-General:

- (i) to communicate the present resolution to the international organizations concerned as well as to the governments of member States of the ILO for consultation;
- (ii) to produce a report to the Governing Body on the consultations established within these organizations and governments to give effect to the present resolution.

The ILC looks forward to being kept informed, from its next session, of the follow-up that will be given to the present resolution.

⁴ cf. Preamble of the ILO Declaration concerning fundamental principles and rights at work (1998).

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