



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

INS

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THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Preparation for the evaluation of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization by the 105th Session of the International Labour Conference (2016)

Purpose of the document

This document is intended to enable the Governing Body to provide guidance on the scope and modalities of the evaluation by the Conference in 2016 of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization as a basis for the report to be prepared by the Office for that purpose. In light of the discussions, further proposals could be developed for the 323rd Session (March 2015) of the Governing Body (see the draft decision in paragraph 16).

Relevant strategic objective: All the strategic objectives.

Policy implications: None at this stage.

Legal implications: None at this stage.

Financial implications: To be determined depending on the decision taken.

Follow-up action required: To be determined depending on the decision taken.

Author unit: International Labour Standards Department (NORMES).

Related documents: GB.322/INS/2; GB.320/PV, para. 351; GB.320/15/2; GB.319/INS/2; GB.304/PV, para. 183; GB.304/7; GB.304/SG/DECL/1(Rev.); ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008; resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization, adopted by the Conference at its 97th Session (2008).

Introduction

1. Part III(C) of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (the Social Justice Declaration) provides that:

At such time(s) as the Governing Body may find appropriate, and in accordance with modalities to be established, the impact of the present Declaration, and in particular the steps taken to promote its implementation, will be the object of a review by the International Labour Conference with a view to assessing what action might be appropriate.¹

2. At its 320th Session (March 2014), the Governing Body decided to place the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration on the agenda of the 105th Session (2016) of the Conference.²
3. The present paper is intended to enable the Governing Body to provide guidance on the scope and modalities of the evaluation that will serve as a basis for the report to be prepared by the Office on the subject, and to agree on a schedule for the steps leading up to the Conference discussion. Based on the guidance provided, concrete proposals could be developed for consideration by the Governing Body at its 323rd Session (March 2015).

Background to the evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration and its Follow-up

4. Following an intensive process of preparation, beginning in February 2005, the Social Justice Declaration and its Annex, entitled “Follow-up to the Declaration”, were unanimously adopted by the Conference at its 97th Session (2008), together with a resolution on strengthening the ILO’s capacity to assist its Members’ efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization.³
5. The tripartite discussions leading up to the adoption of the Social Justice Declaration focused on the ILO’s governance and institutional capacity, and particularly the manner in which the Organization could better use all its means of action to help its Members to implement the ILO’s constitutional objectives in the context of globalization. This was anchored in the reaffirmation of the ILO’s constitutional mandate and an integrated approach to the implementation of its constitutional objectives. It was also emphasized that the strengthening of the ILO’s capacity was not only a matter of internal reform, but was largely contingent upon the standing of the Organization’s activities and message in the world. The ability of Members to achieve ILO objectives depended not only on their own efforts, but also on the overall international environment, in which other non-state actors played a role. It was therefore also important to promote a climate of understanding and cooperation between the ILO, its Members and these other actors.

¹ http://www.ilo.org/global/meetings-and-events/campaigns/voices-on-social-justice/WCMS_099766/lang--en/index.htm

² GB.320/PV, para. 351.

³ See appendix.

6. At its 304th Session (March 2009),⁴ the Governing Body adopted an implementation plan relating to the Social Justice Declaration to give effect to the resolution adopted by the Conference. The implementation plan set out the initial steps to be taken by the Office to operationalize the Declaration.

Purpose, parameters and modalities of the evaluation, as specified in the Social Justice Declaration, its follow-up and the related resolution

7. As recalled in paragraph 1 of this document, the *purpose* of the evaluation is set out in Part III(C) of the Social Justice Declaration.
8. Part III of the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration sets out further particulars concerning the *parameters* and *modalities* of the evaluation. It provides that:
 - A. The impact of the Declaration, in particular the extent to which it has contributed to promoting, among Members, the aims and purposes of the Organization through the integrated pursuit of the strategic objectives, will be the subject of evaluation by the Conference, which may be repeated from time to time, within the framework of an item placed on its agenda.
 - B. The Office will prepare a report to the Conference for evaluation of the impact of the Declaration, which will contain information on:
 - (i) actions or steps taken as a result of the present Declaration, which may be provided by tripartite constituents through the services of the ILO, notably in the regions, and by any other reliable source;
 - (ii) steps taken by the Governing Body and the Office to follow up on relevant governance, capacity and knowledge-base issues relating to the pursuit of the strategic objectives, including programmes and activities of the ILO and their impact; and
 - (iii) the possible impact of the Declaration in relation to other interested international organizations.
 - C. Interested multilateral organizations will be given the opportunity to participate in the evaluation of the impact and in the discussion. Other interested entities may attend and participate in the discussion at the invitation of the Governing Body.
 - D. In the light of its evaluation, the Conference will draw conclusions regarding the desirability of further evaluations or the opportunity of engaging in any appropriate course of action.

Possible elements to be taken into account in defining the scope of and arrangements for the 2016 evaluation

9. The implementation plan adopted at the 304th Session (March 2009) of the Governing Body provides important guidance for the evaluation. It is also important to consider the changes that have taken place since the Social Justice Declaration was adopted. A global economic crisis commenced in September 2008, the effects of which are still being felt today, as a result of which growth in world trade was more than halved and average GDP growth fell by half. In other words, while the social and labour issues identified by the

⁴ GB.304/SG/DECL/1(Rev.) and GB.304/7.

Declaration remain entirely valid, the context for addressing them has changed. It will therefore be particularly important to ensure that consideration is given in the evaluation to both the internal and external dimensions of the actions taken.

10. The views expressed by constituents during the preparatory work for the Social Justice Declaration and in recent discussions on the agenda of future sessions of the Conference at the 319th Session (October 2013) of the Governing Body as well as on the evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration at its 320th Session (March 2014) should also be taken into account. They are summarized below.⁵

Scope of the evaluation

11. Some constituents indicated in their interventions that the evaluation should include an assessment of the various mechanisms put in place to implement the Social Justice Declaration in order to decide whether they had proved adequate for their intended purpose. It should cover the modalities of the recurrent discussions and the related seven-year cycle, including the extent to which the recurrent discussions had given effect to the Social Justice Declaration. When discussing the evaluation, some constituents indicated that further action was required to realize the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration, including: sharing knowledge and good practices; assisting Members; peer reviews; establishing new partnerships with non-state entities; devising appropriate indicators of progress; coordinating positions in international forums; inviting other international organizations to promote decent work; and evaluating the policies of other organizations.

Arrangements for the evaluation

12. Some constituents further referred to the importance of the steps taken by the Governing Body and the Office and observed that, while the evaluation should include a review of implementation by member States, it should not create any additional reporting burden. The possible participation of interested multilateral organizations could take the form of an exchange of views with the Governing Body. Constituents also raised the question of the arrangements for the Conference discussion.

A possible schedule

13. A possible schedule could include the following:
 - 15 January–15 February 2015: Informal tripartite consultations.
 - March 2015: Guidance provided by the Governing Body concerning the scope of and arrangements for the evaluation.
 - November 2015: Progress report to the 325th Session of the Governing Body on preparations, if necessary.
 - March 2016: Publication of the Office report to the Conference.
 - April–May 2016: Informal tripartite consultations to prepare the discussion at the Conference.

⁵ GB.319/PV, paras 6–7 and 592; GB.320/PV, paras 343–350 and 621.

Conclusions

14. When determining the scope and modalities of the 2016 evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration, it will be important to bear in mind the broad objectives of the Social Justice Declaration and its fundamental and continuing significance. The Social Justice Declaration reflects the commitment of member States, as well as of the Office, to pursue policies based on the strategic objectives – employment, social protection, social dialogue and rights at work – through a holistic and integrated approach, recognizing that these objectives are “inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive”, and ensuring the role of international labour standards as a useful means of achieving all of them. The implications of the economic and financial crisis that commenced in 2008 on Members’ and the Organization’s ability to give effect to the Social Justice Declaration will need to be taken into account. The Conference review of the Social Justice Declaration will provide a welcome opportunity to review its impact, the lessons learned and the conclusions that should be drawn as the Organization prepares to usher in the ILO centenary in 2019. This will also provide the opportunity to consider the interaction with the development of the 2018–21 Strategic Policy Framework that is expected to be first discussed at the subsequent session of the Governing Body (November 2016) and that could offer an important contribution to the future of work initiative.
15. The elements contained in this document are intended to enable the Governing Body to hold an informed discussion with a view to reaching consensus on the scope of the evaluation and its modalities. In this regard, the Governing Body may wish to give consideration to the following:
- Should a succinct questionnaire solicit information from member States that is not otherwise available to the Office through its services, notably in the regions, or from any other reliable source? For example, information on action or steps taken by governments, international social partners and international organizations to promote coherence at the national and international levels in addressing social and economic policy, including information on the impact of the post-2008 global economic and financial crisis. (See above, paragraphs 9 and 14.)
 - What arrangements should be considered to enable interested international organizations to participate in the evaluation? (See above, paragraph 12.)
 - Which format and suggestions might constituents wish to indicate in order to pursue the implementation modalities foreseen by the Social Justice Declaration and which have not yet been addressed? (See above, paragraph 11.)
 - Should any specific arrangements be envisaged regarding the format of the consultations with tripartite constituents in the lead up to the 2016 evaluation, bearing in mind the desirability of ensuring an adequate level of awareness and expertise among constituents and full tripartite ownership of the preparatory process for the evaluation?

Draft decision

16. *The Governing Body requests the Office to prepare concrete proposals for its consideration at its 323rd Session (March 2015) concerning the preparations for the 2016 evaluation by the Conference of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, taking into account the views expressed by its members.*

Appendix

Key dates for the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization

June 2007	Consideration by the International Labour Conference of strengthening the ILO's capacity. The Conference adopted conclusions and a resolution requesting the Governing Body: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to decide on placing an item on the agenda of the next session of the Conference with a view to the possible consideration of an authoritative document and follow-up; and (2) to adopt a programme of work to follow up on the conclusions of the various governance aspects of strengthening ILO institutional capacity.
June 2008	Adoption of the Social Justice Declaration and the accompanying resolution. In accordance with the resolution, the Governing Body constituted, on a temporary basis, a steering group responsible for the follow-up to the Declaration (2008).
November 2008	First meeting of the Steering Group on the Follow-up to the Declaration. The Governing Body decided to place the first recurrent discussion on employment on the agenda of the International Labour Conference in 2010 and to align the topics of the General Surveys prepared by the CEACR with those of recurrent discussions. The related discussions by the Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) and the recurrent discussions were to take place at the same session of the Conference.
December 2008	The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 63/199 on the Social Justice Declaration , which takes note of the adoption of the Social Justice Declaration and its accompanying resolution and calls for their implementation.
March 2009	Second meeting of the Steering Group. On the basis of the report of the Steering Group, the Governing Body: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) adopted the implementation plan of the Social Justice Declaration; (ii) adopted a seven-year cycle of recurrent discussions (2010–16) with employment, social protection and fundamental principles and rights at work being discussed twice in the cycle, and social dialogue once; (iii) decided to establish a Governing Body working party on the working methods of the Governing Body and the functioning of the Conference.
November 2010	Third meeting of the Steering Group. On the recommendation of the Steering Group, the Governing Body decided that the discussion of General Surveys by the CAS should be held one year before the recurrent discussion in order to better take into account the report and outcome of the CAS discussion.
March 2011	The Governing Body decided that there would be no General Survey for the 2014 recurrent discussion (employment) as a transitional measure in light of the new arrangements for interaction between General Surveys and recurrent discussions.
June 2013	The Report of the Director-General to the Conference proposed that one element of the ILO centenary initiatives should include the evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration.
March 2014	The Governing Body decided to place an item relating to the evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration on the agenda of the 105th Session (2016) of the Conference.
