



## Governing Body

322nd Session, Geneva, 30 October–13 November 2014

GB.322/WP/GBC/1(Add.)

Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference

WP/GBC

Date: 7 November 2014

Original: English

### FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## Improving the functioning of the International Labour Conference

### *Addendum*

1. The meeting of the Working Party held on 5 November 2014 identified a number of issues requiring further action from the Office or further consultation with the constituents.

2. These issues can be summarized as follows:

#### *2.1. General*

- ***Side events/information sessions:*** A stricter control should be put in place by the Office to ensure that the holding of those events is justified, well publicized at an early stage and scheduled so as to prevent any disruption in the activities of the Conference.
- ***Better use of information technologies:*** Further improvements should be developed for early registration in the technical committees, facilitation of working processes, and the paper smart policy.
- ***Improved time management:*** The strict observance of a common discipline in terms of time management will be crucial in the context of a two-week session. Further improvements will be proposed to ensure a more efficient use of the time allotted to the committees.

#### *2.2. Preparatory work*

- The arrangements put in place in 2014 to improve preparatory processes should be pursued and further developed. These include the pre-Conference information contained in the Conference guides, briefings to the missions, consultations on the reports to be submitted to the Conference, the early identification of the chairpersons of committees and the organization of remote “briefings” for chairpersons by video conferences or conference calls.

2.3. *Logistical arrangements*

- The allocation of the rooms and the seating plans should be adequately planned, taking into consideration the attendance of the various committees, in particular the Committee on the Application of Standards. Seating in the Governing Body room will be allocated for those Governments who have registered for this Committee and those who are the subject of cases to be considered by the Committee. Video transmission of the proceedings of the Committee will be provided in Room II.

2.4. *Group meetings*

- Provision will be made for holding preparatory group meetings on **Sunday, 31 May 2015**, where required. In addition, provision could also be made for group meetings to be held from **8:00 to 11:00** on **Monday, 1 June**;
- As a consequence, the proposed programme for **Monday, 1 June**, would be reorganized as follows: The opening plenary sitting of the Conference would start at 11:00 and would be followed by the Selection Committee meeting from 12:30 to 13:00. The committees would commence their work at 14:30.

2.5. *Plenary*

- The proposals to shorten the opening sitting in 2015, including the distribution of a Provisional Record containing the proposed suspensions of the Standing Orders provisions before the opening of the Conference, have been widely supported. This will need to be followed up at a later time with an amendment to article 76 of the Standing Orders.

2.6. *World of Work Summit*

- While the concept of the World of Work Summit is widely supported, further efforts should be made to identify well in advance a strong theme and a format which would generate more dynamic and interactive discussions. Information about the Summit, including speakers/guests, should be provided at an early stage.

2.7. *Technical committees*

- The trial of moving the adoption of the technical committees' reports to the plenary has been widely endorsed and the proposal to extend the deadline for the electronic submission of corrections to the closure of the Conference session (that is, after the adoption of the report in plenary) will provide at least 24 hours to submit corrections. The reports of the three technical committees will be posted on the web on **Thursday, 11 June**.

3. Tripartite consultations will be held between November 2014 and March 2015 to enable the Office to submit concrete proposals for improvements of working methods of the committees to the March 2015 meeting of the Working Party. The issues to be reviewed during those informal consultations will include: the format of the conclusions; the shortening of the Office introductory statement; time limits for the presentation of the reports to the plenary; and possible measures to reduce the need of night sittings.

4. The following issues have been prioritized for the future work of the Working Party:
- further discussion on the agenda-setting process taking into account the debate to be held on a strategic and coherent approach to the Conference agenda<sup>1</sup> beginning with the 106th, 107th and 108th Sessions of the Conference;
  - further discussion on Conference participation, in particular the nature and composition of delegations; and
  - the need to identify the best timing to review the role, purpose and functioning of the Regional Meetings.

### **Draft decision**

**5. *The Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference recommends that the Governing Body:***

**(a) *request the Office:***

- (i) *to convene, before March 2015, tripartite consultations on the issues listed above;***
- (ii) *to finalize for March 2015 a plan of work for the 104th Session of the Conference (June 2015), which would take into account the reforms agreed by the Working Party.***<sup>2</sup>

**(b) *endorse the following schedule for the future work of the Working Party:***

- (i) *from November 2015, review the experience of the two-week session of the 2015 Conference and determine the format of the June 2016 session;***
- (ii) *in March 2016, discuss proposed amendment to the ILC Standing Orders to be submitted to a Standing Orders Committee of the Conference in June 2016 and commence the review of the role, purpose and functioning of the Regional Meetings in order to establish a time frame for a possible reform.***

<sup>1</sup> See GB.322/INS/2.

<sup>2</sup> See GB.322/WP/GBC/1 and GB.322/WP/GBC/1(Add.).