



Governing Body

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Policy Development Section
Social Dialogue Segment

POL

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THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Sectoral meetings held in 2017 and proposals for 2018

Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the reports of two meetings held in the first half of 2017 (see section I), to authorize respective follow-up, including the publication of the ILO guidelines on decent work and socially responsible tourism, and to endorse the proposals made in section II in relation to upcoming sectoral meetings (see the draft decision in paragraph 21).

Relevant strategic objective: Social dialogue and tripartism.

Main relevant outcome/cross-cutting policy driver: Cross-cutting policy driver: social dialogue.

Policy implications: The guidelines would become ILO guidance on the matter.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: The Office would be required to follow up as proposed.

Author unit: Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: GB.323/PV; GB.326/PV; GB.329/INS/7; GB.329/POL/4; GB.329/PV.

I. Meetings held in the first part of 2017

A. Meeting of Experts to adopt Guidelines on Decent Work and Socially Responsible Tourism (20–24 February 2017)

1. In accordance with earlier decisions of the Governing Body,¹ the Meeting was held in Geneva from 20 to 24 February 2017.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Luis Rodrigo Morales Veléz (Mexico). The three Vice-Chairpersons were: Mr Pablo Angelo Sanges Ghetti (Brazil) from the Government group; Ms Graciela Fresno from the Employers' group; Mr Norberto Latorre from the Workers' group. Ms Fresno and Ms Patricia Nyman (Workers) were the spokespersons for their respective groups.
3. The Meeting was attended by eight experts from Governments, eight experts nominated by the Employers' group and eight experts nominated by the Workers' group of the Governing Body, as well as by 29 Government observers. There were 11 observers from intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations.
4. The purpose of the Meeting of Experts was to review and adopt guidelines that should serve as a reference document for ILO constituents and other stakeholders working on the promotion of decent work in the hotels, catering and tourism sector, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
5. A draft had been prepared by the Office and served as the basis for the discussions. The report² summarizes the Meeting's discussions, which were concluded with the adoption of the guidelines.

B. Tripartite Meeting on Improving Employment and Working Conditions in Health Services (24–28 April 2017)

6. In accordance with earlier decisions of the Governing Body,³ the Meeting was held in Geneva from 24 to 28 April 2017.
7. The Governing Body had designated Ms S. Cappuccio, Worker member of the Governing Body, to chair the Meeting. The three Vice-Chairpersons were: Ms H. Kherrou (Algeria) from the Government group; Mr D. Long from the Employers' group; and Mr H. Beck from the Workers' group. The Spokespersons for the Employers and Workers were Mr A.J. Vicente Pérez and Ms R. Pavanelli.
8. The Meeting was attended by Government representatives from 46 countries, seven Employer and eight Worker representatives accompanied by 16 Worker advisers, as well as

¹ [GB.323/PV](#), para. 294; [GB.326/PV](#), para. 410.

² [MEGDSRT/2017/9](#).

³ [GB.323/PV](#), para. 294; [GB.326/PV](#), para. 410.

observers from 17 intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations.

9. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss decent work strategies that effectively address health workforce shortages, as a prerequisite to enabling provision of equal access to health care for all in need, with a view to adopting conclusions on future programme development and informing policy-making on the selected topic at the international, regional and national levels.
10. The Meeting adopted a set of conclusions, including recommendations for future action by the ILO and its Members. In these Conclusions, the Meeting recommended that the Office actively contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth ⁴ (hereinafter “the Commission”). ⁵ In this context, explicit reference was made to the Governing Body, which was to be encouraged to consider the Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Economic Growth (2017–21) (hereinafter “the Five-Year Action Plan”). ⁶
11. In response to the Commission’s request for the ILO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a five-year implementation plan for its recommendations, the above organizations began work in October 2016, with a first draft plan for consultation launched at a high-level interministerial meeting hosted by the ILO and WHO in Geneva from 13 to 14 December 2016. The plan sets out how the three agencies could collaborate to support member States in the implementation of the Commission’s recommendations.
12. The plan encompasses key areas of ILO work in the health sector, including: job creation, particularly for women and youth; gender equality and women’s economic empowerment; workers’ rights; education, training and skills; social protection; social dialogue; and labour migration. It also underlines the need for evidence-based data and research as a basis for interventions. The plan aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the SDGs, ⁷ as well as with other relevant initiatives, including those on women’s economic empowerment, social protection floors, decent work for youth and equal pay for equal work, and the ILO Future of Work Initiative. ⁸
13. The Ministerial Statement adopted by the OECD Health Ministerial Meeting (17 January 2017) welcomed the recommendations and requested the organization to work

⁴ The High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (HEEG) was established by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General in March 2016 in response to UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/70/183](#), which recognized that “investing in new health workforce employment opportunities may also add broader socioeconomic value to the global economy and national economies and contribute to the implementation for the 2030 Agenda [for Sustainable Development]” and requested the Secretary-General to “explore steps to meet the global shortfall of trained health workers”. It was co-chaired by François Hollande, former President of France, and Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, with the heads of the ILO, the WHO and the OECD acting as co-vice chairs. Its report was presented on 20 September 2016 on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. It contains ten recommendations and five immediate actions (one of which requested the ILO, the OECD and the WHO to develop a five-year implementation plan) towards ensuring the right jobs, the right skills, in the right places, to deliver universal health coverage. See also [GB.328/INS/7](#), para. 13.

⁵ Para. 15(c) of the [conclusions on improving employment and working conditions in health services](#).

⁶ Para. 14(b) of the above conclusions.

⁷ It is directly linked to SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

⁸ See also [GB.329/INS/7](#), para. 25.

with the WHO and the ILO on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. On 25 May 2017, The World Health Assembly adopted the Five-Year Action Plan.^{9 10}

14. To implement the plan, an ILO–OECD–WHO “Working for Health” programme has been developed to coordinate and organize the implementation of the Five-Year Action Plan. It is intended that the ILO, the OECD and the WHO will oversee and coordinate the implementation of the programme through regular meetings of a steering committee at the senior management level.
15. “Working for Health” is a strategic, intersectoral, multi-stakeholder programme that leverages the convening power and mandates of the ILO, WHO and OECD, their rights-based approaches and standards, and the expertise, resources and support from their diverse constituents and partners to expand and transform the health and social workforce with a vision to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, global health security and the 2030 Agenda. The Programme and its Five-Year Action Plan have been recognized as a good example of the type of collaborative partnerships between international agencies that are needed to support member States in realizing not just one but several SDGs at the same time.
16. It is anticipated that by joining forces the three agencies will be more effective in assisting member States in the formulation and implementation of a new generation of improved national health workforce strategies. The theory of change envisages an inclusive process based on concerted national tripartite social dialogue, informed by better data and improved labour market analyses. This will result in enhanced national health workforce strategies, which cover issues such as: skills development, working conditions, occupational safety and health, health worker mobility and migration as well as gender equality, collective bargaining and fundamental principles and rights at work. Such strategies will stimulate better targeted investments in creating decent health sector jobs for a sustainable workforce with the right skills in the right number and in the right places.
17. A joint resource mobilization strategy has been developed by the three agencies. Initial consultations with key development partners have shown that there is interest in funding the proposed actions of the three agencies to support member States in growing their health employment and fostering inclusive economic growth. It is envisaged that a United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) will be established for the Working for Health programme, which would provide a single window for funding from development partners and for allocating funds to joint programmes or projects at the country level. Initial discussions with the United Nations MPTF Office have been positive and it is proposed that the fund be launched at the Fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health (to be held from 13 to 17 November 2017 in Dublin, Ireland).

⁹ Resolution [WHA70.6](#) and the annex to [WHA70/18](#).

¹⁰ In addition, a number of high-level political forums have also referred to and supported the Commission's recommendations and/or the associated Five-Year Action Plan, including: UN General Assembly resolution [A/RES/71/159](#) of 15 December 2016; the agreed conclusions of the 61st Session (2017) of the UN Commission on the Status of Women; the communiqué issued by the health and labour ministers of the West African Economic and Monetary Union on 24 March 2017; Resolution 342 on frontline health workers introduced in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress by Ms Nita Lowey (D-NY 17) on behalf of herself and Mr Díaz-Balart (R-FL) on 18 May 2017; and the Berlin Declaration of the G20 health ministers of 20 May 2017.

II. Upcoming meetings

A. Proposal for a meeting of experts to adopt policy guidelines for the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods targeting the agro-food sectors

18. At its 329th Session (March 2017), the Governing Body discussed the outcome of the Meeting of Experts to adopt Policy Guidelines for the Promotion of Sustainable Rural Livelihoods targeting the Agro-food Sectors (held in Geneva from 26 to 30 September 2016) and requested that the Office “engage tripartite consultations with a view to identifying the conditions for the inclusion of a meeting of experts to adopt policy guidelines for the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods targeting the agro-food sectors in the programme of meetings for 2018–19 for consideration by the Governing Body in November 2017”.¹¹
19. The informal consultations held on 19 September 2017 resulted in no clear consensus. However, tripartite constituents recommended that the Governing Body considers including in the programme of meetings for 2018–19 a meeting of experts to adopt policy guidelines on the promotion of decent work on plantations.

B. Meetings to be held in the first half of 2018

20. In light of the adoption of the programme of sectoral meetings for 2018–19 by the Governing Body at its 329th Session (March 2017),¹² the Office has prepared the appended list with proposals regarding dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the remaining meetings envisaged for the first half of 2018.

Draft decision

21. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) takes note of the reports of the meetings referred to in section I;*
- (b) authorizes the Director-General to publish the Guidelines on decent work and socially responsible tourism;*
- (c) authorizes the Director-General to communicate the final report of the Tripartite Meeting on Improving Employment and Working Conditions in Health Services to governments, requesting them to communicate the report to the employers’ and workers’ organizations concerned, and to the international employers’ and workers’ organizations and other international organizations concerned;*
- (d) requests the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for future work, the recommendations for future action by the ILO made by the meetings referred to in section I;*

¹¹ GB.329/PV, para. 512.

¹² *ibid* and GB.329/POL/4.

- (e) requests the Director-General to work with the WHO and the OECD on the implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth and to take into account its guidance in the implementation of the Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Economic Growth;*
- (f) decides to include in the programme of meetings for 2018–19 a meeting of experts on the promotion of decent work on plantations; and*
- (g) endorses the proposals contained in the table appended relating to the dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the meetings listed therein.*

Appendix

Programme of sectoral meetings 2018 (first half)

Meetings as adopted by the Governing Body (GB.329/POL/4)	Proposed dates	Proposed duration	Proposed title	Proposed purpose	Proposed composition (G/E/W)
A Meeting of Experts to adopt a draft revised guidelines on social dialogue in public emergency services in a changing environment	16–20 April 2018	5 days	Meeting of Experts to adopt Guidelines on Decent Work in Public Emergency Services ¹	The purpose of the meeting will be to revise the 2003 Guidelines on Social Dialogue in Public Emergency Services in order to reflect the changes in the nature of emergencies and other developments in the past decade.	Eight Government experts; eight Employers experts; eight Workers experts; all Governments as observers. Intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations as observers. Governments ² to be invited: Brazil, Italy, Japan, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, United Kingdom. Governments for the reserve list: Colombia, France, Greece, Jordan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, United States.
Joint Maritime Commission (JMC) Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers	20–21 June 2018	2 days	Joint Maritime Commission Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers	The purpose of the meeting is to discuss updating the minimum monthly basic wage figure for able seafarers referred to in the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006), and to make the appropriate recommendation to the Governing Body of the ILO.	Six shipowner and six seafarer representatives. ³

¹ Decent work more effectively captures the scope of the proposed revised guidelines as they address not only social dialogue but also the other pillars of the decent work agenda. ² In preparing the proposals, the Office took into account the following criteria: (a) geographical distribution; and (b) recent developments in and/or deployment of public emergency services. ³ The meeting is at no cost to the Office. The Standing Orders of the Joint Maritime Commission provide, in article 1 (Composition of the Commission) that “(1) The Joint Maritime Commission set up by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall consist of two members appointed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, representing respectively the employers’ group and the workers’ group of the Governing Body, and of forty members nominated by the International Labour Conference at a session dealing with maritime questions, twenty of whom shall be selected by the ship owners’ delegates and twenty by the seafarers’ delegates at the Conference. (2) It shall also include four deputy ship owners’ members and four deputy seafarers’ members appointed respectively by the ship owners’ delegates and the seafarers’ delegates at the Conference.” Article 14, (Subcommittees) further provides that “(1) During any session the Commission may set up subcommittees to discuss any of the items on its agenda. The Chairman of the Commission or, in his absence, the representatives of the employers’ and workers’ groups of the Governing Body alternately, shall preside over such subcommittees. (2) The Commission may also recommend to the Governing Body that tripartite subcommittees be convened to discuss any matter appropriate for consideration by such a subcommittee. (3) The Standing Orders of the Joint Maritime Commission shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the meetings of subcommittees.” The composition of the most recent meeting of the Subcommittee on Wages in 2016 consisted of six shipowners and six seafarers, with their respective advisers. In the absence of a chairperson, the Director of SECTOR acted as Secretary-General of the meeting.