



TENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Joint ILO/UNESCO
Committee of Experts on the
Application of the Recommendation
concerning the Status of Teachers
(Geneva, 11-15 September 2000)**

1. The Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (CEART) held its Seventh Session at the ILO in Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000.
2. Its agenda covered the following items:
 - (a) review of reports and other sources of information in accordance with the mandate of the Joint Committee to report on the application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (hereafter, ILO/UNESCO Recommendation, 1966), and the Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (hereafter, UNESCO Recommendation, 1997);
 - (b) review of the ILO and UNESCO joint or separate activities to promote the application of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation, 1966;
 - (c) review of information supplied by interested international organizations on matters related directly to the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation, 1966, and the UNESCO Recommendation, 1997;
 - (d) review of progress made in relation to the initiatives regarding improved teacher indicators;
 - (e) consideration of allegations on non-observance of the two Recommendations;
 - (f) consideration of initiatives necessary to discharge the new responsibilities of the Joint Committee in relation to the UNESCO Recommendation, 1997;
 - (g) discussion of substantive themes concerning both Recommendations related to: employment, careers and status of the teaching profession; participation of teachers and teachers' organizations in education reform (social dialogue); education and professional development of teachers; information and communication technologies in education (ICTE); and lifelong learning;

- (h) other matters related to the Joint Committee's mandate, including methodology, an assessment of the CEART and a proposed change in its title;
 - (i) the agenda for its Eighth Session.
3. The extensive information available to the Joint Committee in accordance with its mandate included background documents on its agenda items prepared by the ILO and UNESCO secretariats, reports prepared for the major ILO and UNESCO meetings or conferences relating to teachers and education which have been held since 1997,¹ and other sources as specified in its mandate and methods of work. An innovation at this session consisted of an informal information session with representatives of the international organizations of teachers and of employers, and the United Nations.² On the basis of the information available to it, the Joint Committee analysed progress achieved in implementing both Recommendations, recommending action to improve the status of teachers on the part of governments, employers' and workers' organizations, the ILO and UNESCO.
4. The report of the session³ consists of a summary, introduction, review of promotional activities by the ILO, UNESCO and others to advance knowledge and implementation of the two Recommendations, information supplied by international teachers' organizations and other interested stakeholders, allegations from teachers' organizations on non-observance of the Recommendations and improvements in methodology for consideration of such allegations, analysis of employment, careers and status of teachers, social dialogue in education (participation, consultation and collective bargaining), teacher education and training, lifelong learning and information and communications technologies in education, follow-up action to the UNESCO Recommendation, 1997, assessment of the Joint Committee and its methodology, and recommendations for future action. Five annexes contain a list of the documents used as a basis for the Joint Committee's work, its analysis, conclusions and recommendations on allegations received from teachers' organizations, a detailed review of issues and proposals for further action concerning its new responsibilities to monitor the UNESCO Recommendation, 1997, a message on the occasion of World Teachers' Day 2000, and the proposed agenda for its next session.

The status of teachers and the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations: Principal issues arising from the Seventh Session

5. The principal themes covered in the report which concern main areas of interest to the ILO include:
- employment, careers, and status (paragraphs 59-75);
 - social dialogue in education (paragraphs 76-82);

¹ ILO: Joint Meeting on Lifelong Learning in the Twenty-First Century: The Changing Roles of Educational Personnel, Geneva, 2000; UNESCO: World Conference on Higher Education, Paris, 1998; Second World Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Seoul, 1999; and the World Education Forum, Dakar, 2000.

² Education International, World Confederation of Teachers' Unions, World Federation of Teachers' Unions, International Organisation of Employers and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education.

³ [CEART/VII/2000/10](#).

- teacher education and training (paragraphs 83-93);
- the impact of HIV/AIDS on teachers and on educational systems (paragraphs 64a, 87-88, 92-93);
- the challenges of lifelong learning and new information and communications technologies for the teaching profession (paragraphs 94-105).

UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel

6. As a result of decisions taken by the Governing Body⁴ and by the Executive Board of UNESCO, the Joint Committee dealt for the first time with its new responsibilities to monitor and promote the UNESCO Recommendation, 1997. The Joint Committee's agenda and programme of work were accordingly modified to permit a detailed examination of priority issues concerning the status of higher education teaching personnel, with special attention to academic freedom and tenure, and means of carrying out its responsibilities (paragraphs 106-114 and Annex 3 of the report).

Allegations by teachers' organizations

7. The report also contains the Joint Committee's analysis of allegations by teachers' organizations concerning non-observation of the Recommendations' provisions by governments. Four allegations received by the Joint Committee since its 1997 session are summarized according to the relevant procedures approved by the Governing Body of the ILO and by the Executive Board of UNESCO, as are five allegations examined initially by the Joint Committee in 1997, and for which it had requested information on further developments (paragraphs 52-58 and Annex 2). Improved methods for treating such cases were discussed, including a fact-finding or "direct contacts" capacity at the invitation of the concerned parties to investigate urgent cases of extreme deviation from the principles of the Recommendations, when other means of obtaining information had been exhausted without success.

Assessment and title of the Joint Committee

8. The Joint Committee resolved to carry out an assessment of its role and work, including a consideration of how it could best fulfil its mandate in the future (paragraph 120). Moreover, in view of its extended mandate, the Joint Committee proposed that its official title be changed to "Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel" (paragraph 121), while retaining the acronym of CEART.

Proposals for future action

9. In its proposals for future action, and taking into account the limited resources available in the ILO and UNESCO, the Joint Committee recommended a limited number of high-priority measures in furtherance of the objectives to monitor, promote knowledge of and assist member States in the implementation of the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations. These concern proposed studies, curriculum and policy guidelines, and public information

⁴ GB.276/10/2, para. 47.

activities. These operational activities and appropriate recommendations to the Governing Body will be considered by the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues at the present session.⁵

10. *The Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:*

- (a) take note of the report of the Seventh Session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers;*
- (b) authorize the Director-General to communicate the report to the governments of member States, and through them to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned, as well as to concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to invite them to continue and to intensify their efforts to apply all provisions of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation, 1966, and the UNESCO Recommendation, 1997, in light of the Joint Committee's analysis and recommendations to improve teachers' status;*
- (c) authorize the Director-General to communicate the relevant part of the annex containing the Joint Committee's examination of the allegations before it to the Governments of Albania, Bolivia, Burundi, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Japan, Senegal and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to the relevant United Nations bodies and to the teachers' organizations concerned and, where appropriate, to invite them to take the necessary follow-up action as recommended in the report;*
- (d) forward the report to the International Labour Conference at its 89th Session (June 2001) for examination in the first instance by the Committee on the Application of Standards.*
- (e) approve the change of the official title of the Joint Committee to "Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel".*

Geneva, 20 February 2001.

Point for decision: Paragraph 10.

⁵ GB.280/STM/4.