



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Seventh Session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers: Implications for ILO follow-up activities

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. As in the past, the Joint Committee's report¹ has been submitted to the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards for its consideration, together with an Office paper.² Some of the main issues considered by the Joint Committee, and in particular its recommendations for ILO follow-up activities, separately or jointly with UNESCO, are indicated below.

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

2. The principal themes covered in the report which concern main areas of interest to the ILO include:
 - (a) employment, careers and status (paragraphs 59-75);
 - (b) social dialogue in education (paragraphs 76-82);
 - (c) teacher education and training (paragraphs 83-93);
 - (d) the impact of HIV/AIDS on teachers and on educational systems (paragraphs 64(a), 87-88, 92-93);
 - (e) the challenges of lifelong learning and new information and communications technologies for the teaching profession (paragraphs 94-105);

¹ CEART/7/2000/10.

² GB.280/LILS/10.

- (f) priority issues concerning the status of higher education teaching personnel, with special attention to academic freedom and tenure (paragraphs 106-114 and Annex 3).

Conclusions and recommendations for ILO and UNESCO action

3. Conscious of the resource limitations of the ILO and of UNESCO, the Joint Committee recommended a limited number of priority activities to be undertaken by the two organizations in support of its mandate:
 - (a) the completion of a high-profile study on social dialogue in education, with particular emphasis on the participation, by means of consultation and negotiation, of teachers and their organizations in various types of educational reform. The study's objective would be to counter the current widespread lack of knowledge about this key element in educational planning and policy reform, and lack of knowledge of the relevant international standards cited in the 1966 and 1997 Recommendations (paragraphs 82 and 126);
 - (b) the undertaking by UNESCO of a study on academic freedom, in close cooperation with the ILO and in tandem with a study to be undertaken by the ILO on employment structures in higher education, with particular reference to conditions of academic tenure (paragraphs 108-114, 124 and Annex 3);
 - (c) permanent work on appropriate quantitative and qualitative teacher indicators, including a joint UNESCO/ILO working group on the development of statistics on higher education, in the context of joint work already begun on teacher indicators at the primary and secondary level by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the ILO (paragraphs 49-51 and 127);
 - (d) inclusion by the ILO and UNESCO of information on prevention of HIV/AIDS in education and training, in the form of international guidelines and policy advice to member States, including advice that appropriate preventive education be an integral part of all teacher education and training curriculum (paragraphs 92-93 and 125);
 - (e) collaboration between UNESCO and the ILO in the preparation of international guiding principles for teacher education, which would, inter alia, seek to persuade relevant ministries to include references to key definitions and provisions taken from both Recommendations in teacher education frameworks (paragraphs 34-35 and 128);
 - (f) the preparation of promotional materials on the Recommendations and the Joint Committee's work in print and electronic forms (paragraphs 24, 38, 119 and 129-131).
4. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend that the Governing Body request the Director-General to take into consideration, where appropriate in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO, the Joint Committee's proposals for future action by the ILO and UNESCO contained in the relevant paragraphs of its report, notably paragraphs 124-131, in planning and implementing future ILO activities, due account being taken of available resources.*

Geneva, 15 February 2001.

Point for decision: Paragraph 4.