



FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Publication of the results of the work of  
the Working Party on Policy regarding  
the Revision of Standards**

**Dissemination and promotion**

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## Introduction

1. At the 283rd (March 2002) Session of the Governing Body, the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards will have essentially completed the examination of all ILO Conventions and Recommendations within its mandate, i.e., those adopted before 1985, except the fundamental and priority Conventions. Pursuant to the wish expressed by the Working Party at its meeting during the 280th Session of the Governing Body,<sup>1</sup> the current document presents projects for the publication of the Working Party's work to be implemented in the course of the coming year. The projects described in this document will be implemented thanks to a contribution by the French Government. Further contributions by governments to the preparation of the publication on international labour standards presented below are possible. Issues relative to the introduction of the results of the Working Party's work in the official ILO publications could be presented during the next meeting of the Working Party.

## Country profiles

2. Ensuring an effective follow-up to the work of the Working Party is a primary concern to be addressed through the dissemination of information. To this end, the Office has prepared country profiles for about 30 member States with a summary of the measures that each member State is invited to take pursuant to the decisions of the Governing Body based on the recommendations of the Working Party. These country profiles could provide member States with an accurate picture of where they stand and the action they need to take in the light of the results of the work of the Working Party. Country profiles could also enable the Office to send individual tailor-made invitations to member States to ratify up-to-date Conventions and denounce outdated ones in light of each member State's record of ratifications and denunciations. Finally, they could be used in the framework of training seminars and missions.
3. During the last meeting of the Working Party, several members thought that it would be very useful to generalize these country profiles for all member States.<sup>2</sup> Since these documents must be constantly updated to keep up with intervening ratifications and denunciations, the Office considers that the best method to manage them would be to set up an electronic database. This would allow the automatic update of country profiles and the publication of country-specific information on the Internet. Such a database already exists in an embryonic form for the internal use of the Office. It will be developed and made publicly available on the Internet.

## Publication on international labour standards

4. Numerous Governing Body members which participated in the debate on possible improvements to ILO standards-related activities underlined the need to disseminate more information on international labour standards, raise their visibility and ensure that they are

<sup>1</sup> Document GB.280/12/2 Appendix I; GB.280/LILS/5(Rev.1).

<sup>2</sup> Document GB.280/12/2, op. cit.

widely understood.<sup>3</sup> For this purpose the Office is preparing a publication on international labour standards addressed to constituents, academic researchers and the interested general public. This publication will contain one chapter on standards policy. Other chapters concerning groups of standards will describe the content of up-to-date standards and include a summary of the Governing Body decisions concerning these standards following their examination by the Working Party.

## CD-ROM and guide

5. In light of the upcoming completion of the work of the Working Party, it is important to provide, as requested by several members of the Working Party,<sup>4</sup> a user-friendly presentation of the results achieved and the decisions taken in the area of policy regarding the revision of standards as well as a glossary of the terms used by the Working Party. An appropriate action to ensure wide and effective dissemination of this information would be to combine a guide and a CD-ROM on this subject.
6. The publication in the three official languages of a guide to ILO standards would allow the Office to effectively disseminate information on the results of the work of the Working Party in a convenient and user-friendly format. The guide would contain a presentation by group of standards of the decisions taken by the Governing Body on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Party as well as a summary of the key elements of the 71 up-to-date Conventions in order to allow their promotion.
7. The contents of the guide could also be published in a CD-ROM along with a glossary of the main terms used by the Working Party. Moreover, the CD-ROM could contain complementary information like the full text of ILO Conventions and Recommendations, the ILO Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Conference, the handbook of procedures and the general surveys published during the last 15 years.

## Conclusion

8. At its next meeting, which will take place during the 283rd (March 2002) Session of the Governing Body, further information may be presented to the Working Party on the integration of the results of its work within official ILO publications, including the compendium of Conventions and Recommendations and the International Labour Standards Department web site.

Geneva, 9 October 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Document GB.280/12/1.

<sup>4</sup> Document GB.280/12/2, *op. cit.*