



FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**A new approach to sectoral activities
in 2004-05: Progress report****Background**

1. At its 286th Session (March 2003) the Governing Body agreed to a new approach to sectoral activities that comprises a mix of sectoral action programmes and international sectoral meetings.¹ Decisions were taken on topics for action programmes in the agriculture, education, and textiles, clothing and footwear sectors. Three additional sectors (construction, hotels, catering and tourism, and financial and professional services) were selected for action programmes, the topics for which would be developed through tripartite consultations and presented to the Governing Body for approval. The Governing Body also agreed that an international tripartite meeting would be held in 2004 for the media, culture and graphical sector. Activities for the three remaining sectors in the 2004-05 rotation and two additional activities remained to be developed and agreed, taking into account action by the Office to link the Sectoral Activities Programme to that of ILO/AIDS in order to develop a sectoral approach to HIV/AIDS in the workplace.
2. The Officers of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues submitted a paper to the 287th Session of the Governing Body in June 2003 that addressed several of the issues outstanding from the March session.² The Governing Body agreed on a proposal for an action programme for the construction sector and on two meetings of experts (basic metals and forestry) and a smaller, shorter than normal international sectoral meeting for the transport equipment manufacturing sector. Savings from these three less costly meetings would be used for guaranteed follow-up activity in the second half of 2005. The Governing Body also agreed on an action programme, in conjunction with ILO/AIDS, on a sectoral approach to HIV/AIDS in the workplace in a number of sectors (e.g. agriculture, education, health, hotels and tourism, mining, and transport) in a number of countries.

¹ GB.286/16, para. 32.

² GB.287/7.

State of play

Action programmes

3. Pending the allocation of financial resources to each sector for 2004-05, informal consultations have continued on each of the programmes for which topics have been agreed (agriculture, construction, education, textiles, clothing and footwear), with a view to starting the activities foreseen as early as possible in 2004.
4. A tripartite planning meeting for the construction sector will be held in Geneva (3-5 November) to discuss the key issues of forms of employment, training, and safety and health, and the range of options available to address them with the resources at hand. Government, employer and worker participants from Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, India and the United Republic of Tanzania will take part. Thanks to collaboration between SECTOR and EMP/INVEST the meeting will be held without affecting the overall budget for the action programme that will commence in 2004. The Committee will receive an oral report of that meeting.
5. Taking advantage of the Tripartite Regional Meeting on Employment in the Tourism Industry for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 15-17 September 2003), the Office has sought opinions on a proposed action programme to address the crises and create more and better jobs in the hotel, catering and tourism sector. The Committee will receive an oral report of the outcome of these preliminary discussions, as a result of which further consultations will be held prior to organizing a small tripartite planning meeting early in 2004 that will develop and agree the action programme.
6. Following discussions between SECTOR and ILO/AIDS on possible strategies for developing sector-specific training programmes based on the education and training manual linked to the ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, a series of sectoral consultations will take place early in 2004, taking into account the outcome of the discussion of the paper on HIV/AIDS and the Decent Work Agenda at the current session of the Governing Body,³ so that a series of targeted activities can commence shortly afterwards.
7. The three action programmes for the agriculture, education, and textiles, clothing and footwear sectors are already well developed and have been approved by the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues.⁴ Consultations to identify countries where activities will take place and to allocate the budget have commenced and will continue until January 2004. A tripartite steering committee could be established for one or more of the programmes. Where necessary, informal consultations on the programmes' direction could be held in Geneva.
8. For the education sector, consultations are being held, especially with UNESCO, on the best means of creating synergies with the international Education for All movement and its Flagship Programme on teachers and quality of education. Linkages with the outcomes of the September 2003 Session of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART) will be explored.

³ GB.288/ESP/3.

⁴ GB.286/16, para. 32(a).

9. Ongoing preliminary consultations on the action programme for the financial services sector with employers' and workers' organizations confirm that the main focus of the action programme should be on restructuring, and the appropriate strategies to address its consequences, including ensuring continued decent working conditions. The issues to be considered should include the role of social dialogue in maintaining adequate working standards in the context of global financial services job relocations.
10. A Tripartite Regional Seminar on Promoting Social Dialogue on Financial Services Restructuring in Latin America (Buenos Aires, 12-14 August 2003) provided an opportunity to obtain a regional perspective on the action programme. The seminar participants recommended that it include the following elements:
 - promoting the greater use of social dialogue among financial sector social actors in the region and assisting in mobilizing resources towards this end;
 - assisting constituents to undertake national-level research into the social and employment consequences of banking and financial services sector restructuring, with the findings providing a base for the ILO to develop a manual of good practices for wide dissemination and application.

These views will be taken into consideration during further consultations and in a proposed planning meeting to be held early in 2004.

Meetings

11. The Tripartite Meeting on the Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society: Media, Culture, Graphical Sector will be held on 18-22 October 2004 in Geneva. This Meeting will fall between the two sessions of the World Summit on the Information Society (December 2003 in Geneva and November 2005 in Tunis), thus providing an opportunity to make an important contribution to the debate at the second session. This Meeting is a follow-up to the Symposium on Information Technologies in the Media and Entertainment Industries: Their Impact on Employment, Working Conditions and Labour-Management Relations (Geneva, 28 February-3 March 2000).
12. The Committee may wish to recommend that the purpose of the Meeting be: to exchange views on the future work and quality in the information society in the media, cultural, graphical sector, the social and labour aspects of this topic for the social partners, and the role of social dialogue in addressing them, using a report prepared by the Office for the basis of its discussions; to adopt conclusions that include proposals for action by governments, by employers' and workers' organizations at the national level and by the ILO; and to adopt a report on its discussions. In addition, the Committee may wish to recommend that the Meeting may adopt resolutions.
13. The Director-General proposes that this be a tripartite meeting lasting five days and comprising representatives from the governments of all interested member States and 21 employers' and workers' representatives selected on the basis of consultations with the respective groups of the Governing Body. A Governing Body representative will chair this meeting.
14. The two meetings of experts (basic metals, to develop a revised code of practice on safety and health in the iron and steel industry; and forestry, to develop guidelines for labour inspection in forestry) will be held in the first half of 2005. The Director-General proposes that the first meeting (basic metals) last eight calendar days and comprise eight experts nominated by Governments and the Employer and Worker groups of the Governing Body,

and that the second meeting (forestry) last five calendar days and comprise six experts nominated by Governments and the Employer and Worker groups of the Governing Body. In accordance with current practice for meetings of experts, there will be no Governing Body representative at either of these meetings.

15. The Office will propose to the Committee at its March 2004 session a list of governments from which experts would be invited to each meeting.
16. The tripartite meeting for the transport equipment manufacturing sector will also be held in Geneva early in 2005 and will discuss employment development, social dialogue and rights at work, and industrial relations. It will have a brief background report prepared by the Office and thematic papers from participants and invited guests as the basis for its discussions.⁵
17. The Committee may wish to recommend that the purpose of the meeting be: to exchange views on the above themes; to adopt conclusions that include proposals for action by governments, by employers' and workers' organizations at the national level and by the ILO; and to adopt a report on its discussions.
18. The Director-General proposes that this be a tripartite meeting lasting three working days and comprising representatives from the governments of all interested member States and ten employers' and workers' representatives selected on the basis of consultations with the respective groups of the Governing Body. A Governing Body representative will chair this meeting.
19. It is estimated that about one-third of the resources allocated to each of these three sectors will remain after the meetings have been held. They will be used to undertake the follow-up or associated activities foreshadowed in document GB.287/7.

Remaining sector

20. One activity for 2004-05 – a meeting or an action programme – remains to be decided. Since the ten sectors that were due to be treated in 2004-05 have been accommodated in meetings or action programmes, the advice of the Committee is sought on the sector(s) to be considered for the final activity, and the type of activity to be undertaken.
21. Developing, carrying out and evaluating an eighth action programme in 2004-05 is beyond the Sectoral Activities Department's current capacity. Moreover, if an international tripartite meeting were to be held, it would have to be in the second half of 2005. If this were to be a small meeting, such as a meeting of experts or the one proposed for the transport equipment manufacturing sector, the scope for follow-up using the savings that would accrue would be limited because of time constraints.
22. One possibility could be to hold a number of small regional meetings for the same sector or, preferably, in the light of the department's capacity, for different sectors. Sectors that are not in the rotation could also be considered.
23. Alternatively, the Committee could decide to forgo a 12th sectoral activity in 2004-05 and redirect the resources for it to all, some, or one of the seven action programmes. On receipt

⁵ GB.287/7, para. 17.

of the Committee's views, the Office will make a proposal to be considered at the March 2004 session.

24. *The Committee may wish to note the foregoing and make recommendations to the Governing Body in respect of the four meetings to be held in 2004-05 concerning:*

- (a) the type of meeting, the duration, the number of delegations, Governing Body representation and the method of selecting the participants, as proposed in paragraphs 13, 14 and 18;*
- (b) the purpose of the Tripartite Meeting on the Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society: Media, Culture, Graphical Sector, as proposed in paragraph 12; and*
- (c) the purpose of the Tripartite Meeting on Employment, Social Dialogue, Rights at Work, and Industrial Relations in Transport Equipment Manufacture, as proposed in paragraph 17.*

Geneva, 22 September 2003.

Point for decision: Paragraph 24.