



SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Purpose, duration and composition of sectoral meetings to be held in 2006-07

1. At its 294th Session (November 2005), the Committee was provided with information on the title and timing of each of the six sectoral meetings¹ to be held in 2006-07. The sectors concerned and the topics for each meeting were decided by the Governing Body, at its 292nd Session (March 2005)² and 293rd Session (June 2005).³ At its 294th Session (November 2005), the Governing Body decided on the length, size, composition, purpose and output, as well as on the appointment of a chairperson of the Meeting of Experts on Safety and Health in Coal Mines, which is the only sectoral meeting scheduled to be held in the first half of 2006.
2. During the second half of 2006 and in April 2007, there will be three tripartite sectoral meetings: for commerce; for road transport; and for mechanical and electrical engineering. The Committee may wish to decide on the length, composition, purpose, output and the appointment of a chairperson for each of these three meetings.

Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Implications of the Increased Use of Advanced Retail Technologies

3. As noted in the proposal to hold this Meeting,⁴ in retail services, the customer has long been persuaded to undertake much of the work of distribution: selecting the goods from the shelves, carrying them to the checkout and then transporting them to their final destination. The expected introduction of even more advanced retail technologies, such as self-checkout equipment, will accentuate this trend, greatly enhancing retail operations and productivity around the world. In combination with these technologies at all stages of the goods handling process, from logistics to checkout, retailers are adopting “lean staffing”

¹ GB.294/STM/1, appendix.

² GB.292/PV, para. 213(c).

³ GB.293/5, para. 28.

⁴ GB293/5, paras. 17, 18 and 19.

strategies as part of cost-cutting procedures. These developments have important implications for employment, work organization, skills requirements, working conditions and labour relations throughout the distribution chain.

4. Following consultations with ILO commerce sector constituents, the Director-General proposes that 15 participants, after consultation with the Employers' group and with the Workers' group, be invited to attend the Meeting, which would last three days (18-20 September 2006). Savings resulting from holding a smaller and shorter meeting, as proposed above, would be used to meet requests for follow-up activities in 2007 agreed during the Meeting.
5. The Director-General also proposes to invite the governments of all interested member States to nominate participants to attend the Meeting.
6. It is further proposed that, in accordance with the practice of rotation among its groups, a representative of the Governing Body be appointed to chair the Meeting.
7. The Office has already proposed that a report analysing the benefits and costs for enterprises and workers from the greater use of advanced retail technologies would be prepared as the basis for discussions during the Meeting. The Committee may, therefore, wish to recommend that the purpose of the Meeting be: to consider that report, adopt conclusions on ways to reconcile the interests of all stakeholders in the face of a changing employment landscape resulting from new technologies; to adopt a report of its discussions; and to propose a programme of follow-up activities to implement those recommendations.

Tripartite Meeting on Labour and Social Issues Arising from Problems of Cross-Border Mobility of International Drivers in the Road Transport Sector

8. The proposal to hold this Meeting,⁵ noted that globalization has led to an increase in road traffic across borders in economically integrated regions, bringing about issues to be dealt with by and on behalf of international drivers in the road transport sector. These issues, particularly those concerning visa and general cross-border mobility of international drivers, have drawn attention to the potential role of social dialogue beyond the national level. It is recalled that it was also agreed that this Meeting should have an HIV/AIDS component.⁶ In this respect, the background report to be prepared by the Office, which will form the basis for the Meeting's discussion, will include a chapter on HIV/AIDS.
9. Following consultations with ILO constituents representing the road transport sector, the Director-General proposes that, after consultations with the Employers' and Workers' groups, ten participants representing each group be nominated to attend the Meeting, which would last four days (23-26 October 2006). As further requested by ILO constituents, savings resulting from holding a smaller, shorter meeting such as this one would be used for follow-up activities.

⁵ GB.292/STM/1, appendix, p. 15.

⁶ GB.292/13(Rev.), para. 24.

10. The Director-General also proposes to invite the governments of all interested member States to nominate participants to attend the Meeting.
11. It is further proposed that, in accordance the practice of rotation among its groups, the Director-General appoint a representative of the Governing Body to attend and also chair the Meeting.
12. The Committee may wish to recommend that the purpose of the Meeting be: to discuss labour and social issues arising from problems of cross-border mobility of international drivers in the road transport sector, including that of HIV/AIDS, using a report prepared by the Office as the basis for discussion; to adopt conclusions that include proposals for action by governments, employers' and workers' organizations and the ILO; to adopt a report of its discussion; and to make proposals for follow-up activity by the ILO.

Tripartite Meeting on the Production of Electronic Components for the IT Industries: Changing Labour Force Requirements in a Global Economy

13. The tripartite meeting for the electronics components sector will be held in Geneva during the week beginning 16 April 2007. Its discussions will include the shift in production of IT components between industrialized, developing and emerging economies; changing skill requirements; gender; age distribution; conditions of work; labour management relations; and production in industrial zones.⁷ A brief background report will be prepared by the Office which will include a number of points for discussion.
14. The Director-General proposes that this be a tripartite meeting lasting three days, comprising representatives from the governments of all interested member States and ten to 12 Employer representatives and an equal number of Worker representatives selected on the basis of consultations with the respective groups of the Governing Body. A Governing Body representative will chair this Meeting.
15. 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.
16. It is estimated that up to one-third of the resources allocated for this activity (depending on the number of participants) will remain after the Meeting has been held. They will be used to continue the development and updating of the metal trades' database.⁸
17. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to make recommendations to the Governing Body in respect of: (a) the Tripartite Meeting on Social and Labour Implications of the Increased Use of Advanced Retail Technologies; (b) the Tripartite Meeting on Labour and Social Issues Arising from Problems of Cross-Border Mobility of International Drivers in the Road Transport Sector; and (c) the Tripartite Meeting on the Production of Electronic Components for the IT Industries: Changing Labour Force*

⁷ GB.293/5, para. 11.

⁸ *ibid.*, para. 12.

Requirements in a Global Economy, to be held in September and October 2006, and in April 2007 respectively, concerning for each meeting: its duration, the appointment of a chairperson, its composition, and its purpose, as proposed in paragraphs 4-7, 9-12 and 14-16.

Geneva, 20 January 2006.

Point for decision: Paragraph 17.