



FOR DEBATE AND GUIDANCE

FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Update on planning for the event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy

1. In the March 2006 session of the Subcommittee the Governing Body endorsed the proposal for an event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.¹ The following points were agreed:
 - The event will be held over two days. The period following the Governing Body November 2007 session was considered to be most convenient.
 - The event will highlight the positive contributions made by MNEs to domestic growth and social development in emerging economies and to share effective practices that illustrate aspects of the MNE Declaration. Participants will also discuss concrete strategies to promote a better use of the MNE Declaration in the world of work. The presentation of these positive experiences should be constructed with a view to replication in other countries.
 - Particular issues to be addressed include: (a) how multinationals and foreign direct investment (FDI) have led to positive effects on employment, in particular through transfers of technologies and skills; how the policies and practices of multinationals have led to improvements in wages and working conditions and the respect of fundamental principles and rights at work in national enterprises and within their supply chain architecture; and (b) where good industrial relations between multinational companies and workers' organizations have provided a framework for the constructive resolution of disputes and for improvements in working conditions, and recent developments such as international framework agreements.

¹ GB.295/11(Rev.), paras. 25-33, and GB.295/MNE/1/5 which contains suggestions of positive experiences to highlight, which were endorsed by the Subcommittee.

- There will be approximately 15 representatives of governments and employers’ and workers’ organizations (total 45), as well as up to ten resource persons from multinationals and global union federations and technical experts on various aspects of MNEs. Additional participants at no cost to the Office would be welcome. To give the event the highest profile possible, the Office will aim for the highest level of participation (CEOs, senior management and high-level trade union and global union federation representatives).
- The output of the event will be a written report reflecting the major insights presented and a set of recommendations for concrete follow-up work. The report will be submitted to the Subcommittee to discuss the recommendations and decide on any follow-up action to be taken.

2. Since the March 2006 session, the Office has taken the following actions:

- On the suggestion of the Employers’ group, the Office has approached the Portuguese Government, which will hold the EU Presidency in the second half of 2007, about possibly co-sponsoring the event; however it has not yet received a response. It has also been in contact with the European Commission.
- As time is running out, the Office has sought alternative partners. On the suggestion of the Workers’ group, it has entered into preliminary discussions with the International Training Centre about the possibility of holding the 30th anniversary event in Turin.
- The Office is now working to develop a media strategy for press coverage of the event. The communication materials produced in preparation for the forum would be integrated into training and other promotional activities on the MNE Declaration. On the suggestion of the Workers’ group, future meetings with DCOMM will also include representatives of ACT/EMP, ACTRAV and the respective ILO departments involved; and will involve consultations with the Officers of the Subcommittee.
- The Office has begun identifying good practices and background materials for a book to be released during the event. It has also met with the ILO Publications Department to develop a strategy to see how to design the publication so that it is more likely to be widely read and used by multinationals, as well as to attract more media attention.
- The Office is now developing and field testing the training package for the MNE Declaration.² This event could be an opportunity to publicize and disseminate these resources.
- The Office is exploring the possibility of having a special commemorative issue of the *International Labour Review* to be issued just prior to the event, which would reach a wider audience. The contributors could offer a range of perspectives on the MNE Declaration.
- The Office has held consultations on the overall design with ACTRAV and ACT/EMP. The Officers of the Subcommittee have been provided with an interim briefing note during their meeting in June 2006.

² The training package on the MNE Declaration is the package developed in the context of the Italian-funded project entitled “Sustainable Development through the Global Compact”. See GB.295/11(Rev.), para. 22. The comments received from ACTRAV and ACT/EMP have been incorporated into the final version which is now being field tested.

3. Consultations on the details of the event continue. It is suggested to have a mixture of plenary and breakout discussions over the two-day period to allow coverage of more issues. The event could build on the experience and outcomes of the Global Compact Policy Dialogue (London, October 2006) and the InFocus Forums for November 2006 and March 2007.
4. The Office will complete the following steps, in close consultation with the Officers and ACTRAV and ACT/EMP, between now and March 2007:
 - close discussions with the Portuguese Government;
 - finalize the date and venue;
 - finalize the list of invited organizations/participants, and initiate the process of issuing invitations;
 - finalize the format;
 - finalize the list of speakers;
 - secure a well-known, experienced and dynamic person to act as the facilitator;
 - further develop the communication strategy in cooperation with DCOMM.
5. The Subcommittee may wish to express its views and give guidance to the Office on the steps to be taken.

Geneva, 28 September 2006.

Submitted for debate and guidance.