

**FOR INFORMATION**

## FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other questions****(a) ILO response to the post-crisis situation in Lebanon**

1. The present document is intended to inform the members of the Committee on Technical Cooperation and the Governing Body of the ILO action taken in response to the post-crisis situation in Lebanon.
2. At the outset, it is noted that even during the military conflict, the ILO maintained close contacts with the tripartite constituents and other pertinent stakeholders in Lebanon, and also participated in the United Nations Country Team's response to the crisis. The UN Country Team agreed that the ILO would lead the sub-cluster on livelihood recovery under the Socio-economic Working Group on Early Recovery. During this process, ILO national staff remained in Lebanon, while international staff under evacuation and the concerned units at headquarters (in particular, ILO/CRISIS) held consultations on a continuous basis.
3. The ILO's internal task force was promptly established to ensure its timely, efficient and effective response to the needs of Lebanon in the fields of its technical competence. The task force is composed of ten officials from both the Regional Office for Arab States and the concerned headquarters departments.
4. Following the cessation of the hostilities, the ILO actively engaged in the initiatives of the international community and fielded two missions to Lebanon in a timely manner. The first ILO mission was undertaken from 22 to 29 August 2006 to assure the ILO constituents and other concerned parties of the ILO's readiness for providing assistance, and to contribute to the work of the United Nations Country Team in preparation for the Stockholm Conference on Lebanon's Early Recovery which was hosted by the Government of Sweden. Subsequently, the ILO was present at the Conference on 31 August 2006.
5. The second mission to Lebanon, that for the needs assessment for employment and income recovery, was undertaken from 12 to 21 September 2006. The mission, which was composed of 13 ILO staff members from the Regional Office for the Arab States, ILO/CRISIS, EMP/INVEST, EMP/CEPOL and SECSOC, was designed particularly to:

- assess the impact of the conflict on employment, social protection and decent work;
  - identify possible ILO immediate assistance and arrive at medium-term strategies in this connection;
  - provide contributions to the United Nations Integrated Assessment and the Recovery Strategy Framework; and
  - identify areas and mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation.
6. The latter mission had extensive consultations in Beirut including those with the Prime Minister, Ministers of Labour, Public Works, Economy, Youth and Social Affairs. The mission also met with the World Bank, UNDP, UNHCR, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA). The team managed to carry out two field visits to parts of South Lebanon although movement in the region was extremely restricted. The main findings and recommendations of the mission include:
- (i) The reconstruction should be closely linked to the wider national development efforts.
  - (ii) It is imperative to incorporate substantive social development component in the reconstruction process and to establish a national strategy for employment promotion.
  - (iii) The task is huge and with many interconnected dimensions. Maximum synergies and collaboration with other United Nations agencies should be sought.
  - (iv) **Immediate ILO assistance programme (1-9 months):**
    - (a) establishment of emergency employment services;
    - (b) conducting a rapid labour market survey;
    - (c) expanding the coverage of the child labour project;
    - (d) initiating a community-based accelerated training programme on employable skills;
    - (e) reviving the ILO/UNESCWA/UNIDO home-based agro-industry project;
    - (f) conducting training for small contractors;
    - (g) promotion of local economic development.
  - (v) **Short- and mid-term ILO assistance (9-24 months):**
    - (a) national tripartite workshop on pressing labour-related issues;
    - (b) revision of the Labour Code;
    - (c) improving migrant worker management;
    - (d) establishing a national employment strategy;
    - (e) strengthening the capacity of the national employment agency;
    - (f) conducting a labour market survey
    - (g) establishing a microcredit scheme for female-headed households.

7. Based on the findings of the mission, project proposals on the following subjects are being developed:
- (i) improving the livelihood of vulnerable groups;
  - (ii) strengthening the capacity of the National Employment Authority;
  - (iii) improving labour market governance;
  - (iv) support for fisherfolk cooperatives;
  - (v) establishment of a social employment fund for war-affected workers;
  - (vi) creating local economic development.
8. Activities under the immediate and short-term assistance programme will be primarily supported by RBTC resources. To this effect the Office is considering a special allocation for an emergency assistance programme for Lebanon. Meanwhile preparations are already taking place to launch some of these activities.
9. It is expected that the commencement of the short-term activities will attract additional contributions from donors. Therefore, the Office is intensifying its efforts to secure the extra-budgetary financial resources required for launching the aforementioned assistance and technical cooperation projects.

Geneva, 11 October 2006.

*Submitted for information.*