



FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Future orientation of the Sectoral
Activities Programme and proposals
for activities in 2008–09**

Proposals for sectoral activities in 2008–09

Introduction

1. The following proposed topics for sectoral activities have been developed in consultation with the social partners, taking into account previous and current work in these sectors¹ and perceived needs. The proposals are grouped in accordance with a suggestion for clustering economic sectors, which was raised during informal consultations between the social partners and the Office. This suggestion, which is appended to this document, might provide a basis for the Committee's discussions on clustering sectors.
2. Although the Office has proposed that the Committee consider a new approach to setting priorities by establishing steering committees,² time requirements connected to holding a meeting or starting an action programme require that decisions on some main activities, which should commence in 2008, would already need to be taken at this session.
3. In view of the resources allocated to the Sectoral Activities Programme, no more than ten main activities can be conducted in 2008–09. In addition, five follow-up activities can be envisaged.

¹ GB.298/STM/1, paras 41–45.

² GB.298/STM/1 paras 48–50.

Agriculture and forestry

(1) Action programme on decent work in agriculture

4. The action programme on decent work in agriculture would focus on strengthening social dialogue to improve safety and health in agriculture. The programme would be carried out at the national, enterprise and/or local community levels according to constituents' requests. It would focus on promoting the ratification of the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), and the application of fundamental principles and rights at work.

(2) Meeting of experts to adopt a revised code of practice on safety and health in agriculture (end of 2009)

5. The ILO's *Guide to health and hygiene in agricultural work*, adopted in 1979, is clearly outdated. Since the adoption of the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), the need for a practical manual for use at the enterprise level has become apparent. It is therefore proposed to develop an up to date code of practice on safety and health in agriculture for review and adoption by a meeting of experts in late 2009.

Energy and mining

(1) Tripartite meeting on promoting social dialogue and good industrial relations from oil and gas exploration and production to oil and gas distribution

6. The major private oil and gas companies and the national oil and gas companies operate in different manners. A tripartite meeting would discuss recent developments, issues and problems of industrial relations in oil and gas majors/national oil and gas companies and their contractors and the application of contract work and migrant workers in the oil and gas industry (including various branches of the operations such as exploration, drilling, refining, pipelines, and transport in order to ensure good industrial relations, occupational safety and health and decent conditions of work).

(2) Action programme on safety and health in mining

7. Although a number of countries (including Brazil, Czech Republic, South Africa, Spain, United States and Zimbabwe) have ratified the Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), ratifications are still low (21). In order to respond to the growing importance of mining, in particular in Africa, an action programme on improving safety and health would focus on awareness raising and capacity building of constituents in the form of workshops and encourage and assist countries in ratifying the Convention.

(3) Meeting of experts to develop a handbook on safety and health in gemstone cutting and polishing

8. The main recommendation of the Tripartite Workshop on Employment and Working Conditions in the Gemstone Cutting and Polishing Industries (November 2001) was for the ILO to develop a practical handbook on occupational safety and health in diamond and gemstone cutting and polishing directed at small and medium-sized enterprises. Once adopted by the meeting of experts, the handbook would be promoted in tripartite workshops and widely distributed, in a selected number of countries, to reach those involved in this often informal industry.

Manufacturing

Action programme on transport equipment manufacturing – The employment relationship, rights at work and social protection

9. The transport equipment manufacturing (TEM) sector is experiencing significant changes in the employment relationship with consequences for workers, employers and governments. Such changes relate to the ongoing shifts in the structure and nature of relations among and between principal employers, contractors and suppliers with respect to workers and employment practices. As a consequence of these changes, issues arise regarding rights at work and the coverage and provision of social protection for workers in the TEM sector. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda, the Employment Relationship Recommendation, 2006 (No. 198), and the resolution adopted by the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference, along with the Director-General's follow-up proposals, would provide guidance for an action programme to address the employment relationship, rights at work and social protection for the TEM sector. The action programme would focus on mechanisms of social dialogue at the national level for a few select countries to facilitate and improve rights at work and social protection across TEM production chains consistent with the Decent Work Agenda.

Infrastructure, construction and related industries

Decent work in public procurement

10. Given the changes in procurement policy among the international financial institutions, notably the labour clauses adopted by the multilateral development banks, work could be conducted on international labour standards in procurement, in liaison with other ILO departments working on this issue. Activities could include promotion and follow-up of the General Survey on Convention No. 94.

Transport

(1) Meetings of experts to adopt guidelines on port State responsibilities for the inspection of labour conditions on board ships

11. The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, provides that ships may be subject to inspections in respect of working and living conditions of seafarers when in foreign ports. Internationally accepted guidelines would contribute towards harmonizing such inspections, provide a solid basis for training of all concerned and promote an even playing field. These guidelines have been requested by a resolution adopted by the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference.

(2) Meetings of experts to adopt guidelines on flag State responsibilities under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

12. The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, provides that flag States are responsible for ensuring that the working and living conditions of seafarers comply with the requirements of the Convention. Guidelines for flag States would assist member States in establishing the necessary inspection, certification and other administrative machinery required by the Convention. These guidelines have been requested by a resolution adopted by the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference.

Private sector services

(1) Global dialogue forums³

13. It is proposed that shorter, more focused, smaller scale tripartite or bipartite meetings be held for this cluster in 2008–09. The ILO would develop the agenda and convene them in accordance with constituents' requirements and facilitate the discussions, but not produce an in-depth sectoral report. By being highly focused, these would provide additional sectoral dialogue opportunities for sectors or subsectors such as commerce, finance, property services (cleaning/security), media and entertainment, telecoms, postal, industry, business and information technology services (IBITS), graphical and call centres as well as professional and managerial staff. Issues could include career development, lifelong learning, mobility and gender equity. A *Note on the proceedings* and conclusions could be published if appropriate. If progress made in the forums allows, it would be proposed that a large tripartite meeting be held in 2010–11.

³ GB.298/STM/1, paras 38–39.

(2) Regional meetings on promoting social dialogue in a changing media environment (regions could include South Asia, South-East Asia, Latin America, Europe or sub-Saharan Africa)

14. Two of these meetings could examine the dramatically changing nature of the information economy and the new landscape for industrial relations in the media and entertainment industries. Owing to the creation of new types of employment relationships, structures for social dialogue are often no longer efficient or have ceased to function. This can lead to deteriorating relations between employers and workers, low morale in the workplace and falling standards. The regional meetings proposed would examine the regional conditions for industrial relations and consider measures needed to strengthen social dialogue. Measures could include the development of principles and guidelines for creating effective social dialogue and partnerships in media and entertainment in order to improve confidence, innovation and creativity and thus contribute to raising standards and the development of high-quality media products.

(3) Meeting on vocational education and skills development for commerce workers

15. Globalization, growing competition and the associated extensive restructuring in the sector are leading towards a marked tendency in many areas of commerce to replace traditionally low-skilled jobs with ones requiring higher levels of basic initial education and better targeted training. This meeting would examine current and future employment needs as a basis for working out skills development strategies and vocational education programmes for retail and wholesale workers to support their employment prospects and employability as well as improved business productivity and competitiveness.

Public services and utilities

Action programme on strengthening utilities

16. The utilities of water and electricity are fundamental for the development of modern societies and are a prerequisite for effective poverty eradication and to meeting many of the other Millennium Development Goals. Many developing countries are not yet able to provide equitable, reliable, universal access to water, sanitation and electricity. Management and staff capacity to respond to changing needs and to address reform rapidly and effectively can be strengthened through improved social dialogue. The sectoral action programme would follow on from the Tripartite Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities in the Public Utilities (2003) through capacity building to strengthen social dialogue mechanisms at the enterprise level in selected developing and transition countries. ILO expertise in social dialogue will assist the social partners in developing joint strategies and actions to extend and improve the efficiency of these fundamental services. It is anticipated that two or three countries will be selected in order to ensure sufficient technical and financial resources; experiences from these countries will serve as good practice examples for future action.

Education and research

Action programme on regional and international teacher recruitment, migration and mobility

17. The programme would continue some strands of the current education sector action programme: *Teachers for the future: Meeting teacher shortages to achieve Education for All* (2004–07) in countries desiring to participate. The programme would combine components of research, training, policy dialogue forums and international reporting to help member States understand the causes and dimensions of regional and international teacher recruitment, migration and mobility, and desirable policies to help address identified challenges. It would serve to implement the Letter of Agreement for cooperation on enhanced teacher status and on the issue of teacher migration and mobility that was signed between the ILO and the Commonwealth Secretariat (October 2006). In relation to research, attention would also be given to good practices in human resource planning and policy application for teaching personnel based on international labour standards, the international recommendations on teaching personnel, findings and recommendations of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts (CEART) and good practices at national level.

Follow-up activities

(1) Agriculture and forestry: Decent work in forestry

18. It is also proposed that follow-up activities be conducted at national level on decent work in forestry, in accordance with the recommendations for ILO follow-up action adopted by the Meeting of Experts to Develop Guidelines for Labour Inspection in Forestry (2005).

(2) Infrastructure, construction and related industries: Worker representation on health and safety in construction

19. A key factor for the very high accident rates in construction is the lack of worker participation and representation. With the resolution concerning health and safety representation for construction workers adopted by the Tripartite Meeting on the Construction Industry in the Twenty-first Century: Its Image, Employment Prospects and Skill Requirements (2001) as a basis, it is suggested that the ILO prepare a study on workers' health and safety representatives in the construction sector, including an assessment of effective workers' representatives on health and safety in construction and identifying what needs to be done to ensure that construction workers may exercise their right to representation on health, safety and welfare. In addition, given the strong demand and need for well-focused, user-friendly training materials, the ILO could develop training materials on health and safety and project management for clients, contractors, engineers, trade unions/workers.

(3) Transport: Further implementation of the road map for the establishment of a border-monitoring tool and facilitation bodies

20. The conclusions adopted on 26 October 2006 by the Tripartite Meeting on Labour and Social Issues Arising from Problems of Cross-Border Mobility of International Drivers in the Road Transport Sector, *inter alia*, include a follow-up activity concerning the establishment of tripartite border-crossing monitoring and facilitation bodies. In this respect, in consultation with the ILO constituents, the Office has prepared and started drawing up a relevant implementation road map that comprises four stages. The available time frame and budget within 2007 would only allow the implementation of the first two stages that include the development and completion of a border-monitoring tool/manual for use by tripartite border-crossing monitoring and facilitation bodies. The third road map stage comprises the actual monitoring exercises at selected border crossings, which to be meaningful should be conducted for at least 12 months and would be able to commence towards the end of 2007. It is proposed that these would be extended to the end of 2008 (possibly 2009), and followed by the project's fourth stage (an evaluation based on these findings).

(4) Private sector services: Follow-up to the action programme on skills and employability in telecommunications services in Africa

21. Follow-up activities to the action programme on skills and employability in telecommunications services in Africa, conducted in 2006–07, could include the provision of assistance to training activities for employability in telecommunications services in two or three African countries. These activities would allow further improvements in targeted countries by promoting training for employability, and thus improve prospects for employment, equal opportunities and growth in the telecommunications industry in these countries.

(5) Public services and utilities: Follow-up to the action programme on the international migration of health service workers: The supply side

22. In the action programme 2006–07, national tripartite steering committees have been established in the participating countries to facilitate social dialogue on the migration of health workers. Basic research was conducted on data and assessment of existing policies to inform policy formulation in at least four of the countries (Costa Rica, Kenya, Romania and Senegal). Follow-up activities in two of these countries could be conducted to ensure the sustainability of the programme outcomes. Based on country needs and constituent priorities, activities would focus on the implementation of the policies and guidelines developed, and could also include additional specific research, and capacity building on issues around health worker migration. At international level, the dissemination of good practices generated through the action programme would be pursued.

23. *The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body:*

- (a) that it endorse the main sectoral activities to commence in 2008; and***
- (b) that it instruct the Office that the governments of all member States should continue to be invited to participate in sectoral meetings held in 2008–09, for which the Standing Orders for Sectoral Meetings apply.***

Geneva, 26 February 2007.

Point for decision: Paragraph 23.

Appendix

Tentative clusters ¹

Proposed cluster	Sectors covered
Agriculture and forestry	Agriculture, plantations, other rural sectors Food, drink, tobacco Forestry, wood, pulp, paper
Energy and mining	Oil and gas production; oil refining Mining
Manufacturing	Basic metal production Mechanical and electrical engineering Transport equipment manufacture Chemical industries Textiles, clothing, leather, footwear
Infrastructure, construction and related industries	Construction
Transport	Transport (air, road, rail) Shipping, ports, fisheries, waterways
Private sector services	Commerce Financial services ^(a) Hotels, catering and tourism Professional and management staff ^(a) Postal ^(b) Telecoms, IT and business services ^(b) Media, cultural, graphical
Public services and utilities	Health services Utilities (water, gas, electricity) Municipalities ^(c) Public administration ^(c) Police and firefighters ^(c)
Education and research	Pre-school and childcare ^(d) Compulsory schooling (primary/secondary) ^(d) Vocational training ^(d) Higher education and research ^(d) Non-teaching personnel ^(d)

Notes: (a) These could replace: Financial services, other professional services. (b) These could replace: Postal and other communication services. (c) These could replace: Other public services. (d) These could replace: Education.

¹ This suggestion for clustering economic sectors was raised during informal consultations between the social partners and the Office. It might provide a basis for the Committee's discussions.