



FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Working Party on
the Review of the Sectoral
Activities Programme
(Geneva, 28-29 January 2002)**

1. At its 282nd (November 2001) Session, the Governing Body set up a Working Party comprised of two Government representatives, two Employer representatives and two Worker representatives, to consider the issues related to the review of sectoral activities and to submit a report for the consideration of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues (STM) at its 283rd (March 2002) Session.
2. The Working Party met on 28 and 29 January 2002 and had before it the Office paper presented to the STM, as well as the excerpt of the report of the STM to the Governing Body (GB.282/STM/1/1 and GB.282/10). It also had copies of the packages containing four options, which had been presented to the STM in November 2001. These options provided specific indications as to the possible flexibility, which could be considered and will be the subject of further consultations.
3. The composition of the Working Party is appended to this report.
4. The following areas of consensus emerged from the discussions:
 - The present focus on 22 sectors as decided by the 1995 reforms should, for the time being, be maintained.
 - The autonomy of the groups should be respected concerning the selection of their participants to sectoral meetings, including as regards tripartite delegations.
 - Sectoral activities presented a window on the world of work: it was therefore important that all aspects of sectoral activities be constituent driven.
 - There was a need for flexibility in two respects:
 - (a) with respect to meetings, flexibility as regards the approach, the size and duration as well as the rules by which they would be governed; and
 - (b) with regard to non-meeting activities, flexibility as to the choice of these activities to maximize impact.

- There was need for follow-up and continuity of activities in order to avoid the stop-start approach that characterized the present cycle of activities.
- Mechanisms needed to be developed to strengthen consultation to ensure that it was meaningful, transparent and ongoing.
- It was important to maximize and increase government participation.
- There was a need to integrate sectoral activities throughout the work of the other sectors in the ILO in order to break the cycle of isolation of sectoral work and to provide access to a broader range of expertise and resources.
- The recent crisis meetings in the hotel and tourism, and the aviation sectors, as well as the small meeting in the commerce sector, which took place between October and December 2001, demonstrated that innovative approaches offered opportunities for effective social dialogue and improved concrete outputs. The Aviation Think Tank had helped set the stage for the global meeting on civil aviation in January 2002 and, while the impact cannot yet be measured, permitted concrete recommendations to be agreed upon. Governments had responded positively, actively participating in the proceedings.
- Any savings realized from the reorientation or modification of the programme of sectoral activities should remain with the Sectoral Activities Programme.

5. Concerning government participation, the following ideas were advanced:

- tripartite delegations could sometimes prove useful particularly in order to have national-level follow-up and to increase government participation;
- reviewing the criteria for selection of governments to ensure that governments for which sectors were important were invited to attend and consultations were held to that end;
- opening up meetings to all interested governments could increase participation (certain procedural issues would need to be addressed, such as weighted voting or observer status);
- limiting meeting topics to a single issue or one main subject would enable governments to send the most appropriate representative;
- exploring ways to increase the participation of developing country governments; and
- ensuring that invitations to sectoral meetings were sent to ministries of labour in accordance with standard procedures, but were also copied to other relevant ministries.

6. On the basis of information received concerning the budget allocation for sectoral activities as a whole, the Working Party discussed possible options with regard to the utilization of the available resources. If the current meetings cycle were modified in a manner which resulted in savings, it was crucial that these savings not be lost, but accrue to sectoral activities. Savings that might result could be dedicated, for example, to follow-up or other activities in one or more sectors, or budgetary resources might be allocated on a sector-by-sector basis. Each sector would receive the equivalent of the budgetary allocation of a large meeting and would be responsible for identifying the issues of critical importance to the sector at a given time and determine, through consultations, the activities

that would best benefit the sector. This could, for instance, take the form of plans of action for each sector, which could open options for extra-budgetary funding.

7. On the basis of the above, it was agreed that, within the total allocations for sectoral activities provided for in the programme and budget, any savings realized from the reorientation of the programme of sectoral activities or from other factors should remain with the Sectoral Activities Programme. It was agreed that confirmation should be sought from the Office that savings accrued through the modification of the meetings programme would remain within the Sectoral Activities Programme to be applied to other activities as determined after consultations through the secretariats of the groups and on the basis of consensus.
8. There was an understanding that the meetings for 2003 should be confirmed in March 2002 by the STM, with the commitment that early consultations will begin and the new approach will be utilized wherever possible. It was agreed that this new approach will be fully implemented in the 2004-05 biennium. Programme and budget proposals for the future should also include a component for follow-up activities in the sectors.
9. A presentation was made to the Working Party on the “one-stop window”, which was well received. The “one-stop window” is a portal website and is intended to serve as an entry point to various sources of sectorally based information. It would provide access to sectoral information not only emanating from the Sectoral Activities Programme but also from other ILO departments and units, thereby increasing transparency and furthering the integration of sectoral work within the Office. It would also increase linkages with external sites, which provide access to sectorally based information. By bringing together all information in one place, the “one-stop window” would provide a more complete picture of the current state of information in any given sector. It would also offer additional services, including bulletin board discussions and list servers, which could be sector-specific. The Working Party noted that this proposal had important resource implications both for its development and its maintenance. An analysis of the budgetary allocation for sectoral activities and consideration of an Office feasibility survey on the portal idea could assist in this process. It proposed that a presentation should be made to the STM in March 2002 and that consultations would continue with members of the Working Party on the information being included. Consideration should also be given to means of providing the information to constituents with minimal or no Internet access.
10. The Working Party agreed that ownership of the review process depended on ongoing consultation and that the reorientation of sectoral activities could only be successful if it were constituent driven.
11. *The Committee may wish to express its views on:*
 - (a) *the areas of consensus;*
 - (b) *the options discussed by the Working Party;*
 - (c) *the implementation of the new approach referred to in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8;*
 - (d) *a possible mechanism for ongoing consultation with the constituents;*

(e) *the “one-stop window”; and*

(f) *other issues related to the review of sectoral activities.*

Geneva, 6 February 2002.

Point for decision: Paragraph 11.

Appendix I

List of participants

Government members

Germany	Mr. V. Klotz
Ghana	Ms. A. Twum-Amoah

Observer

United States	Mr. R. Hagen
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Employer members

Mr. A. Jeetun (Mauritius)
Ms. L. Sasso-Mazzufferi (Italy)

Adviser

Mr. B. Wilton (IOE)

Worker members

Mr. G. Sibanda (Zimbabwe)
Mr. J. Zellhoefer (United States)

Advisers

Mr. D. Cunniah (ICFTU)
Ms. A. Biondi (ICFTU)
Mr. D. Cockroft (ITF)
Mr. Ph. Jennings (UNI)