



FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Standing Orders of the Conference:**(b) Practical arrangements for the discussion,
at the 92nd Session (June 2004) of the
International Labour Conference, of the
Global Report prepared under the follow-up
to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental
Principles and Rights at Work**

1. The Global Report is one of the two aspects (the other being the Annual Report) of the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which is intended to allow the identification of areas in which the assistance of the Organization through its technical cooperation activities may prove useful to its Members to help them implement these fundamental principles and rights. The Report is prepared under the responsibility of the Director-General.
2. This Report is submitted to the Conference for tripartite discussion “during a sitting devoted entirely to this Report, or in any other appropriate way”. The Conference is not required to adopt conclusions or take decisions on the Report. In the light of the discussion at the Conference, the Director-General should be able to identify conclusions for the preparation of a report to be submitted to the Governing Body; it will then be for the Governing Body to draw conclusions from this discussion “concerning the priorities and plans of action for technical cooperation to be implemented for the following four-year period”, in keeping with the promotional nature of the follow-up to the Declaration.
3. The examination of the Global Report at the last two sessions of the Conference (June 2002 and June 2003) led to a discussion of the principal elements of the Global Report as part of a general discussion in plenary and of the points suggested by the Director-General under a thematic discussion. It was clear, from these two sessions, that not only was the thematic discussion appreciated by the delegates who took part in it but also that it allowed them to share experiences and good practices that were helpful for drawing up plans of action for technical cooperation to be implemented by the Office. The general discussion, however, suffered from the same defects as the plenary session, not least of which being that the majority of speakers faced a rather sparse audience and read pre-prepared speeches.
4. Given these experiences, it is proposed that the discussion on this year’s Global Report only take the form of a thematic discussion based on the points suggested by the Director-

General in the Report. To this end, it is proposed that the provisional ad hoc arrangements adopted at the 90th and 91st Sessions of the Conference, as adjusted to take account of the proposed change, be recommended once again for the 92nd Session.

- 5. *The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that it invite the Conference, at its 92nd Session, to adopt the provisional ad hoc arrangements set out in the appendix concerning the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.***

Geneva, 26 January 2004.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.

Appendix

Ad hoc arrangements for the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the Declaration at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference

Principle of the discussion

Having regard to the various options referred to in the annex to the Declaration, the Governing Body recommends that the Global Report submitted to the Conference by the Director-General should be dealt with by the Conference, separately from the Director-General's reports under article 12 of the Conference Standing Orders.

Timing of the discussion

A maximum of two sittings on the same day should be convened for the thematic discussion of the Global Report, with the possibility, if necessary, of extending the sitting. In order to take account of the programme of work of the Conference and of the fact that a number of ministers who usually are present during the second week of the Conference may wish to take the floor, the discussion of the Global Report should be held during the second week of the Conference. The date will be determined by the Selection Committee.

Procedure for the discussion

The separate discussion of the Global Report recommended above implies in particular that the statements made during the discussion of the Global Report should not fall under the limitation concerning the number of statements by each speaker in plenary provided for in article 12, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders, and that the discussion should not be governed by the provisions of article 14, paragraph 6, concerning the time limit for speeches. Furthermore, exchanges of views on the suggested points for thematic discussion should not be subject to the restrictions laid down in article 14, paragraph 2, concerning the order in which speakers are called. These provisions should accordingly be suspended under the procedure provided for in article 76 of the Standing Orders to the extent necessary for the discussion of the Global Report.

Organization of the discussion

Given that the thematic discussion is not intended to lead to the adoption of conclusions or decisions by the Conference, on the one hand, and in consideration of the abovementioned suspensions of the Standing Orders, on the other, the Selection Committee may decide that this discussion should be conducted as a plenary committee that can convene at the same time as the plenary and be chaired by one of the Officers of the Conference. Should the need arise, the Chairperson might be assisted by a moderator appointed by the Officers of the Conference.

Report to the plenary

The Chairperson of the plenary committee would present a short oral report to the plenary of the Conference and the thematic discussion would be reproduced in the *Provisional Record*.