

**Governing Body – 340th Session, October-November 2020
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment**

Workers' Group Comments

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ILO programme implementation 2018-2019

The Workers' Group welcomed the structure of the 2016-2017 implementation report which reported achievements under the four strategic objectives allowing to get a good overview of progress towards decent work. The current report lists achievements per outcome which provides a more scattered overview of progress towards decent work. Regional analysis is also lacking.

The ILO's Centenary year was memorable with many activities that gave visibility to the ILO social justice mandate culminating in the adoption of the ILO Centenary Declaration. However, many decent work deficits remain which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is therefore essential that the ILO takes a leadership role in the multilateral system to promote decent work and social justice in the aftermath of the pandemic which has pushed millions of people into unemployment, underemployment and working poverty and exacerbated inequalities.

Challenges in strengthening the normative function should be more effectively addressed. Despite increased ratifications compared to previous years, and we thank all governments who did ratify, the Centenary Ratification Campaign¹ did not achieve its targets. 67 countries ratified 116 conventions but with uneven results across regions. Africa and Europe ratified the most, 20 and 21 countries respectively. In the Americas, Arab States and Asia, 7, 2 and 8 countries respectively ratified conventions. Only three countries – and we thank them - ratified core Conventions 87 (Iraq) or 98 (Mexico and Vietnam). Further ratifications of conventions particularly relevant to address the pandemic, with emphasis on occupational safety and health and universal ratification of core conventions is therefore needed.

Paragraph 97 and figure 21 show that 60% of results made a significant or principal contribution to International Labour Standards (ILS). However, 39% of results only made limited contributions to the advancement of ILS with uneven results across outcomes. 77% and 68% of results for Outcome 1 made a limited contribution to ILS. In times of crisis, standards provide an essential foundation for an inclusive and sustainable recovery. More resources are needed for this work along greater commitment to integrate ILS in all outcomes.

Similarly, 36% of the 844 results made limited contribution to social dialogue. It is positive that the rate was higher in outcomes relating to the promotion of safe work and workplace compliance, including in global supply chains (75%), international labour standards and the

¹ An invitation to all 187 ILO member States to ratify at least one international labour Convention in the course of 2019.

formalization of the informal economy (both at 70%). However, outcomes 1 and 4, where 46% and 45% of results made limited contributions to social dialogue respectively, need to improve.

We welcome the fact that a higher number of results made a significant contribution to gender equality and non-discrimination among workers in the most vulnerable situations. However, 47% of results made a limited contribution to the advancement of this driver and this also requires improvements.

93% of results had no or limited contribution to just transition to environmental sustainability. To ensure a sustainable recovery, this has to change and consideration given to have a separate outcome for this area of work and have it better mainstreamed in other outcomes.

We welcome increased allocations for voluntary contributions while regretting they have been uneven across outcomes. RBSA should also be allocated more evenly across outcomes. Outcome 2 received only 25% of RBSA compared to outcome 1 and should in the future receive more resources. We support greater resource mobilization efforts for outcomes supporting social dialogue, ILS and gender equality.

The next implementation report should look at how different results under each outcome are linked. In addition to listing results for each outcome in the report and the country listing in the Dashboard, it would be useful to re-introduce the reporting of achievements under the four strategic objectives (as in the previous implementation report). A report on decent work results for each region should be added along the four strategic objectives. While cases of progress can be referred in the report, it is important for the next report to also highlight those countries and situations where challenges remain.

Concerning extrabudgetary resources, we agree that greater efforts are needed to move towards broader programmes to enable the Office to provide assistance in a more integrated, coherent and strategic manner. The Office should also improve cross-departmental work on outcomes.

With these comments we agree with the decision point.