

Governing Body 343rd Session, Geneva, November 2021

Policy Development Section

Social Dialogue Segment

Workers' Group Comments

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The workers' group thanks the Office for the document. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in global production and economy has shown that there is a need to develop industrial policies that are sustainable and resilient not only economically, but that take into consideration the environmental emergency.

All the recent conclusions and recommendations of the tripartite sectoral meetings have highlighted the relevance of the MNE declaration. This ILO important declaration should be considered in all the sectoral recommendations and policy briefs, as it provides guidance for constituents to align industrial policies with development objectives, as well as a clear framework for the respect of human and labour rights. Therefore, we encourage the Office to increase efforts for the promotion and implementation of the MNE declaration in relation to sectoral policies.

In relation to the meetings held in 2021, despite of all the difficulties and challenges related to virtual meetings, all of them were conducted successfully. However, we hope the situation will permit a return to face to face meetings to allow full participation and exchanges among constituents.

The workers group welcomes the conclusions of the **Technical meeting on the future of work in the automotive industry** that are of a high relevance for an industry that is in a midst of major transformations, from the battery production to the mobility models. These changes require a broad Just transition, and for that goal, the support of the Office is highly important. We call the Office to organize, as soon as possible, the workshops and dialogue platforms agreed in the conclusions, with a particular focus on the global south, and we reiterate our engagement to collaborate with the Office and social partners in the ILO future work for the automotive sector.

The workers group welcomes the conclusions of the **Technical meeting on the future of work in the education sector**, which highlight that "Education is not a Commodity" and convey that investing in the decent work of educators and providing adequate working conditions includes developing policies and practices to provide adequate income for education professionals, ensure occupational safety and health, including mental health, psychosocial support, protection from violence and harassment and access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for educators, address the increase in workload and issues related to the wellbeing and work-life balance of educators. These rights are being impacted by a series of challenges, including hybrid and blended learning models and the increasing use of education technology, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and armed conflicts. In the development of future work arising from these conclusions, we encourage the Office to give special attention to the topic of working conditions of teachers and education personnel.

The Workers group welcomes the agreement reached in the resumed session of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission in September 2021, in relation to the update of the ILO minimum wage figure for seafarers and on the figure used as a basis for recalculation, as per the Maritime Labour Convention. We support the convening of the subsequent meetings, that are of a key importance for the improvement of workers wages.

Finally, we would like to stress that the upcoming **Technical meeting on COVID 19 and sustainable recovery in the tourism sector**, should have a particular focus on decent work and OSH. Despite lockdowns and travel restrictions, hotels have continued to play a vital role during the COVID-19 pandemic, as quarantine centres; as accommodation for medical personnel; as refuges for victims of domestic violence. At the same time, many hotels closed and millions of hotel workers have been laid-off. This meeting, should build on the existing ILO standards and sustainable tourism guidelines, to improve working conditions and health and safety of workers in the sector.

With these comments, we support the decision points.