



FOR DECISION

SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

The agenda of the International Labour Conference

(a) The agenda of the 97th Session (2008) of the Conference

1. The Governing Body, at its 294th Session (November 2005), decided to include on the agenda of the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference (2007) an item for general discussion on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization.¹ Subsequently, the Governing Body decided at its 295th Session to postpone the selection of the third item to complete the agenda of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference to one of its later sessions.² This was intended to make it possible to select a more topical item at a time closer to the Conference, taking into account as appropriate the results of the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference.
2. In the framework of the item on the agenda of the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference (2007), the Conference adopted a resolution concerning strengthening the ILO's capacity (see appendix) together with the report of the competent committee and its conclusions.³
3. This resolution first requested the Governing Body to "decide on placing an item on the agenda of the 97th Session of the Conference (2008) with a view to following up its discussion on strengthening the ILO's capacity, and the possible consideration of an

¹ See GB.294/PV, para. 43; see also GB.294/2/1(Add.).

² See GB.295/PV, para. 43; see also GB.295/2. The Governing Body, at its 295th Session, selected the two following proposals to be placed on the agenda of the 97th Session (2008) of the International Labour Conference: (i) promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction (general discussion based on an integrated approach); and (ii) skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development (general discussion).

³ International Labour Conference, 96th Session, 2007, *Provisional Record* No. 23, containing the Report of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity, the resolution concerning strengthening the ILO's capacity (the "resolution") and the conclusions on strengthening the ILO's capacity (the "conclusions").

authoritative document, possibly in the form of a Declaration or other suitable instrument, together with any appropriate follow-up, and the form they may take”.⁴

4. It further requested the Director-General to make arrangements to facilitate the widest consultations among the constituents with a view to defining the relevant agenda item, in a manner that will provide the best possible chance of obtaining a consensus at the Conference.⁵
5. These requests call for two comments. The first is that a decision must be taken at the current session of the Governing Body in order to enable the Conference in 2008 to consider the agenda item on the basis of an Office report which, under the resolution, is to be made available at least two months before the opening of the 97th Session.⁶ Allowing time for editing, translation and dispatch within this deadline, preparation of the Office report in the simplified *Provisional Record* format would permit it to reflect the outcome of consultations through January 2008.
6. The second is that the present Governing Body document had to be prepared at a time when the results of the first round of consultations were still unknown. While the Governing Body will receive an update at its current session on this first round of consultations as foreseen by the resolution, it is evident that further consultations will be needed once the question has been placed on the agenda for 2008, in order to pave the way for the necessary consensus to emerge at the Conference as envisaged by the resolution.
7. Under the circumstances, the most appropriate course of action would appear to be to phrase the proposed item in a way that remains as faithful as possible⁷ to the terms of the resolution adopted by the Conference at its 96th Session (2007). The discussion by the Conference at its 97th Session (2008) will in any case have to be based on an Office report which would “include the elements of a draft text of any authoritative document for consideration”, and take due account of the views expressed during the 96th Session of the Conference (2007) and the results of all subsequent consultations.⁸ This formulation will thus entirely safeguard the discretion of the competent Conference committee to take the course of action which seems most appropriate in the light of the results of the consultations and any other relevant developments reflected in the Director-General’s report.
8. ***Against this background, the Governing Body is invited to:***
 - (a) ***place on the agenda of the 97th Session (2008) of the International Labour Conference the following item:***

⁴ See the resolution, para. 2(a).

⁵ See the resolution, para. 3(a).

⁶ Resolution, para. 3(b). This deadline is applicable to reports for general discussions under art. 11ter, para. 2, of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference.

⁷ Except for the words “and the form they may take” which are redundant as they are already covered by the previous phrase. In the first round of consultations, the constituents may wish to consider further streamlining to improve the wording of the agenda item.

⁸ Resolution, para. 3(b).

“Strengthening the ILO’s capacity to assist its Members’ efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization: Continuation of the discussion held by the Conference at its 96th Session (2007) and consideration of a possible authoritative document, which could take the form of a Declaration or any other suitable instrument, together with any appropriate follow-up”; and

- (b) request the Director-General to report to its March 2008 session on relevant developments for the preparation of the Conference discussion.*

Geneva, 11 October 2007.

Point for decision: Paragraph 8.

Appendix

Resolution concerning strengthening the ILO's capacity

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, meeting in its 96th Session, 2007,

Having undertaken a general discussion on the basis of Report V, *Strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization*,

1. Adopts the following conclusions;
2. Invites the Governing Body, taking into consideration the report of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity, to:
 - (a) decide on placing an item on the agenda of the 97th Session of the Conference (2008), with a view to following up its discussion on strengthening the ILO's capacity, and the possible consideration of an authoritative document, possibly in the form of a Declaration or other suitable instrument, together with any appropriate follow-up, and the form they may take;
 - (b) take the appropriate measures to implement a programme of work to address the concerns of constituents, as expressed in the Committee, with regard to improving the capacity of the Organization to meet the needs of the constituents in the context of globalization;
 - (c) follow up on other relevant matters as provided in the following conclusions;
3. Requests the Director-General to:
 - (a) make arrangements to facilitate the widest consultations among the constituents, including intersessional consultations, the results of which should be considered by the Governing Body in defining the relevant item, in a manner that will provide the best possible chance of obtaining a consensus at the Conference;
 - (b) prepare, and make available at least two months before the opening of the 97th Session of the Conference (2008), a report to include the elements of a draft text of any authoritative document for consideration, and which takes due account of the views expressed during this session of the Conference, and any subsequent consultations.