



FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues

1. The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues met on 10 November 2008.
2. The representative of the Government of Austria, speaking on behalf of the Government group, proposed Mr L. Héthy (Hungary) as Chairperson. The Employer and Worker groups nominated Mr G. Trogen (Sweden) and Mr J. Zellhoefer (United States) as their Vice-Chairpersons.
3. The Worker Vice-Chairperson congratulated the Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson, as well as Mr Fashoyin on his appointment as Director of the Social Dialogue, Labour Law and Labour Administration and Sectoral Activities Department (DIALOGUE/SECTOR).
4. The Employer Vice-Chairperson congratulated the Chairperson, the Worker Vice-Chairperson and Mr Fashoyin and said that he was looking forward to working with them.
5. The Committee adopted the proposed agenda and agreed that, in addition to the discussion of the dates, duration and composition of activities to be undertaken in 2009, a presentation of the results of the sectoral Action Programme on Agriculture would be made under agenda item 1.

I. Dates, duration and composition of activities to be undertaken in 2009

6. Mr Fashoyin, in his capacity as acting Executive Director of the Social Dialogue Sector, introduced the agenda item and noted that part (a) of document GB.303/STM/1 concerned the composition of a Meeting of Experts to Adopt a Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture.¹ The document contained three proposals: first, the appointment of a knowledgeable chairperson from outside the Meeting so that all experts could participate fully in the deliberations; second, a proposed list of member States to be invited to appoint

¹ The decision to hold the Meeting of Experts to Adopt a Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture was taken at the 298th Session of the Governing Body (March 2007) (GB.298/STM/1/1, para. 5) and the composition and dates were determined at the 300th Session (November 2007) (GB.300/STM/1/1, para. 2).

experts to participate in the Meeting;² and third, a reserve list of countries that could be invited³ should any of the Governments in the initial list decline to participate. Among the criteria used in drawing up the proposed list of member States to be invited were the following: (a) ratification of the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184); (b) the existence of a tripartite national safety council which attaches priority to improving safety and health in agriculture; (c) the inclusion of occupational safety and health in agriculture among the priorities of their Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs); (d) innovative approaches by government agencies to conveying information on occupational safety and health to agricultural enterprises; (e) recommendations of SafeWork field staff active in the regions; (f) the importance of export-oriented commercial agriculture in their national economy; and (g) geographical distribution. A number of countries proposed met more than one of these criteria.

7. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted, with regard to the countries nominated to send experts, that both Thailand and Viet Nam had an agriculture based principally on small farms and that it might be important to include on the list countries with large plantations and commercial farms, such as India, Malaysia, Philippines or Sri Lanka.
8. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the proposed selection of countries and the point for decision.
9. The representative of the Government of the Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of the group of Industrialized Market Economy Countries (IMEC), noted with satisfaction the work of the advisory bodies. He commended the inclusion of a table of sectoral activities in document GB.301/STM/1 and suggested that a similar table be included as an annex to proposals to be presented at the March 2009 session. It would be useful to include cost estimates as well. IMEC supported the point for decision.
10. The representative of the Government of Kenya supported the point for decision and expressed appreciation for the inclusion of his country on the list of member States to be invited to appoint experts to attend the Meeting. He welcomed the balanced geographical distribution of countries on the list.
11. The representative of the Government of India noted that agriculture in his country was a major employer of the labour force and was mostly composed of small-scale farmers. He supported the point for decision, but suggested that India also be invited to appoint an expert to participate in the Meeting.
12. The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom appreciated the opportunity for his country to participate in the Meeting and confirmed that it would appoint an expert.
13. The representative of the Government of Lebanon expressed concern that no Arab country had been included on the list of proposed participants.
14. The representative of the Government of the Czech Republic thanked the Office for citing the criteria for selection of member States to be invited to appoint experts and urged that countries which had ratified Convention No. 184 be included.
15. Mr Fashoyin replied that all member States that had ratified Convention No. 184 were included either on the list of countries to be invited or on the reserve list. In response to

² Costa Rica, Kenya, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

³ Argentina, Australia, Fiji, Finland, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia or Zambia.

earlier questions, he noted that both Thailand and Viet Nam were developing countries with government safety and health experts who could contribute to the development of the Code. The list was a set of proposals and it was for the Committee to determine the composition of the Meeting. However, the number of participating countries could not be increased. Any addition to the initial list would require the replacement of one of the countries currently proposed. Additional proposals could, however, be included on the reserve list if the Committee so desired.

16. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that his group had not meant to suggest an extension of the list of countries to be invited to appoint experts and, in the light of the Office's clarification regarding the reserve list, saw no need to change the countries listed. The Workers' group supported the point for decision.
17. The Chairperson concluded that the Committee endorsed the point for decision in paragraph 5 of document GB.303/STM/1.
18. Mr Fashoyin then introduced the second paper before the Committee.⁴ The paper contained two proposals: (a) a tripartite technical workshop on the impact of the food price crisis on decent work; and (b) a tripartite global dialogue forum on the impact of the financial crisis on the economy, and particularly on financial service jobs. The proposal to hold a tripartite technical workshop on the impact of the food price crisis on decent work would give effect to the resolution adopted at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2008. The technical workshop and the global dialogue forum would form part of the Office-wide response to the current crisis facing member States.
19. The Employer Vice-Chairperson expressed support for the holding of a tripartite technical workshop on the global food crisis and a tripartite global dialogue forum, adding that the Employers' group preferred that the latter's title be "Global dialogue forum on the impact of the financial crisis on financial sector workers". Obtaining the participation of experts on the subject at such short notice would, however, be a challenge.
20. The Worker Vice-Chairperson also supported both items and observed that the financial crisis would be likely to exacerbate the impact of the food price crisis, particularly in developing countries and on the poor. He reminded the Committee of earlier occasions when there had been an immediate sectoral response to urgent, emerging issues, notably the civil aviation and tourism meetings immediately following the September 11 attacks, the post-multi-fibre arrangement meeting and the avian flu meeting. He commended SECTOR on its capacity to respond and pointed out that the proposed meetings were in line with the new orientation.
21. The representative of the Government of the Czech Republic suggested that the technical workshop be open to all governments and not just to regional coordinators.
22. The representative of the Government of India agreed, noting that it would be difficult for regional coordinators to represent the great diversity of views in their respective regions. All governments should be allowed to participate at their own expense.
23. Mr Fashoyin noted that the participation of regional coordinators had been suggested in order to maintain the small scale needed for a technical workshop and to avoid the administrative delays posed by organizing a meeting open to all member States. The Office noted the concerns expressed and would follow the Committee's guidance in the matter. Nonetheless, it would prove difficult to meet the very tight deadlines foreseen.

⁴ GB.303/STM/1(Add.).

24. The Worker Vice-Chairperson returned to the proposal concerning government participation in the technical workshop on the food crisis. While he recognized the difficulty of the Office receiving feedback on participation at such short notice, inviting all governments to participate in the workshop would not raise the cost of the event in terms of interpretation, for example. His group therefore supported the proposal to invite all interested governments to attend.
25. The representative of the Government of the Czech Republic suggested that, to simplify the administrative procedures involved, the government regional coordinators could inform the members of their respective groups by email of the holding of the technical workshop. There would be no need for the Office to send out individual letters of invitation to each government. While welcoming the proposals for a technical workshop and global dialogue forum, IMEC expected further clarification of their intended output. It supported the proposal that both should be for two days and on a small scale, but he stressed that all interested governments should be invited to participate.
26. Mr Fashoyin explained that the purpose of the tripartite technical workshop was set out in the resolution adopted at the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2008. In response to a question, he observed that the technical workshop would be held with the participation of members of the United Nations High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, as noted in document GB.303/STM/1(Add.). As to the global dialogue forum, it was hoped that it would propose and assess ways of alleviating the impact of the crisis on financial sector workers. Both events would be organized as part of an Office-wide response to the current crisis and would entail close collaboration with the Employment Sector.
27. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*
- (a) *endorse the Committee's recommendation, in relation to the Meeting of Experts to Adopt a Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture:*
- *to appoint, after consultation with the Employers' and Workers' groups of the Governing Body, a knowledgeable chairperson from outside the Meeting;*
 - *to invite the Governments of Costa Rica, Kenya, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Viet Nam to appoint an expert; and*
 - *to include Argentina, Australia, Fiji, Finland, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia or Zambia on a reserve list of countries;*
- (b) *authorize the holding, in the first quarter of 2009, of a two-day tripartite technical workshop on the impact of the food price crisis on decent work:*
- *in order to take account of the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, to share with other United Nations agencies the expertise of the ILO tripartite partners on rural employment and poverty reduction; and to contribute to an informed discussion within the United Nations on the social and employment impact of food prices on decent work;*

- *to be composed of eight Employer and eight Worker participants; and*
 - *to be open to representatives of all interested governments and to representatives of the organizations participating in the United Nations High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; and*
- (c) *authorize the holding, in the week of 23–27 February 2009, of a two-day tripartite global dialogue forum on the impact of the financial crisis on financial sector workers:*
- *in order to propose and assess ways of alleviating and mitigating the impact of the crisis on workers in the financial services sector;*
 - *to be composed of ten Employer and ten Worker participants; and*
 - *to be open to representatives of all interested governments, other interested Employer and Worker participants and representatives of international, governmental and non-governmental organizations.*
28. Following the agreed agenda, the Chairperson asked Ms A. Herbert, the agriculture and rural specialist of SECTOR, to make a presentation of the results of the Action Programme on Decent Work in Agriculture.
29. Ms Herbert briefly described the Action Programme, which had focused on improving occupational safety and health (OSH) in agriculture. Nine countries had participated, thanks to the collaboration of three departments, the support of five field offices and the contribution of the governments and social partners concerned. Activities included: (a) national-level action to improve the legislative, regulatory or policy framework of OSH in agriculture; (b) enterprise-level training for safety managers and workers' safety representatives in agricultural enterprises; and (c) the participation of Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND) in rural communities. (WIND is a participatory, community-based, self-help methodology which addresses the living and working conditions in rural areas.)
30. The speaker introduced a short film entitled "Fair WIND for safety", which provided an overview of WIND's activities in Kyrgyzstan. She stressed that in Kyrgyzstan national-level action had provided the framework within which the WIND programme had operated. Following the start of the Action Programme, Kyrgyzstan ratified the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), in 2004, developed a national action plan on OSH in agriculture in 2005, declared OSH and the improvement of working conditions in the informal sector to be national priorities within the DWCP in 2006, and adopted a national policy on OSH in agriculture in 2007.
31. A key factor in the success of WIND in Kyrgyzstan was the active support and participation of the social partners. A second factor was the focus on building institutions of social dialogue in agriculture at the national, regional and local level. The urgency of improving safety and health brought people together and enabled them to extend the dialogue to other issues of concern. WIND provided outreach and information to rural workers, particularly those on small farms or in small rural enterprises, and connected them to social dialogue processes. It also offered an opportunity to work in an integrated way in rural areas, along the lines of recent experience in Tajikistan where it was combined with women's entrepreneurship training and a microcredit scheme. The WIND experience demonstrated the relevance and feasibility of an integrated approach that fully involved the social partners at the national, regional and local levels. The lessons learnt

reinforced the conclusions of the general discussion on promoting rural employment for poverty reduction, which stressed the need for an integrated approach and outlined the key role of governments and of employers' and workers' organizations. Such integrated approaches had great potential in terms of making decent work a reality for rural people, who made up half of the world's population. It was important to bear in mind the need for such integrated approaches in future programming, and in particular in the implementation of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

32. The Employer Vice-Chairperson congratulated the Office on the Action Programme's obvious achievements and noted the Employers' satisfaction that one of its results in Kyrgyzstan had been the setting up of an association of agricultural employers, later incorporated into the Confederation of Kyrgyz Employers. The Employers' group would welcome the opportunity to examine the results of other sectoral projects in future sittings of the Committee.
33. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that sectoral action programmes were a new concept and offered a new approach to sectoral work for the Committee, the department and the ILO as a whole. He appreciated the opportunity to hear about the actual outcome of the Action Programme on Decent Work in Agriculture at the regional and local level and looked forward to more such examples. He congratulated the Office on both the programme and the film.
34. Ms Herbert noted that, though the Action Programme had originated in Viet Nam, it had been adapted by the ILO to a number of other countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in addition to Kyrgyzstan. It could easily be combined with other ILO tools and could serve as an entry point to addressing Decent Work in rural areas in an integrated manner.

II. Effect to be given to the recommendations of sectoral and technical meetings:

Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Child Labour Statistics and Measurement of Working Time

(Geneva, 1–10 April 2008)

35. Mr Sylvester Young, Director of the ILO Bureau of Statistics, presented the paper concerning the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics.⁵ He informed the Committee that, at its 300th Session in November 2007, the Governing Body had approved the holding of such a meeting in two parts – on child labour statistics and on the measurement of working time. The report of the Meeting⁶ contained advice on the measurement objectives, statistical concepts and methodologies with respect to each topic. The Office had followed this advice and had prepared a draft resolution on each topic to be submitted to the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), which was taking place in two weeks' time. He invited the Committee to consider the paper and, in particular, the point for decision.

⁵ GB.303/STM/2.

⁶ MELS/2008/III.

36. The Worker Vice-Chairperson endorsed the point for decision and drew attention to the fact that a number of paragraphs in the report⁷ raised very important questions regarding the relationship between the two topics. It was important to achieve consistency in this regard. His group appreciated the fact that the Meeting's results would be reflected in draft resolutions to be submitted to the 18th ICLS. Household chores were an important issue in terms of gender equity and of women's role in production, and they had been included within the scope of measuring working time; child labour statistics, however, were regrettably more restrictive. Not including household chores would underplay the child labour problem in sub-Saharan Africa.
37. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stressed the importance of measuring working time. He nevertheless drew attention to the differences, acknowledged in the report, between the national statistical definition of working time and the legal and administrative definition. The purpose of the two definitions was not the same and they were not interchangeable. Even if the report mentioned this concern, the point would have to be clarified at the next ICLS. The Employers' group was pleased to endorse the point for decision.
38. The representative of the Government of India endorsed the point for decision and noted that many important issues arose in the definition of child labour. The definition needed to take account of national specificities, the socio-economic conditions of the country and the government's policy on child labour.
39. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body take note of the report of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts and its expert advice concerning the preparation of draft resolutions relating to: (a) child labour statistics; and (b) the measurement of working time, to be submitted for approval to the 18th ICLS to be held in Geneva from 24 November to 5 December 2008.*

III. Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART)

40. Mr Fashoyin informed the Committee that, in accordance with past practice, a paper⁸ had been submitted along with the interim report of the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART),⁹ for examination by the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards (LILS). The Office paper and the CEART report concerned allegations by teachers' organizations of non-observance of the international Recommendations on teachers of 1966 and 1997 in three member States. In order to avoid duplication of work in the committees, he proposed that the Committee not discuss the report.
41. The Committee supported the proposal.

⁷ Paras 6, 8, 9, 32-33, 39, 47, 63, 65-68, 69-72, 122, 132, 148, 151, 166 and 171 of MELS/2008/III.

⁸ GB.303/LILS/7.

⁹ CEART/INT/2008/1.

IV. Maritime matters

(a) Adoption of guidelines on the inspection of ships under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

42. Mr Fashoyin introduced the paper¹⁰ and recalled that the two sets of guidelines were a follow-up to the adoption of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, and were needed urgently by member States to enable the harmonized enforcement of the Convention. Member States needed the guidelines in their preparations for implementation and would use them to prepare national guidance for ship inspectors. If the Governing Body agreed to their publication, the Office would plan to publish them before the end of the year.
43. The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons expressed their respective group's support for the adoption of the guidelines and called for the Committee to endorse the point for decision.
44. The representative of the Government of Kenya stated that his Government had participated in both meetings of experts. He expressed his appreciation to all concerned for the work accomplished, as the guidelines would contribute to harmonizing the inspection of ships and would help his Government to meet the challenges it was facing in the maritime sector.
45. The representative of the Government of India stated that his Government was examining the guidelines and supported the point for decision.
46. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*
- (a) take note of the guidelines mentioned in paragraph 4 of document GB.303/STM/4/1;¹¹ and*
- (b) request the Director-General to publish the guidelines as soon as possible and to promote them together with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.*

(b) Revision of the ILO/WHO Guidelines for Conducting Pre-Sea and Periodic Medical Fitness Examinations for Seafarers

47. Mr Fashoyin introduced the paper¹² and stressed the need for the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the ILO to adopt a coordinated approach on the issue so that unified guidelines on medical fitness examinations for seafarers could incorporate the viewpoints of all three organizations. Harmonization in this area was in the interest of all the parties concerned – seafarers, shipowners, governments and medical practitioners.

¹⁰ GB.303/STM/4/1.

¹¹ Available online at http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_099420.pdf.

¹² GB.303/STM/4/2.

48. The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons supported the proposal for revised guidelines on medical examinations of seafarers and the point for decision.
49. The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom expressed his support for cooperation between the ILO, the IMO and the WHO in the preparation of the Guidelines and emphasized that it would contribute to the consistent application of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
50. The representative of the Government of India agreed with the previous speaker and said that India strongly supported the Guidelines. As a labour-supplying country, it recognized that such guidelines were in the interest of seafarers. He suggested that the Guidelines be prepared in cooperation with the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) and be adopted by a tripartite meeting of experts.
51. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*
- (a) *request the Office to pursue the necessary arrangements with the IMO and the WHO for the preparation of draft guidelines on the medical fitness examinations of seafarers, with the assistance of the IMHA; and*
- (b) *convene an ILO/IMO/WHO tripartite meeting of experts to be held with no additional budgetary allocation from the ILO.*

(c) **Proposal for the convening of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission**

52. Mr Fashoyin introduced the paper,¹³ recalling that the revision of the recommended ILO minimum wage for able seafarers was a recurring item. The Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission last met in 2006, when it was anticipated that the next meeting might not be held before 2009. He drew the attention of the Committee to a change in the dates of the meeting to 12–13 February 2009.
53. Both the Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons as well as the representatives of the Governments of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kenya supported the proposal for a meeting of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission and for the amended point for decision.
54. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body approve the convening of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission at ILO headquarters in Geneva on 12–13 February 2009, at no cost to the ILO.*

¹³ GB.303/STM/4/3.

(d) Update on the ILO's participation in the development by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of safety recommendations for small fishing vessels

55. Mr Fashoyin noted the long-standing and fruitful collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the ILO and the IMO regarding the safety of fishing vessels and the safety and health of fishers and recalled the initial decision by the Governing Body to authorize the ILO to participate in developing the safety recommendations.¹⁴ The purpose of the paper¹⁵ was to inform the Committee and the Governing Body of the ongoing work, to obtain authorization for continued ILO participation in the form of a tripartite delegation (at no cost to the ILO), and to set the stage for the possible joint publication of the resulting recommendations by the three organizations, with a view to promoting the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and Recommendation (No. 199).
56. The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons and the representative of the Government of India supported the point for decision.
57. The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom added that the ILO participants at the 51st Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety (SLF 51) had made an important contribution to the development of the draft safety recommendations and recommended that they continue to do so.
58. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*
- (a) authorize the continued participation of the ILO in the development of safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels, and the participation by an ILO tripartite delegation, at no cost to the Office, in the next (52nd) Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety, with the aim, inter alia, of placing the final document before the Governing Body for approval as a joint FAO/ILO/IMO publication;*
 - (b) invite the Governments, Employers and Workers to nominate one representative each to participate, at no cost to the ILO, in the work of the correspondence group and in the ILO delegation to the 52nd Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety; and*
 - (c) authorize participation by the ILO in the further development of draft guidelines to assist competent authorities in the implementation of Part B of the Fishing Vessel Safety Code, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety Recommendations.*

¹⁴ Para. 222 of GB.295/PV; see also GB.295/STM/6/2.

¹⁵ GB.303/STM/4/4.

(e) **Report of the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Liability and Compensation regarding Claims for Death, Personal Injury and Abandonment of Seafarers (Seventh and Eighth Sessions)**

59. Introducing the paper,¹⁶ Mr Fashoyin noted that the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Liability and Compensation regarding Claims for Death, Personal Injury and Abandonment of Seafarers had been considering some particularly difficult issues. The reports of the Seventh and Eighth Sessions had also been considered by the IMO's Legal Committee at its 94th Session on 22 October 2008, at which the Office was represented by Ms Doumbia-Henry, Director of the ILO International Labour Standards Department (NORMES). The IMO's Legal Committee had approved the holding of the Ninth Session and the terms of reference for that meeting. Considerable progress had been made on financial security in the case of abandonment, but more work needed to be done on financial security in the case of claims for death and injury. It was therefore proposed that the Ninth Session be held in Geneva from 2 to 6 March 2009, at no additional cost to the Office.

60. The Employer Vice-Chairperson recommended the adoption of the point for decision.

61. The Worker Vice-Chairperson drew attention to Appendices I and II of the report of the Eighth Session, which indicated the difficulties that needed to be overcome. The Workers' group was very disappointed at the lack of progress that had been made. He hoped that the issue could be resolved very soon and therefore endorsed the point for decision.

62. The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom fully supported the continuation of the work of the Joint Working Group, and expressed gratitude for the support given at the most recent session of the IMO Legal Committee.

63. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body approve:*

(a) the revised terms of reference for the Joint Working Group, as contained in paragraph 6 of document GB.303/STM/4/5; and

(b) the holding of a Ninth Session of the Joint Working Group at ILO headquarters in Geneva from 2 to 6 March 2009, with the participation of eight ILO representatives (three Shipowners, one fishing vessel owner, and four Seafarers) and, at no cost to the ILO.

¹⁶ GB.303/STM/4/5.

V. Further developments in relation to the drafting of an international instrument on shipbreaking/ship recycling: Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping: Third Session: Oral report (Geneva, 29–31 October 2008)

64. Mr Fashoyin informed the Committee that the Third Session of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group had been hosted by the ILO less than two weeks before the Committee's session. Constructive discussion had taken place on the two agenda items: technical cooperation and interim measures. The report of that meeting would be presented to the Governing Body in March 2009, together with a report on other issues related to shipbreaking.
65. The Worker Vice-Chairperson thanked the Office for the oral report and said that he would comment on the written report at the March 2009 session of the Governing Body.
66. The Employer Vice-Chairperson suggested that the one term be used consistently instead of three (i.e. shipbreaking, ship scrapping and ship recycling).
67. The representative of the Government of the Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of IMEC, expressed his gratitude to the ILO for the excellent organization of the meeting. Its outcome illustrated the need to maintain dialogue with the social partners and other stakeholders. The present financial crisis highlighted the urgency of improving working conditions in shipbreaking yards. The meeting was also a good example of cooperation between the ILO, the IMO and the secretariat of the Basel Convention and he proposed that it continue through an ad hoc forum.
68. The Committee took note of the oral report.

VI. Other questions

69. The representative of the Government of the Czech Republic, speaking on behalf of IMEC, noted that, in the course of the advisory body meetings, IMEC had expressed its interest in initiating a preliminary discussion on the impact on sectoral activities of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, adopted in 2008, prior to the adoption of the Strategic Policy Framework in March 2009. He drew the Committee's attention to outcome 12 in document GB.303/PFA/2, which appeared to presuppose the development of sector-specific standards rather than integrated instruments relevant to all sectors and to prejudge the Governing Body's decision regarding the placing of standard-setting items on the agenda of the International Labour Conference. IMEC welcomed enhanced collaboration on sectoral issues with other ILO units and with groups outside the Organization and did not wish to see a reversal of the progress that had been made towards a more action-oriented approach.
70. Mr Fashoyin reminded the Committee that the Strategic Policy Framework would be discussed by the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee when it considered document GB.303/PFA/2. Other aspects would also be discussed by the Steering Group on the Follow-up to the Declaration (2008). He therefore proposed that the impact of the Declaration on sectoral activities be discussed in those forums. He reminded the Committee that one of the central principles of the Declaration was that "the four strategic

objectives are inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive” and added that that principle had always been reflected in the work of the department, which had always dealt with sectors in a holistic manner and aimed to integrate the strategic objectives into its work.

71. With regard to outcome statement 12 (before paragraph 155 in document GB.303/PFA/2), Mr Fashoyin pointed out that a misunderstanding had arisen as a result of the phrase “through the adoption and application of sectoral standards, codes of practice and guidelines”. The intention was not to propose the adoption of new international labour standards of a sectoral nature, which was the prerogative of the Governing Body. The explanatory text in paragraphs 155 to 157 shed light on the proposed Office strategy, which would encourage constituents to translate the guidance provided in ILO sectoral standards, codes of practice and guidelines into actual workplace practice. The word “adoption” appeared to be misplaced in the outcome statement, which should read “the implementation of ILO sectoral standards and the adoption and application of codes of practice and guidelines”.

Geneva, 13 November 2008.

Points for decision: Paragraph 27;
Paragraph 39;
Paragraph 46;
Paragraph 51;
Paragraph 54,
Paragraph 58;
Paragraph 63.