



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Working Party on the Functioning
of the Governing Body and the
International Labour Conference**

1. In June 2008, the International Labour Conference adopted the *ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization* and a related resolution. The Declaration introduced the concept of recurrent item discussions at the Conference with a view to:
 - determine how the ILO can more efficiently address the needs of its Members through coordinated use of all its means of action;
 - determine the necessary resources to address these needs and, if appropriate, to attract additional resources; and
 - guide the Governing Body and the Office in their responsibilities.¹
2. At its 304th Session (March 2009), the Governing Body adopted an *Implementation plan: ILO Declaration on Social Justice and a Fair Globalization*.² Further to the adoption of this implementation plan, the Governing Body agreed to establish a working party on its working methods and the functioning of the Conference to consider how the governance functions of the Governing Body and the Conference could be improved in order to, among other things, respond to the innovation of the scheme of recurrent item discussions at the Conference.³ The Governing Body had decided at its 303rd Session (November 2008) that the recurrent item discussions would commence with the strategic objective of employment at the 99th Session (2010) of the Conference.⁴
3. It was agreed that the terms of reference of such a working party would be determined by the Governing Body at a later date.

¹ See ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, Part II(A)(i).

² GB.304/SG/DECL/1.

³ GB.304/7.

⁴ GB.303/10.

4. It is now proposed to establish such a working party to:
 - (a) review the functioning of the Governing Body in order to determine the optimal way in which the Governing Body and the Office can be guided in their responsibilities by the outcome of the recurrent item discussions at the Conference;
 - (b) determine the most effective balance between the Governing Body's policy-making and governance functions;
 - (c) identify means to increase the coherent development by the Governing Body of the Organization's policy including by identifying duplication or inefficiencies in its current working methods and structures;
 - (d) propose such adjustments as may be necessary in its committee and plenary structures as well as in its working methods;
 - (e) ensure that in preparing proposals to this effect, sufficient consultation with all of the groups takes place; and
 - (f) discuss further improvements in the functioning of the International Labour Conference in the light of experiences gained from its format since 2007 and taking into account the introduction of the scheme of recurrent item discussions.
5. The working party would meet for one day at the 306th Session (November 2009) of the Governing Body to discuss a document, to be prepared by the Office, containing an analysis and a range of options for its first meeting. The working party should give initial priority to possible improvements in the functioning of the Governing Body and make proposals accordingly to the 307th Session (March 2010) of the Governing Body.
6. In light of the experiences of the working party that proposed the current overall format of the Conference, this working party could consist of eight members to be appointed by each group.
7. *The Governing Body may wish to:*
 - (a) *establish a working party on the functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference in accordance with the terms of reference contained in paragraph 4 above;*
 - (b) *decide that this working party should consist of eight Government, eight Employer and eight Worker members to be appointed by each group prior to the 306th Session (November 2009) of the Governing Body, it being understood that broad and inclusive consultations regarding its work would take place;*
 - (c) *request the working party to report to the Governing Body at its 307th Session (March 2010).*

Geneva, 16 June 2009.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.