



SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Effect to be given to the recommendations
of sectoral and technical meetings****Tripartite Technical Workshop on the Impact
of the Food Price Crisis on Decent Work
(Geneva, 5–6 March 2009)**

1. A Tripartite Technical Workshop on the Impact of the Food Price Crisis on Decent Work was held in Geneva from 5 to 6 March 2009. The Workshop gave effect to a resolution adopted at the International Labour Conference in June 2008. On the first day, Workshop participants familiarized themselves with the work of the UN High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF) and explored the potential role of the ILO and its tripartite constituents in tackling the food crisis. Following those discussions, a room note was adopted which recommended a number of follow-up actions. On the second day, the Workshop brought together ILO constituents with representatives of the intergovernmental agencies participating in the HLTF to discuss potential contributions of the social partners to the UN-wide response to the food crisis. Featured speakers included Dr David Nabarro, HLTF Coordinator, and Dr Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. During the 2008 Conference discussions on the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction, Mr Phil O'Reilly, the Employer spokesperson, and Ms Sue Longley, the secretary to the Workers' group, stressed the key role of social dialogue and the engagement of the social partners in addressing the challenges posed by the food price crisis. ILO constituents and the representatives of other UN agencies engaged in a lively and multifaceted inter-agency discussion on ways to address the global food price crisis and its social and employment implications.
2. A report of the Workshop, which contains a summary of the discussions and a list of participants, is attached to the present paper. The aforementioned room note appears between paragraphs 43 and 44 of the report.
3. Following the Workshop, the Office held informal consultations with global employers' and workers' organizations and with Dr Nabarro to consider how the HLTF and national authorities could make use of the social partners' networks to engage employers' and workers' organizations in national-level activities. It was agreed that, with the support of the ILO field structure, pilot activities would be launched in up to four African countries where both employers' and workers' organizations expressed interest in participating. Dr Nabarro suggested three key areas in which the ILO and the social partners could

contribute at national level: monitoring the impact of the food crisis in the world of work; providing inputs to national planning; and taking initiatives to promote rural employment and better work opportunities.

4. The ILO officially became a member of the HLTF in June 2009.

5. *The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:*

(a) authorize the Director-General to communicate the Workshop report to governments of member States, requesting them to communicate the text to the employers' and workers' organizations concerned; to the international employers' and workers' organizations concerned; and to the international organizations concerned; and

(b) request the Director-General to bear in mind, when drawing up proposals for the future work of the Office, the follow-up actions contained in the room note adopted by the Workshop.

Geneva, 22 September 2009.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.