



Governing Body

329th Session, Geneva, 9–24 March 2017

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Institutional Section

INS

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FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

The Standards Initiative: Follow-up to the joint report of the Chairpersons of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Committee on Freedom of Association

Addendum

1. Following the discussions of the Governing Body on 16 March 2017, it was agreed that the Office would provide a revised workplan for adoption by the Governing Body. The revised workplan in the appendix takes into account statements made by the Workers' and Employers' groups, including the *Joint Position of the Workers' and Employers' groups on the ILO Supervisory Mechanism*, and statements made on behalf of the Government group, the regional Government groups and individual governments.
2. The workplan aims to facilitate constructive engagement by the tripartite constituents with a view to consolidating tripartite consensus on an authoritative supervisory system. It sets out agreed actions that will be taken, with timetabling aspects included up until the Governing Body's overall review of the Standards Initiative in March 2018.
3. The revisions to the workplan intend to reflect the rich and diverse comments of the tripartite constituents, enabling the Governing Body to continue its examination of the issues raised. During the discussions, the tripartite constituents stressed that the process to strengthen the supervisory system set out in the workplan was a crucially important responsibility under the ILO Constitution that was deserving of full and careful attention. It was highlighted that the supervisory system is a functioning system of interrelated procedures, each of which has a distinctive mandate and should operate in a way that enhances complementarity and eliminates unnecessary overlap.
4. In light of the discussion on 16 March 2017, proposals that will require further discussion by the Governing Body are prioritized as follows for November 2017:
 - (a) **Proposal 2.2** concerning the article 24 procedure, **proposal 3.1** concerning the streamlining of reporting, and **proposal 4.3** concerning article 19(5)(e) and (6)(d) will be examined by the Governing Body in November 2017.

- **Proposal 2.2:** guidance will be sought from the Governing Body in relation to a possible standing committee, receivability of representations, the introduction of time limits, the follow-up of recommendations, and linkages with national procedures. In addition, a report will be submitted to the Governing Body on two other actions under consideration to strengthen the operation of article 24: (i) a standard representation form; and (ii) technical assistance, including time-bound action plans, for implementation of recommendations.
 - **Proposal 3.1:** following the feasibility study, proposals on streamlining will be submitted to the Governing Body.
 - **Proposal 4.3:** a working document based on past uses of article 19(5)(e) and (6)(d) will be submitted to the Governing Body.
- (b) Guidance on next steps will be sought from the Governing Body in November 2017 in relation to **proposal 1.2** on the relationship between the supervisory bodies, **proposal 2.1** on the article 26 procedure and **proposal 2.3** on legal certainty:
- **Proposal 1.2:** guidance will be sought from the Governing Body on options including information on concrete elements. In addition, a report will be submitted to the Governing Body on three other actions under consideration: (i) the report of activities presented by the Chairperson of the Committee on Freedom of Association to the Committee on the Application of Standards; (ii) the publication of mission reports following-up on conclusions adopted by the Committee on the Application of Standards; and (iii) the publication of follow-up to these conclusions in a separate part of the report of the Committee of Experts.
 - **Proposal 2.1:** guidance will be sought from the Governing Body on next steps in relation to the article 26 procedure, following the discussion of the article 24 procedure.
 - **Proposal 2.3:** guidance will be sought from the Governing Body on the modality of a possible future tripartite exchange of views on article 37(2) of the Constitution.
- (c) **Proposal 1.1** on the guide to established practices, **proposal 3.2** on information-sharing with organizations, **proposal 4.1** on clear recommendations and **proposal 4.2** on follow-up at the national level will be integrated into the Office's regular work, taking into account the views expressed in the Governing Body.
5. In accordance with the suggestion of a number of constituents, the broad and inclusive consultation process, including tripartite consultations, will be continued.

Revised draft decision

6. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *approves the revised workplan for the strengthening of the supervisory system;*
- (b) *requests the Office to take the necessary steps to implement the revised workplan based on the guidance it provides and to report on progress made at its 331st Session (November 2017), following consultations with the tripartite constituents; and*

- (c) *decides to review the revised workplan, as may be adjusted by the Governing Body during its 331st Session, in the context of its broader review of the Standards Initiative at its 332nd Session (March 2018).*

Appendix I: Revised work plan and timetable for Governing Body discussions (following Governing Body discussion on 16 March 2017)

	September 2017	Governing Body discussion October 2017	Governing Body discussion March 2018
Focus area 1: Relationships between the procedures			
1.1. Guide on established practices across the system	Informal tripartite consultations	Report on action taken	Review of implementation of Standards Initiative
1.2. Regular conversation between supervisory bodies	Informal tripartite consultations	Provide guidance on possible further options and consider report on three other steps under consideration	
Focus area 2: Rules and practices			
2.1. Consider codification of the article 26 procedure	Informal tripartite consultations	Provide guidance on next steps in relation to article 26 procedure	Review of implementation of Standards Initiative
2.2. Consider the operation of the article 24 procedure	Informal tripartite consultations	Examine possible options and consider report on two other steps under consideration	
2.3. Consider further steps to ensure legal certainty	Informal tripartite consultations	Provide guidance on modality of possible future discussion of article 37(2)	
Focus area 3: Reporting and information			
3.1. Streamline reporting	Informal tripartite consultations	Examine possible options based on feasibility study	Review of implementation of Standards Initiative
3.2. Information-sharing with organizations	Informal tripartite consultations	Report on action taken	
Focus area 4: Reach and implementation			
4.1. Clear supervisory body recommendations	Informal tripartite consultations	Report on actions taken	Review of implementation of Standards Initiative
4.2. Systematized follow-up at the national level	Informal tripartite consultations	Report on actions taken	
4.3. Consider potential of article 19	Informal tripartite consultations	Examine past uses of art. 19 (5)(e) and (6)(d) (coordinated with follow-up to 2016 resolution)	
Review by the supervisory procedures of their working methods			
Committee on the Application of Standards		Informal tripartite consultation on working methods	
Committee of Experts			Ongoing consideration including through subcommittee
Committee on Freedom of Association	Ongoing discussion of working methods		