



Governing Body

343rd Session, Geneva, November 2021

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 13 October 2021

Original: English

Fifteenth item on the agenda

Composition, agenda and programme of standing bodies and meetings

► Part I. Composition and agenda of standing bodies and meetings

Arrangements for the Meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy

(Geneva, 10–13 October 2022 or 10–14 October if held virtually)

Background

1. The ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, adopted on 21 June 2019, calls on all Members (Part III(C)(v)) to put in practice “policies and measures that ensure appropriate privacy and personal data protection, and respond to challenges and opportunities in the world of work relating to the digital transformation of work, including platform work”.¹ The resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on social dialogue and tripartism, adopted on 7 June 2018, requires the Office to “continue research regarding the access to freedom of association and the effective

¹ ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, Part III(C)(v).

recognition of the right to collective bargaining of digital platform and gig economy workers and, on that basis ... the Governing Body to decide whether convening a tripartite meeting would be appropriate or not".² On 27 March 2021, at its 341st Session, the Governing Body decided "to request the Office to convene a tripartite meeting of experts on the issue of 'decent work in the platform economy' in the course of 2022".³ The results of this meeting "would subsequently inform a possible general discussion or standard-setting item on this subject, should the Governing Body decide to place such an item on the agenda of the 112th Session (2024) of the Conference".⁴

2. It is proposed to hold the tripartite meeting of experts from 10 to 13 October 2022, with a duration of three days if the meeting can be held in person, four days if virtual.
3. The Programme and Budget for 2022–23 contains no provision for this meeting that was originally scheduled to take place in 2020–21. However, because of the backlog of sectoral and other meetings in 2021 arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Body agreed to hold it in 2022. It is therefore proposed that the currently unfunded costs (between US\$120,000 and US\$250,000, depending on length and format) be financed through the retention of part of the anticipated underspending for 2020–21, generated by the cancellation or postponement of official meetings in that period, as proposed by the Director-General in another document submitted for the consideration of the Governing Body at the present session.⁵

Composition

4. The Director-General proposes that the meeting be attended by eight experts nominated after consultation with Governments, eight experts nominated after consultation with the Employers' group, and eight experts nominated after consultation with the Workers' group of the Governing Body.
5. In order to identify governments that will be asked to nominate an expert, the following criteria are suggested: (i) appropriate geographical distribution; (ii) the importance of the platform economy in the country; and (iii) legal and policy initiatives on the platform economy taken by the country.
6. It is further proposed that the Director-General invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations listed in the appendix.

Agenda

7. The proposed agenda will be presented to the Governing Body at its 344th Session (March 2022) following consultations with the tripartite constituents.

² ILC.109/Resolution III.

³ GB.341/PV, para. 50.

⁴ GB.341/INS/3/1(Rev.2), para. 26.

⁵ GB.343/PFA/5(Rev.1).

Meeting of the tripartite working group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains

Background

8. In seeking the implementation of the 2016 Conference resolution concerning decent work in global supply chains and the ILO programme of action on decent work in global supply chains, the Governing Body at its 341st Session (March 2021) adopted a two-step process. The first step tasked the Office with conducting an in-depth review “to clearly identify if there are any gaps in the current body of normative and non-normative measures, including means of implementation and other measures, to facilitate a discussion on options to ensure decent work in supply chains, including at sectoral level, where appropriate”. The review is to be delivered and shared with the constituents by November 2021. The second step is to establish, also by November 2021, a tripartite working group (of a manageable size and observing regional balance), which will review the Office’s report and further develop, with the support of the Office, the building blocks for a comprehensive strategy on achieving decent work in supply chains. The group will present its report to the Governing Body for discussion at its 344th Session (March 2022) with a view to deciding on appropriate follow-up action.
9. As with the Meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy, it is proposed that the funding for this meeting (estimated between US\$130,000 and US\$260,000, depending on its format) be financed also through the retention of part of the anticipated underspending for 2020–21, as proposed by the Director-General in another document submitted for the consideration of the Governing Body at the present session.⁶

Composition

10. It is proposed to have 16 members representing Governments (4 from each of the four regions) and 8 members from the Employers’ and Workers’ groups, respectively.

Date and format of the meeting

11. Taking into account the programme of meetings for the remainder of 2021 and the terms established by the Governing Body for the working group, including the timeline for the submission of its report to the Governing Body in March 2022, it is proposed that the working group hold two meetings: the first for a period of three working days on 17–19 January 2022 to review the Office’s gap analysis, and the second for a period of two days from 7 to 8 February 2022 to further develop the building blocks for a comprehensive strategy.
12. Subject to the evolution of the situation with COVID-19, the meetings of this working group could be held virtually or in person.

⁶ GB.343/PFA/5(Rev.1).

Meeting of experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards

Background, agenda and date

13. Based on earlier recommendations of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group, the Governing Body at its 341st Session (March 2021) decided to place on the agenda of the 112th (2024) and 113th (2025) Sessions of the International Labour Conference an item related to occupational safety and health protection against biological hazards, recognizing the regulatory gaps identified in that regard, and the need to commence work on technical guidelines on the same topic. The COVID-19 pandemic further increased the urgency of providing guidance to ILO constituents on this particular type of hazard. The development of technical guidelines on biohazards will also assist the Office in preparing for the Conference discussions in 2024 and 2025.
14. For this reason, a meeting of experts is proposed to examine and adopt technical guidelines on biological hazards at the workplace, with a duration of five working days on 20–24 June 2022.
15. It is proposed that the estimated costs (between US\$130,000 and US\$230,000 depending on length and format) be covered from the proposed retention of part of the anticipated underspending for 2020–21, resulting from postponed meetings.

Composition

16. It is proposed that the meeting be composed of eight experts nominated after consultation with Governments, eight Employer experts nominated after consultation with the Employers' group, and eight Worker experts nominated after consultation with the Workers' group of the Governing Body, plus advisers and observers as provided for under the Standing Orders for meetings of experts. It is also proposed that the Director-General invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations listed in the appendix.

► Part II. Programme of ILO official meetings in 2021 and 2022 (subject to regular review depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Date	Title of meeting	Place/virtual
2021		
25 October	Meeting of the Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin Centre	Geneva
28–30 October	Committee on Freedom of Association (343rd Session of the Governing Body)	Geneva
1–13 November	343rd Session of the Governing Body	Virtual
17–19 November	Workers' Symposium	To be confirmed
24 November–11 December	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	To be confirmed

Date	Title of meeting	Place/virtual
25 November–11 December	Resumed 109th Session of the International Labour Conference	Virtual
Date to be confirmed	Meeting of the tripartite committee to consider further improvements to the approved methodology of SDG indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights (date to be determined according to the availability of the members that are still to be nominated)	Virtual
13–16 December	Meeting of experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on general principles of labour inspection	Virtual
13–17 December	Technical meeting on the future of work in aquaculture in the context of the rural economy (originally scheduled for 23–27 November 2020)	Geneva
2022		
17–19 January	First meeting of the tripartite working group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains	To be confirmed
20–21 January ¹	Interactive forum with candidates for the post of ILO Director-General	Virtual
21 January or 3 or 4 February (to be confirmed) ²	Final meeting of the tripartite working group on the full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance	To be confirmed
24–28 January	Technical meeting on the impact of digitalization in the finance sector (originally scheduled for 22–26 February 2021)	Geneva
7–8 February	Second meeting of the tripartite working group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains	To be confirmed
Date to be confirmed ³	Meeting of the High-Level Multilateral Policy Forum	To be confirmed
21–25 February	Meeting of experts to revise the 1992 code of practice on safety and health in construction	Geneva
10–12 March	Committee on Freedom of Association (344th Session of the Governing Body)	To be confirmed
14–25 March	344th Session of the Governing Body	To be confirmed
	Formal hearings for candidates to the post of ILO Director-General (14–15 March)	To be confirmed
	Election of the ILO Director-General (25 March)	To be confirmed

¹ Subject to the decision to be adopted by the Governing Body at its 343rd Session on the recommendation of its Officers (GB.343/INS/14/1).

² Depending on the dates retained for the interactive forum with candidates for the post of ILO Director-General.

³ The dates, modalities and further details on this meeting are referred to in [GB.343/INS/3/2](#) and will be discussed at the 343rd Session of the Governing Body.

Date	Title of meeting	Place/virtual
25–29 April	Technical meeting on COVID-19 and sustainable recovery in the tourism sector	Geneva
9–13 May (4–13 May if virtual)	Fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended – Part II	To be confirmed
16–17 May (to be confirmed)	Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission	Geneva
26–28 May	Committee on Freedom of Association	To be confirmed
30 May–10 June	110th Session of the International Labour Conference	To be confirmed
11 June	345th Session of the Governing Body	To be confirmed
20–24 June	Meeting of experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards	To be confirmed
Second half of 2022 (to be confirmed) ⁴	V Global Conference on Child Labour	Durban
12–16 September	Seventh meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group	To be confirmed
26–30 September	Technical meeting on the protection of whistle-blowers in the public service sector	Geneva
10–13 October (10–14 October if virtual)	Meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy	To be confirmed
Date to be confirmed	Meeting of the Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin Centre	To be confirmed
27–29 October	Committee on Freedom of Association (346th Session of the Governing Body)	To be confirmed
31 October–10 November	346th Session of the Governing Body	To be confirmed
21–25 November	Technical meeting on the future of work in the oil and gas industry	Geneva
23 November–10 December	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	Geneva
First week of December (exact dates to be determined at the 343rd Session of the Governing Body in consultation with the host Government)	17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (postponed from 2021)	Singapore

⁴ The host country has requested that the meeting be rescheduled in the second half of the year, and not in May 2022 as originally foreseen.

▶ Draft decision

17. **The Governing Body, upon the recommendation of its Officers, decided:**
- (a) **to approve the dates and composition of the Meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy, and to authorize the Director-General to invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations listed in the appendix to document GB.343/INS/15;**
 - (b) **to approve the dates, composition and agenda of the Meeting of experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards, and to authorize the Director-General to invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations listed in the appendix to document GB.343/INS/15;**
 - (c) **to approve the composition of the tripartite working group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains and the dates of its two meetings; and**
 - (d) **to take note of the programme of meetings contained in Part II of document GB.343/INS/15 as approved by its Officers, subject to regular review depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

► Appendix

Proposed invitations of observers to official meetings

Title of the meeting	Intergovernmental organizations (by standing arrangement)	Intergovernmental organizations (authorized by the Officers of the Governing Body)	International non-governmental organizations (authorized by the Governing Body)
<p>Meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy (10–13 October 2022 or 10–14 October if virtual)</p>	<p>United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Monetary Fund (IMF) • United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • United Nations • World Bank Group <p>Other organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <p>Regional organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND) 	<p>NGOs having general consultative status with the ILO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • International Organisation of Employers (IOE) • International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) • Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) • Business Africa • World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Title of the meeting	Intergovernmental organizations (by standing arrangement)	Intergovernmental organizations (authorized by the Officers of the Governing Body)	International non-governmental organizations (authorized by the Governing Body)
Meeting of experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards (20–24 June 2022)	<p>United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) • World Bank Group • World Health Organization (WHO) <p>Regional organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Organisation for Animal Health 	<p>NGOs having general consultative status with the ILO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • International Organisation of Employers (IOE) • International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) • Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) • Business Africa • World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) <p>Other organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health (IAAMRH) • International Association of Health Care Professionals (IAHCP) • International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) • International Council of Nurses (ICN) • International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) • International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) • International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) • International Social Security Association (ISSA)