



SIXTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## Report of the Committee on Technical Cooperation

1. The Committee on Technical Cooperation met on 7 November and was chaired by Mr Yimer Aboye (Government, Ethiopia). The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons were Mr Jeetun and Mr Etty, respectively.
2. The Committee had the following agenda items:
  - I. Progress in implementation of decent work country programmes.
  - II. Resource mobilization for technical cooperation: Policy and implementation status.
  - III. Follow-up to the resolution on technical cooperation adopted by the 95th Session (2006) of the International Labour Conference.
  - IV. Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: Technical cooperation priorities and action plans regarding abolition of child labour.
  - V. Other questions:
    - (a) ILO response to the post-crisis situation in Lebanon;
    - (b) Colombia: Tripartite agreement on freedom of association and democracy.
3. A representative of the Director-General, Ms Ducci, reported on new developments since March 2006, briefing the Committee on how international recognition of decent work as the central driver for development and poverty reduction had been growing since the adoption of paragraph 47 of the Outcome Document of the United Nations World Summit in September 2005. In July 2006, the Ministerial Declaration of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment gave the ILO an explicit mandate to promote the ownership of decent work through the multilateral system, including Bretton Woods institutions, and to generate resources through partnerships within the United Nations system and with donors. The Office had begun working on the follow-up to the mutually reinforcing conclusions of the Conference and the ECOSOC meeting and good progress had already been made in a number of areas.
4. Ms Ducci introduced the first three agenda items. On the basis of inputs received from the field structure, the first paper reported on the progress in implementation of decent work country programmes (DWCPs). Different dimensions of the DWCP process were

highlighted, including the application of the results-based management approach to field operations, involvement of tripartite constituents, interface with United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and United Nations field coordination mechanisms, and the scope for harmonizing donor partnerships around DWCP priorities. Ms Ducci indicated that the paper before the Committee was proposing that an annual report on the progress of DWCPs and their impact be submitted to the Committee on Technical Cooperation during its November sessions.

5. In October 2006, the Director-General had brought together all directors of field offices to a Decent Work Global Management Team meeting. The aim was to take stock of initial experiences and to explore new and more effective ways of delivering the Decent Work Agenda through DWCPs. The meeting tackled a set of critical issues related to DWCP content, strategy and process; involvement of constituents; links with technical cooperation; opportunities and challenges in the context of United Nations reform; resource mobilization and pooling; ILO technical capacity, competences, knowledge base and product development.
6. The second paper, on resource mobilization, contained information that had already been shared with donor representatives at the first ILO/Donor Meeting on Decent Work and Development, held in September 2006 in Turin. The meeting, hosted by the Italian Government, brought together some 30 senior officials from donor agencies, as well as representatives of the social partners and key officials from ILO technical departments. The meeting reviewed the ILO development assistance strategy following up the World Summit and ECOSOC, the integration of DWCPs into national development priorities, possibilities for harmonization of ILO donor policies, and the scope for developing or strengthening partnerships for decent work and the role of the social partners.
7. The third paper dealt with action taken or envisaged as a follow-up to the resolution on technical cooperation adopted at the 95th Session (2006) of the International Labour Conference. A mid-term implementation report would be provided in November 2008.

## **I. Progress in implementation of decent work country programmes**

8. The Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Jeetun, noted with satisfaction that the discussion on technical cooperation at the 2006 session of the International Labour Conference provided a good platform for future action.
9. Inquiring about the extent to which the beneficiaries, the ILO and other United Nations organizations had initiated the DWCP process, Mr Jeetun pointed out that there appeared to be no uniformity in the understanding and implementation of DWCPs. The Office report gave the impression that the terminology used for DWCPs was not consistent; it was therefore important to adhere to the ILO's internal guidebook on DWCPs. In some regions, such as Latin America and the Caribbean, only one DWCP had been completed.
10. The Employers' group was of the opinion that, whilst the report provided a bright picture of the progress made in DWCPs, the reality was mixed and varied considerably from region to region. Mr Jeetun expressed concern about the extent of the social partners' participation in the DWCP process and said that the report was not clear on this point.
11. Noting that much had been done to improve awareness and advocacy on DWCPs, Mr Jeetun inquired about the extent to which the ILO had influenced the United Nations system. The Employers' group felt some degree of pessimism regarding the involvement in UNDAF, particularly the gap between the importance that the Office attached to DWCP's

linkage and contribution to UNDAF and the actual UNDAF process. In that connection, Mr Jeetun expressed concern about the ILO's capacity to ensure synergy in the United Nations system at the country level.

12. Referring to the success of the DWCP in the United Republic of Tanzania in terms of its influence on national development efforts and on UNDAF, Mr Jeetun underlined the importance for other offices or DWCPs to learn from the Tanzanian case. Mr Jeetun also expressed the group's support for decent work programmes at the regional level, which he felt was a reflection of flexibility in utilizing the DWCP approach.
13. The Employers' group appreciated that some donors and the ILO had signed partnership agreements through which financial support would be provided to DWCPs, for example for building the capacity of constituents and the ILO to improve the quality of DWCPs.
14. The group had serious concerns about the section regarding priorities in DWCPs, as they did not always reflect those of social partners – improvement in productivity being one example. Mr Jeetun urged that future reports on progress in DWCPs reflect the degree of social partners' involvement in the DWCP process and the extent to which it matched their priorities. The group supported results-based management and suggested utilizing the Turin Centre for capacity building in this respect.
15. Noting that the evaluation of the DWCP in the Philippines would be discussed at the PFAC, Mr Jeetun requested the Office to ensure better coordination in the work of Committees in future. The Employer Vice-Chairperson concluded by stating the position of his group on the reporting arrangements. Given that the major component of DWCPs was technical cooperation and lessons needed to be drawn from their performance, assessments and evaluations pertaining to DWCPs needed to be brought before the Committee on Technical Cooperation.
16. The Workers' Vice-Chairperson, Mr Etty, believed that DWCPs had now taken root and, even though it was too early to determine their impact, the ILO should nevertheless take advantage of the momentum – mainly generated by the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the ECOSOC declaration.
17. Commenting on the report, he highlighted its “over-optimistic tone” and stated that it should reflect the reality on the ground. On the level of implementation of the DWCPs, differences were observed from one country to another. To report on the impact of DWCPs, the Office should establish baseline data, including relevant statistics and indicators to which the tripartite constituents could contribute information.
18. The Group had observed that, during the current round of implementation of DWCPs, not all the components of decent work were given the same importance; specific mention had to be made of the standards component and, more particularly, of Conventions Nos. 87 and 98. Given that DWCPs need to be composed of four equally prominent elements in an integrated and balanced manner, Mr Etty requested that in future the promotion of the four elements be better incorporated in DWCPs and reflected in future reports and information on results achieved.
19. Recalling that in March 2006 the Committee on Employment and Social Policy had adopted a document on operationalizing the employment component of the DWCPs that had been elaborated in consultation with the social partners, Mr Etty requested that the document be distributed and used in the field for the development of DWCPs. He suggested that a similar document be produced on the standards component.

20. Referring to the DWCPs designed for the European region, he asked the Office to report on their effective development. With regard to the Arab States he wished to know why there were so few countries involved and what had been the rationale behind the selection of Jordan.
21. The Workers' group noted with satisfaction the interest of several donors in implementing projects as part of DWCPs, but reiterated the importance of involving the social partners more systematically through established national tripartite mechanisms. In this regard, and to enable the full and effective participation of the social partners, Mr Etty emphasized the importance of strengthening their capacities, further suggesting that ILO field staff, including ACTRAV and ACT/EMP specialists, should also be provided with training.
22. He welcomed the Office's efforts to incorporate DWCPs into UNDAF processes, reiterating that the ILO's added value by virtue of its tripartite nature and standard-setting role should be emphasized. As not all partners in the United Nations system were necessarily convinced of this added value, he urged delegates from each country to convince their colleagues from other ministries dealing with United Nations agencies and with the Bretton Woods institutions of this aspect. The Workers' group welcomed the fact that the guidelines for the United Nations country team (UNCT) preparing common country assessments and UNDAF recognized the expertise and the experience of employers' and workers' organizations in participatory processes. The guidelines should make reference to the fundamental human rights standards of the ILO. They needed to be used and implemented at the country level.
23. Mr Etty concluded by reiterating the need for DWCPs to have an integrated approach where all of its four dimensions were addressed simultaneously. While he agreed that the Office needed to set a limited number of priorities, the integrated approach of the DWCP should be respected and its four dimensions should be addressed simultaneously and in a balanced way. The tripartite constituents should be involved in every step of the DWCP process.
24. The representative of the Government of Italy, speaking on behalf of IMEC, stated that the increase in the number of DWCPs was below expectations, and that the paper did not provide a complete picture of the complex administrative, organizational and substantive issues and constraints related to them. She felt that the successful case of the United Republic of Tanzania showed the importance of the full integration of DWCPs in UNDAF and national programming cycles, and that consideration should be given to the integration of ILO representatives into the UNCT. The ILO's influence on UNDAFs through DWCPs should be a measurable target in the 2008–09 programme and budget, which should be influenced by DWCPs and contain country-level indicators. The Office should conduct its field structure review as soon as possible to ensure that the ILO's capacity in the field responded to actual needs and priorities.
25. Further information was required on the role of DWCPs in the work of the ILO as a whole and on its relationship to the tripartite constituents at the national, regional and global levels. Clarification was sought about the different DWCP alternatives in existence (for example "country cooperation frameworks", "Memorandum of Understanding", "programmes of coordination") and their relationship with national plans of action to promote decent work. External ILO offices should take the lead in formulating integrated DWCPs in response to national demand, with an indication of clear roles for technical sectors in ILO headquarters and ILO Regional and Subregional Offices.
26. The representative of the Government of Australia, speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific group (ASPAG), highlighted the fact that the Asia-Pacific region had been a leader in developing national plans for decent work. One of the conclusions adopted at the

Fourteenth Regional Meeting held in the Republic of Korea in 2006 was to implement an Asian Decent Work Decade. The ILO was encouraged to continue its work of integrating results-based DWCPs into national priorities and UNDAFs in accordance with the stage of development of each member State, and to better synchronize DWCPs with UNDAFs. Additional information was required on the emphasis placed on DWCPs in the Programme and Budget proposals for 2008–09, on the implementation of results-based management, and on the role of ILO regional offices and the progress of the field structure review.

- 27.** The representative of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated his Government's full support for the Decent Work Agenda and decent work as a global and regional goal. He criticized the policies of increased labour flexibility applied recently by some countries; far from producing the promised results, on the contrary they had led to higher unemployment, and the informalization of labour with more casual employment. They thus represented a move away from effective equality of employment opportunities. DWCPs were the means by which the ILO could contribute to the incorporation of decent work in development strategies; this had been the focus of his Government's active employment policies, moving from the concept of "representative democracy" towards a concept of "participative, leading role democracy".
- 28.** Mr Anand (Employer member) suggested that the social partners in South Asia should discuss and accelerate the DWCP process. On the incorporation of DWCPs in UNDAF and cooperation with the United Nations system, he cautioned that the ILO, with its tripartite structure, had a different character from other United Nations agencies; this needed to be highlighted. Some South Asian countries needed special attention. However, they were not entirely poor countries, and the possibility of obtaining local support for technical cooperation needed to be explored.
- 29.** The representative of the Government of China stressed that countries' priorities needed to be incorporated in DWCPs to make them an effective part of governments' economic and social policy instruments.
- 30.** The representative of the Government of Nigeria maintained that, as the level of adoption of the DWCP varied between countries, the indicators would also vary; therefore annual reports on progress of DWCPs at the local level highlighting best practices should be produced.
- 31.** The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom announced a new partnership between the Department for International Development (DFID) and the ILO for 2007–09 amounting to £20 million which would support implementation of the DWCP and boost ILO participation in United Nations reform and the participation of the social partners.
- 32.** The representative of the Government of the United States wished to be informed about the expected life span of individual DWCPs, mechanisms that existed to incorporate changes in DWCPs, and the acceptable frequency of such changes.
- 33.** The representative of the Government of Ethiopia, expressing appreciation for specific examples provided in paragraph 12, indicated that paragraph 14 did not contain sufficient information. More examples were required.
- 34.** The representative of the Government of Malawi, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, commended the Office for having prepared 16 DWCPs in the region, with an additional 25 to be developed before the end of the year. He asked the Office to update the Committee on progress made in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania in the interests of knowledge-sharing. He noted with satisfaction that DWCPs were demand-

driven according to the needs of local and national stakeholders and of the constituents. This position was fully endorsed by the representative of the Government of Cameroon.

- 35.** The representative of the European Union (EU) informed the Committee that in May 2006 the EU had adopted a comprehensive communication on promoting decent work worldwide. In this policy document the European Commission had called for the establishment of DWCPs, or an equivalent road map, as part of national development strategies, together with the ratification and application of core labour standards. He felt that the objective of decent work was mobilizing, relevant for governance issues, and in line with the values of the EU Treaty. It strongly involved the constituents and called for social dialogue among the tripartite partners, favouring ownership by the constituents and a clear definition of the priorities at the national level – a key component of the Decent Work Agenda being the workers’ representatives, including at the global level. The EU was committed to ensuring that decent work programmes were well known to the EU representatives. In this context, he mentioned the activity indicated in paragraph 28 of the report, aiming at bringing together ILO and EU field staff by the end of the year in Beijing, in order to share knowledge and raise awareness of DWCPs and related working mechanisms so as to ensure the effective use of resources and technical resources.
- 36.** In her response to the debate, a representative of the Director-General, Ms Ducci, thanked the Committee for the strong support expressed by all for the DWCP approach. As was reflected in the report, the ILO was on a learning curve in implementing this approach, and the different formats of documents resulting from the exercise was a reflection of different experiences and approaches, as well as of the diversity of challenges and opportunities. However, while gaining experience, the ILO was working towards a more coherent common format. Some countries had developed their national decent work strategies and plans and it was important to make a distinction between these strategies and plans, which could be much wider in scope, and the distinct ILO support to them through the DWCP. As stressed by the Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons, the DWCPs were grounded in dialogue with the tripartite constituents, and their active participation throughout the process was a fundamental feature of the approach. As pointed out, the DWCP was geared to an integrated approach between the four strategic objectives of the organization and provided an important tool for more effectively promoting the values and the overall agenda of the ILO and, in particular, international labour standards. In the specific country context, it was important to find the most productive entry points which might permit to advancing progressively towards a fully balanced decent work outlook, including all strategic objectives in a longer term perspective.
- 37.** As regards participation in the United Nations process through the Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and UNDAF, there were varying degrees of success. With different agencies applying different procedures, there were real difficulties and obstacles to match procedures across the whole system. Unlike specialized agencies with their own governance structures, United Nations funds and programmes all reported to the Secretary-General, and therefore it was easier for them to achieve harmonization of these procedures than for other agencies. The difficulties the ILO encountered were similar to those of other agencies, but important progress was being made. She wanted to express the ILO’s appreciation, in particular, to the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for having concluded important partnership agreements with the ILO which would enhance the capacity of the Office, as well as of the constituents, to implement DWCPs. She also recognized the significance of the support of the EU through the formulation of important policy statements to promote decent work, which had opened opportunities for close collaboration.
- 38.** The Regional Director for Africa emphasized that the African region offered a clear opportunity for decent work. Building on the commitment of African leaders to pursue the

Decent Work Agenda at the 2004 African Union Summit, the ILO had been working with the constituents to adapt this regional political momentum to national contexts. In most African countries employment and decent work were clear national priorities, with special focus on women, youth and children as the most vulnerable. The DWCP allowed the ILO to integrate standards with programmes targeting the most vulnerable groups: women, children and youth. United Nations reform afforded a new opportunity for the ILO, as illustrated in the case of the United Republic of Tanzania which had become a pilot for the whole United Nations system, rallying behind a national strategic framework for poverty eradication and with decent work as one of the main priorities.

- 39.** The Regional Director for the Americas acknowledged that the Decent Work Agenda had received great support in the region and that strong political will had been expressed. During the American Regional Meeting held in Brazil in May 2006, a Decent Work Agenda was adopted for the region which also included the development of national DWCPs. The DWCP for Argentina was one of the pilot programmes which commenced in 2004, and in Brazil there had been an agreement signed between President Lula da Silva and the Director-General of the ILO on a technical programme to promote decent work. A DWCP for Brazil had subsequently been prepared and would commence its implementation in January 2007. The DWCP for Bolivia would be receiving funding from the Netherlands and would focus on fundamental labour rights and the strengthening of the Ministry of Labour. In Ecuador the main focus for the DWCP was youth employment, strengthened social dialogue and labour standards. For Colombia the priorities were clear, the most important issue being respect for labour rights.
- 40.** The Regional Director continued by mentioning the strong call for labour rights that existed in the region. However, the basic issue for Latin America and the Caribbean was employment, and there was a need to see how this could be accommodated into the Decent Work Agenda. The Regional Director explained further that a subregional decent work project for Central America was being developed and that the Tripartite Caribbean Employment Forum held in October 2006 had agreed upon a plan of action which included the development of a subregional DWCP. He agreed that direct and close contact with the social partners was essential in developing DWCPs and that this would guarantee the sustainability of the programmes. The Regional Director also mentioned that the region had had 15 different general elections during recent times.
- 41.** The Regional Director for the Arab States thanked all the participants for their comments and confirmed that they would be analysed by his Office for follow-up. In addition to the general answers made by the Office, he intended to add some points which would focus on his region. He confirmed that only one fully fledged DWCP had been developed in the region, the one for Jordan. With the support of the Netherlands, the DWCP for Yemen would be finalized with a gender approach. Memorandums of Understanding had been agreed with the Governments of Lebanon, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and would constitute the basis for formulating DWCPs. He emphasized that international labour standards had been included in Jordan's DWCP and in other documents developed in the region.
- 42.** The Regional Director for Asia said that DWCP terminology had evolved in his region during the various stages of its formulation. Even though the intention was to design DWCP instruments that fitted all countries, their different cultures and processes had to be taken into account. Regarding the number of DWCPs that had been finalized, he pointed out the difficulty encountered in some countries in achieving DWCP formulation, such as in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. On the question of UNDAF integration, he confirmed that he had had meetings with United Nations agencies in several countries to stress the ILO's added value and to involve social partners in the process effectively. He stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of the social partners. The regional approach

seemed very important in Asia, and the ASEAN group was in favour of tackling prominent problems, such as migrant workers, HIV/AIDS and occupational safety and health, within the framework of regional cooperation. The challenge that remained for DWCPs was to demonstrate their sustainability and their impact.

43. The Regional Director for Europe observed that labour standards had a prominent role in discussions, especially in the Caucasus and the Balkans, and that it was clear that the ratification of Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 remained a priority in this regard. The entry point for discussing these core Conventions differed according to country-specific situations. The Regional Director pointed out that, in order to create synergies with UNDAF, good timing was essential. With regard to the field structure review, he mentioned that the Office for Europe had national correspondents posted in all countries where a DWCP existed.
44. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body call upon the Office to take into account the comments and observations made by the Committee during its current session; and to provide in its future sessions, on an annual basis, status reports highlighting the outcome and impact of DWCPs.*

## **II. Resource mobilization for technical cooperation: Policy and implementation status**

45. The Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Jeetun, welcomed the forward-looking paper, stating that his group had urged the Office to elaborate an ILO strategy on resource mobilization. He noted positive developments with the signing and negotiation of partnership agreements and thanked the donors for their efforts and for increasing the volume of approvals. He referred to the increase in approvals for the employment sector and increased resources for Africa, which he hoped was not incidental. He was pleased to see that the Office had taken measures to implement the strategy adopted by the 2006 session of the Conference, which called for the promotion of multi-annual partnership agreements, upgrading of the capacity of ILO offices for resource mobilization, streamlining internal priority-setting mechanisms, facilitating coordination among donors, and developing incentives for promoting tripartism. He appreciated the consultations with the donors in Turin and hoped that such sharing of information would be helpful in trying to achieve greater coordination amongst them. This was particularly important if a more balanced distribution of resources between the strategic objectives was to be achieved. Coordination among donors was also important at the country level in the context of coherence and the United Nations reform process, and he asked for information from the donor community in this respect.
46. Mr Jeetun noted that, with the implementation of the DWCPs, the Office needed to adjust its working methods. He questioned, however, how integrated processes and products were to be developed and requested some elaboration on this. He expressed support for partnership agreements with strong focus on the promotion of tripartism and support to employers' and workers' organizations, such as the one signed with Norway; and he thanked the Irish AID for their support to the Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme in Africa. He called for more support from donors for this initiative. Welcoming the forthcoming guidelines on the public/private partnerships, he maintained that, while this was becoming an important source of funding for the United Nations system, such was not the case in the ILO. In concluding, he drew attention to the fact that working with and for the constituents was the responsibility of the whole Office and, in



that context, referred to the conclusions of the ILC as well as to the guidelines for consultations with ACTRAV and ACT/EMP.

47. In a preliminary remark, the Worker Vice-Chairperson, Mr Etty, stated that what he had said under the previous agenda item on the integrated and balanced approach of DWCPs, on the key role of the social partners and on tripartism, also pertained to this agenda item and to agenda item 3. He welcomed the positive trends reported in the paper, notably the overall increase in extra-budgetary approvals, especially for Africa. He inquired about the extent to which the different components of the Decent Work Agenda, both globally and in Africa, had benefited equitably from this increase. Mr Etty maintained that, although there has been an increase in the receipt of extra-budgetary resources, there was still a need for governments to increase their contribution to the regular budget of the ILO.
48. Mr Etty commended several donors for both subscribing to partnership agreements with the ILO, which he felt enhanced programme consistency and predictability, and in particular for their support to the effort of mainstreaming tripartism, gender equality and capacity building for workers' and employers' organizations. He invited other donors to follow this approach. Sustainable resource allocation to DWCPs required permanent dialogue between the ILO, its donors and its constituents and also the full consideration of social partners' needs. The participation of social partners' representatives in the first ILO donor meeting was also acknowledged as a positive step.
49. Mr Etty endorsed the efforts made in building the capacity of ILO field offices to mobilize local resources and invited the Office to develop a comprehensive approach for local resource mobilization, adequately involving the worker specialists in the field and taking into account the relevance of technical cooperation proposals to tripartite constituents' needs. The Office should develop a comprehensive capacity-building strategy for local resource mobilization designed for ILO field office staff, including ACTRAV specialists and the social partners. He stressed that the development of public/private partnerships should be done with the full involvement of the social partners and should be based on a rigorous respect of ILO values and the eight fundamental human rights standards of the ILO. He supported the Office in its efforts to promote tripartism and to allocate resources to building the capacities of workers' and employers' organizations in all negotiations with the donor agencies.
50. The representative of the Government of Italy, speaking on behalf of IMEC, welcomed the increase in extra-budgetary contributions and supported a targeted and coordinated resource mobilization effort that would take into account the ILO's mandate and comparative advantage and dialogue with donor agencies. In this respect, she appreciated the timely initiative taken by the Office of organizing the first ILO donor meeting. IMEC supported the development of the ILO's strategy on public/private partnerships and believed that it could benefit from the experience of other international organizations with longer experience in this domain.
51. A focus on DWCP priorities would allow for a less donor-driven priority setting approach by anchoring both regular budget and extra-budgetary resources to a set of major outcomes reflecting national priorities. However, IMEC wished to understand how the Office intended to reconcile donor policies and interests in specific components of the Decent Work Agenda with the target of 70 per cent of extra-budgetary resource linked to DWCP priority outcomes. IMEC asked how the Office would respond to specific situations of mismatch between availability of donor funds and agreed DWCP priorities.
52. IMEC supported the notion of holding periodic donor meetings and recognized the scope for promoting donor harmonization of planning and implementation cycles and pooling of funds, particularly at the country level, in the framework of DWCPs. Harmonization

efforts, however, should be realistic and constructive and should take into account both donor requirements and constraints and recipients' needs and priorities. IMEC requested the Office to submit an options paper with future funding scenarios.

53. The representative of the Government of Cuba said he welcomed the statements made by the Government representatives and by the representatives of the Employers' and Workers' groups. He expressed support for the ILO's resource mobilization strategy adopted in November 2004, and was optimistic regarding the expected approval of over US\$200 million in 2006. Underlining the importance of linking technical cooperation with DWCPs, he added that cooperation should reflect the priorities established by the ILO and the needs of the benefiting countries; in no case should agreements to provide funding be conditional on donors' interests. This was contrary to the principle of disinterest which should be the hallmark of any funding for cooperation.
54. Referring to the summit in New York in 2005 and the 2006 High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, the representative of the Government of Kenya noted significant developments in favour of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. He underlined the importance of involving the social partners, including the Ministry of Labour, in resource mobilization efforts, and of building capacity on DWCPs through training at the Turin Centre.
55. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body endorse the ILO's proposals to:*
- (a) expand the number of partnership agreements with donor agencies and focus their content around ILO strategic objectives, mainstreamed strategies and DWCP priorities;*
  - (b) enhance field offices' capacity to generate extra-budgetary resources for the implementation of DWCPs, taking into account the outcomes of the foreseen field structure review;*
  - (c) make a special resource mobilization effort for Africa;*
  - (d) mainstream tripartism and support for social partners in donor partnership programmes;*
  - (e) mainstream gender equality in donor partnership programmes;*
  - (f) organize periodic planning and review meetings with the donor community;*
  - (g) develop clear guidelines for public/private partnerships; and*
  - (h) report regularly to the Technical Cooperation Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations.*

### **III. Follow-up to the resolution on technical cooperation adopted by the 95th Session (2006) of the International Labour Conference**

- 56.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Jeetun, was of the opinion that 2006 was “Technical Cooperation Year”, as the approvals and the number of signed partnership agreements had increased, and that the ECOSOC Outcome Document had offered new opportunities.
- 57.** The great challenge for the following years would be to succeed in influencing the agenda of other development partners while safeguarding the ILO’s identity. Commenting on the report of the Office, he commended the detailed and comprehensive approach and the speed of its delivery after the June 2006 session of the Conference.
- 58.** Referring to some of the activities foreseen as a follow-up to the conclusions, he raised a number of points. Noting that building the capacity of workers had been addressed, he pointed out that the capacity of the employers also needed to be strengthened. On this issue, he welcomed the interest of the Government of the Netherlands and DFID in financing capacity-building workshops for constituents.
- 59.** Querying the status of a field structure review mentioned in the Office’s report, he went on to the issue of public/private partnerships, mentioning that some discussions had already taken place on this subject and were continuing. The Employers’ group welcomed the mid-term assessment of the implementation of the follow-up to the resolution of the ILC envisaged for November 2008, and he reiterated that the group would be expecting to see an analysis of the outcomes and lessons learnt in that report.
- 60.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson, Mr Etty, stated that the report before the Committee clearly showed the importance the Office attached to the resolution. He welcomed the progress made by the Office, especially regarding the promotion of tripartism and the involvement of the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin. He believed that training activities with the involvement of the Turin Centre should be an integral part of technical cooperation activities. Alliances with United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions were important but should not be limited to the employment sector; they should also include the standards sector.
- 61.** He underscored the importance of partnership with the UNDP and wished to be informed about its content. In the implementation of the conclusions, Mr Etty called upon the Office to take into account the comments made by his group during the discussions on the two agenda items discussed earlier, as he felt all three documents were interrelated.
- 62.** Mr Etty concluded by inviting the Office to apply a results-based management system to the plan of action for the follow-up to the resolution and to see those elements included in the mid-term report to be submitted to the Committee in November 2008. This should include the responsibilities of the different ILO departments, expected outcomes, indicators of achievements and time frames.
- 63.** The representative of the Government of Mexico, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, expressed her satisfaction with the quick response of the Office vis-à-vis the resolution, especially with respect to integration into the United Nations system while promoting the tripartite structure of the ILO. The DWCP process allowed the ILO and its constituents to raise awareness about the need for DWCPs and the ILO’s comparative advantage. The technical cooperation activities of the Office needed to take into account the results of the ECOSOC meeting and the Ministerial Declaration adopted during that meeting.

- 64.** The representative of the Government of China, speaking on behalf of ASPAG, agreed that technical cooperation and DWCPs must continue to be major instruments and a fundamental means of action of the ILO in the fulfilment of its mission. However, the ILO needed to continue to ensure that the development of technical cooperation activities was integrated into the programme and budget and the Strategic Policy Framework. To ensure that the ILO was more effective, it was suggested that it should concentrate its efforts and budgetary resources on a narrower range of work and activities directly linked to its core priorities. Technical cooperation activities needed to be determined on a case-by-case basis and to take into account the skills, experiences and resources of ILO's constituents in each country. DWCPs should be focused on achieving the goals of the tripartite constituents, and local communities should be given priority and assistance targeted at the neediest.
- 65.** A fair distribution of resources and regional balance should be ensured and, while the social partners had a valuable place in the provision of technical assistance, ASPAG would not support the adoption of quotas for the inclusion of particular constituents in technical cooperation activities. Finally, ASPAG highlighted that labour migration was becoming increasingly important. The ILO had an important role in facilitating dialogue between sending and receiving countries and with other relevant international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), for the development of good policies based on the Multilateral Framework for Labour Migration.
- 66.** Speaking on behalf of the Government of the Philippines, the representative of the Government of China, added that the Philippines felt that the assistance of the ILO in developing good migration policies should not be confined to facilitating a dialogue. The ILO was commended for implementing two technical cooperation projects in Asia on labour migration, and good practices had been developed in the areas of data collection and labour migration statistics. Such projects and good practices could be replicated and scaled up in cooperation with other international organizations.
- 67.** In her response to the deliberations on agenda items 2 and 3, a representative of the Director-General, Ms Ducci, indicated that 70 per cent of extra-budgetary resources earmarked for DWCPs was a signal of the priority to be given to support services to constituents in countries. The remaining amount would go to regional and global programmes whose results would feed into DWCPs to a large extent. It was necessary to strengthen policy analysis and development, research and statistics, tools and instruments so as to underpin DWCPs better. Donors should not be discouraged from funding thematic programmes. To the contrary, these would strengthen DWCPs substantially. A matrix approach crossing thematic and country approaches, complementing regular and extra-budgetary funding, would contribute to high-quality DWCPs.
- 68.** As for the figures for Africa in 2005, 54 per cent of extra-budgetary resources went to employment-related activities, 25 per cent to labour standards and social dialogue, 9 per cent to social protection, and the remainder to INTEGRATION and to Turin Centre activities. The latter was in fact a key actor in development cooperation for capacity building. The distribution should be more balanced in future, but the above figures reflected demand-driven needs as expressed by the ILO's constituents matched with donor priorities. Ms Ducci mentioned that the efforts of the Office in mobilizing additional extra-budgetary resources were being successful; however, needs far exceeded available resources. She indicated that the Office would continue reporting on progress made to follow up the resolution on technical cooperation adopted by the 95th Session of the ILC, and particularly the activities indicated in the appendix to document GB.297/TC/3 for easy reference. Follow-up of the resolution would be ensured at the national level, and the exercise would also assist the Office in restructuring its field presence as the Office would be reviewing and matching needs and technical capacities available locally and regionally. Ms Ducci concluded by informing the Committee that intense and open dialogue was

taking place between the ILO and the UNDP in order to work jointly in promoting decent work strategies at the country level and globally.

**69. *The Committee on Technical Cooperation invites the Governing Body to call upon the Office to:***

- (a) take due account of the deliberations of the Committee and continue with the implementation of the conclusions of the International Labour Conference referred to above; and*
- (b) provide a mid-term implementation report to the Committee on Technical Cooperation for its November 2008 session to enable it to make an in-depth assessment of the progress made, provide guidance and thereby fulfil its governance function.*

**IV. Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: Technical cooperation priorities and action plans regarding abolition of child labour**

**70.** A representative of the Director-General, Mr Thijs, presented information on the progress by IPEC over the last biennium contained in the implementation report 2004–05. Close to 2 million children were reached during the biennium, out of which about 400,000 direct beneficiaries. As to ratifications, 157 countries had ratified Convention No. 182 and 142 had ratified Convention No. 138 – an additional 20 ratifications for the biennium, although still this was below the target of 151 ratifications set for Convention No. 138. Programme delivery in 2005 had been projected at US\$60 million, but it had reached \$70 million compared to \$57 million in the previous year. The delivery rate had risen to 68 per cent in 2005, up from 63 per cent in 2004. Annual new approvals remained around \$60 million per year. Twenty of the participating countries were in the process of implementing Time-Bound Programmes (TBPs), while another 30 countries had undertaken two or more TBP-related interventions. A great deal of time and resources had also been devoted to strengthening programmatic approaches, guidelines and tools. During the biennium, at least 50 countries had used methodologies, guidelines, research results and good practices developed by IPEC. Many of those tools had been developed through improved cooperation and synergies with other ILO programmes with a view to contributing to the Decent Work Agenda.

**71.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Jeetun, noted the optimism of this year's Global Report and cautioned against complacency. The elimination of child labour, especially its worst forms, required tackling the underlying causes, based on strong political commitment and coupled with effective policies in related areas, such as poverty, education for all and youth employment. While approving the proposed action plan, the Employers called for a strengthening of the role of the social partners in eliminating child labour.

**72.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson, Mr Etty, endorsed some of the suggestions of the Employers and called for more capacity-building activities with the social partners. Measures discussed at the IPEC Steering Committee on the role of the social partners should be included in the action plan. In this connection he suggested that more effort should be made to increase the very low percentage of IPEC staff with a workers' or

employers' organization background and to increase the very low number of fixed-term and permanent contracts. He underlined the need to maintain action for universal ratification and implementation of both Convention No. 138 and No. 182 without any hierarchy between the two. Combating the worst forms should not be disconnected from the elimination of all forms of child labour, and technical cooperation should target obstacles to the ratification and implementation of the two Conventions. His group endorsed the action plan and its three pillars, namely, supporting national responses to child labour, enhancing the worldwide movement, and further integrating child labour concerns within overall ILO priorities. The ILO must promote policy coherence in this area with other United Nations organizations dealing with child labour issues. Key points here were social dialogue and the indivisibility of fundamental human rights standards of the ILO. Much progress had been made but more effort was needed. The suggested focus on Africa in the action plan was justified, and so was linking action against child labour with poverty reduction and education for all. Finally, he suggested adding two more elements to the point for decision, namely, a specific emphasis on the role of the social partners and on a continued endeavour for the ratification and implementation of both Convention No. 138 and No. 182.

- 73.** Mr Steyne (Worker member) complimented the previous speaker by adding a clarification on the relation between the target of 2016 and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of universal primary education by 2015. He also emphasized the need to make clear the goal of eliminating all forms of child labour under the two fundamental Conventions, so as to avoid the displacement of children from worst forms to other forms of child labour and recalled that coherence required the achievement of universal basic education consonant with the minimum age for entry in employment under Convention No. 138. IPEC's holistic approach of prioritizing the worst forms of child labour while removing *all* children working in such workplaces was the only sustainable approach and should be pursued by member States. The suggestion in the Global Report that a major international conference on child labour of policy-makers and practitioners be held before the next (2010) Global Report should be in the action plan. He also informed the Committee of the discussions that had taken place at the IPEC International Steering Committee the day before, especially regarding the role of the social partners in action against child labour, and suggested that such action include capacity building and the need to redress the significant imbalance in IPEC funding for NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) in cooperation with workers' organizations. Securing the right to organize and bargain collectively also in the informal economy and agriculture, where child labour was most prevalent and freedom of association most commonly denied, was a prerequisite to effective action against child labour.
- 74.** A representative of the Government of Mexico, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said she was pleased with the progress made globally, and especially in her region, as noted in the Global Report. However, member States needed to pursue their national efforts, for instance by providing free, compulsory and good quality education. In addition to direct intervention measures for remedying situations, preventive measures were needed. She also supported the active role of the social partners, including in the area of prevention, and stressed the importance of social dialogue and inter-sectoral or other networking arrangements.
- 75.** The representative of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed support for the points for decision in paragraph 12 of the document, and also for the three pillars of the action plan. He was pleased that IPEC had yielded positive results, above all in Latin America. The goal was now to eradicate child labour; the speaker pointed out that, in Africa, growth in the population was still invariably accompanied by a parallel increase in HIV/AIDS infection, and 70 per cent of child labour was concentrated in the agricultural sector. He also informed participants of the positive experience of his Government in

seeking an answer to child labour within the country, quoting figures showing increased resources allocated to education: investment in that field both contributed to the eradication of child labour and promoted the country's development.

76. The representative of the Government of Mexico supported, in particular, points (i), (ii), (iv) and (v) of paragraph 12. He also referred to his Government's national efforts against commercial sexual exploitation of children, supported by IPEC and USDOL.
77. Mr Ahmed (Worker member) joined the social partners' remarks on their role in combating child labour and highlighted the integration of child labour issues in DWCPs, as advocated in paragraph 8 of the document, and the enhancement of social dialogue, mentioned in paragraph 10. He also referred to the experience accumulated in Pakistan in addressing child labour in the football stitching business, and to the response in the aftermath of the earthquake.
78. The representative of the Government of France supported the point for decision and gave some examples of synergy between IPEC projects and other ILO programmes, such as the promotion of fundamental rights at work and working conditions, which her Government had supported. Vocational and skills training conducive to future employment – another area where France had provided assistance – was important, and so was the involvement of the social partners.
79. The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom, while strongly endorsing the ILO's efforts to combat child labour and supporting the action plan, requested clarification of the status of the global target and its linkage with other goals such as the MDGs, the DWCPs and international labour Conventions. The target should not be taken in isolation.
80. The representative of the Government of Canada, while endorsing the action plan, repeated the previous speaker's question. She stated that a goal had been set by the Heads of State of the Americas for eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2020, which contradicted the goal set in the action plan.
81. The representative of the Government of the United States also cited the contradiction with the goal set during the Summit of Heads of State of the Americas and suggested that the wording be rephrased to read that the ILO would pursue its target but that it would not become an obligation upon the member States.
82. In responding to the discussion, a representative of the Director-General, Mr Kari Tapiola, assured the Committee that the points raised would be taken fully into account in carrying out the action plan. As to the question of some Government representatives concerning the global target, he explained that the target would guide the interventions and action in coming years. The short-term goal was that time-bound measures should be put into place by 2008, while the achievement of the longer term goal of 2016 would be monitored on a regular basis. It was an attainable goal if the current decline in child labour could be sustained. The goal was also linked to the MDG of universal primary education for all by 2015. It was a global target, and if certain countries or regions could reach it earlier so much the better. The ILO's tripartite American Regional Meeting held in May 2006 had agreed to set the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2015 and all forms by 2020. It was not possible for the ILO or IPEC by itself to eliminate child labour without member States' action. The global target was proposed in the Global Report and no opposition to the target had been expressed during its discussion at the Conference in June. In order to reflect the concerns raised by members of the Committee, and in particular the spokespersons of the Employers and Workers, Mr Tapiola suggested adding two new items (vi) and (vii) to the decision. This was accepted by the Committee.

83. The representative of the Government of Italy, who endorsed the action plan, suggested the deletion of item (ii) from paragraph 12 as a means of seeking a solution. The representative of the Government of the United Kingdom suggested replacing the word “endorse” by “welcome” in the same item, and this was accepted by both the Workers’ and the Employers’ groups.
84. *The Committee on Technical Cooperation recommends that the Governing Body:*
- (i) endorse the action plan as summarized in the appendix to document GB.297/TC/4;*
  - (ii) welcome the global target set out in paragraph 368 of the Global Report, and quoted in paragraph 6 of the above Governing Body document;*
  - (iii) request the Director-General, when writing to the member States asking them to commit themselves to the targets set out in paragraph 368 of the Global Report, to take specifically into account the measures outlined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the above Governing Body document;*
  - (iv) specifically endorse the proposed focus on sub-Saharan Africa and call upon member States and international development partners to support the endeavours of African countries to meet their commitments;*
  - (v) reconfirm its commitment to the elimination of child labour as one of the Organization’s highest priorities, and endorse ILO/IPEC strategies and programme approaches to support a worldwide movement against child labour and strengthen national capacities;*
  - (vi) instruct the Office to continue the efforts to strengthen the involvement of employers’ and workers’ organizations in the combat against child labour; and*
  - (vii) instruct the Office to continue the promotion of universal ratification and implementation of both Convention No. 138 and No. 182.*

## **V. Other questions**

- (a) ILO response to the post-crisis situation in Lebanon**
- (b) Colombia: Tripartite agreement on freedom of association and democracy**

85. The Chairperson introduced the agenda item, stating that two reports had been submitted to the Committee by the Office for information.
86. The Worker Vice-Chairperson drew attention to a few inaccuracies in the document on Lebanon and underlined the importance of paragraph 15 of the document on Colombia and appealed to governments to act upon it.



87. The Regional Director for the Arab States, responding to the questions raised, informed the Committee that the ILO office had had to suspend its operations during the conflict but that it had remained open and in direct contact with the constituents. The international staff had been forced to leave Beirut in accordance with United Nations security measures, but the local staff had remained.
88. Taking the floor, H.E. Ambassador C. Forero Ucros informed the Committee about the collaboration between the Government of Colombia and the employers' and workers' organizations which had assisted in implementing the Tripartite Agreement on Freedom of Association and Democracy. In terms of concrete action, it was mentioned that an ILO office would be established in Colombia and that a major impulse had been given to the combat against impunity by the appointments of five specialized attorneys who would give immediate priority to the 128 cases selected by the Workers.
89. The representative of the Government of Finland, representing the EU, the accession countries and the countries of the stabilization and association process, welcomed the encouraging news from Colombia. He informed the Committee of concrete action that had been taken since the signing of the first agreement; the EU encouraged the Government of Colombia, together with the social partners, to implement the agreement and called upon the ILO and its constituents to support those efforts actively.
90. Having concluded all the agenda items, the Chairperson gave the floor to Ms Ducci who informed the Committee that Mr Frans Roselaers, a colleague who had been very closely connected with technical cooperation, would be retiring at the end of the year after 31 years of loyal service to the ILO. Having started his career as a programme officer in Lusaka, Mr Roselaers had held several important positions, including those of Director of an ILO Subregional Office, Director of CABINET and Director of IPEC, before finally taking up the post of Director of the Department of Partnerships and Development Cooperation. She wanted to share with the Committee the Office's appreciation of the valuable contribution he had provided all these years, in influential positions and, most importantly, in technical cooperation and in servicing this Committee.
91. The Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Jeetun, thanked Mr Roselaers for his contribution to the work of the Committee and wished him an active and fulfilling retirement. The Worker Vice-Chairperson, the spokesperson of IMEC and the Chairperson voiced similar sentiments and extended their best wishes to Mr Roselaers.
92. There being no other issue under this agenda item, the Chairperson closed the meeting, informing the Committee that, in accordance with standard procedure, the report of the meeting would be approved on its behalf by the Officers of the Committee. They would also agree on the agenda for the next meeting.

Geneva, 10 November 2006.

*Points for decision:* Paragraph 44;  
Paragraph 55;  
Paragraph 69;  
Paragraph 84.