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**FOR DECISION**

FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Reports of the Officers of the  
Governing Body**

**Special arrangements for discussing the  
ILO's response to the employment and  
social policy consequences of the  
economic and financial crisis at the  
98th Session (2009) of the Conference**

1. The Officers of the Governing Body consider that the International Labour Conference should, in a comprehensive and effective manner, deal with the employment and social policy consequences of the economic and financial crisis. The Conference needs to have sufficient space to deal with the different labour market aspects of the crisis. The ways to tackle the crisis should be the central focus of the Conference agenda, with concrete debates and the possibility for drawing appropriate conclusions.
2. The issue of the employment and social policy consequences of the economic and financial crisis will in any case be on the agenda of the Conference through the thematic report of the Director-General, which is normally due in budgetary years. This report will concentrate on strategies to overcome the employment crisis and will form the basis for the debate in plenary.
3. The Officers consider that there should also be room for inputs to the Conference through high-level interventions, interactive panel discussions and regionally focused debates, which could tackle issues such as: the six measures indicated in the Officers' statement of November 2008 on the global economic crisis; the role of the ILO in seeking to resolve the crisis, and its role in promoting international coherence in crisis responses; exploring a possible global jobs pact; wage policies; the role of international labour standards; protecting fundamental principles and rights at work; sustaining public and private enterprises; reactivating labour markets; social protection nets; social dialogue for recovery; and the ILO Global Employment Agenda. Panel discussions should pay particular attention to the gender implications of the crisis, the impact on vulnerable groups and the sustainability of crisis responses.
4. The Officers further consider that discussions in a Committee of the Whole, which should start its work immediately after the opening of the Conference, could lead to conclusions for adoption by the plenary. The Committee of the Whole could benefit from any inputs by recognized specialists and important personalities during the initial stages of its work.

5. The following modifications to the plan of work of the Conference would be necessary to implement the above recommendations:

- The Committee on Gender Equality should conclude its work on 10 June 2009.
- The Committee on Employment and Social Protection in the new demographic context should not be convened. Rather, the report that the Committee would have discussed should become the subject of an expert meeting to be held during the last quarter of 2009, which would report back to the Governing Body in March 2010.
- The plenary debate on the Director-General's Reports should start on 10 June 2009.
- A "Global Summit on Dealing with the Job Crisis" should take place as part of the plenary on 15–16 June 2009. The Summit would focus on the responses to the crisis and would include panel discussions on the different labour market aspects.

A draft plan of work, reflecting the above, is attached.

6. If the Governing Body decides to propose to the Conference that it establish its plan of work in line with these recommendations, the Director-General would need to immediately inform member States and other invitees accordingly as a follow-up to his earlier invitation letter.

7. The Global Summit section of the plenary could take place under the rules that since 2000 have been used for the discussion of the Global Report under the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which implies the suspension of certain provisions of the Conference Standing Orders.

8. *The Governing Body may wish to:*

- (a) recommend to the 98th Session (2009) of the International Labour Conference that it arrange its programme of work to include the above proposals;*
- (b) instruct the Director-General to make the necessary practical arrangements for the implementation of this proposed programme of work of the Conference;*
- (c) withdraw its decision to place an item on the agenda of the 98th Session of the Conference on employment and social protection in the new demographic context; and*
- (d) upon review by the PFAC, decide to convene a tripartite meeting of experts on employment and social protection in the new demographic context, which would report back to the Governing Body in March 2010.*

Geneva, 24 March 2009.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 8.

## Appendix

### Tentative plan of work – 98th Session (3–19 June 2009) of the International Labour Conference

	T 2	W 3	Th 4	F 5	S 6	M 8	T 9	W 10	Th 11	F 12	S 13	M 15	T 16	W 17	Th 18	F 19
<b>Crisis debate (plenary)</b>		■						■	■	■	■	■ <sup>2</sup>	■ <sup>2</sup>	■ <sup>2</sup>	■ <sup>2</sup>	■
Global Report discussion							■									
Committee on the Application of Standards		■ <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		A			PI
Committee of the Whole		■ <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	A				
Committee on HIV/AIDS ( <i>first discussion, standard setting</i> )		■ <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	CDC	A			PI	
Committee on Gender Equality ( <i>general discussion</i> )		■ <sup>1</sup>	■	■	■	■	■	■				A		PI		
Finance Committee			■	■			□		A				PI		V	
Selection Committee		■ <sup>1</sup>														
Group meetings	■										■					
Governing Body																■ <sup>3</sup>

□ Sitting if necessary

A Adoption by the Committee of its report/products

PI Adoption of the report by the Conference in plenary sitting

V Record vote in plenary sitting

■ Half-day sitting

■ All-day sitting

<sup>1</sup> From 11 a.m.

<sup>2</sup> Extended sitting if necessary.

<sup>3</sup> On completion of the Conference.

CDC Committee Drafting Committee