



Governing Body

341st Session, Geneva, March 2021

Policy Development Section

POL

Social Dialogue Segment

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Third item on the agenda

Sectoral meetings in 2021 and proposals for sectoral work in 2022–23

Purpose of the document

The Governing Body is invited to: decide on the arrangements for meetings to be held in 2021, including the appointment of chairpersons (section I); authorize the publication of revised ILO guidelines for flag State inspections and for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (section II); and endorse the proposals in relation to global sectoral meetings and other sectoral work for 2022–23 (section III) (see the draft decision in paragraph 22).

Relevant strategic objective: Social dialogue and tripartism.

Main relevant outcome: Outcome 1: Strong tripartite constituents and influential and inclusive social dialogue. Outcome 2: International labour standards and authoritative and effective supervision. Outcome 3: Economic, social and environmental transitions for full, productive and freely chosen employment and decent work for all; and, Outcome 7: Adequate and effective protection at work for all.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: The Office would be required to follow up as proposed

Author unit: Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: [GB.340/POL/4\(Rev.1\)](#); [GB.340/INS/21](#); [GB.340/INS/21\(Add.1\)](#); [GB.338/POL/3\(Rev.1\)](#); [GB.335/POL/3](#); [GB.334/LILS/2\(Rev.\)](#); [GB.334/PV](#).

▶ I. Sectoral policies: Programme of sectoral meetings in the biennium 2020–21

1. At its 335th Session (March 2019), the Governing Body endorsed a programme of sectoral meetings for 2020–21.¹ Following the cancellation of the 338th Session (March 2020) in view of the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19, a revised programme was adopted in decisions taken by correspondence between March and October 2020.² The programme was further amended by the Governing Body in decisions taken by correspondence in the context of its 340th Session (October–November 2020)³ and, subsequently, in January 2021.⁴ The dates, duration, official title and composition of the meetings to be convened in 2021 are to be established by the Governing Body at its 341st Session (March 2021) (see Appendices I and II).
2. The Standing Orders for technical meetings provide that the Governing Body shall either appoint one of its regular or deputy members as Chairperson, or request the Office to select an independent person with expertise on the matters covered by the agenda and notify the meeting accordingly.⁵
3. Accordingly, the Governing Body is invited to consider whether, for the forthcoming technical meetings on education, finance, urban transport services and aquaculture, it wishes to appoint one of its members as Chairperson, or request the Office to select an independent person with expertise on the matters covered by the agenda and notify the meeting accordingly.

▶ II. Update of the ILO guidelines for flag State inspections and for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended

4. At its third meeting, in April 2018, the Special Tripartite Committee (STC) established under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006) adopted a resolution setting out the process for updating the ILO flag State inspection and port State control guidelines to reflect amendments to the Code of the MLC, 2006.⁶ To this end, the STC decided, in accordance with article 15 of its Standing Orders, to establish a subsidiary body to undertake the work. At its 334th Session (October–November 2018), the Governing Body endorsed the establishment of the subsidiary body of the STC with

¹ GB.335/POL/3.

² GB.338/POL/3(Rev.1).

³ GB.340/POL/4(Rev.1).

⁴ GB.340/INS/21(Add.1).

⁵ ILO, *Standing Orders for technical meetings*, article 6(2).

⁶ Resolution concerning amendments to the ILO flag State inspection and port State control guidelines to reflect amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, STCMLC/2018.

the mandate described in paragraph 20 of the report of the third meeting of the STC.⁷ The subsidiary body, which is composed of four Government representatives, four Shipowner representatives and four Seafarer representatives, worked efficiently and constructively throughout 2020 by correspondence and videoconference. The output of the subsidiary body was circulated to all Member States of the Organization (in English, French and Spanish) for comments by their competent authorities, within three months of receipt, in accordance with the STC resolution. By December 2020, comments had been received from a total of 26 Member States.

5. In late January 2021, the Officers of the STC validated the final, consolidated versions of the updated ILO flag State inspection and port State control guidelines for submission to the Governing Body at its 341st Session, in order to request authorization to publish the updated versions on the ILO website.⁸

▶ III. Sectoral policies: Programme of work for 2022–23

A. The ILO's sectoral approach to decent work

6. The ILO's sectoral approach to the promotion of decent work cuts across all four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda, including the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and non-discrimination. The ILO's sectoral approach is further focused on the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, which highlights how industrial and sectoral policies and investment in strategic sectors are key to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
7. The ILO provides a unique forum for governments and the social partners to shape policies and principles in all sectors. Decent work in specific economic and social sectors is promoted by providing support to tripartite constituents to enable them to address their needs and challenges at the global, regional and national levels. Sector-specific work is pursued by fostering collaborative work throughout the Office to reinforce the interrelated, inseparable and mutually supportive character of the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. Office-wide synergies and collaboration will continue to be strengthened with a view to applying the sectoral approach, in line with the outcomes of the ILO programme and budget.
8. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic differs greatly from sector to sector and has highlighted the importance of proactive and well-designed sectoral policies in response to the crisis. The Office's sectoral work has allowed the ILO to contribute sector-specific knowledge on the impact of the pandemic since its outset, as well as guidance on protecting specific categories of workers, maintaining business operations, preserving livelihoods and developing strategies for resilience.⁹ The Office will continue its work to strengthen the capacity of constituents to respond to and build back better from the crisis through sectoral policies and investments in strategic sectors and by promoting

⁷ GB.334/LILS/2(Rev.).

⁸ ILO, *Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the MLC, 2006, as amended*, second revised edition, 2021; ILO, *Guidelines for flag State inspections under the MLC, 2006, as amended*, second revised edition, 2021.

⁹ ILO, "COVID-19 and the world of work: Sectoral impact, responses and recommendations".

the ratification and implementation of relevant international labour standards, including sector-specific instruments and tools.¹⁰

9. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a renewed awareness of the interconnected nature of the global economy and has brought to the fore the frailty of food systems. Globalization, technological change, climate change and demographic shifts continue to affect the organization of production and work within global supply chains in profound and differentiated ways. The Office will continue to focus on promoting decent and sustainable work in global and domestic supply chains, including by assisting its constituents in building back better in the post-pandemic era.
10. The Office will contribute directly to the achievement of several targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through policy development and technical assistance in specific sectors. Coherent and effective sectoral policies are key to attaining the SDGs by 2030. The active involvement of governments, employers and workers and stronger tripartite governance in specific sectors is key not only in order to achieve Goal 8 on economic growth and decent work, but in order to advance the labour dimension in every SDG.¹¹ At the country level, the development and implementation of sectoral policies and programmes allows the government ministries, employers and workers concerned to engage in dialogue about the SDGs and helps to ensure that the goals can be achieved in ways that advance decent work opportunities. These policies and programmes include support to governments, employers and workers in specific sectors for realizing decent work and other global goals.
11. Attention will be given to a just transition to environmental sustainability and green jobs in sectors most affected by climate change. Efforts to promote gender equality and to strengthen the voice of women across sectors and in the rural and informal economies will be supported, taking into account the specific characteristics of each sector.
12. The sector-specific approach to decent work is promoted through the following means of action:
 - building consensus among tripartite constituents on sector-specific policies and practices through global, regional and national sectoral meetings;
 - promoting the ratification and effective implementation of sectoral Conventions and promoting relevant Recommendations, as well as sector-specific codes of practice, guidelines and tools;
 - developing and disseminating knowledge and information relating to sector- and industry-specific economic and employment trends and challenges;
 - providing policy advice, building capacity and implementing development cooperation projects; and
 - fostering policy coherence on key sectoral issues through strategic partnerships with other United Nations agencies, other multilateral organizations and stakeholders.
13. These means of action are used by the Office to implement the biennial sectoral policies programme, which is comprised of global sectoral meetings, based on recommendations from the sectoral advisory bodies, and recurrent sectoral work.

¹⁰ ILO, "ILO sectoral tools and instruments to protect workers from the pandemic".

¹¹ ILO, *Sectoral Policies Department 2018–19 Highlights*, 2019.

B. Recommendations for global sectoral meetings in the biennium 2022–23

- 14.** The ILO promotes social dialogue for consensus-building on sector-specific policies and practices through a Governing Body-endorsed programme of global sectoral meetings, notably technical meetings, global dialogue forums and meetings of experts. The objective of these global tripartite meetings is to adopt conclusions, recommendations, codes of practice, guidelines and resolutions. The programme of meetings is based on recommendations from the sectoral advisory bodies, which were established by the Governing Body in 2007 with the aim of providing an opportunity to workers, employers and governments to agree on priorities for sectoral work. The sectoral advisory bodies may also make comments and suggestions on other sectoral work to be undertaken as part of the implementation of the Programme and Budget for 2022–23.
- 15.** The sectoral advisory bodies met from 13 to 15 January 2021 and have recommended eight global sectoral meetings in the biennium 2022–23 (see Appendix III) for the following sectors and industries: agriculture; arts and entertainment; civil aviation; inland waterways; hotels, catering and tourism; oil and gas; public service; and retail. Preparatory work, including research, will be undertaken on e-waste with a view to considering, at the next meeting of the sectoral advisory bodies (January 2023), a meeting of experts on this topic. In addition, a session will be held of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission to update the minimum basic wage figure for able seafarers, subject to the outcome of the meeting of the Subcommittee in April 2021 and subsequent decisions by the Governing Body.
- 16.** A meeting of experts to produce joint ILO–International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines for medical examination of fishers was endorsed by the Governing Body, to be convened as part of the programme of meetings in the biennium 2020–21. However, the IMO has notified the Office that the required preparatory work in the appropriate bodies of the IMO cannot be completed in 2021. It is therefore proposed that the meeting of experts be deferred to the biennium 2022–23.
- 17.** Government group representatives in the sectoral advisory bodies encouraged the Office to ensure that global sectoral meetings and other ILO sectoral work focus on the transition to formality and on increasing investment in people’s capabilities, skills and lifelong-learning in the sector in question.

C. Recurrent sectoral work in the biennium 2022–23

- 18.** Recurrent sectoral work includes the implementation of International Labour Conference and Governing Body decisions and will focus in particular on the follow up to and implementation of the conclusions, resolutions, points of consensus, codes of practice and guidelines adopted by sectoral meetings. Recurrent sectoral work also includes substantive contributions to all policy outcomes of the ILO’s Strategic Plan for 2022–25, including in particular output 2.4 (increased capacity of Member States to apply sectoral international labour standards, codes of practice and guidelines) and output 3.2 (increased capacity of Member States to formulate and implement policies and strategies for creating decent work in the rural economy).
- 19.** As per the usual practice, the sectoral advisory bodies were invited to make comments on and suggestions for recurrent sectoral work to be undertaken as part of the implementation of the Programme and Budget for 2022–23. Suggestions made included tripartite regional and national sectoral meetings aimed at enhancing capacity on the

implementation and application of ILO sectoral instruments, guidelines and codes of practice in the following sectors: road transport; railways; mining, including artisanal and small-scale mining; forestry; and early childhood education.

20. As part of its recurrent sector-specific research agenda, the Office will continue to contribute to enhancing the knowledge base on the future of work and on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in specific economic and social sectors with a view to assisting tripartite constituents in overcoming challenges and in seizing opportunities in and across these sectors.
21. The promotion of policy coherence and the leveraging of support for decent work through strategic partnerships continues to be an indispensable element of the ILO's sector-specific work, particularly in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing reform of the United Nations system. As many multilateral organizations operate on the basis of a sector-specific mandate, efforts will be made to further strengthen strategic partnerships within the United Nations system and with other international organizations and institutions.

▶ Draft decision

22. The Governing Body, by correspondence:

- (a) **endorsed the proposals contained in Appendices I and II to document GB.341/POL/3(Rev.1) relating to the dates, official title and composition of the global sectoral meetings in 2021;**
- (b) **decided, for the forthcoming technical meeting on education listed in Appendix II to document GB.341/POL/3(Rev.1), to request the Office to select as Chairperson an independent person with expertise on the matters covered by the agenda and to notify the meeting accordingly, and for the meetings on urban transport services and aquaculture, to appoint one of its members as Chairperson;**
- (c) **authorized the publication on the ILO website of the updated versions of the Guidelines for flag State inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, and the Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, referred to in section II of document GB.341/POL/3(Rev.1); and**
- (d) **endorsed the programme of global sectoral meetings and other sectoral work for the biennium 2022–23 set out in Appendix III to document GB.341/POL/3(Rev.1), as recommended by the sectoral advisory bodies, subject to the approval by the International Labour Conference at its 109th Session (June 2021) of the corresponding allocations in the Programme and Budget for 2022–23.**

► Appendix I

Programme of sectoral meetings (2021)

Meetings as endorsed by the Governing Body (GB.338/POL/3(Rev.1))	Proposed dates	Proposed duration	Proposed title	Proposed purpose	Proposed composition
Meeting of Experts to discuss and adopt a code of practice on safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear	4-8 October	5 days	Meeting of Experts to discuss and adopt a code of practice on safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear	The purpose of the Meeting of Experts is to discuss and adopt a code of practice on safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear in accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 335th Session (March 2019).	Eight Government experts; * eight Employers' experts; eight Workers' experts; interested governments as observers (one per government). Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as observers. Governments to be invited: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Jordan, Morocco and Nicaragua. Governments on the reserve list: Madagascar, Peru, Turkey and Viet Nam.
Meeting of Experts to revise the 1992 <i>Code of practice on safety and health in construction</i>	22-26 November (to be confirmed)	5 days	Meeting of Experts to revise the 1992 <i>Code of practice on safety and health in construction</i>	The purpose of the Meeting of Experts is to review and adopt a revised code of practice on safety and health in construction, in accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 335th Session (March 2019). The revision of the code is part of a practical and time-bound package of follow-up action adopted by the Governing Body at its 334th Session, as recommended by the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group at its fourth meeting.	Eight Government experts; eight Employers' experts; eight Workers' experts; interested governments as observers (one per government). Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as observers. Governments to be invited: * Canada, China, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Qatar, Singapore and United Kingdom. Governments on the reserve list: Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Gabon, Germany and Jordan.

* The Office has prepared a list of Member States for which the subject matter of the meeting is relevant.

► **Appendix II****List of sectoral meetings endorsed by the Governing Body for the biennium 2020–21 and proposed dates**

Date	Title of meeting	Place
2020		
20–22 January	Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport	Geneva
2021		
15–19 February	Technical meeting on the future of work in the automotive industry (originally scheduled for 4–8 May 2020)	Virtual
26–27 April *	Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission	Virtual
17–21 May	Technical meeting on the future of work in the education sector in the context of lifelong learning for all, skills and the Decent Work Agenda (originally scheduled for 12–16 October 2020 and 25–29 January 2021)	Virtual
Postponed to 2022	Technical meeting on the impact of digitalization in the finance sector (originally scheduled for 22–26 February 2021)	
30 August–3 September	Technical meeting on the future of decent and sustainable work in urban transport services (originally scheduled for 21–25 September 2020)	Geneva
4–8 October	Joint ILO–UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel (CEART), Hosted by UNESCO	Virtual
4–8 October	Meeting of experts to discuss and adopt a code of practice on safety and health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear	Geneva
22–26 November (to be confirmed)	Meeting of Experts to revise the 1992 code of practice on safety and health in construction	Geneva
6–10 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

* Back-to-back with Part I of the fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee established under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (NORMES/SECTOR). Part II of that meeting is expected to be held from 27 to 29 September 2021.

▶ **Appendix III****Recommendations by the sectoral advisory bodies for global sectoral meetings for 2022-23**

Sectors	Proposals *
Media; culture; graphical (arts and entertainment)	Technical meeting on the future of work in the arts and entertainment sector
Commerce (retail)	Technical meeting on digitalization in the retail sector as an engine for economic recovery and decent work
Public service	Technical meeting on the protection of whistle-blowers in the public service sector
Oil and gas production	Technical meeting on the future of work in the oil and gas industry
Mechanical and electrical engineering	Research on decent and sustainable work in the management of e-waste with a view to hold a meeting of experts in a future biennium
Agriculture; plantations; other rural sectors (agro-food)	Meeting of Experts on decent work in agro-food: an essential part of sustainable food systems
Hotels, tourism, and catering	Technical meeting on COVID-19 and sustainable recovery in the tourism sector
Inland waterways	Technical meeting on decent and sustainable work in the inland waterways sector
Shipping	Joint Maritime Commission Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers
Fisheries	Meeting of Experts to produce joint ILO-IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers (subject to the consideration of the suspension of the Standing Orders and approval by the appropriate bodies of the IMO)
Transport (civil aviation)	Technical meeting on a green, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for the civil aviation sector

* In accordance with the Standing Orders for technical meetings and for meetings of experts, the precise titles, including dates, length, place, agenda and expected results of the meetings will be determined by the Governing Body at a later stage.