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Reports of the General Discussion Committee: Decent work and the social and solidarity economy

Summary of proceedings ¹

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Introduction

1. In March 2021, at its 341st Session, the Governing Body placed on the agenda of the 110th Session (2022) of the International Labour Conference an item for general discussion related to decent work and the social and solidarity economy (SSE). The Committee on Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy was established and held its first sitting on 30 May 2022.
2. The Committee elected its Officers as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr Adam Lee (Government member, United States of America) at its first sitting
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ms Aline Mbono (Employer member, Cameroon) Ms Toni Moore (Worker member, Barbados) at its first sitting
Reporter:	Mr Colin Jordan (Government member, Barbados)
3. The Committee appointed a Drafting Group composed of eight Government members, eight Employer members and eight Worker members.
4. The Committee held 12 sittings.
5. The Committee had before it Report VI entitled *Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy*, prepared by the International Labour Office.

Opening statements

6. The Chairperson highlighted the connection between the ILO's mandate and the SSE, which placed human dignity, environmental sustainability and decent work before the legitimate quest for profit. A strong SSE would be necessary for balanced societies, as outlined in the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193). While the SSE's significance had increased over the last 20 years, multiple challenges curtailed its capacity to contribute to decent work. Those included formulating a universal definition of the SSE, a methodology of measurement and the question of how to promote it for a human-centred future of work. Safeguards would be required to prevent unscrupulous actors from appropriating the SSE if its full potential was to be realized. Particularly with the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, there was a need for rights and evidence-based policies to promote decent work and the SSE.
7. The representative of the Secretary-General (Mr Victor Van Vuuren, reminded the Committee that this general discussion would be the first time within the United Nations (UN) system that a high-level debate would take place on the SSE. The ILO was well-placed to contribute to that debate, having recognized the importance of the sector since the foundation of the Organization, mainly through its work on cooperatives and the promotion of sustainable enterprises. It was moreover the only UN organization to have a dedicated unit to address the SSE.
8. In 2013, the UN Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE) with more than 30 members and observers was co-founded and led by the ILO. The conclusions from the Committee would be instrumental in promoting greater coherence across the multilateral system in the promotion of decent work and the SSE for a human-centred future of work. The role of the SSE in creating and sustaining jobs and benefiting communities was recognized. The Global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis recognized

the important role of the SSE alongside public and private actors. The Committee's discussions would provide further guidance as to the way forward and would direct the Office in its efforts to promote and maintain partnerships with SSE stakeholders.

9. The deputy representative of the Secretary-General (Ms Simel. Esim) presented Report VI entitled *Decent Work and the Social and Solidarity Economy* and highlighted previous Recommendations and reports that had included references to the SSE. The draft universal definition of the SSE presented for discussion was based on a legal review of all SSE legislation adopted in Member States and would be readily operationalizable. It was intended to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the diverse situations in different national contexts.

Discussion point 1

In line with international labour standards, what should be a universal definition of the social and solidarity economy, taking into account its values, principles, and organizational forms?

10. The Office proposed a draft definition of the SSE for discussion, as follows:

The social and solidarity economy (SSE) encompasses institutional units with a social or public purpose, engaged in economic activities based on voluntary cooperation, democratic and participatory governance, autonomy and independence, the rules of which prohibit or limit the distribution of profit. SSE units may include cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other units operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE in the formal and the informal economies.

11. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stressed the need for the Committee to achieve a balanced outcome. The ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019 (ILO Centenary Declaration) included the SSE as one of the sources that would allow the private sector to achieve decent work and improve living conditions for all. The term SSE had encompassed a range of economic units with definitions and principles differing from one country to another depending on the context. Defining the SSE would allow improved targeting of what was meant by the term, helping to ensure a conducive environment that complemented the ILO's work on the promotion of sustainable enterprises. The universal definition of the SSE should contribute to productive economic growth; job creation; and entrepreneurship; the development of skills and lifelong learning; formalization and innovative solutions to reintegrate workers into labour markets; gender equality; women's empowerment; diversity; and inclusion of vulnerable groups.
12. However, the size of the sector's economic contribution should not be overestimated or considered as a large-scale phenomenon. A nuanced approach was required. The SSE should not be presented as operating in isolation from the private sector. It should not be suggested that enterprises operating within the SSE had unique values and principles that were not shared by the rest of the private or public sector, and care should be taken to avoid creating unfair competition to the detriment of traditional enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). No additional burdens should be placed on employers, who should be left free to determine how traditional enterprises would work in complementarity with the SSE.
13. Given the absence of statistics, it was difficult to obtain a precise picture of the SSE's economic contribution. Many legislations regulating SSE referred to specific organizational forms in the national context. Among the enterprises operating within the SSE, in many parts of the world, cooperatives constituted the backbone, and this should be recognized. For a universal definition, priority should be given to the elements recognized by all as making the sector

unique and be neither too detailed nor too general. According to the ILO Centenary Declaration, the SSE was an integral part of the private sector. The fact that SSE enterprises were part of the private sector should not, however, overshadow the fact that the main objective of these enterprises differs in part from that of traditional enterprises, in that these enterprises prioritize social impact over profit maximization, whereas traditional enterprises seek to achieve both objectives. Indeed, most enterprises operating within the SSE pursued the legitimate quest for profit, which was essential to their sustainability, growth and prosperity.

14. Two key features were missing from the report: firstly, the local nature of SSE enterprises. In most cases, they were created at local level to solve local problems, including in the rural world. This local anchoring and knowledge of local issues, recognized in particular by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), could also represent one of the first steps towards formalization. Secondly, the fact that SSE enterprises needed to be economically viable in order to grow and prosper. This went hand-in-hand with the need to operate in an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, because, like traditional enterprises, SSE enterprises faced challenges related to existing governance gaps. Traditional companies shared many values with the SSE, particularly regarding sustainability, non-discrimination, cooperation and responsibility, specifically within the framework of corporate social responsibility (CSR). It should also be recognized that there was no systematic contradiction for SSE enterprises between increasing their market presence and engaging in a transition to new business models at the same time remaining aligned with their core values. For this reason, the Employers' group opposed the suggestion in the report that the SSE would not be able to remain aligned with their core values while in pursuit of profit optimization. SSE enterprises seeking to diversify in order to operate on a larger scale and attain long-term viability, could only strengthen the SSE impact and reach.
15. The Worker Vice-Chairperson recalled that article 12 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation stipulated that the ILO should make suitable arrangements for consultations with "cooperators". The discussion should seek to clarify the evolution, potential and reality of the SSE. The SSE and trade unions had common historical roots and shared a history of collaboration and mutual support in democratizing the economy and pursuing human dignity and social justice. The values and principles inherent to earlier practices of indigenous people should also be taken into account. These shared values should guide the work of the Committee.
16. To combat persistent inequalities, a rights-based approach must be at the heart of the discussion, placing people at the centre of economic, social and environmental policies. Decent work meant putting people first. The SSE also contributed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8. The ILO Centenary Declaration and the Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organization (Declaration of Philadelphia), both called for a fair, inclusive and secure world of work. Now was the time to work together to explore the fullest potential of the SSE to provide decent sustainable jobs.
17. Three ILO instruments made explicit reference to cooperatives, the Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193); the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204); and the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205). Many other international labour standards, including the eight fundamental Conventions and the four governance Conventions, were relevant to the work of the Committee.

18. The Workers' group appreciated the proposed draft definition, but it needed to include certain elements: the primacy of people; the societal or collective objectives over capital; democratic governance; and the reinvestment of most profits within the economic unit to carry out sustainable development objectives should be included. The group proposed the following draft definition, which built on the Office draft:

The social and solidarity economy (SSE) encompasses the economic activities of SSE units which may include cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups, and other units operating in the formal or informal economy, in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE that emphasize primacy of the person and the social mission over capital; conjunction of the interests of members; the common interests of communities and the general interest; voluntary cooperation; democratic and participatory governance by members; autonomy and independence; rules which ensure a limited distribution of profits generated by the economic activity to remunerate members and which bind to reinvest surpluses in sustainable development, social mission and in accordance with their purpose and to ensure decent working conditions. SSE contributes to achieving social justice based on the recognition that "all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity.

19. The phrase: "rules which ensure a limited distribution of profits generated to remunerate members" marked a clear distinction between SSE enterprises and market economy enterprises which aimed at rewarding capital. The SSE enterprise redistributed wealth among the workers. The proposed definition would also help transition informal SSE enterprises to the formal economy.
20. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, indicated that the candidate countries Türkiye, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Albania, and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia, aligned themselves with this statement. The conclusions of the first general discussion on SSE would be an important point of reference across the multilateral system. In 2021, the European Commission (EC) adopted a new action plan on the social economy, drawing on a long and varied set of experiences of Member States which had introduced concrete measures to mobilize its full potential. The plan aimed to enhance social investment, support social economy actors, including social enterprises to start-up, scale-up, innovate and create jobs. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for a fair, sustainable and resilient economic model.
21. The draft definition of the SSE proposed by the Office provided a good starting point for discussion. Any global definition should serve as a framework, considering the different cultural, historical, legal and administrative traditions in relation to SSE. It should be understood as conceptual or operational, given that national, subnational and local definitions could vary. While SSE entities and organizations shared similarities with other economic units, the combination of principles and values which underpinned the SSE units were inextricably linked to their operation and function and set them apart, mainly by giving priority to societal goals over profit maximization. The SSE offered concrete and innovative solutions to key challenges, enabling fair, green and digital transitions, augmenting crisis response and fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development. It also contributed to social innovation and inclusion at every level, including by integrating marginalized groups into the labour market and society at large, and improving gender equality. The full potential of SSE was to be harnessed. The conclusions could support the development of the social economy and promote awareness and broader recognition of its social and economic transformative power.

22. The Government member of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the Africa Region, hoped that the discussion would provide guidance for constituents on promoting an enabling environment for the SSE and clarify the sector's contribution to formalizing the informal economy. It would also allow an opportunity to assess implementation of Recommendations Nos 193, 204 and 205. A definition of the SSE should consider regional values, principles and organizational forms. The discussion should concentrate on what was not covered under the proposed definition. Any definition should be broad enough to ensure that other economic units were not left behind. There was a need to determine how to include such long-standing concepts as cooperatives within the definition. It must also take account of national contexts.
23. The SSE had evolved, but significant challenges remained. In some regions, SMEs, which were considered to be a critical pathway to formalization, were forced into informality due to the challenges of doing business, thus reducing their potential to generate decent work and raise living standards. Legal and policy frameworks needed to align and be consistent with SSE practices. The principles and values of the SSE should be brought into national short-, medium-, and long-term policies and plans. ILO support to its constituents could be in the form of strengthening institutional frameworks and building the capacities of Member States to face emerging challenges in the SSE.
24. The Government member of Algeria noted that the Committee's discussion was part of the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration. The world was in turmoil. In addition to the economic crisis of the 2000s, the health crisis had a major impact on the global economy, with significant consequences for growth and employment. Millions of jobs had been lost. The SSE could be a way of getting workers and enterprises out of the informal economy. Algeria had been working to set up a social policy, especially for the most disadvantaged. Indeed, solidarity and mutual aid had always been part of the culture, practices and customs of the local populations. In 2015, a youth and employment support programme, co-financed by the EU, had been implemented. A charter on the SSE had been drafted to help public or private actors develop a new way of understanding other social and economic structures. A cooperation project on the social economy for economic inclusion of young people and social innovation was implemented in 2020–22 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and aimed at improving the employability of women, young people and vulnerable people.
25. The Government member of Argentina noted the international community's heightened recognition of the importance of the SSE in the world of work, especially its important contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Argentina 70 per cent of the population was involved in one way or another in associative activity, so the sector was of particular importance to the country. The draft definition proposed by the Office required clarification. In particular, the phrase: "the rules of which prohibit or limit the distribution of profit", should read "rules that guide the use of surpluses based on the primacy of people and work over capital". The concept of "mutual assistance" should also be included, considering the link between cooperative structures and mutuality in the social economy, in the fields of finance, insurance and health, or others. He suggested the following formulation for a definition of the SSE:

The SSE encompasses institutional units with a social or public purpose, engaged in economic activities based on voluntary cooperation, mutual assistance, democratic and participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the rules that guide the use of surpluses based on the primacy of people and work over capital. SSE units may include cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other units operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE in all sectors of the economy, contributing to formalization and the generation of rights.

26. The Government member of Indonesia agreed that the SSE could contribute to generating decent and productive employment and to raising living standards. The COVID-19 pandemic had widened decent work deficits, increased poverty and exacerbated inequalities. The ILO must strengthen its partnerships with SSE actors and promote the sector to support recovery and achievement of the SDGs. In defining the SSE, it was important to bear in mind both subjects and principles. The subjects should be the people, with a strong emphasis on women, youth, persons with disabilities and others in disadvantaged situations. The principals underpinning the SSE should include equality, solidarity, mutuality, sharing and partnership. The Government was considering proposals to make the SSE an institutional economic unit, by taking affirmative steps to create a supportive environment through engagement with the public to stimulate social dialogue. Governments should develop policies to allow cooperatives easier access to finance, markets and technology, and to research and innovation. The Government wanted stronger collaboration with the ILO to share Member States' experiences and lessons learned in furthering the role of the SSE. Human resources were critical in the SSE: the ILO should support the Government in providing lifelong and vocational training for the SSE. Steps should be taken to facilitate partnerships between SSE enterprises and other partners, including public and private sector enterprises and trade unions. SSE enterprises should be promoted to realize their potential to create decent employment.
27. The Government member of Japan observed that the SSE had played an important role in promoting decent work in many countries, and particularly in enhancing social welfare. The role of non-profit organizations that worked proactively, fulfilling various social and public purposes, was important in areas that could not be adequately addressed by government and private for-profit enterprises. In Japan, voluntary, mutualized non-profit organizations such as "consumer cooperatives", played an important role in meeting the needs of diverse citizens. In 2020, a Workers' Cooperative Law was adopted, establishing workers' cooperatives as legal entities. The principle of those entities was that the members invested in a cooperative, and the cooperative's business was conducted democratically by the members, who would themselves be employees of the business. The discussion of the SSE should take account of national contexts and situations.
28. The Government member of Colombia recognized the role played by the SSE in creating jobs and providing services for members, users and communities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SSE business model in the country contributed to inclusion, sustainability and resilience. Legislation had been passed that was in line with the values and principles of the SSE, and which had directly affected more than 6 million Colombians and benefited 50 per cent of the population. The Special Administrative Unit for Solidarity Organizations (UAEOS) was responsible for designing and implementing plans, programmes and projects for the promotion, development and strengthening of SSE units. One of the key elements in the process of reconciliation following the years of conflict in Colombia had been the implementation of various national plans that allowed for greater opportunities and equity for all Colombians. Under the Ministry of Labour, the UAEOS, in coordination with civil society, drew up a proposal based on the SSE, which became the National Plan for the Promotion of the Rural Solidarity and Cooperative Economy – (PLANFES). Under the Plan, more than 8,000 reincorporated persons were trained; 43 solidarity economy organizations were created, generating decent employment and social development in the communities. Special attention had been paid to ILO Recommendations. Recommendation No. 193 had been important for the development of current public policy instruments that recognized the importance of working towards a fairer and more inclusive society, recognizing human beings, their principles, values and rights above the economy.

29. The Government member of Mexico said that the Government of his country considered the SSE as a set of socio-economic and cultural initiatives based on the collaborative work of the individual and the collective ownership of goods, with democratic governance and self-management. The aim of the SSE was to generate relationships of solidarity and trust, democratize labour relations, strengthen community spirit and participation, as well as processes of productive integration, consumption, distribution, savings and loans to fulfil the needs of the actors involved. A key aspect of this was the balance between economic results and social goals, with a focus on overall well-being. SSE enterprises must be profitable and economically sustainable, while fully respecting the rights of workers. The definition provided in the report was a good basis for discussion.
30. The Government member of Canada recognized the SSE as a key driver of social innovation and inclusive growth, with a significant presence at the provincial, regional and municipal levels in Canada. The Quebec social economy was supported by more than 7,000 collectively owned-managed organizations that generated approximately 40 billion Canadian dollars (CADs) in revenues and accounted for 215,000 jobs. Indigenous people played an important role in the Canadian social economy, which was rooted in the rights, values, and cultural traditions and customs that characterized First Nations, Inuits and Metis and communities. The indigenous economy in Canada was both distinct from and espoused values similar to the social economy. The Investment Readiness Program, and the Social Finance Funds of Canada's Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy supported the SSE, by leveraging the work that is already taking place across all sectors and regions in Canada. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated gender inequalities. The world needed innovative solutions to generate quality, well-paid and decent job opportunities for women, and more inclusive growth. The Government acknowledged the important role that women played within the SSE and the role the SSE could play in advancing gender equality. However, women working in some sectors, for example care work, still often experienced gender wage gaps and other challenges. Addressing unpaid and paid care work issues was essential to achieving gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, inclusive economic growth, and many SDGs. Canada was explicitly taking a feminist approach to help address unpaid care work undertaken by women and girls around the world. An inclusive approach was important to a universal definition of SSE, given the diversity of social economy organizations and the varied legal and regulatory context in Member States. A universal definition should be broad enough to capture Canada's diverse social economy actors and regional ecosystems. A values and principals-based approach would provide the most appropriate framework for an inclusive definition and would align well with the recent work of the OECD's Local Employment and Economic Development Programme to develop core principles on social economy.
31. The Government member of Namibia said that unemployment was very high in Namibia, particularly among the youth, and informality was increasing. Current government thinking had been to advise young people to create their own jobs, which resulted in an individualistic, profit-based paradigm. There were however many possibilities in inclusive development through mutuality, cooperation, and human solidarity, and the SSE could be significant for employment creation among youth, women and in vulnerable communities. The values of the SSE could tap into the ingenuity and energy of youths and reinforce their drive for innovation. This also coincided the with desire among the young to have democratic and transparent control over their means of livelihood and to have done with corrupt systems. The Government foresaw cooperatives that could include different parts of agricultural and value chains, and skills, and incorporate traditional community and village values.

32. The Government member Türkiye noted that SSE units played an important role in combating poverty, supporting livelihoods and creating employment. To move towards sustainable development, policymakers required a definition of the SSE model. While various definitions were put forward, many new economic solidarity models were aimed at supporting the disadvantaged segments of the society, those especially at risk of social exclusion. Women's cooperatives were of special importance. More than 200 women's cooperatives in Türkiye contributed to the fight against poverty and the empowerment of women. Türkiye had more than 53,000 cooperatives, some 105,000 associations and 4,800 foundations, involving 16 million individual members. There were around 1,800 social enterprises. Cooperatives and associations had played an effective supplementary role in Türkiye's socio-economic development historically. The SSE offered important benefits in the context of sustainable development, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. The flexible structure of the SSE could facilitate people's access to social enterprises. SSE units could reach out to people in the more remote areas, especially if they were supported by the governments. Individuals at risk of poverty would benefit from awareness-raising activities carried out by governments and the social partners on what SSE practices were and what kind of income-generating support could be provided by the sector. The ILO should further its research activities on SSE models and practices in different parts of the world and place the information obtained at Member States' disposal.
33. The Government member of Barbados said that the current volatile global situation, further exacerbated by climate change, made the discussion on the SSE timely. Social fabric was diminishing, and care, education and health systems, as well as other sectors of the economy, were feeling the strain. There was an increasing place for institutional units underpinned by values other than those of profit-making enterprises, where social justice was the main driver of action, rather than the balance sheet. In defining SSEs, the emphasis must be placed on people. In Barbados, the Government had established a ministerial portfolio for the "third economic sector" in order to take account of the essential differences of SSEs from other economic units. SSEs were of particular importance for smaller States with less resilient economic systems and weaker social structures. He supported the Office draft definition, and broadly supported the suggestion from the Workers' group that the focus of SSEs was on uplifting people.
34. The Government member of Zimbabwe noted that social solidarity in Zimbabwe could be traced back to before the colonial period, with such concepts as "*nhibe*" or "*zunde raMambo*" where communities would come together for the common good. In more recent times, the concept of "*mushandirapamwe*" – working towards a common purpose – foreshadowed the creation of cooperatives through the pooling of limited resources to establish community enterprises. Currently the SSE in Zimbabwe took the form of revolving credit funds, self-help organizations, private voluntary organizations, foundations, trusts, social enterprises, and so on. A majority of women, youth and persons with disabilities were employed in these structures, which thus promoted inclusive development, leaving no one behind.
35. The Government member of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland said that 22 per cent of social enterprises were working in the most deprived areas of the United Kingdom, and that 85 per cent were working with disadvantaged populations. In 2015, the Government had founded Access, which provided grant funding to facilitate the use of other financial instruments such as loans or credits. Access focused on the blended finance market, where grants or subsidies were provided alongside social investments, making such investment less risky and more affordable. Much of the financial assistance provided through the scheme went to SMEs. The United Kingdom had invested £150 million in charities and social

enterprises that support young people at risk of unemployment, and throughout the health crisis had invested £750 million to support more than 14,000 charities and social enterprises. There was a need for sustainable development that left no one behind.

36. The Government member of Belgium noted that recent health, climate and conflict-related events prompted the search for sustainable solutions. It was gratifying that Belgium's efforts in that direction had been recognized in the Office report. Belgium had a wide-ranging legal framework governing the SSE and looked forward to sharing its expertise in the matter. SSE's capacity to promote entrepreneurship with democratic and participative governance allowed it to play a role in transition from the informal to the formal economy, and in the development of a sustainable and inclusive green economy, as in the European Union's "Green Deal". A decent and sustainable working environment would be achieved through social dialogue and by promoting the values of equality and dignity. A policy rooted in the integrity of enterprises would be a guarantor of their sustainability.
37. The Government member of Switzerland said that Switzerland did not have an official definition of the SSE but recognized the importance of the sector. Any definition must be in line with international labour standards and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It should include private sector enterprises, but must also cover other forms of institutional units, such as associations.
38. The Government member of Kenya noted that the ILO had long recognized the importance of the SSE, citing the international labour standards that dealt with the subject particularly. In Africa, the principles inherent in SSE of equality, equity, fairness, non-discrimination and shared responsibility had long existed in traditional forms such as "*chamas*" – self-help associations with shared objectives, or "*jua kali*" – informal economic groupings in arts, crafts and commercial trades. Cooperatives were present in the area of agriculture and had been effective in raising living standards in communities. Social enterprises had expanded greatly in Kenya in recent years, and their contribution to the economy and to employment was considerable. The extent of the SSE was however not captured in national statistics or documented, due to a lack of a common definition, a comprehensive policy and legal framework. The Decent Work Country Programmes should be reviewed to enable them to become instrumental in promoting measures to support the SSE, which would include the development of a universal definition, provision of policy guidelines for Member States, capacity-building of Member States regarding transition from the informal to formal economy and a clear determination of the roles of government, the social partners and other actors in promoting the SSE.
39. The Government member of Bangladesh said that the health crisis had highlighted the inequality in the world. The SSE, by promoting inclusiveness, equity and solidarity, could contribute to redressing the balance. A balanced definition, guided by the Centenary Declaration, was essential. It should refer to the working conditions of those working in global supply chains and seek to improve them. In drafting the definition, national context must be taken into consideration, with recognition of the divergent views of all countries. The definition supplied by the Office would be a good basis for discussion.
40. The Government member of Ghana stressed the importance of strengthening the SSE as a means of moving from the informal to the formal economy. Cooperatives had begun to be formed in Ghana from 1928, but the legislation currently governing the sector dated from the 1940s and the 1960s and required revision.
41. The Government member of the United States of America noted the relevance of the general discussion given that the SSE could support recovery from the pandemic and promote the

inclusion of underserved and marginalized groups. The Government welcomed the attempt to arrive at a universally accepted definition of the SSE, without which national policies would fail to give it due weight. Its lack also impeded the collection of reliable, internationally comparable statistics.

42. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed on the need to determine a definition that recognized the diversity of the SSE, and took account of its national, regional and local characteristics. It was essential that the SSE should be composed of economically viable and sustainable units. Such enterprises did not have the monopoly of giving back to the community. The Employer Vice-Chairperson affirmed that her group could not accept the idea of prohibiting the distribution of profits to contributors. Market economy enterprises also had social aspirations along with their search for profit. They also served the community and created decent work. The ILO Centenary Declaration called on the ILO to support the private sector, of which the SSE was a part, as a generator of decent work, productive employment and improved living standards. Finally, the Employer Vice-Chairperson recalled that some SSE enterprises had links with or were members of employers' organizations, especially cooperatives. The Committee would have done well if it succeeded in finding a framework that allowed the SSE to promote inclusion, generate employment, help the vulnerable and create sustainable, viable enterprises.
43. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that her Employer counterpart had placed the SSE in the private sector. She advocated avoiding an argument about which subset of the economy included the SSE. The report showed that it was based on values and transcended traditional dichotomies. The discussion should focus on the particular nature of the SSE, to allow the development of policy frameworks that recognized that nature. Paragraph 7.2 of the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193), provided guidance in that connection:

Cooperatives should be treated in accordance with national law and practice and on terms no less favourable than those accorded to other forms of enterprise and social organization. Governments should introduce support measures, where appropriate, for the activities of cooperatives that meet specific social and public policy outcomes, such as employment promotion or the development of activities benefiting disadvantaged groups or regions.
44. The search for a level playing field should not be based entirely on market outcomes, but also on social and environmental outcomes and on the potential of the SSE to act as a pathway to formalization. The primacy of people over profit was one fundamental difference, together with the entire set of values that distinguished the SSE from other sectors of the economy. Many governments had shared the experience in their countries, and all had stressed the social value of the SSE, and their capacity to generate inclusive employment and support environmental justice.

Discussion point 2

What are the key challenges and opportunities for the social and solidarity economy to advance decent work and sustainable development, to contribute to sustainable economic growth and to achieve more inclusive and sustainable economies and societies? How can the social and solidarity economy further contribute to decent work, full, productive and freely chosen employment and improved living standards for all?

45. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the social contract was broken. A new contract should be drawn up that would balance economic growth with social welfare. The focus should be on equality, solidarity and upward convergence. Following the Asian crisis of 1997 and the global economic crisis of 2008, there were many examples where workers had taken on bankrupt factories and put them back to work on the basis of those values. Recent experience had also shown the SSE to be future proof in the digital economy. The SSE could help transition the millions of workers in the informal sector to the formal sector. It also provided an opportunity for job creation. Gender equality could be promoted through the full participation of women in the SSE. The role of collective bargaining was crucial: members of cooperatives were also employees: the same person thus had the prerogative to make decisions for the good both of the cooperative and of the workforce. One challenge to be faced was that of fake or pseudo cooperatives, created to subvert labour rules and dilute the employment relation. Such structures were put in place by unscrupulous entrepreneurs who registered their enterprises as cooperatives, without adopting the values and principles of cooperatives. Social dialogue was the key to finding solutions to isolate fake cooperatives and promote genuine SSE units. However, often SSE enterprises were not organized or recognized and therefore unable to participate in dialogue at local, sectoral or national level. The SSE had the potential to transform economies and promote social and environmental justice and decent work. That was often hampered by the lack of recognition of the peculiar features requiring financial incentives and preferential treatment accorded by virtue of their social goals. The SSE needed government support through the creation of an enabling environment, with a regulatory framework. Thus, SSE units providing services in the public realm, such as energy, care, social services and waste collection, should be incorporated into the public system, with adequate funding and a protective framework of standards. The SSE units should not be used as a fall-back solution to a failed inclusion model. Many SSE initiatives come into being to cover a void left by the State. Such integration would transform precarity into a public-community partnership. Lifelong learning should be an integral part of the SSE, accompanied by recognition of skills, and value given to practices that do not have a market price.
46. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that when assessing how the SSE could contribute to decent work, sustainable development, and economic growth, it was essential to ensure an enabling environment for the SSE that complemented the work of the ILO in promoting sustainable enterprises, and it was also essential to recognize that SSE enterprises did not operate in isolation. They shared the same challenges as traditional enterprises. To contribute more to decent work, SSE enterprises would need a framework that would allow them to act as a lever for productivity and economic growth; job creation and entrepreneurship; skills development and lifelong learning; formalization; reintegration of the inactive workforce; gender equality and diversity; and better inclusion of vulnerable groups. SSE enterprises shared many characteristics and values with traditional enterprises, particularly with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and they also faced similar governance problems. Those challenges, such as the lack of an enabling environment for sustainable

enterprises, high levels of informality, legal uncertainty, weak rule of law, barriers to accessing credit, implementation difficulties, corruption, and excessive bureaucracy, hindered the development and growth of the SSE. A weak business environment was a systemic problem that affected all enterprises. All these issues could only be solved by government action at the national level.

47. An additional challenge affecting all businesses was bankruptcy. In some bankruptcy cases, transition to worker ownership would preserve jobs but it could not be considered as a miracle solution. These bankruptcies were most often the result of the absence of a favourable environment for sustainable businesses, and of supportive action during the first years of an enterprise's existence. A favourable business environment for enterprises, including SSE enterprises, was also important in the fight against informality. The informal economy and its underlying causes were to be addressed in line with Recommendation No. 204 and related guidelines. SSE enterprises must aspire to be economically viable and sustainable and remain independent of the State. The latter must not threaten the autonomous character of SSE organizations, nor create unfair treatment or competition with other enterprises, for instance through government subsidies. As these subsidies were generally insufficient, they not only failed to incentivize the transition to formalization but, on the contrary, increased the level of informality and the associated risks.
48. By diversifying their activities and improving their processes, services and products, SSE enterprises operating at different stages of supply chains could contribute to the creation of direct and indirect employment, especially for young people. A vibrant SSE could also foster the development of entrepreneurship. By evolving within the market, adapting their business model, diversifying, and operating on a larger scale, SSE enterprises could benefit from opportunities to grow and prosper, while preserving their core values. They could also play a central role in improving productivity and ultimately in the competitiveness of enterprises by generating economies of scale and new development opportunities. As suggested by the Director-General of the ILO in his opening address to this session of the Conference, social and solidarity economy organizations should be "recognized as competitive enterprises in their own right".
49. SSE enterprises could be an important and timely lever for accelerating formalization. This transition could be facilitated by other relevant measures, such as: (i) implementing integrated public policies to promote programmes that link productivity growth to education, job skills development, and further training for workers, employees, and the unemployed; (ii) creating effective incentives for formalization by eliminating start-up capital requirements for micro and small enterprises; and (iii) reducing red tape for businesses and associated costs, eliminating paperwork and seeking one-stop-shop systems. Above all, priority action was needed to urgently address the root causes of informality: lack of legal recognition, private property, business activity, and the lack of legal status in court. The SSE could help reduce informality; however, it was the responsibility of the State to provide legal recognition or an appropriate framework.
50. SSE enterprises could play an important role in skills development, by investing in training and in improving competencies, know-how, processes, and tools. Rapid changes in technology, demographics, globalization, and climate change were affecting the world of work. Those changes offered great opportunities, but also put pressure on all enterprises, whether they were SSE units or not. Some SSE enterprises were also subject to productivity and competitiveness constraints, making it necessary to develop skills to improve their operations and ensure their sustainability in markets and society. SSE enterprises that were rooted in local

realities and applied innovative solutions could attract a part of the inactive workforce and promote its reintegration into labour market.

51. The SSE enterprises were linked with traditional companies with whom they shared common values in terms of human rights, sustainability, gender equality and diversity, notably in the context of their CSR policies. Corporate social responsibility policies of traditional companies could generate virtuous dynamics, interactions and possible win-win synergies with SSE companies. However, measures to promote SSE should not be at the cost of unfair competition, especially for MSMEs. Equal treatment for SSE enterprises should be considered in national legislation and practices. SSE enterprises should be subject to conditions no less favourable than those granted to other forms of enterprises, in line with Recommendation No. 193.
52. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that the following countries aligned themselves with the statement: North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Iceland, as well as Georgia. The SSE had enormous potential to advance decent work and sustainable development, at a time of profound transformation in the world of work, characterized by megatrends such as globalization and automation. The combination of its principles, values and practices was a driver of economic and social progress and resilience, converged with several UN SDGs, particularly Goal 8 on decent work and Economic growth. The SSE offered well-established and innovative solutions to the main economic, social, and environmental challenges of our time, and could positively impact on employment.
53. From the EU perspective, the social economy was understood to be confined to the formal sector, to which it made an important contribution in terms of job creation and economic growth. In countries where the SSE also operated in the informal economy, it could present opportunities for transitioning to the formal economy and improving living standards. The SSE could play a greater role in ensuring decent work in domestic and global supply chains. That included the further development of cooperative-to-cooperative trade channels, which could contribute to sustainable enterprise and agriculture. Increased engagement between the SSE and the social partners could contribute to the promotion and protection of worker rights and international labour standards.
54. The SSE was a contributing factor to the European Pillar of Social Rights which promoted economic and social convergence and the improvement of citizens' welfare. The SSE could promote social protection and universal access to quality social services and could lead to local, regional and rural development and high-quality job creation. It could also support the active inclusion of disadvantaged groups that were excluded from the labour market, as well as promoting the active participation of citizens and democratic values. The SSE could act as a springboard to develop social innovation in those areas.
55. SSE organizations needed an enabling environment, which recognized the varied requirements of SSE actors. That included access to finance and funding, skills and education, business support and visibility. While one of the unique characteristics of SSE entities was that they were diverse, this could also lead to misunderstandings, which inhibited growth. The disparate elements of SSE entities could be difficult to reconcile against traditional legislative and financial models. While robust data collection and analysis could also be challenging, the OECD, the EU and many national examples provided accurate data on the SSE contribution to growth and employment.
56. The Pact for Impact was a global alliance for a social and solidarity economy. Its ambition was to encourage state and non-state actors to make concrete and measurable commitments to advance the SSE globally. It provided a structure to promote awareness, share good practices and develop the SSE, advance the harmonization of definitions and to explore opportunities

for mutual recognition. Similar projects, such as the International Coalition of the Social and Solidarity Economy, should be encouraged across the multilateral system. Those should complement existing frameworks and agreements, including the Declaration of Philadelphia, the ILO Centenary Declaration and Recommendations Nos 193, 204 and 205.

- 57.** The Government member of Argentina highlighted the considerable contribution SSE units were making to decent work and sustainable development, to fairer and more inclusive economies and societies, and to the generation of direct and indirect jobs, while institutionalizing forms of work in the popular economy and improving living standards. Indeed, Argentina was a successful example in enterprise restructuring through workers' ownership when business failure occurred during the national crisis of 2001. Worker-owned companies became a strategy to preserve jobs.
- 58.** Fundamental principles and rights at work and most international labour standards were applicable to all workers, however there was a need to create legal instruments providing the cooperative worker or association worker with adequate protection, including individual and collective rights and social security for workers who own their enterprises or are working in the popular economy, as the traditional employment relationship did not cover such workers.
- 59.** In Argentina, the rights of SSE workers had been reinforced under the Renovar resolution, which provided cooperatives with the right to organize both production and labour. A credit system for cooperatives and mutual societies was established (Hacer financial system), and an oversight system was set up by the National Institute for Associations and the Social Economy (INAES). The Government also worked with indigenous peoples' organizations to enable them to carry out community activities in a cooperative fashion. Organization of the SSE must be accompanied by social dialogue, with the promotion of gender equality and labour rights. The SSE sector had potential to create a gender-mainstreamed care agenda and to promote social community work in general.
- 60.** The Government member of Mexico noted the presence of SSE units in low productivity and high-risk segments of the economy, which had scant resources and limited capacities in terms of profitability and sustainability. Access to finance remained the principal challenge. Greater space in public policies and programmes as well as partnerships with the private sector must be promoted, in line with decent work standards, social protection, tripartite dialogue and gender mainstreaming. Advantage should be taken by publicizing successful SSE policies and initiatives, especially when SSE units ended forced or child labour or when they became guarantors of labour rights, universal social protection, and the transition to the formal economy.
- 61.** The Government member of the United States said that SSE units faced several challenges due to factors both internal to the units and due to external impediments to SSE formation and growth. Some cooperatives in the United States found it hard to access federal, state and local programmes providing funding and technical assistance to start-ups. In addition, lending to a collectively owned entity could present problems for some financial institutions. Many cooperatives served communities that lending institutions might not consider profitable, such as communities with small populations and low average incomes. Other cooperatives confronted barriers to expanding to and operating in more affluent areas. For example, a housing cooperative would likely find it difficult to acquire and develop housing units in more expensive housing markets. Cooperatives in the United States could also have problems in starting up and growing as a result of the members' limited resources and access to finance. The members were often the primary source of equity for cooperatives, a factor which restricted their ability to maintain operations and to pay staff adequately.

- 62.** Few academic institutions provided courses on the efficacy of cooperative businesses. Most business and law graduates were not exposed to the cooperative model and therefore were not likely to recommend the model to their clients. The dearth of cooperative professionals, particularly cooperative accountants, made it difficult for cooperative businesses to form and operate. Resources devoted to providing information on and promoting the cooperative model were often scarce.
- 63.** However, despite the challenges, there were also many opportunities for cooperatives in the United States. They could have several advantages over for-profit entities, including less taxation, unique funding opportunities from a variety of government-sponsored grant programmes, economies of scale that reduced costs, and a democratic structure to serve members' needs. The cooperative model could empower the people most affected by structural and economic inequality. Communities could develop, sustain, and grow an organized base of people who acted together through democratic structures to set agendas and influence public policies in order to improve social and economic conditions and systems. Fundamental principles and rights at work were vital across all sectors of the economy, including the SSE, to fully address social and economic inequities.
- 64.** The Government member of Canada said that in 2018 Canada had worked closely with the Steering Committee of experts and external stakeholders representing different actors and organizations from Canada's social economy to develop its Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy. The Committee suggested that the Government had a role to play in supporting the social economy ecosystem in six areas. They included: (i) skills and capacity to equip social purpose organizations with the knowledge and resources to adopt social innovation and social finance approaches; (ii) funding and capital opportunities so that social purpose organizations had the financial resources to develop, test, adopt and grow innovative solutions to social and environmental problems; (iii) market access for social purpose organizations to find buyers for their goods and services; (iv) an enabling policy and regulatory environment that created the conditions for social innovation, social finance and for social purpose organizations to flourish; (v) evidence and knowledge to enable social purpose organizations and funders to work together based on what works, to develop better goods and services, scale their impact and evaluate progress; and (vi) awareness and mobilization efforts for interest and building support for the growth of social innovation and social finance approaches.
- 65.** Action in those areas would allow the SSE to respond better to complex and persistent socio-economic challenges and to support communities in achieving better social economic and environmental outcomes. SSE enterprises and organizations played an important role in providing care services. They ensured that unpaid care work was equitably redistributed from women and girls in households to government, the private sector and civil society and that decent jobs were generated in the care economy. There was an opportunity to explore how the SSE could address the global care crisis, by generating decent employment, serving unmet needs for care while protecting care workers.
- 66.** Canada was committed to ensuring that workers in the gig economy were treated fairly and had access to greater job protection. Noting the SSE's presence in the platform economy, it is interested in how the SSE could harness the innovation and economic growth potential of digital platforms while ensuring workers were protected and able to benefit from greater efficiencies in the organization of work. More broadly, Canada recognized the opportunity to advance the transition to the formal economy through support for the SSE.

67. The Government member of China indicated that the SSE in China was growing and had contributed to decent work and sustainable development. In rural areas, poverty alleviation organizations had contributed to industrial development and employment and had increased the livelihoods and living standards of rural people. Foundations had also expanded and contributed to employment and the protection of vulnerable groups. Centres for disabled people provided opportunities for their employment and skills development, increasing their income. Women's organizations were important platforms to promote gender equality at the workplace through dialogue and exchanges. Many SSE units had contributed to a just digital transition and to environmental protection. However, as elsewhere, some SSE units faced challenges, including access to finance, markets and technologies. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, SSE units also had opportunities to reduce poverty and raise incomes. The SSE was a pillar in the world of work and inclusive economies and could contribute to social justice. The Government suggested that constituents should exchange and cooperate on SSE with a view to building a conducive environment for socio-economic development. The role of the SSE in poverty alleviation, job creation, assistance to vulnerable groups and gender equality, should be further explored.
68. The Government member of Switzerland indicated that creating a favourable environment for SSE enterprises, which sometimes had limited resources and capacities and struggled to penetrate higher value added markets, could prove challenging. In general, Switzerland supported the creation of an enabling environment for all enterprises, not specifically for one type of enterprise. In terms of opportunities, SSE initiatives contributed to the promotion of international labour standards and could act as a source of inspiration for actors in the mainstream economy. In addition, the SSE could generate new jobs. In Switzerland the SSE covered a wide range of activities. It made a marked contribution to the integration of unemployed and disabled people into the labour market. As it was based on values of equity and justice, it also contributed to other areas such as gender equality.
69. The Government member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) mentioned that the SSE had a positive impact on society at large, and particularly in those parts of society that struggled to enter the labour market. A clear definition of the SSE was needed, that could be used by all our partners and included in all development projects for wealth and employment creation. The UAE sought to develop the SSE and wanted to see its growth within the general economy reach 5 per cent by 2030. The UAE hoped to have developed an enabling legislative framework that would facilitate the development of SSE enterprises and allow them to fulfil their role. The Government also hoped to create new opportunities for SSE enterprises through the provision of training and the organization of skills and capacity-building workshops. The SSE enterprises and institutions could play a role regionally, nationally and beyond, including in financial markets, as well as in the creation of partnerships in the digital economy or in more traditional areas. The Government had developed a policy to facilitate collective finance and had created several platforms such as "Dubai next" to attract funding for microcredit for small-scale projects promoting new ideas.
70. The Government member of Barbados said that economic actors in the SSE in smaller Member States faced many challenges, principally in the fields of finance, governance and staffing. There was an urgent need to develop the financial capacity and expertise of SSE enterprises to enable them to generate sustainable flows of income. In Barbados, the renewable energy model was pursued as a source of such sustainable business activity and income flows. This approach recognized that social and solidarity entities were concerned with development and were more conscious of the use rather than the exploitation of resources. Renewable energy provided an ideal platform on which to construct the economic activity for SSE enterprises.

- 71.** Social security systems must be flexible enough to accommodate the peculiar modes of operation of SSE units. At a time of increased transnational criminal activity, money laundering and the financing of terrorist activities, it was essential that SSE units received adequate assistance with structuring their governance to eliminate the possible use of their resources for activities contrary to their fundamental values.
- 72.** SSE units were too often excluded, unintentionally or intentionally, from social dialogue structures that addressed matters of critical economic importance. First, SSE enterprises were expected to contribute to overall economic activity. They were also expected to deal with economic downturns or the results of failed economic policies. Barbados included those SSE units in its Social Partnership Construct as well as in the Social Justice Committee. SSE enterprises were often small and not able to influence the direction of traditional umbrella business organizations. They needed to be able to speak with their own voice in advancement of their goals.
- 73.** A Government member of Bangladesh stressed the vital role of the SSE in promoting social inclusion. Enhancing the productivity and resilience of SSE enterprises would encourage transition from the informal to the formal economy and yield both social and economic gains. In developing countries, challenges in the informal economy would need to be addressed through enhanced support and cooperation between the Member States. Cooperatives should be developed in a carefully planned and structured manner to protect the livelihoods of those working within the system. Resources should be mobilized through partnerships among Member States to give the SSE workers the scope to move into more gainful economic activities.
- 74.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that most of the challenges facing small SSE units related to recognition, without which they had limited access to financial support and rights. The Committee had an opportunity to create an enabling environment for SSE units in the promotion of the Decent Work Agenda, providing them with access to rights, social dialogue, full and decent employment and social protection. Many productivity challenges related to the concentration of SSE units in lower-tier supply chains and access barriers to financial services, inputs and infrastructure. Part of the answer to the productivity challenge was to recognize the particularity and value of the SSE. The sector could be enhanced through horizontal and vertical organization that would infuse SSE values transversally. The goal of productivity should not be considered in isolation but within the wider goals of the SSE, in particular those of redistribution and community well-being.
- 75.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that the fundamental challenge facing the SSE hinged on seizing opportunities in relation to governance, achieving a level playing field, creating a favourable environment for employment creation and entrepreneurship, CSR, skills development and lifelong learning, formalization, labour market reinsertion, the promotion of gender equality and diversity, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. SSE units and traditional enterprises shared many of the same values. In particular, sustainability was not the preserve of the SSE. Paragraph 67 of the United Nations resolution adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized the full diversity of the private sector as contributing to the Agenda's goals. For the SSE to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development, it was essential that it be based on productive enterprises that were receptive to innovation and guided by employers and workers.

Interventions by international non-governmental organizations

76. The representative of the International Cooperative Alliance said that the SSE faced challenges in its efforts to scale-up because it lacked an operational legal framework and appropriate monitoring. Statistics on SSE units were also needed in order to develop effective policies. The SSE provided a key opportunity for the future of decent work owing to its presence throughout economic sectors and its autonomy from public authorities. SSE units contributed to sustainable and inclusive employment and showed resilience in times of crises. Moreover, their democratic organization allowed workers to participate in improving their own livelihoods. By contributing to formalization and promoting decent work, the SSE was key in achieving SDG 8, thereby also furthering other SDGs and improving community living standards.

Discussion point 3

Taking into account the history and nature of the social and solidarity economy, what is the role of the governments and social partners in promoting its contribution to a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient?

77. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that governments and social partners needed a clear understanding and definition of the SSE in order to fulfil their roles. Such a definition should in no event consider the SSE in isolation. Neither should government SSE initiatives penalize the private sector, which was at the heart of wealth creation and benefited society as a whole. Governments and social partners should be guided by proven facts, and complete and quality data, which were not yet readily available. SSE enterprises accounted for only 5 per cent of gross domestic product in the Group of 10 countries and few countries had adopted legislation regulating the SSE. Although the SSE should have greater representation in policymaking, institutional dialogue with its stakeholders should not be confused with social dialogue, which was the exclusive preserve of the social partners. In contrast, integrating SSE units into employers' organizations, in line with ILO Recommendation No. 193, could help combat certain systemic problems, such as informality. It would also allow SSE partners to access guidance and support, contributing to capacity-building and improved competitiveness. Employers' organizations could also help SSE enterprises by facilitating their access to business networks and partners that could contribute to their development; develop their business potential, entrepreneurial and managerial capacities; strengthen their competitiveness as well as access international markets and institutional funding. Governments and social partners were responsible for creating an enabling environment for SSE enterprises, but the latter's economic viability should be based on an efficient use of resources, rather than relying on government support. Government policies should foster productivity throughout all economic sectors, including in the SSE. Productivity allowed, among other things, the generation of resources which in turn provides the salaries and benefits of those in charge of running the business, whatever its form, vocation, and values. The example of restructuring SSE enterprises in case of bankruptcy by giving workers access to the ownership of the enterprise could, to some extent, help to preserve jobs. However, worker buy-outs in this case could not be considered as a panacea. Similarly, enterprises moving towards the SSE model should not be given preferential treatment, guarding the economy against enterprise failures. In the right environment, enterprises would be able to invest in technology and training, attract talent, and ultimately become more productive. The role of governments, in consultation with the social partners, is to promote a favourable environment for the development of a responsible and innovative economy. The role of governments was also to fill governance gaps and combat corruption, bureaucratic barriers and informality. They should therefore implement balanced

and effective policies for the development of all enterprises and include the social partners in consultations. As SSE units often operated at the local level, national employers' organizations could provide an essential contribution to policy development, thanks to their understanding of local needs.

- 78.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson, recalling the close, historical relationship between SSE enterprises and trade unions, said that governments and social partners had a role to ensure that the SSE reached its full potential. Whereas workers often turned to the SSE as a route out of poverty and exploitation, government policies and economic decisions should be guided by the responsibility to protect and guarantee human rights and rights at work. Governments should enact policies that created quality jobs, underpinning a robust, resilient and inclusive economic recovery, and guaranteeing the respect of labour law and contractual employment creation. To that end, they should promote collaboration and dialogue between labour inspectors, trade unions and SSE representatives to guard against rights violations. Furthermore, governments should enter into consultation with the social partners to develop regulatory frameworks to guarantee the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, as well as worker protection. A culture of social dialogue should be promoted, including mutual recognition between the SSE and trade union organizations. Governments should also ensure investment in education and training to bolster worker resilience. For their part, the social partners should approach social dialogue with a collaborative and proactive attitude, focusing on the promotion of ILO Recommendations, the provision of economic support for genuine SSE units, and formalization in the sector. Social partners should also be committed to promoting universal and comprehensive social protection, lifelong learning and training, and establishing occupational safety and health as a basic right for workers. They should promote regulatory frameworks that protected SSE units from infiltration by fake organizations, facilitating registration and clearly distinguishing them from for-profit entities. Inclusion of the SSE in public policies, especially through well-regulated public procurement, was increasingly important in guaranteeing sustainable development. Trade unions should receive support in their role of counselling SSE units. Improving collective representation would inevitably feed into political, civil, social and economic progress. In efforts to achieve the SDGs, the SSE should not be marginalized in social and economic planning, but fully recognized in national development, employment and recovery plans. In line with the relevant ILO Conventions and Recommendations, the SSE should not be a fall-back solution but should be integrated through macroeconomic, fiscal, social and environmental policies, allowing it to contribute to decent work and sustainable development.
- 79.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that the Governments of North Macedonia and Albania aligned themselves with the statement.
- 80.** The variety of units within the SSE called for the streamlining and coordination of public policies throughout national structures. Governments should draw on the positive impacts of the SSE when developing national economic recovery policies, and in their digital and environmental transitions. The multiplier effect of the SSE could be harnessed by supporting interaction between the SSE and public administrations at all levels, and by exploring other partnerships. Among other measures to stimulate growth in the SSE, favourable fiscal regimes and positive discrimination could be as useful as financial support. To tailor policies and promote the visibility of the sector, governments should improve data collection on the SSE and its impacts. They should also raise public awareness of the SSE through education. Workers' organizations, which shared many of the SSE's values, could contribute to increasing its visibility, and could play an important role in defending worker' rights in the sector. They could moreover support the creation of, and collaborate with, SSE organizations to achieve common goals. The social

partners could play a key role in guiding formalization in the SSE, sharing their knowledge, raising awareness about labour rights, and creating synergies between stakeholders. The EU action plan for social economy supported the development of networks representing the SSE, in its Member States, to help it achieve its full potential.

- 81.** The Government member of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, referred to the second point for discussion and the definition of the SSE proposed by the Office. The group preferred to define the SSE as an ethical value-based economic model that prioritized people's welfare, without ignoring productivity. The definition should distinguish it from other economic models and establish its relationship with the reduction of decent work deficits. It should tend towards a generic description of its multiple organizational forms, avoiding omissions by not attempting to provide an exhaustive list of SSE units. The group would prefer the adoption of the definition of economic units given in other ILO instruments, such as Recommendation No. 204. Furthermore, the SSE's fundamental impact on decent work and economic development should be highlighted. Although a definition should remove ambiguity and the risk of misapplication, it should not be so prescriptive that it did not allow some flexibility. Nevertheless, the Africa group would support any definition of the SSE that achieved consensus within the Committee.
- 82.** Returning to the third point for discussion, the speaker said that failure to provide an enabling environment for SSE enterprises weakened their capacity to engage in policy debates and left them vulnerable to financial mismanagement and abuse, especially in the informal sector. Policies were needed to promote formalization and establish laws on ownership and cooperation. Employers and workers should reach out to SSE organizations and involve them in consultations. A generalist approach by governments should comprise work to promote equality and gender balance, produce reliable statistics, provide training and capacity-building, and remove barriers to formalization. In addition, governments should channel resources to allow SSE units to upgrade their technology and modernize their activities.
- 83.** The Government member of Barbados said that governments should seek to assist SSE enterprises that fell through the cracks. Governments should create an enabling environment for the SSE through appropriate legislation insofar as it ensured that all national institutions were working for the benefit of all. Governments should assist in capacity-building and contribute to legitimizing SSE enterprises, namely through regulation and the inclusion of SSE stakeholders in social dialogue as important non-state actors. Governments should recognize the specific role of SSE units in maintaining a social fabric that allowed private enterprises to thrive, empowered workers and reduced pressure on state resources.
- 84.** The Government member of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the Government of her country had worked to establish the SSE as a sustainable and resilient national sector, despite the economic and social ravages of COVID-19, which had not been helped by the coercive unilateral measures imposed on the country. Those measures had had particularly harmful consequences for the world of work. Nevertheless, the Government was developing a new economic model, which facilitated the insertion of marginal worker collectives, thereby promoting the SSE. Experience from national initiatives had indicated that increasing productivity was decisive in an inclusive and resilient recovery, promoting the transfer of technology and optimizing activities. The defence of the SSE and decent work called for the condemnation of unilateral coercive measures, which were contrary to international law.
- 85.** The Government member of Cuba said that the SSE should be based on the principles of justice and solidarity, the redistribution of resources and knowledge sharing. It required the redefinition of regulatory frameworks and typically led to the provision of high-quality public

goods. Her Government had had to deal with the COVID-19 crisis in combination with the deleterious effects of the United States blockade on its territory. It had nevertheless continued with its economic and social programme, including measures to strengthen the SSE, which had contributed to robust job creation. The SSE would be energized through alliances across the macro-, meso- and micro-social levels. Favourable environments could contribute to building local capacities and creating sustainable and inclusive jobs. The Government of Cuba would continue its tireless work to achieve greater social justice and equity.

- 86.** The Government member of Côte d'Ivoire said that her country had integrated the aims of decent work and the SSE in its national programmes. Although the definition of the SSE was still unclear, its model offered the opportunity to advance social inclusion and formalization. Her country had implemented several policies to extend social protection. Taking note of the ways in which the SSE contributed to that extension of social protection had prompted initiatives to integrate cooperatives and agricultural organizations in the process. Tripartism and social dialogue should be employed in developing national measures adapted to the multisectoral nature of the SSE, in accordance with the ILO's fundamental principles and rights.
- 87.** The Government member of the United States noted the vital role of governments in creating an environment that would be conducive to the formation and growth of enterprises, including those operating in the SSE. The Government had put in place a national action plan and various programmes in support of cooperatives, community empowerment, and rural infrastructure. The social partners had an important role in supporting the creation and growth of the SSE. For example, trade unions could contribute through awareness-raising, supporting SSE worker rights and encouraging SSE workers to join unions. Employer organizations could also support SSEs by helping them to market their services and expand to new markets.
- 88.** The Government member of Canada recognized the critical role of governments in supporting a strong and robust SSE for inclusive growth, and the contributions of the social partners to the SSE. There are a number of levers governments can use to strengthen the impact of the social and solidarity economy towards a human-centered recovery, including implementing enabling policies, establishing a regulatory framework for SSEs, improved access to public procurement, and assisting SSEs to share best practices. An important role for government is to create spaces for indigenous social finance and social innovation to be indigenous-led, as befits Nation-to-Nation, Inuit-Crown, government to government relationships between Canada, First Nations Inuit and Metis; ongoing efforts towards reconciliation, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples signatory commitments, and commitments to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. A challenge for the Canadian Government is how best to support an enabling environment for indigenous businesses, and their full and active participation in the social economy.
- 89.** The Government member of Colombia noted the democratic, inclusive and participatory factors of the SSE. State resources would be required to invest in collective action for institutional frameworks, accurate statistics, education, and technical support for these new collective enterprises. Government should address ILO Recommendation No. 193, which identified the positive aspects of the inclusive SSE model.
- 90.** The Government member of Mexico underlined that social dialogue should have a privileged position in the SSE in line with the ILO tripartite system. Governments should continue to work to guarantee the robust institutional frameworks necessary to address the SSE as a catalyst for decent work. Greater efforts would be required to address the evolution of the SSE in terms of digitalization, environmental transition, methods of collaboration with social partners, and formalization to reach a universal level of social protection.

91. The Government member of China acknowledged the contribution of SSE to the sustainable economy and the advantages in consulting with all parties as a method to encourage poverty reduction and job growth through SSE development. National policies to promote high-quality job creation and improve product quality through the SSE, particularly in the agricultural sector, were highlighted. The SSE could help to stabilize future growth and would be one of the ways China could help the ILO to implement relevant principles of the ILO Centenary Declaration. Tripartism could provide ways to mitigate the damage inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to promote sustainable development through the SSE.
92. The Government member of Argentina stressed the importance of the work being undertaken by those promoting different forms of SSE worldwide, by raising the visibility of their initiatives at the same time as responding to the needs on the ground. The tripartite constituents were responsible for putting in place a legal framework to ensure protection of the rights of SSE workers, and that work in the sector was decent, inclusive and sustainable. The Government of Argentina ensured tripartite representation of the SSE through the INAES, as well as through legislation aimed specifically at cooperative initiatives. National implementation of the legislation was ensured regionally and locally, articulated through government offices in the provinces and municipalities.
93. The Government member of Bangladesh recalled the action required from governments under the resolution concerning a Global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient, could be effective in the context of the SSE, especially if measures to address the gender wage gap were included. A special focus should be placed on fragile economic sectors, national circumstances, and vulnerable groups including migrants, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups.
94. The Government member of Switzerland noted that social enterprises were given priority in the Swiss international cooperation strategy. The Government was diversifying and strengthening its partnerships with the private sector and increasing its collaboration with social enterprises. The SSE had also provided working and training opportunities for those excluded from the job market. The Government had not established specific operating conditions or measures regulating the SSE, but favoured frameworks that applied to all businesses. Social enterprises were private sector entities and should not be considered the responsibility of the State.
95. The Government member of Egypt noted the important role played by the SSE in job creation. Egypt was among the first countries to create institutions to partner with civil society units and had enacted legislation that guaranteed the citizens' right to create and manage associations for non-lucrative purposes. The State was committed to promoting such associations and provided financial resources to support them. A legal framework had been put in place, allowing the civil society units to act as partners in various programmes and initiatives. They thus engaged in activities aimed at benefiting rural economies and the poorest populations, helping to eradicate all forms of poverty and raise living standards. The action engaged had helped bridge the wealth gap between town and country and had reduced poverty by 4.5 per cent.
96. The Government member of Cameroon informed the Committee that a dedicated minister for the SSE had been appointed in her country in 2004. The Government believed that human-centred development could be promoted through human-centred community efforts. A legislative framework had been put in place to foster the SSE and enable it to support the government priorities of job creation, bolstering entrepreneurship, and economic growth. Horizontal and vertical networking had been engaged to develop the value chain, connecting

the SSE through the network of local markets to multinational enterprise, and thus enable the SSE to generate sustainable employment. Governments could not leverage the SSE without the involvement of workers and employers. SSE units had a particular structure which allowed them to play an effective part in a human-centred recovery. Basic requirements for a thriving SSE included access to local markets, the provision of social protection, the collection of reliable statistics and a reliable information system.

- 97.** The Government member of Zimbabwe said that the SSE faced challenges regarding access to information; finance; markets; technology; infrastructure; and procurement opportunities. Those were compounded by low levels of technical and managerial skills, productivity and quality, insufficient support for research and development, and inadequate or overly burdensome administrative and regulatory requirements. In Zimbabwe, those challenges had been addressed through training on how to access funding markets and manage enterprises, and in the provision of land for housing and agriculture. However, these efforts had been curtailed by the imposition of sanctions. Cooperatives in Zimbabwe were mainly composed of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Discussions on revising the legislation on cooperatives to contribute more to national development were ongoing. Key considerations had included ensuring that SSE units operated under a legal framework and the systemization of data collection on SSE units. Resources had been channelled to support accelerated access to digital technologies.
- 98.** The Government member of Ghana said that the key challenges for the SSE arose from the size of the individual units, their limited resources, their restricted capacity to compete in higher-volume markets, low productivity, inadequate regulation, poor data collection and statistics, and as well as financial inclusion challenges. Governments should primarily act as an enabler for SSE units, to allow them to overcome their challenges and become more resilient. The social partners should support governments to promote SSE units and cooperative enterprises to mitigate decent work deficits at the local and national levels.
- 99.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Workers' group regarding the key role to be played by the State in the duty of ensuring the protection of human rights, respect for international labour standards, and the promotion of social dialogue. Governments recognized this responsibility. The groups also both agreed that skills development for the SSE should be driven by governments. More support from governments was needed. Furthermore, the SSE should not replace the State, which should continue to perform its core missions. Lower skills levels within SSE enterprises had constrained their economic viability. Strengthening the resources for skills would increase productivity and economic growth. The references made by certain governments regarding broad support to all enterprises in this area was welcomed.
- 100.** SSE enterprises faced the same challenges and pressures as other enterprises in terms of technology, demographics, globalization, and climate change, which had affected the entire labour market. Further government support would be needed. Certain SSE enterprises, in particular cooperatives, had links to or were members of employers' organizations, especially cooperatives, which demonstrated the clear links between the SSE and the employers. Social dialogue was of great importance, and with tripartism provided the means to progress. It was essential that the social economy be more present in the spaces where public policies that concerned it were designed. However, the institutional dialogue that could be held with SSE representatives should not be confused with social dialogue, which is the exclusive responsibility of the social partners.
- 101.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson underscored once more the close relationship between the SSE and trade unions. Government should take action to address the shrinking space allowed to

trade unions, the SSE, and other civil society actors as a priority. Inclusive dialogue would be required to correct that deficit. Specific, not preferential, treatment should be applied to strengthen the capacity of the SSE and allow it to contribute effectively. The group would welcome proposals for collaboration and coordination at the inter-ministerial level with a view to sharing best practices on the SSE.

- 102.** SSE collaboration with governments should not be used by governments to relinquish their responsibilities in the provision of quality public services, nor used as part of a hidden agenda to advance a case for privatization. Government had responsibility for investment in developing SSE skills and capacity, including the provision of resources and infrastructure, if the SSE was to succeed at scale. Ensuring decent wages within the SSE also remained the responsibility of the government.

Discussion point 4

Building on the century-long experience of the Office in supporting the ILO constituents, in partnership with the social and solidarity economy actors, what priority actions and measures should the Office take to promote the social and solidarity economy for a human-centred future of work?

- 103.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that several priority actions should guide the work of the ILO in promoting decent work and the social and solidarity economy (SSE) for a human-centred future of work. The Organization should follow its constitutional mandate, as set out in the ILO Constitution and the Declaration of Philadelphia; that should underpin all its interactions with the other UN agencies. The ILO should strengthen its action in support of SSE workers. The SSE should be present at the global, regional, and national levels, and should be embedded in Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). An integrated strategy was required to overcome legal and other barriers to the recognition of SSE units and should be based on international labour standards. The strategy should support Member States and the social partners in integrating the SSE in national employment, recovery, and development plans. The Office should also provide capacity-building for the SSE, to strengthen the promotion, ratification, and implementation of relevant international labour standards, with a focus on freedom of association and collective bargaining. Training to overcome obstacles associated with organizing workers in the SSE was critical to fostering social dialogue. The ILO should provide support to build a shared prosperity, based on a rights-based approach, to break the cycle of poverty.
- 104.** The ILO was the best-placed agency to measure the impacts of SSE in the transition from the informal to the formal economy and in the realization of the SDGs. It should conduct sectoral/industrial research and monitoring of performances in the areas where the SSE was contributing to an alternative economic model, taking into account just transition. The absence of data must not be used as an excuse for not promoting decent work in the SSE, but compilation of data, in close collaboration with the ILO statisticians, could provide information that would allow the development of policies to enhance the SSE. The ILO should develop guidance and provide training to labour inspectors to address the issue of abuses within the SSE. In collaboration with the ILO International Training Centre, the Organization should continue to provide capacity-building to constituents, in particular for trade unions on SSE. Finally, the ILO should promote policy coherence with multilateral institutions, including the international financial institutions, to establish structural transformation for employment creation and to support the transition to the formal economy by keeping international labour standards at the heart of the global agenda for SSE.

- 105.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson pointed out that the SSE had many facets and the number of enterprises that were part of SSE remained a minority. Moreover, the situation was different in each country. Many had adopted SSE legislation, but others did not recognize the concept. The global importance of SSE should not be overestimated and there was no single approach. However, the Office should prioritize support for the SSE as it contributed to inclusive economic growth. The Centenary Declaration and the Global Call to Action defined most of the necessary areas of action. The ILO should extend its work in promoting sustainable enterprises by supporting constituents in developing an enabling framework for SSE. That could operate as a lever to promote SSE productivity; creation of productive employment, including for young people and vulnerable groups; entrepreneurship; the transition from informality to formality; skills development and lifelong learning; gender equality and diversity; and better inclusion of vulnerable groups. Concerning the proposed policies to promote the SSE, The Employers' group felt that four key points were missing: the adoption and implementation of SSE promotion policies should help to promote measures that benefited all enterprises; the support measures should not create unfair treatment for other types of enterprises, as set out in Recommendation No. 193; technical assistance could be a valuable tool for improving the level of productivity and competitiveness of SSE enterprises; and the transition of workers and enterprises from the informal to the formal economy should be facilitated, as stated in Recommendation No. 204.
- 106.** Regarding the priority actions, the policy responses implemented by Member States to promote sustainable enterprises should be considered, since they could lead to a better integration of SSE enterprises. The Office should increase its legal and technical advice and provide capacity-building, to foster and support the development of enabling environments for sustainable enterprises, including SSE enterprises, and thus respond to the needs of constituents. It should support constituents in developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks that promoted the productivity of all enterprises, the creation of employment opportunities, skills development, entrepreneurship, and equal access to quality education. The Office should also better integrate the SSE into relevant ILO work outcomes, outputs and indicators and reactivate Office-wide coordination, including with the Bureaux for Employers' and Workers' Activities (ECT/EMP and ACTRAV), in close cooperation with employers' and workers' organizations at headquarters and in the field. The ILO should promote membership of SSE enterprises in employers' organizations and, in collaboration with the Turin Centre, and coordinating closely with ACT/EMP and ACTRAV, it should widen its training offer to support the development of management skills in SSE enterprises, to better respond to the needs of the labour market. Finally, the ILO should promote the SSE through its development cooperation projects, especially those on the promotion of youth employment, women's economic empowerment, inclusion of vulnerable groups, abolition of forced labour and elimination of child labour, transition to the formal economy, crisis response and resilience.
- 107.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that the following countries aligned themselves with the statement: Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Albania. The ILO should capitalize on the resurgence of interest in the SSE across the globe and, as a priority, should build on existing coordination efforts and policy guidance, and intensify relationships with other bodies and stakeholders, such as the International Cooperative Alliance, the OECD and the EU. The ILO could also integrate the SSE in policies, and projects, through its DWCPs or in its response to the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on the just, green and digital transitions. Female entrepreneurship and gender equality in the SSE should be encouraged. Moreover, the ILO could expand its knowledge hub on the SSE by strengthening its research activities and data collection. It could then develop guidance on the SSE, in particular through the sharing of good practices. These efforts could be

supported by the ILO International Training Centre. Young people should be at the heart of these activities. To this end, economic and business faculties of universities should be targeted with information about the SSE. The ILO, as a leader across the UN system in the SSE and its implication in the UN Task Force, should capitalize on its leadership and act as a template for further collaboration across the multilateral system. The EC wished to work closely with the ILO in its European Action Plan for the social economy.

- 108.** The Government member of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, stressed that, from a regional perspective, actions and measures taken by the Office should support technical assistance, training and knowledge-sharing opportunities to enable constituents to understand the SSE. Where legal and institutional frameworks existed, the Office should seek to strengthen the institutions and review weak legislative systems, and to provide the skills required to successfully manage these economic units. Regarding the collaboration between the Office and the African Union, in implementing the declaration of the regional agenda on SSE, as well as conducting an assessment of the SSE in Africa's agenda 2063, training programmes on regional and national surveys to collect statistics on SSE were necessary. The Africa group called on the Office to increase and intensify its promotional activities on Recommendation Nos 93, 204 and 205 and other related international instruments, since adequate knowledge of them would provide guidance to Member States and other stakeholders on the SSE and mainstreaming of the SSE into DWCP. Field offices should be adequately staffed to assist Member States. Finally, the Office should give priority to convening a tripartite forum as a platform for exchanging best practices.
- 109.** The Government member of Barbados underlined that the ILO had done good work in cooperatives, and it was now time to broaden its focus. In this regard, various priority actions and measures should be undertaken by the Office, such as providing technical assistance for smaller SSE units in the areas of governance and management; encouraging governments to engage organizations supported by the SSE in social dialogue structures; being aware that the SSE actors in smaller countries had particular features and needed special attention; and acting as the link between the SSE and other international organizations.
- 110.** The Government member of Zambia called on the ILO to continue providing technical assistance and conducting context specific diagnosis. The relevant ILO instruments already in place should be the starting point in promoting the SSE. The Government of his country had begun promotion of the SSE by a series of measures, including the establishment of a Ministry responsible for MSMEs, which included a Department of Cooperatives.
- 111.** The Government member of Mexico indicated that the ILO could support governments and SSE actors in the cross-cutting issues, in particular by supporting and conceptualizing tools for the optimal development of the SSE as a generator of decent work. The ILO was the right partner to support the development of legal, policy and operational capacities in the SSE; as an additional step, the Office could undertake an evaluation of the programmes and mechanisms in place, to identify areas for improvement. The ILO should maintain a differentiated vision of the SSE with respect to other types of enterprises and sectors. Finally, the ILO should assume greater leadership in the UN system, and greater efforts should be made to promote the SSE in regional and global spaces.
- 112.** The Government member of the United States underlined that her country broadly concurred with the future Office work on the SSE set out in paragraph 149 of the background report and highlighted some specific elements. The Office should support the promotion of conducive environments for the SSE through policy and legal advisory services, capacity-building and research to meet the needs of ILO constituents. It should also promote the collection and

compilation of comparable, harmonized data on the SSE. She emphasized the importance of rigorous evaluations and results measurement and, in terms of strategic partnerships, indicated that the United States Government supported the vision of an SSE global capacity-development network.

- 113.** The Government member of Canada recognized the Office's leadership role within the UNTFSSSE. Guided by the Centenary Declaration, the Office should leverage its experience to ensure that collaboration within the UN and in other international forums emphasized priorities under the ILO's mandate. In accompanying countries in formulating and adapting framework legislation and strategies on the SSE, the ILO played a pivotal role. When promoting the SSE, it should continue to support gender equality and prioritize care work. The ILO had successfully conducted research and awareness-raising on digital labour platforms. Examining the role the SSE could play in addressing decent work in the platform economy could support protection for gig and platform workers and contribute to reduce inequalities. Finally, the ILO could support increased capacity within the SSE to strengthen protection for workers, and health and safety measures, and in the prevention and elimination of child labour, by developing tools that could be shared and replicated across the sector.
- 114.** The Government member of China said that the ILO must promote the SSE by sharing experiences and good practices. It should intensify its efforts to strengthen its relations with other organizations to show leadership in maintaining policy coherence. The Office should also provide technical assistance to promote South-South and triangular cooperation and the circular economy.
- 115.** The Government member of Cameroon indicated that the Government of her country had committed to using the SSE to implement an innovative and inclusive mechanism, where leaving no one behind provided the path to development. The SSE should be seen by all constituents as a common opportunity and not as the exclusive responsibility of governments. The Office should support Member States by facilitating standardization of training to promote development of the SSE and provide guidance on: the effective structuring of the SSE; the design of a legal framework and relevant policies and strategies; and access to local, regional and international markets for SSE products through the multinationals and supply chains. Finally, the Office should consider the creation of a global SSE platform, in the form of a working group or committee, to ensure cooperation between countries through an exchange of good practice and mutual support.
- 116.** The Government member of Burkina Faso emphasized that her country subscribed to a definition of the SSE that integrated human dignity and the promotion of decent work. The SSE required increased solidarity from all parties so that its concept could be integrated into the various approaches to economic and social development. The Government of Burkina Faso had adopted several measures to strengthen the promotion of the SSE, including the use of alternative social protection systems, the promotion of universal health insurance and women's cooperatives, and the establishment of funds to finance community initiatives that helped create jobs for youth and women. In that connection, the ILO should play a role in accompanying Member States in the implementation of initiatives to support existing efforts.
- 117.** A Government member of Bangladesh pointed out that the SSE had grown in a haphazard way. It was still in its formative stage. A policy-based structure was required, drawn from assessments of the degree of vulnerability and the number of people in the SSE sector. Databases to collect statistics should be put in place to support the assessment. That would represent an important shift in the formulation of responsive policies and redressal measures.

- 118.** The Office could undertake action in several areas: collect best practices from various regions through regional and country offices and disseminate them to the countries in need of such support; conduct research and projects that would identify the people in the SSE, particularly in developing countries, and assist Member States in building public awareness among people in the SSE of possible government interventions to address their vulnerabilities. Funding and resources must be mobilized to enable the developing countries to address the challenges in the SSE. The Office could play a vital role by increasing development cooperation, financing from the international financial institutions, mobilizing donor funds and creating investment opportunities for the developing countries.
- 119.** The Government of Bangladesh worked closely with non-governmental organizations on training for youth and provided collateral free loans to young entrepreneurs, enabling them to become part of the national economy. Ventures in public-private partnership must not bring in commercial interests. Tripartite partners must ensure respect for the ethos, values, and culture of local societies in the SSE.
- 120.** A Government member of Argentina said that from the experience of his country undergoing profound economic transformation, it was unlikely that periphery countries would soon return to a full-employment situation, understood as a dependent wage relationship. However, societies could be full-employment societies with increased wages and new labour rights adapted to the reality of work without a direct employer.
- 121.** New institutions were required to increase the number of associated or cooperative workers and to ensure they enjoyed protection and their rights. Associated workers should be recognized for their contribution to the common good, such as the environment, care services, and democracy at the workplace. Their collective rights should be strengthened, and they should be included in social security systems. The cooperative model should not be used to make work more flexible or precarious. On the contrary, it was a tool to strengthen the autonomy of workers. It was also necessary to reinforce the relationship between all economic actors in a mixed economy where States, private actors with private ownership and SSE actors, also private but with social ownership, could contribute to the common good for future generations and more just societies.
- 122.** A Government member of Eswatini said that the creation of jobs remained a key challenge in his country and had become more acute after the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislation to govern and promote the SSE was essential but should not be a hinderance. Funds, profitable markets, training through private and public forums assisted by the ILO, were needed to ensure that work in the SSE was decent. Particular attention and support should be accorded to youth and vulnerable groups. The social partners should be closely involved, using social dialogue to find the way forward.
- 123.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said the discussion made clear that the SSE was important to many. There was a strong recognition of and support for the role of the SSE in delivering a human-centred future of work, and the Office should pay close heed to that. The ILO should urgently address the shrinking space accorded to the SSE and trade unions: addressing the systemic challenges that undermined democracy and participation was a prerequisite to benefiting from the work that had been carried out so far in support of the SSE. The ILO must lead and anchor the work that lay ahead.
- 124.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson mentioned that productive employment, fair working conditions, inclusion, equal treatment, and the possibility to create more and better jobs were not the exclusive domain of the SSE. Private companies of all sizes as well as modern public services also dealt with those issues.

125. Initiatives to promote the SSE must take a holistic approach and always be assessed in the light of the potential impact on all enterprises. Those initiatives should safeguard the conditions for fair competition and development for all. Specific regulations could be used to stimulate the SSE, but to do so, governments must be able to support enterprises as a whole.
126. Her group recognized the particular role of SSE actors in promoting, inter alia, a better inclusion of vulnerable groups in societies, while considering that private companies of all sizes also provided social benefits that contributed to community development and prosperity. Providing an enabling business environment that benefited the SSE as a lever for job creation, entrepreneurship and innovation, formalization, productivity, skills development, gender equality and diversity, women's empowerment and participation in the management of SSE enterprises, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable groups and their reintegration into the labour market, especially young people, would be a positive step forward.
127. Social dialogue and the social partners would continue to be the key partners for governments. Employers' organizations, which represented all private companies whether they belonged to the social economy or not, were ready to commit themselves.
128. It was important to better integrate the SSE into the relevant outcomes, outputs, and indicators of the ILO's existing work on sustainable enterprises. There was no need for a new ILO action programme on the SSE nor a new strategy. The Office would need to continue data collection and research on the place and role of the SSE in productivity, growth, job creation and entrepreneurship, but also in labour market reintegration. This could be an important contribution to the goal of achieving decent work for all and inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
129. A representative of Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy (RIPESS) said that RIPESS had collaborated with the ILO since 2009. RIPESS advocated retaining the definition of the SSE determined by the UNTFSSSE in 2014. In view of the multiple crises the world was facing, systemic change was needed. Cooperatives as well as others forms of collective enterprises built far greater resilience and were effective in including women in all their diversity. SSE multistakeholder networks had shown their capacity in partnering with States and all social partners to develop and enable policies, legislation and support mechanisms for decent work throughout the SSE. The ILO could create a working group with SSE networks to support implementation of the results of the Conference, particularly at the country level. RIPESS would be willing to offer its assistance to that effect.
130. A representative of the Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) network informed the Committee that street vendors, landless farmers, home and domestic workers represented 61 per cent of the world's workers, and the majority were women. Most workers in the popular economy were independent or worked as part of collectives. Economic growth did not create high-quality employment for all. For poor workers, the SSE presented a way to exit the informal economy. The recognition of rights and a basic universal wage were urgently needed.
131. A representative of SSE International Forum (SSE IF) said that the SSE was an integral part of the global economy. SSE organizations and enterprises all operated according to a number of principles: respect for people and for the social mission; limited distribution of wealth through redistribution; the democratic actions of the members; collective or joint property; the collective interests of the members; the defence of issues of general interest; shared responsibility; and the defence of rights in the face of public authority. Diverse forms of organizations existed in the SSE but they all shared those values and principles.

- 132.** A representative of HomeNet International said that the SSE was a very important topic of discussion for home based workers and for other workers in the informal economy such as street and market vendors, waste collectors, and domestic workers. Many of those workers had organized themselves as cooperatives, self-help groups, mutual benefit trusts, producer-owned companies and many other forms of SSE enterprises. Those organizations were owned and run by the workers in a democratic manner. They were not a social enterprise or the result of corporate social responsibility. Forming SSE organizations was a way of transitioning from the informal to the formal economy. Home based workers needed an enabling environment for development and sustainability, including supportive legislation and policies, financial support, training and upskilling. In addition to government support, HomeNet International would welcome support from and strong cooperation with the trade union movement.
- 133.** A representative of International Young Christian Workers (JOCI) said that the SSE was a transformative tool to shift from a capitalist economy to a more collaborative system. It was also a means to ensure the preservation of indigenous culture, and a way for all sectors to take part in building a human-centred economy for achieving solidarity, democracy and equality while respecting the environment. The SSE could help young workers to work, share and live and integrate in the economy. Its values, principles and practices needed to be promoted while creating decent work to provide protection for workers.

Consideration of amendments to the draft conclusions

- 134.** The Chairperson introduced the draft conclusions as submitted by the Drafting Group. A total of 116 amendments to that text had been handed in to the secretariat. While there had been differing opinions during the Drafting Group's debates, in many instances consensus on wording had been reached. Where there had been no agreement, the text had been left between square brackets, and text thus bracketed would be dealt with in the same manner as the amendments submitted by the Committee.

The title of the conclusions

- 135.** The title of the conclusions was adopted without amendment.

Point 1

- 136.** Point 1 was adopted without amendment.

Additional point to be included after point 1

- 137.** The Employers' group submitted an additional paragraph to be included after point 1, to read as follows:

Affirming the ILO's mandate for social justice and decent work and the objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the world of work and contribute to a better future for people, planet, prosperity, peace, cooperation and solidarity, and aim at fostering an inclusive and sustainable economic growth and reducing inequalities;

- 138.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that the text submitted was a compromise, which took account of the concerns expressed by the Employers' group during the discussions in the Drafting Group and of the fact that the Workers also had an issue with point 2.
- 139.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson wished to know whether the text submitted by the Employers was intended to replace the text of the present point 2, or to be included with it. During the

debates of the Drafting Group, the Workers had felt that the existing point 2 was not relevant and should be deleted. In addition to the Workers, some governments had also expressed concern at point 2.

140. The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that the amendment submitted by her group was intended to replace existing point 2.
141. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the amendment put forward by the Employers' group, as the mention of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was very important.
142. The Government member of Eswatini supported the amendment put forward by the Employers' group.
143. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008, were the guiding references in this point, her group wished to refer to "development" rather than "growth". She proposed a subamendment to replace "fostering an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, [...]" by "fostering an inclusive and sustainable economic development, [...]".
144. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that her group wished to retain the reference to "sustainable economic growth", but for the sake of flexibility would subamend in line with SDG 8 to "fostering an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, and reducing inequalities;".
145. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed to that subamendment.
146. The Government member of Bangladesh, seconded by the Government member of the Philippines, said that SDG 8 was linked to economic, social and environmental elements and that those should be reflected here. He proposed a subamendment to read: "fostering an inclusive and sustainable growth and development, and reducing inequalities;".
147. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she preferred the previous subamendment, as proposed by her group, but could accept "sustainable economic growth and development, and reducing inequalities;".
148. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the proposed subamendment did not sufficiently reflect SDG 8, which referred to sustained economic growth, employment and decent work for all. Her group could not accept the subamendment as it stood.
149. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she had accepted the subamendment by the Government of Bangladesh in a spirit of compromise but preferred the Employers' group subamendment which included the wording "employment and decent work for all".
150. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that he understood the intention behind the Government of Bangladesh's subamendment but considered that the wording was redundant. He supported the previous subamendment from the social partners that quoted from agreed text.
151. The Government members of Switzerland and Zimbabwe said that they supported the previous subamendment.
152. The Government member of Bangladesh, seconded by the Government member of the Philippines, proposed adding the words "and development" after "economic growth".
153. The Government member of Cameroon said that he supported the Government of Bangladesh's subamendment and suggested another subamendment to add "for all" at the

end of the sentence because such developments could, in some cases, benefit only certain levels. His subamendment was not seconded and fell.

- 154.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she understood the position of the governments but considered that adding "and development" was redundant.
- 155.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that, although the word "development" did no harm, her group preferred to stick to the wording of SDG 8.
- 156.** The Government member of Bangladesh said that by adding "and development" he had sought to improve the text. However, given that the wording of the amendment as subamended by the Employers was in line with that of SDG 8, he could support it.
- 157.** The subamendment submitted by the Government of Bangladesh was withdrawn and amendment submitted by the Employers' group was adopted as subamended by the same group.

Point 2

- 158.** The adoption of a new point following point 1 and replacing the former point 2 meant that all amendments to former point 2 fell.
- 159.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to introduce a second new point after point 1 as follows:

Recalling that in line with the Centenary Declaration the ILO must direct its efforts to promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy, in order to generate decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all, and appreciating that enterprises are sustainable to the extent that they align their long-term viability with the mandate of the ILO and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Given that point 3 was not supported by all, the new proposed paragraph sought to provide a compromise by referring explicitly to the ILO's promotion of an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, and to MSMEs and enterprises from the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

- 160.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that her group could not support the amendment. Point 4 already addressed the concerns that it raised and placed the focus on the SSE. While the proposed point reflected the wording of the Centenary Declaration, other parts of the conclusions dealt with the points highlighted by the Employers. This point of the conclusions should focus on the SSE.
- 161.** The Government member of Canada said that he sought to strike a balance by submitting a subamendment to delete the first two words of the Employers' amendment and replace the words "in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy in order to generate" by "which includes the role of the social and solidarity economy as one of the principal agents in generating". The subamendment kept the focus on the SSE while addressing the Employers' concern that the SSE did not have a monopoly on contributing to decent work and sustainable growth.
- 162.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the subamendment proposed by Canada.
- 163.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that her group could support the subamendment.

- 164.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that, although she acknowledged that the amendment captured clause (ix) of the Centenary Declaration, she recalled that, under clause (x), the Declaration also called on the ILO to direct its efforts to supporting the role of the public sector. If the Committee sought to truly capture the essence of what the Centenary Declaration said, it would also have to mention the public sector. Doing so was overly complicated and overlapped with point 4. However, in order to work with the subamendment submitted by Canada, she proposed a further subamendment that would also mention the Social Justice Declaration and the Global call to action for a human-centred recovery, and delete the wording "entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and". The Workers' group wanted to maintain the emphasis on the SSE and the promotion of an enabling environment for the SSE, seeing no need to mention all the other agents involved in generating decent work.
- 165.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson noted that the Workers' subamendment made the introduction to the new point very similar to that of point 4. While she understood that the ILO Centenary Declaration also made reference to the public sector, her group did not want to lose the mention of entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises.
- 166.** The Government member of Barbados said that the amendment and the Workers' subamendment overlapped with point 4. No amendment had been made to that point, so the Committee should avoid creating repetition and making the text unnecessarily complicated by adding a new point.
- 167.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that she concurred with the concern expressed by the Government member of Barbados and had therefore not been in favour of adding a new point in the first place.
- 168.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that the Social Justice Declaration did not refer to the SSE, whereas the ILO Centenary Declaration did and was the most recent text to do so. She supported Canada's subamendment, which seemed to offer a good compromise.
- 169.** The Government members of Brazil, Eswatini and Zimbabwe said that they supported the subamendment submitted by Canada.
- 170.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the reason for mentioning all three texts in their group's subamendment was to avoid singling out a particular element of the discussion that had been taking place over the past two years. Since the Social Justice Declaration, the two most recent texts were the Centenary Declaration, which spoke about balancing the private and public sectors, and the Global call to action for a human-centred recovery, which went a bit further, encouraging the ILO to promote an enabling environment for the private and public sectors and the SSE. The Workers' subamendment made no mention of any other enterprise because the SSE was captured on its own merits and the private sector had other goals. If one part of the wider discussion was to be introduced here, it had to be balanced out by the full picture, which had already been reflected in point 4. To avoid delaying progress on other amendments, she proposed that the point should be bracketed for the time being to allow for further consideration.
- 171.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that there had been wide support for the amendment, as subamended by Canada. To show their flexibility in the discussions, her group would nevertheless accept the point being bracketed.
- 172.** The amendment was bracketed for later discussion.

Point 3

173. The text of point 3 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

The Centenary Declaration sets down that the ILO must direct its efforts to "supporting the role of the private sector as a principal source of economic growth and job creation by promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy, in order to generate decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all".

174. The Chairperson said that six amendments had been submitted in relation to point 3.

175. The Employer Vice-Chairperson sought clarity in light of the discussions regarding the replacement of point 3 by new text submitted by the Employers, which the Committee had just agreed to place within brackets to allow more time for consultations. She questioned whether further discussions on point 3 would be appropriate at this time and proposed to place it within brackets as well.

176. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed that point 3 would require bracketing as the new point submitted by the Employers' group addressed the same issues as the current point 3. Given that the new proposed point and point 3 were related and impacted each other, it would be appropriate to bracket point 3 and move forward.

177. It was so decided.

Point 4

178. The text of point 4 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

Taking into consideration that the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 (the Social Justice Declaration), the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019, and the ILO Global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient, 2021, explicitly recognize the social and solidarity economy (SSE) as a relevant means of achieving sustainable development, social justice, decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all.

179. Point 4 was adopted without amendment.

Point 5

180. The text of point 5 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

Recognizing the relevance of the SSE to its mandate since the founding of the Organization, the ILO has led the promotion of the SSE within the United Nations (UN) system, including through standards-related action. Although the SSE is not new, its policy importance and visibility have grown significantly since the beginning of this century. The Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193), the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204) and the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205) acknowledge the contribution of the SSE to inclusive societies, to the transition from the informal to the formal economy, to enabling recovery and to building resilience.

181. The Government member of China introduced an amendment to insert the words "poverty reduction" in the latter part of the point, to read as follows:

acknowledge the contribution of the SSE to poverty reduction, inclusive societies, to the transition from the informal to the formal economy [...].

182. The Government member of Bangladesh seconded the proposed amendment.
183. The Worker Vice-Chairperson and the Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, as did the Government members of Zimbabwe and Eswatini.
184. The amendment was adopted.
185. Point 5 was adopted as amended.

Title of Part II

186. The title of Part II of the conclusions was adopted without amendment.

Point 6

187. The text of point 6 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

The SSE encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social, and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and /or participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets. SSE entities aspire to long-term viability and sustainability, and to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and operate in all sectors of the economy. They put into practice a set of values which are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability, and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods. The SSE may include [according to national circumstances, including regulations/and practices,] cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE.

188. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to point 6 to delete the words "may" and "according to national circumstances, including regulations/and practices" from the last sentence of the proposed text of point 6 and to add an "s" to the word "include" to read "includes". This change was proposed because a definition should contain standard terms and not qualifying language. Language that sought to introduce variables, such as "according to national circumstances" could feature in other parts of the conclusions but should be excluded from the definition of the SSE. Further entities could be added, as appropriate, following the word "includes" to provide a holistic picture of the SSE. The group would be prepared to accept "may include" rather than "includes", however.
189. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported inclusion of the word "may".
190. The Government member of Zimbabwe, on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment proposed by the Worker Vice-Chairperson and in particular the removal of the reference to regulations.
191. The Government member of Bangladesh maintained that national context and the qualifying language referring to regulations and practices were crucially important, observing that the amendment proposed by the Employers' group recognized this. He could not support the amendment proposed by the Workers' group.
192. The Government member of Brazil noted that national circumstances were central to this issue; she could not support the amendment.

193. The Government member of Barbados, speaking on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC), was in favour of having national circumstances, regulations and practices included in point 6 and did not support the amendments.
194. The Employer Vice-Chairperson thought it important to maintain the reference to national context and to the different realities on the ground. She presented her group's amendment which proposed replacing "circumstances" with the word "context" and maintaining "regulations/and practices" as a subamendment to the Workers' proposed amendment.
195. The Worker Vice-Chairperson subamended the Employers' proposal by deleting the word "may", to read "[t]he SSE includes, according to national context, cooperatives, associations, [...]"., noting that the inclusion of a reference to national context already made the definition non-standard, and the inclusion of the variable "may" would make it even less standard.
196. The Employer Vice-Chairperson accepted the deletion of "may" and agreed to the replacement of "circumstances" by "context". However, she preferred to keep "national context, regulations and practices".
197. The Worker Vice-Chairperson asked the governments to clarify what SSE entities would not be covered if the reference to "regulations and practices" were removed, to better understand their concerns. She re-emphasized that the definition should be a standard reference and without variables and qualifiers, which could only dilute and reduce it.
198. The Government member of France, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the deletion of "may" and preferred the simple terminology of "national circumstances" in keeping with agreed language within the ILO. His group could be flexible with a view to achieving consensus, while noting that a simple formulation would be best to achieve a comprehensive universal definition. He supported the deletion of "regulations and practices".
199. The Government member of Switzerland supported the proposal of the EU and its Member States.
200. The Government member of Canada supported the deletion of "may" and the replacement of "national context" with "national circumstances", while noting that "context" would be acceptable as well, even though more support had been expressed for "circumstances".
201. The Government member of Barbados, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that the definition had to be understandable and it had to take into consideration what happened in individual countries and Member States. He noted that the language regarding regulations and practices took on meaning with the reference to "other entities" at the end of the sentence. The amendment proposed by GRULAC reflected the desire to include within the definition as many structures as possible, while allowing for the realities that may exist in Member States. He supported retaining "including regulations and practices".
202. The Government member of Bangladesh reiterated the importance of retaining the wording "national circumstances" in this paragraph and was also in favour of maintaining "regulations and practices", though he could be flexible on that point, as well as with regard to the deletion of the word "may".
203. The Chairperson observed that the Committee appeared comfortable with the following language: "The SSE includes, according to national circumstances, cooperatives, associations [...]".
204. The Employer Vice-Chairperson, the Worker Vice-Chairperson, the Government members of Canada, France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, and Türkiye supported that formulation.

205. The Government member of Bangladesh was in favour of that wording, provided both social partners were able to agree to the deletion of the words "including regulations / and practices".
206. The Government member of Barbados, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, preferred to retain the words "including regulations / and practices", but was prepared to compromise.
207. The Government members of Eswatini, Switzerland, and of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the proposal.
208. The amendment to point 6, proposed by the Workers, as subamended by the Committee, was adopted.
209. The Government member of Barbados, speaking on behalf of GRULAC introduced an amendment to include the word "friendly" before societies in the last sentence of point 6, as that form of SSE organization was particular to some of the Member States in the region.
210. The Worker Vice-Chairperson recognized the meaning of "friendly" societies in some contexts as societies akin to the cooperative movement.
211. The Employer Vice-Chairperson found the concept difficult to understand, also because the change did not affect the French version of the text.
212. The Government member of Bangladesh supported the amendment from GRULAC.
213. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed with keeping the reference to "friendly" societies in the text.
214. The Employer Vice-Chairperson found the term confusing as there was no translation in French.
215. The deputy representative of the Secretary-General said that there were many types of SSE organizations that were relevant in some country contexts but that were not listed in the definition: for instance mutual benefit societies, or mutual associations for the purposes of insurance, or credit unions. Adding too many different terms was not recommended.
216. The Employer Vice-Chairperson, in view of the secretariat's explanation, did not support the addition of the term "friendly" societies.
217. The representative of the Secretary-General added that the text in French and in Spanish would not change. The word "friendly" would only be included in the English language version.
218. The Government member of the Philippines asked whether the word "altruistic" as a substitute for the word "friendly" would be useful.
219. The Government member of Barbados said that the term "friendly societies" was specifically used in the English-speaking Caribbean. Once the definition had been adopted, one needed to bear in mind that different nomenclatures were in place.
220. The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that the text already included a reference to other entities. As the aim was to reflect a universal trend, the definition did not need to cater for specific contexts.
221. The Government member of Barbados withdrew the proposed amendment.
222. Point 6 was adopted as amended.

Point 7

223. The text of point 7 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

The complementarity and relationship between for-profit-enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium enterprises, and SSE entities, enterprises, and organizations can also strengthen the contribution to decent work and the social and solidarity economy, as well as to inclusive economic growth and community development and should be enhanced.

224. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, presented an amendment to remove point 7 from the position it occupied in the text as it was not appropriate as part of a definition. It could be more suitably placed in the subsequent section of the conclusions on the guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities.
225. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced a similar amendment and agreed that point 7 did not fit into a definition. However, before deciding whether it should be moved to elsewhere in the text, a balance recognizing complementarity between for-profit enterprises, not-for-profit enterprises and the SSE, must be established.
226. The Employer Vice-Chairperson was not favourable to deleting the point, and mentioned that it was important to her group, and of interest to all constituents. It could be kept for the section on challenges and opportunities, with further amendments.
227. The Government member of Bangladesh echoed the need to recognize the complementarity and relationship between for-profit and not-for-profit enterprises and supported the Workers' amendment to delete point 7.
228. The Government members of Barbados, speaking on behalf of GRULAC and Switzerland supported including point 7 under another section of the conclusions.
229. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed adding point 7 as a new clause in point 8.
230. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported that amendment. He suggested that changes to point 7 should be discussed on the basis of the amendment proposed by the Employers' group.
231. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported that suggestion.
232. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that SSE entities were part of an ecosystem in which governments, employers and workers performed specific roles. That interdependent relationship and complementarity contributed to the promotion of decent work and needed to be made clear.
233. The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed a subamendment to be consistent with the agreed language regarding sustainable economic growth by replacing the terms "to decent work and the social and solidarity economy, as well as to inclusive and sustainable economic growth" by "to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, [...]".
234. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment.
235. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the subamendment. He introduced a further subamendment proposing to shorten the first sentence by replacing the wording "The complementarity between for-profit-enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and SSE entities, enterprises, and organizations, [...]" by "The complementarity between SSE entities and other enterprises, [...]".
236. The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons supported the second subamendment.
237. The Government members of Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil and the Philippines supported the amendment and both subamendments.

- 238.** The Government member of Zimbabwe proposed a further subamendment to include "recognize" before "The complementarity" at the beginning of the paragraph, and to delete the words following "decent work for all".
- 239.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported that subamendment.
- 240.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment to the subamendment and added that point 7 could be placed between clauses (f) and (g) of point 8. The Employers' group proposed a further amendment to the subamendment by adding the words "and promote" after the word "Recognize" at the beginning of the paragraph, in order to keep the word "promote" that had been lost by removing the last phrase.
- 241.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, proposed adding the word "that" after "Recognize and promote" in order to clarify the text.
- 242.** The representative of the Secretary-General explained that if "Recognize and promote" was included at the beginning of the first sentence it would change the dynamic of the text, even if the language problems that it introduced could be arranged satisfactorily.
- 243.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced a further subamendment by deleting "and promote that" from the first sentence, placing a semicolon at the end of the phrase after "decent work for all, and adding a final phrase worded "This complementarity should be promoted".
- 244.** The Government member of Bangladesh introduced two further subamendments by adding the words "promote that" after "Recognize" at the beginning of the first sentence and adding "community development," after "economic growth".
- 245.** The Government member of the Philippines seconded those subamendments.
- 246.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson did not support Bangladesh's further subamendments as the meaning was not clear. She requested to return to the text proposed previously.
- 247.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson questioned the grammatical accuracy of the revised text. She proposed a further subamendment that read:
- Recognize and promote the complementarity between SSE entities and other enterprises and that this complementarity should enhance the achievement of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
- She explained that the words "community development" had been deleted for the sake of concision.
- 248.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that she could support the subamendment but proposed to introduce the word "further" after "should" and before "enhance".
- 249.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson rejected that subamendment on the grounds that the word "enhance" sufficed.
- 250.** The Government member of Zimbabwe said that he was flexible but preferred "enhance" to "further enhance".
- 251.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that if the word "further" were to be removed, she proposed deleting the word "should" before "enhance" and replacing "enhance" with "enhances".
- 252.** The Government member of China suggested retaining the term "community development" as it was an important dimension of the notion of "complementarity" and the word "enhance"

should also refer to community development. She supported the remainder of the text that included the last amendment proposed by the Employers' group.

- 253.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that the issue of complementarity was also referred to in point 9(d). She explained that there was a need to qualify "complementarity" by adding words such as "should enhance", "could enhance" or "may enhance". She suggested putting the clause in brackets for discussion together with the amendments submitted to point 9(d).
- 254.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she could support retaining "should enhance" but "community development" needed to be removed. The paragraph must remain coherent.
- 255.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the proposal by the Employers' group to delete "community development".
- 256.** The Government member of Bangladesh supported point 7 as subamended.
- 257.** The Chairperson stated that consensus was reached on the language of point 7. He noted that the Employers' group proposed to change point 7 to a clause in point 8 between clauses (f) and (g).
- 258.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the proposal.
- 259.** The Government member of Zimbabwe supported the proposal.
- 260.** Point 7 was adopted as amended and moved to point 8 as a clause between clauses (f) and (g).
- 261.** Part 2 – Definition of SSE – was adopted

Title of Part III

- 262.** The title of Part III was adopted without amendment.

Point 8

- 263.** The first sentence of point 8 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

In pursuing opportunities to promote decent work and the SSE for a human-centred future of work, Member States should:
- 264.** The Government member of China proposed an amendment to the first sentence of point 8 to insert", taking into account national circumstances," after "Member States" and before "should". She explained that countries had diverse practices and were at different levels of development, as was mentioned in the Office report.
- 265.** The Government member of Bangladesh seconded that amendment.
- 266.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson favoured the original language of point 8 and pointed out that the issue of "national circumstances" was dealt with in an earlier point. However, her group could support the amendment if there was a majority in favour of it.
- 267.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson preferred the original language of point 8 but could be flexible.
- 268.** The Government member of Bangladesh supported the amendment. He explained that other ILO instruments, such as the Global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, referred to "taking into account national circumstances".
- 269.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that he was flexible and could support the consensus.

- 270.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment.
- 271.** The Government member of China noted that point 8 concerned guiding principles; therefore, it was important to make reference to national circumstances to allow Member States a degree of flexibility.
- 272.** The Government members of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Thailand supported the amendment.
- 273.** The Chairperson pointed out that there was broad support from Government members for the amendment introduced by China.
- 274.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson, in the spirit of consensus, was flexible on the amendment.
- 275.** The first sentence of point 8 was adopted as amended.

Clause 8(a)

- 276.** The text of clause 8(a) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

consider the contribution of the SSE to decent work, inclusive and sustainable economies, social justice, sustainable development and improving standards of living for all;
- 277.** Clause 8(a) was adopted without amendment.
- 278.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, presented an amendment to insert a new clause after point 8(a) that read as follows:

acknowledge the role that the SSE can play as one of the actors that can redefine the meaning of work in a time when people aspire to not only decent but meaningful work;

The new clause was intended to place emphasis on the most recent transformation of the world of work. Among the younger generation, it was more relevant than ever to create job opportunities that did not only respect workers' rights and dignity but that were also meaningful and fulfilling in terms of values and motivation. He explained that the notion was captured in Decent Work; however, it was important to refer to "meaningful" explicitly, especially in the post COVID-19 context.
- 279.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson pointed out that paragraph 8(a) already encompassed the notion of decent work. Her group could not support the amendment as proposed by the France on behalf of the EU and its Member States as the amendment could give the impression that work was currently meaningless. The group could however be open to further amending it.
- 280.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that she understood the rationale behind the proposed amendment but would prefer to not divide the notion of decent work. She introduced a subamendment to insert the word "entities" after "SSE" and to replace "but meaningful work" with "work but work that is meaningful";.
- 281.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the subamendment introduced by the Workers' group.
- 282.** The Government member of Bangladesh stated that he supported the amendment.
- 283.** The Government member of Argentina introduced a subamendment, after the words "aspire to", to delete the words "not only" and after the word "decent" to delete the word "but", and to add the word "and" after the word "decent", and after the words "meaningful work" to add the words "for people and the planet". That would recognize the importance of both decent work and meaningful work.

- 284.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson seconded the subamendment of Argentina and noted that Argentina had, previously in the discussion, made reference to "redefining work". She hoped that the subamendment introduced by Argentina might help to achieve a consensus on the current point.
- 285.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced a further subamendment to replace the word "redefine" before the words "the meaning" by the words "contribute to", and to replace the word "of" after the word "meaning" by the words "given to".
- 286.** The Government member of the Bahamas proposed a subamendment to delete the words "but meaningful" after the word "decent", noting that there was no need for the word "meaningful" because decent work was inherently meaningful. She also proposed replacing the words "acknowledge the role" before the words "SSE" by the words "recognize the functions".
- 287.** The Government member of the United States seconded the subamendment of the Bahamas.
- 288.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced a subamendment to the subamendment put forward by the Government member of Argentina to delete the word "meaningful" before the word "work" and to add, after the word "work", the words "that is meaningful to persons" and to delete the words "for people" before the words "and the planet".
- 289.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced a subamendment to replace the word "functions" after the words "recognize the" by the word "role". She accepted the use of the word "persons" as proposed in the subamendment of the EU but noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had used the words "people and planet".
- 290.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment of the Workers' group.
- 291.** The Government member of the Philippines supported the subamendment introduced by the Bahamas, to delete the words "but meaningful". She proposed a subamendment to delete the words "that is" after the word "work" and to add a comma after the word "work".
- 292.** The Government member of Bangladesh seconded the subamendment introduced by the Philippines.
- 293.** The Government member of the United States introduced a subamendment to add the words "to help realize/achieve" before the words "decent work".
- 294.** The Chairperson noted that no Committee member had seconded the proposed subamendment of the United States, and that therefore it fell. The proposed new clause to follow clause 8(a) was adopted as subamended.

Clause 8(b)

- 295.** The text of clause 8(b) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work, other human rights, and relevant international labour standards, including in all types of SSE entities;
- 296.** Clause 8(b) was adopted without amendment.

Clause 8(c)

- 297.** The text of clause 8(c) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

value the local anchoring of the SSE and its contribution to both well-established and innovative solutions to provide decent work opportunities and meet the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, particularly women, including in rural areas;

298. The Government member of Türkiye presented an amendment to replace the words "and marginalized groups, particularly women" by the words "and vulnerable groups". The rationale for the proposed amendment was that the word "vulnerable" was more encompassing than the word "marginalized". Furthermore, the original formulation implied that all women were members of a marginalized or vulnerable group, which was not the case.
299. The Government member of Canada seconded the proposed amendment.
300. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that she supported the amendment. She introduced a subamendment to delete the words "disadvantaged and" which were unnecessary.
301. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced a subamendment to reintroduce the words "particularly women" after the word "groups".
302. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that she supported the subamendment of the Workers' group.
303. The Government member of Bangladesh supported the amendment of Türkiye, as subamended by the Workers' group to reintroduce the words "particularly women" after the word "groups".
304. The Government member of Brazil supported the subamendment of the Workers' group.
305. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced a further subamendment to add, after the word "women", the words ", youth and persons with disabilities as well as disadvantaged groups, [...]".
306. The Government member of Mexico did not support the amendment put forward by France on behalf of the EU and its Member States. He introduced a subamendment to delete the word "vulnerable" before the word "groups" and add the words "in vulnerable situations" after the word "groups". He supported the subamendment of the Workers' group.
307. The Government member of Brazil seconded the subamendment of Mexico.
308. The Government member of Argentina supported the subamendment of Mexico.
309. The Government member of Barbados asked for a confirmation that Mexico had proposed the phrase "disadvantaged groups in vulnerable situations".
310. The Government member of Mexico stated that what was most important was to include a reference to groups in vulnerable situations. That would obviate the need for an exhaustive list of individual groups. He indicated that retaining the word "disadvantaged" was acceptable.
311. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced a subamendment to delete the words "and vulnerable" before the word "groups", and to add after the word "groups" the words "and persons in vulnerable situations".
312. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment of the Workers' group.
313. The Government members of Barbados, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Türkiye supported the subamendment of the Workers' group.
314. The Government member of the Bahamas proposed a subamendment to reintroduce the words "and vulnerable" before the word "groups", noting that the term "vulnerable groups" was accepted UN terminology.

315. The Chairperson noted that the subamendment of the Bahamas had not been seconded and therefore it was not retained.

316. The Government member of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presented an amendment to add the words "persons with disabilities" after "particularly". He explained that persons with disabilities were an important category of people that his Government supported, particularly in rural areas. His amendment was not seconded and fell.

317. The amended version of clause 8(c), submitted by Türkiye, was adopted as subamended.

Clauses 8(d) to 8(i)

318. Clauses 8(d) through to 8(i) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

- (d) develop an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach to the promotion of the SSE, including concerning groups in situations of vulnerability, recognizing the value of care and unpaid work;
- (e) consider the need to pay special attention to SSE workers and economic entities in the design, implementation and monitoring of strategies and measures to address the root causes of informality and facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy and the achievement of decent work and universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems;
- (f) consider the contribution of sustainable enterprises to decent work, as outlined in the Conclusions concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises, 2007;
- (g) recognize and support the contribution of the SSE to a just digital transition;
- (h) take account of the SSE's role in respecting human dignity, building community and fostering diversity, solidarity, and respect for traditional knowledge and cultures, including among indigenous and tribal peoples;
- (i) assess the potential of the SSE to withstand crises and preserve jobs, including in small and medium enterprises, notably in some cases of enterprise restructuring through transition to worker ownership.

319. Clauses 8(d) through to 8(i) were adopted without amendment. Point 8 in its entirety was adopted as amended.

Point 9

320. The first sentence of point 9 submitted by the Drafting Group to the Committee read as follows:

However, several challenges require Member States to consider:

321. The first sentence of point 9 was adopted without amendment.

Clause 9(a)

322. Clause 9(a) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

the difficulties that SSE entities face and share with the vast majority of micro, small and medium enterprises, in particular in most developing countries, such as an unfavourable environment for SSE entities, [such as shrinking civic space,] policies exacerbating informality, poverty, and indebtedness, legal uncertainty, weak rule of law, inadequate access to finance, unfair competition and trade practices and other deficits in the conditions for a conducive environment;

323. The Government member of Canada introduced an amendment to delete the words "the difficulties that" before "SSE entities" and to include the words "unique challenges, in addition

to the difficulties that they" before "share", and removing the word "and" before "share". It was important to underline that SSE entities faced unique challenges in addition to the difficulties they shared with other types of enterprises. For example, in the Canadian context, SSE entities were often unable to access business development support, financing programmes and other support for innovation. The amendment also included replacing "the vast majority of" with "many" as the original wording could potentially lead to a mischaracterization of the situation. As it was not possible to quantify and verify whether it was "the vast majority of micro small and medium enterprises" or not, it was more appropriate to use "many".

- 324.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson pointed out that a considerable amount of time had been spent on point 9(a) in the Drafting Group and the only challenge concerning point 9(a) was the notion of "shrinking civic space" that had been left between square brackets. She did not want to reopen the debate on point 9(a) and preferred to discuss the text that had been left between square brackets.
- 325.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that besides the text that had been left between square brackets, she understood consensus had been reached on point 9(a).
- 326.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, supported the amendment put forward by the Government members of Canada and the United States.
- 327.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the amendment but his group could be flexible to achieve consensus.
- 328.** The Government member of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment.
- 329.** The Government member of Islamic Republic of Iran supported the amendment.
- 330.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson favoured the original text, though her group could be flexible on that point provided that the Workers' group was also flexible.
- 331.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that her group supported the amendment with a view to not blocking consensus. She was concerned about the process, as she understood that text under considerable debate in the Drafting Group was placed within brackets and that the Committee was subsequently called on to concentrate on the bracketed text.
- 332.** The amendment submitted by Canada was adopted.
- 333.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, introduced an amendment to delete the words "in particular in most developing countries" after "micro small and medium enterprises". Her group believed that the wording stigmatized developing countries. She asked whether there was data that showed that enterprises and SSE entities in developing countries faced more problems as compared to other countries.
- 334.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that her group could support the amendment with a view to not blocking consensus.
- 335.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson aligned herself with the position of the Workers' group.
- 336.** The Government member of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Philippines and Pakistan, supported the amendment.
- 337.** The Government member of Senegal supported the amendment.
- 338.** The Government member of Kenya supported the amendment for the same reasons provided by the Government member of Argentina speaking on behalf of GRULAC.

339. The Government member of Eswatini supported the amendment.
340. The Government member of Islamic Republic of Iran supported the amendment.
341. The amendment submitted by Argentina was adopted.
342. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete the words "such as shrinking civic space" after "SSE entities" as the meaning of the wording was not clear. Her group would be willing to accept a reformulation by the Workers' group that would make the phrase more comprehensible and readable.
343. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced a subamendment to replace "shrinking civic space" with "lack of adequate participation". While not undermining tripartism, the wording aimed to recognize the need to broaden participation and involve other groups in issues that related to their interests.
344. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment introduced by the Worker Vice-Chairperson.
345. The Government member of Canada supported the subamendment.
346. The Government member of Algeria explained that in French "civic space" referred to collective or individual rights, which could lead to different interpretations of the term.
347. The Government member of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, could support the subamendment, but requested clarification from the Worker Vice-Chairperson on the word "participation".
348. The Worker Vice-Chairperson explained that "participation" referred to consultations and discussions.
349. The Government member of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, introduced a further subamendment to delete "such as" and insert the words "in social dialogue and tripartite engagement" after "participation". The subamendment was not seconded and fell.
350. The Government member of Eswatini supported the subamendment introduced by the Workers' group.
351. The Government member of Cameroon could support the position of the Government member of Kenya and supported the text in English as subamended. In the French text, she requested to change the wording to "lack of sufficient civic participation".
352. The subamendment submitted by the Workers' group was adopted.
353. The Government member of Canada introduced an amendment on behalf of Canada and the United States to add "including" after the second reference to "SSE entities" for purely linguistic reasons, and to include "markets and competency development programmes" after "finance" and before "unfair competition". He noted that most national strategies to support SSE's included assistance in identifying market access and competency development among their key elements, and that making reference thereto in the text added value.
354. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the proposed amendment.
355. The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that her group was not comfortable with the proposed inclusion of "markets and competency development programmes" which should not be included. She also proposed a subamendment to add the word "that" before "SSE entities" at the beginning of the clause, which would give a smoother English reading of the text.

- 356. The Employer Vice-Chairperson aligned her group with the Workers' position and supported the group's subamendment.
- 357. The Government member of Canada supported the Workers' group subamendment and, in light of the views of the Employers' and Workers' groups, withdrew his amendment.
- 358. The Workers' group subamendment was adopted.
- 359. Clause 9(a) was adopted as amended.

Clause 9(b)

- 360. Clause 9(b) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
 - facilitating improved access of SSE entities to financial services, including, where appropriate, through diverse and specific financial measures and instruments;
- 361. There were no amendments to clause 9(b) and it was adopted without amendment.

Clause 9(c)

- 362. The text of clause 9(c) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
 - fostering the contribution of the SSE [and other enterprises] to a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns taking into account the challenges of climate change;
- 363. The Chairperson noted that three amendments had been proposed to the clause, two of which were identical.
- 364. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete "and other enterprises" from the clause and proposed a subamendment to its amendment, namely, to replace "and other enterprises" with "and sustainable enterprises".
- 365. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the amendment proposed by the Workers' group since he had proposed an identical amendment on behalf of his group. He also supported the proposed subamendment.
- 366. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and the subamendment.
- 367. The Government member of Bangladesh supported both the amendment and subamendment.
- 368. The amendment and subamendment submitted by the Workers' group were adopted.
- 369. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to add "current and future" before "challenges", and to insert "that we face as a society, particularly" to before "climate change", deleting the word "of" before "climate change". He indicated that the current text was too narrow and that it had to be expanded beyond the challenge of climate change.
- 370. The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated general support for the amendment but proposed a subamendment to delete "as a society".
- 371. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and subamendment and proposed a further subamendment to delete "current and future" since this language was unnecessary and superfluous.
- 372. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the further subamendment proposed by the Workers' group.

- 373.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the subamendments proposed by the Employers' and Workers' groups.
- 374.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC agreed with the proposed amendment and subamendments but proposed an additional subamendment to add "as well as poverty and social injustice" after "climate change".
- 375.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson pointed out that the addition proposed by Argentina on behalf of GRULAC has been dealt with elsewhere in the text and her group could therefore not support the subamendment.
- 376.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that social injustice was not a challenge but a political choice and indicated that her group could therefore not support the subamendment proposed by Argentina on behalf of GRULAC because it did not add value to the text.
- 377.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC agreed to withdraw the subamendment in the spirit of compromise.
- 378.** The amendment as subamended was adopted.
- 379.** Clause 9(c) was adopted as amended.

Clause 9(d)

- 380.** Clause 9(d) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- recognizing and supporting the role of the SSE in enhancing productivity [and competitiveness] by enabling the horizontal, vertical and transversal organization of SSE entities, harnessing the complementarity and possible synergies with other enterprises, in line with the Job Creation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Recommendation, 1998 (No. 189), investing in competencies development and lifelong learning, as well as in technology and infrastructure;
- 381.** The Chairperson indicated that one amendment to clause (d) had been received.
- 382.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to remove "and competitiveness" from the text. She explained that her group was concerned with the emphasis that was placed on activities that were economically driven. SSE's were not set up to be competitive even if that might result from their activities.
- 383.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that competitiveness was very important to her group because it promoted sustainability and viability. However, she was sensitive to the concerns expressed by the Workers' group and in the spirit of compromise could support the amendment.
- 384.** No governments objected to the amendment proposed by the Workers' group. The amendment was adopted.
- 385.** Clause 9(d) was adopted as amended.

Clause 9(e)

- 386.** Clause 9(e) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- social dialogue that is inclusive of the entities and workers of the SSE and the organizations representing them, [notably] whenever consideration is being given to measures which may affect them directly [or indirectly] / [ensuring that entities and workers in the SSE benefit from freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining to enable social dialogue with representative organizations of employers and workers for shaping measures which directly

affect entities and workers of the SSE, as well as consulting with relevant and representative organizations of the SSE entities concerned];

- 387.** The Chairperson noted that four amendments to clause 9(e) had been received. He pointed out that the text contained a slash, which meant that two text options were proposed. He reminded members to indicate whether they supported the first or second option when they took the floor.
- 388.** The Worker-Chairperson proposed an amendment to delete the first option from the text, namely, to remove the text starting with "social dialogue" and ending in "directly or indirectly".
- 389.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, indicated that he had proposed an identical amendment, and therefore supported the amendment to remove the first option from the text.
- 390.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and then turned to another amendment proposed by her group, which pertained only to the text of the second option. She proposed adding "effective recognition of the" before "right to collective bargaining"; deleting "to enable" and adding "and, where appropriate and if necessary, enabling" before "social dialogue"; inserting "the most" before "representative organizations"; and deleting "as well as consulting with relevant and representative organizations of the SSE entities concerned". Finally, she proposed a subamendment to her group's amendment, which was to delete "and if necessary".
- 391.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that in respect of collective bargaining, her group could support the addition of "effective recognition of the" because it was aligned with ILO language on the topic. She could also agree to the deletion of "and if necessary" but proposed also deleting "where appropriate". Her group supported the addition of "the most" but wanted to maintain the reference to "to enable". Finally, she agreed with the removal of the last part of the clause starting with "as well as consulting with ..." but proposed replacing the deleted text with "and, where appropriate, with relevant and representative organizations of the SSE entities concerned". To her group, it was important for SSE entities to participate in consultative processes especially when they constituted representative organizations of SSE's.
- 392.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, suggested a subamendment to the Workers' proposed additional phrase to delete " where appropriate".
- 393.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed to the subamendment presented by the Workers' group. She asked whether the word "through" would be more appropriate to use" rather than the word "with" after "social dialogue.
- 394.** The Government member of Argentina agreed to the deletion of the first option. The majority of the GRULAC countries agreed to the second option.
- 395.** The Workers Vice-Chairperson requested guidance from the Office on the appropriate language in respect of "through" or "with the most representative organizations [...]", to understand whether the revised text could compromise tripartism.
- 396.** The deputy representative of the Secretary-General explained that the ILO used the word "with" rather than "through" as the latter implied an obligation to work with a particular grouping or to seek their authorization. However, she added that the use of "through", if qualified with "where appropriate", would also be correct in this instance.
- 397.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that her group wished to retain "where appropriate" in the text, given that social dialogue was exclusive to the social partners.

- 398.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed to keep "through" and "where appropriate" in line with the guidance provided by the Office.
- 399.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, also agreed to the revised text.
- 400.** Point 9(e) was adopted as amended and subamended.

Clauses 9(f) and 9(g)

- 401.** Clauses 9(f) and 9(g) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- (f) the need to support the SSE's potential for building social inclusion, especially as regards women, youth and disadvantaged groups, such as the unemployed, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and indigenous peoples;
 - (g) the importance of combating pseudo-SSE entities and their circumvention of labour and other legislation in violation of workers' rights, and the risk of unfair competition with compliant enterprises and responsible business, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, in line with Recommendation No. 193.
- 402.** Clauses 9(f) and 9(g) were adopted without amendment.

Part IV. The role of governments and the social partners

- 403.** The title of Part IV was adopted without amendment.

Proposed new point in Part IV

- 404.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment introducing a new point before point 10 as follows:
- Member States have the obligation to respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work, other human rights, and relevant international labour standards, including in all types of SSE entities.
- 405.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment presented by the Workers' group noting that it added value to the entire text.
- 406.** The new point proposed by the Workers' group to be placed above point 10 was adopted.

Point 10

- 407.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to reformulate the existing text of point 10 as follows:
- Governments through social dialogue with social partners, taking into consideration the interests and concerns of SSE entities, should:
- 408.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment presented by the Workers' group.
- 409.** The Government member of Canada expressed a preference for the original text proposed by the Office as the proposed amendment seemed to limit the participation of SSE entities in dialogue with governments concerning the actions envisaged in the clauses below. She pointed out that the Government of Canada worked closely with a committee of experts, and external stakeholders representing different actors and organizations from Canada's social economy to develop their social innovation and financial strategy. The Government of her country also recognized the need to consult with social partners but was of the view that it was

important for governments to engage and collaborate with representative bodies of the SSE in their efforts to support a strong and robust SSE ecosystem.

- 410.** The Government members of Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eswatini, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Switzerland, and Türkiye supported the original text.
- 411.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the original text as more consistent with the consensus reached under point 9(e), which dealt with the same subject.
- 412.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that the intention of their amendment was to align the text with point 9(e) and sought clarity from the Office as to whether the existing formulation of the draft "through dialogue that is inclusive of organizations representing the entities and workers" did not undermine the tripartism that they were seeking to protect.
- 413.** The Employers Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment presented by the Workers' group.
- 414.** The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the Office believed that strengthening the inclusiveness of social dialogue was fundamental to effective social dialogue, which took into account the interests and views of all actors affected by policies, in this particular case, of the social partners and of representative organizations of SSE entities and workers. Having said that, the text under point 9(e) already established such safeguards for inclusive social dialogue in relation to the SSE.
- 415.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson requested the Office to provide language to capture this point as a subamendment. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed that the Office could propose text.
- 416.** The Office proposed text read as follows:
- Governments should, in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers and, where they exist, with relevant and representative organizations of the SSE entities concerned:
- 417.** The Government member of Algeria considered that the subamendment did not accurately characterize the role of governments in tripartism. The wording should place the government and social partners on an even level, which was altered by the mention of entities belonging to the SSE.
- 418.** The representative of the Secretary-General clarified that the proposed wording of the Office did include governments.
- 419.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson also noted that the subamendment dealt with the role of government and the social partners. However, she thought the text should clarify what the government and social partners should do concerning the SSE. She proposed a further subamendment to delete "in consultation with the most representative employers and workers organizations".
- 420.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment proposed by the Worker Vice-Chairperson.
- 421.** The Government member of Algeria stressed that governments must act in favour of social dialogue. He proposed a further subamendment to change "should, in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers," to "governments must work with social partners in promoting social dialogue taking into consideration the interests of tripartism". The subamendment was not seconded and therefore fell.

- 422.** The Government member of Bangladesh proposed adding text to take into account the need to capture national circumstances and better reflect the concerns of numerous speakers. He proposed inserting ", taking into account national circumstances," after "social dialogue should". The subamendment was seconded by the Governments of Cameroon, the Philippines and Zimbabwe.
- 423.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson did not support this subamendment. She proposed to bracket the Office text of the first sentence of point 10 for finalization after the discussion of the clauses beneath it.
- 424.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the proposal to bracket the text proposed by the Office.

Clause 10(a)

- 425.** The text of point 10(a) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- establish a conducive environment consistent with the nature and diversity of the SSE, as a critical component of a conducive environment for sustainable enterprises more generally;
- 426.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson submitted an amendment to insert after "establish a conducive environment consistent," the phrase "based on International labour standards,". She stressed that any conducive environment should take international labour standards into account.
- 427.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the substance of the amendment but subamended it to move the insertion to after "more generally".
- 428.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed considering this subamended text together with a second amendment submitted by the Workers' group to read: "establish a conducive environment consistent with the nature and diversity of the SSE to promote decent work and to protect workers, and harness the fullest potential of SSE entities, to contribute to sustainable development and sustainable enterprises, based on international labour standards;".
- 429.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported this addition but proposed a further subamendment to delete "and to protect workers" since that was already part of decent work. She further proposed replacing "based on international labour standards" by "in line with international labour standards;".
- 430.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson accepted the group's amendment as subamended.
- 431.** The Government member of the United States proposed a further subamendment to add "relevant" before "International labour standards" to clarify that not all such standards were relevant to the SSE. The subamendment was not seconded and therefore fell.
- 432.** Clause 10(a) was adopted as subamended.

Clause 10(b)

- 433.** Clause 10(b) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- ensure a level playing field among all enterprises, by treating SSE entities in accordance with national law and practice and on terms no less favourable than those accorded to other forms of enterprise;
- 434.** The Workers' group introduced an amendment to delete the words "a level playing field among all enterprises, by, [...]". The group had reflected further on its amendment and wished to subamend it to read "ensure a level playing field by treating SSE entities in accordance with

national law and practice and on terms no less favourable than those accorded to other forms of enterprise, in line with Recommendation No. 193”.

- 435. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported this subamendment.
- 436. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment agreed by the Employers and Workers.
- 437. The Government member of Algeria said that he had no objection to the substance of the amendment but presented a subamendment to clarify the language. The subamendment was not seconded and fell.
- 438. The Government member of the Philippines supported the amendment noting that SSE enterprises were not on the same footing as other enterprises. She also supported the subsequent subamendments.
- 439. The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 440. Clause 10(b) was adopted as amended and subamended.

Clause 10(c)

- 441. Clause 10(c) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

enact policies that foster the creation of quality jobs for all, including in the SSE, to underpin a robust, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic recovery, in line with fundamental principles and rights at work, other human rights and relevant international labour standards, including but not limited to those listed in the Annex;

- 442. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete the words ", including but not limited to those listed in the Annex". Her group was not in favour of keeping the Annex to the draft conclusions. The body of the text already contained references to a number of instruments, such that adding a further list in an Annex made the text unnecessarily cumbersome. Moreover, the draft text of the Annex indicated that the list was non-exhaustive, thus defeating the point of including such a long list. Finally, she questioned the appropriateness of a list that contained texts that were not agreed upon by all groups, which could provoke a difficult exchange and jeopardize the very outcome of the discussion.
- 443. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that there were several proposals to amend the Annex from all three benches and proposed that the Committee bracket the clause and return to it once decisions had been made regarding the Annex as a whole.
- 444. Clause 10(c) and the amendment relating to it were bracketed.

Clause 10(d)

- 445. Clause 10(d) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

recognize the role of the SSE and integrate it into national development, recovery and employment plans, through pro-employment, macroeconomic, tax, social, environmental and other policies for promoting just digital and environmental transitions and reducing inequalities;

- 446. The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to reformulate the clause to read as follows: "integrate the SSE into national development, recovery, macroeconomic, employment and social policies to support the just digital and environmental transitions and reducing inequalities;". The amendment sought to focus on the integration of the SSE in national policies to guarantee strategies to support the digital economy and the transition to cleaner energy.

The word "plans" had been replaced by "policies" because plans did not necessarily need to be carried out and it was better to talk about "policies", which could be more effective and have more impact.

- 447.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed to the replacement of the word "plans" with "policies" and to the wording "integrate the SSE". However, her group wished to keep the list of "pro-employment, macroeconomic, tax, social, environmental and other policies" that the amendment deleted. She introduced a further amendment to insert the word "industrial" after "tax" in that list.
- 448.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson accepted the Workers' subamendment and its amendment.
- 449.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed a revision of the language of the clause to avoid repetitions. The revised proposal read as follows:
- integrate the SSE into national development, recovery, and employment strategies to support pro-employment, macroeconomic, tax, industrial, social, environmental and other policies for promoting just digital and environmental transitions and reducing inequalities;
- 450.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson accepted the subamendment proposed by the Workers.
- 451.** The Government member of Bangladesh, seconded by the Government member of the Philippines, introduced a further subamendment to delete the word "tax", arguing that there was no need to single out that type of policy. The text of the conclusions would not have an immediate impact on governments' tax policies.
- 452.** The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons said that their groups would prefer to keep the word "tax".
- 453.** The Government member of Bangladesh proposed to bracket the term and return to it later.
- 454.** The Government member of Canada said that he supported keeping the term in the light of the consensus reached by the social partners.
- 455.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported keeping the word "tax", which referred to an essential element in public policy.
- 456.** The Government member of Bangladesh said that he could accept the consensus position.
- 457.** The Employers' amendment, as subamended by the Workers, and the Workers' amendment to the same clause were adopted.
- 458.** Clause 10(d) was adopted as amended and subamended.

Clause 10(e)

- 459.** Clause 10(e) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- recognize the role of the SSE in the transition from the informal to the formal economy, and support the transition to the formal economy for all workers and entities, including those in the SSE;
- 460.** Clause 10(e) was adopted without amendment.

Clause 10(f)

- 461.** Clause 10(f) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- further the contribution of the SSE to decent work in national and global supply chains, including through the development of cooperative-to-cooperative trade;

- 462.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to replace "cooperative-to-cooperative" by "fair" considering that the concept of "fair trade" would be simpler to understand.
- 463.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 464.** The Government member of Zimbabwe said that he supported the amendment to delete "cooperative to cooperative" because cooperatives were only one of the types of entities that made up the SSE.
- 465.** The Government member of the United States, seconded by the Government member of Canada, proposed a subamendment to replace "fair trade" by "fair, equitable and sustainable trade", which matched wording that had been adopted in G20 forums and went further in supporting a worker-centred trade policy.
- 466.** The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons supported the subamendment.
- 467.** The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 468.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to add the words "and other forms of cooperation between SSE entities" at the end of the clause, seeking to extend the scope of the paragraph to other types of cooperation within the SSE.
- 469.** The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons said that they could support the amendment.
- 470.** The amendment was adopted.
- 471.** Clause 10(f) was adopted as amended and subamended.

Clause 10(g)

- 472.** Clause 10(g) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- strengthen the interaction between the SSE and public administration at all levels, including local and regional, and set up appropriate public-private partnerships with the SSE;
- 473.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to add the words "provide quality public services, and" at the beginning of the clause, delete the words "public-private" and add the words ", and through public procurement practices in line with Convention No. 94" at the end of the clause. The amendment sought to establish that governments, not the SSE, were responsible for the provision of public services. Governments should be encouraged to strengthen their relationship with the SSE to deliver in that regard. The inclusion of a reference to the ILO Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94) (Convention No. 94) sought to stress the fact that public procurement should respect workers' rights and promote decent work.
- 474.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she could support the first part of the amendment but did not support the deletion of the words "public-private". Her group would need more time to consider the consequences of the changes and therefore asked that the text be bracketed.
- 475.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that he did not think it necessary to talk about public services specifically and proposed a subamendment to delete the word "public". He supported the maintenance of the words "public-private" as they referred to a fundamental element in the current and future world of

work and covered a number of possible partnerships. He could accept the reference to Convention No. 94.

- 476.** The Government member of Morocco asked the Workers to explain their reasons for deleting the words "public-private".
- 477.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that her group did not want to promote the development of any partnerships with the SSE that would obviate governments' responsibilities to provide public services. Neither should development cooperation be used as a means of relieving governments of their obligations in that regard. The group wanted to support the role of partnerships but was concerned that public-private partnerships could, in certain contexts, lead to the privatization of services that should continue under the remit of governments. A reference to public procurement practices, as outlined in Convention No. 94, had been included because it addressed the group's concern regarding governments' responsibilities. In line with the Employers' request, she suggested that the text be bracketed after the word "appropriate" to allow all the groups to reflect on the different inputs and explanations that had been provided.
- 478.** The amendment was bracketed as proposed.
- 479.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, acknowledged the concerns of the Workers' group and proposed the inclusion of "based on shared responsibility" to ensure that governments and the other social partners in the public-private partnership assumed all responsibilities vis-à-vis the constituents. He proposed for the additional text also to be included in brackets.
- 480.** It was so decided.

Clause 10(h)

- 481.** The text of clause 10(h) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- introduce support measures for SSE entities, where appropriate, to enable their access to information, finance, markets, technology, infrastructure and well-regulated and socially responsible public procurement;
- 482.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to include reference to marginalized and disadvantaged groups by adding, after the words "where appropriate," "especially for disadvantaged groups and persons in vulnerable situations" in line with the language agreed to in clause 8(c).
- 483.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, and there were no objections from governments.
- 484.** The amendment was adopted.
- 485.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to include in the first line following the word "appropriate," the words "and without creating unfair treatment to other enterprises, [...]".
- 486.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed a subamendment reformulating the text as follows:
- in line with Recommendation No. 193, introduce support measures to enable access to information, finance, markets, technology, infrastructure and well-regulated and socially responsible public procurement, especially for disadvantaged groups and persons in vulnerable situations;
- 487.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the reformulation by the Workers.

- 488.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that the Employers' group proposal seemed better as it addressed the present and the future as opposed to re-iterating previous agreements on the SSE. The ambition of the Committee was to define a framework for the SSE to allow it to prosper, and not simply to repeat wording that was over 20 years old. He preferred the previous wording proposed by the Employers' group, however the present proposal would be acceptable, although limited.
- 489.** The amendment submitted by the Employers as subamended by the Workers was adopted.
- 490.** Point 10(h) was adopted as amended by the Employers and subamended by the Workers.

Clause 10(i)

- 491.** Clause 10(i) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- ensure that measures to promote the SSE foster social innovation, initiative, entrepreneurship and collaboration while preserving and promoting the traditions and cultures of indigenous and tribal peoples;
- 492.** The Government member of Argentina, on behalf of GRULAC, introduced an amendment to include "where appropriate" after the first word "ensure", to adapt the text to the realities of individual countries.
- 493.** The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons indicated flexibility.
- 494.** The Government member of Zimbabwe supported the amendment.
- 495.** The amendment was adopted.
- 496.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced three amendments proposed by the Employers' group. Firstly, to delete the word "initiative" following "social innovation", as it did not add value to the text; secondly, to add "productivity, skills development" before the word ", entrepreneurship"; and thirdly, to delete the phrase "while preserving and promoting the traditions and cultures of indigenous and tribal peoples;". That phrase could be retained in the conclusions, but would be more appropriate in clause 10(m), which dealt with education and culture.
- 497.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendments while noting a preference to maintain "while preserving and promoting the traditions and cultures of indigenous and tribal peoples".
- 498.** The Chairperson noted that there was agreement between the social partners on all the amendments proposed by the Employers, and that the proposal to move the phrase "while preserving and promoting the traditions and cultures of indigenous and tribal peoples;" to the end of clause 10(m), following the word "effectiveness", was the only amendment tabled for clause (m).
- 499.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that clause 10(i) referred to measures to promote the SSE and to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, while clause 10(m) referred to the education and training of workers of the SSE in financial literacy. As fostering innovation was also applicable to tribal and indigenous people, the issue should be addressed in a balanced and constructive way. The Workers' group did not object the text being moved to clause 10(m) but had concerns as to whether it should be lost from clause 10(i). She suggested bracketing the text.
- 500.** The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, introduced a subamendment to remove the word "social" before "innovation" as it was clear that the SSE

promoted ways to foster social innovation. The subamendment was not seconded and therefore fell.

501. The Government member of Bangladesh supported the two amendments proposed by the Employers' group.
502. The Employers' group amendments to delete "initiative" and to add "productivity, skills development" to clause 10(i) were adopted.
503. The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew the amendment concerning the deletion of the last phrase of clause 10(i).
504. Clause 10(i) was adopted as amended.

Clause 10(j)

505. Clause 10(j) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

take measures to promote anti-corruption and good governance, facilitate registration, and simplify administrative procedures for the development of SSE entities and other enterprises;
506. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to insert the words "and transition into formal economy", before the words "of SSE entities and other enterprises;".
507. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment proposed by the Workers.
508. The amendment was adopted.
509. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced another amendment to delete the last three words of the clause, "and other enterprises", with the aim of keeping the focus on SSE entities.
510. The Employer Vice-Chairperson understood the concern of the Workers' group. However, the amendment proposed by the Workers impacted on the suggested amendment of the Employers' group to add the words "including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises" at the end of the sentence, consequently the Employers needed time to reflect on other language and the text was placed within brackets.

Clause 10(k)

511. Clause 10(k) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

establish a mechanism for inter-ministerial collaboration and coordination of SSE-related policies within and across national structures;
512. Clause 10(k) was adopted without amendment.

Clause 10(l)

513. Clause 10(l) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

promote collaboration among labour inspectors, social partners and SSE representatives to devise solutions concerning pseudo-SSE entities, unlawful practices and rights violations;
514. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced three amendments to this clause, with the aim of strengthening labour inspection in general, reinforcing collaboration between labour inspectors, social partners and SSE representatives, and emphasizing the protection of workers through the prevention, discouragement and sanction of pseudo-SSE entities, unlawful practices and rights violations. The proposed amended text read as follows:

Strengthen labour inspection, promote collaboration among labour inspectors, social partners and SSE representatives to prevent, discourage and sanction pseudo-SSE entities, unlawful practices and rights violations, thereby protecting workers;

- 515.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson sought for clarification on whether the suggested amendments intended to reinforce labour inspection, or referred to labour inspectors directly engaging with social partners.
- 516.** The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the labour inspectorate was encouraged to work with social partners as well as the SSE representatives.
- 517.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that based on the explanation of the secretariat, the amended text now reflected their concern, and her group withdrew their amendment.
- 518.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, supported the amendments proposed by the Workers.
- 519.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the amendments proposed by the Workers and introduced a subamendment to add at the end of the sentence the words "and preserving the autonomy and independence of SSE entities", to ensure the protection of the integrity of SSE entities.
- 520.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said she was flexible about the proposed subamendment.
- 521.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with that subamendment and introduced another subamendment to add after the word "entities", the words "as well as to promote responsible business conduct".
- 522.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson considered that responsible business conduct was outside the scope of the law, while labour inspectorates were concerned with upholding the law. Therefore, the change suggested by the Employers did not fit in clause 10(l).
- 523.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew the subamendment.
- 524.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC agreed with the subamendment by the EU.
- 525.** The representative of the Secretary-General proposed a change in terminology to replace the words "labour inspectors" with the words "labour inspectorates", a term which included labour inspectors.
- 526.** The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons agreed with the secretariat's suggestion.
- 527.** The three amendments put forward by the Workers were adopted.
- 528.** Clause 10(l) was adopted as amended and subamended.

Clause 10(m)

- 529.** Clause 10(m) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- integrate the SSE into public education at all levels and invest in the education and training of workers and entities in the SSE, including on financial literacy, to improve their resilience and effectiveness;
- 530.** Clause 10(m) was adopted without amendment, following the withdrawal by the Employers' group of its proposed amendment.

Clause 10(n)

531. Clause 10(n) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

improve statistics on the SSE, including through collaboration between national statistical institutes and SSE representatives, to inform the formulation and implementation of policies.

532. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to include the words "satellite accounts and" before the word "collaboration", referring to the practice of presenting data that existed in the health, education and social protection sectors. In that way, governments would be facilitated in collecting data on the SSE and in harmonizing ways of data collection across geographical areas. The EU desired to expand that practice also to the SSE.

533. The proposed amended text read as follows:

improve statistics on the SSE, including through satellite accounts and collaboration between national statistical institutes and SSE representatives, to inform the formulation and implementation of policies.

534. The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons indicated that they were flexible with regard to the proposed amendment.

535. The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment from the EU.

536. The Government member of the United States introduced a subamendment to replace the word "including" with the words "such as", with the aim of highlighting that satellite accounts were one example among others.

537. The Government member of Brazil seconded the subamendment from the United States.

538. The Government member of Senegal did not support the amendment from the United States, as the words "including through" already covered the meaning of providing an example.

539. The Worker Vice-Chairperson concurred that the words "including" and "such as" conveyed the same meaning.

540. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the proposed subamendment from the United States.

541. The amendment from the EU as subamended by the United States was adopted.

542. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to insert the word "institutional" before the word "representatives" with the aim of describing better the nature of the collaboration.

543. The Worker Vice-Chairperson wished to know exactly what "institutional" meant in that context.

544. The Employer Vice-Chairperson clarified that the term referred to institutions representing the SSE.

545. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that she was flexible with respect to the proposed amendment, pending the views of the governments.

546. The Chairperson indicated that there were no objections from governments.

547. The amendment was adopted.

548. Clause 10(n) was adopted as amended.

Proposed new clause to follow clause 10(n)

549. The additional clause proposed for inclusion following clause 10(n) read as follows:

promote corporate social responsibility based on the principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive economic prosperity.

550. The Government member of Senegal said that the amendment to include a new clause was to acknowledge and promote the contribution that the SSE and the entities operating within it made to SDG 8.

551. The Employer Vice-Chairperson and the Government members of Algeria and Zimbabwe supported the amendment presented by Senegal.

552. The Worker Vice-Chairperson was concerned with the proposed amendment, as it was understood that the SSE balanced the economic, social and environmental dimensions. The SSE interest was indeed in pursuit of SDG 8. However, corporate social responsibility was not applicable to the SSE but to enterprises generally. The SSE, by its very nature, character and definition, as the Committee had already agreed to, adhered to those dimensions. Her group rejected therefore the promotion of corporate social responsibility as it related to promoting decent work in the SSE. To retaining the idea behind corporate social responsibility, it would be necessary to remove the words "corporate social responsibility" and to reiterate the principles related to environmental sustainability, and so on.

553. The Government member of Senegal explained that corporate social responsibility was not to be understood as something that could be imposed on the SSE. Other enterprises could gear corporate social responsibility to the SSE, benefiting those operating in the informal economy.

554. The Employer Vice-Chairperson suggested changing the wording by replacing the reference to "corporate social responsibility" by "promoting responsible business conduct."

555. The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated the need to build on language from the conclusions of the Committee on Sustainable Enterprises (96th Session of the International Labour Conference, 2007), which included corporate social responsibility as a voluntary initiative. Her group needed time to propose adequate language. The SSE did not have to be engaged in corporate social responsibility as it was intrinsic to its own character, as illustrated by the earlier specified principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive economic prosperity.

556. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, and the Government members of Canada, the Philippines and the United States did not support the amendment. Although the intention was good, there was a great risk of confusion between the SSE and CSR.

557. The Government member of Senegal explained that the amendment was introduced to encourage enterprises with a CSR policy to better orientate them towards the objectives of the SSE. It would not be a marketing strategy but rather a policy that would consider the needs of the populations affected and could contribute to sustainable development. He proposed a subamendment to modify his Government's initial amendment as follows:

To encourage enterprises that have a CSR policy to better orientate it towards the objectives and aims of the SSE in order to contribute to economic and social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

558. The Government member of Zimbabwe, on behalf of the Africa group, proposed to put the clause in brackets to allow time for consultations with Senegal.

559. The Government member of Burkina Faso seconded the subamendment.

- 560.** The Government member of Togo supported the subamendment. The reality in Western countries, where the notions of work and employment had evolved, was not the same as in African countries. It was more difficult to distinguish between CSR and the SSE in the African context because there were still companies for which the issue of CSR was not yet sufficiently developed, and they needed to be encouraged in this direction.
- 561.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that if the clause were to be bracketed, she wanted to highlight that the Workers' group did not oppose its inclusion because the group did not recognize the need for enterprises to conduct their businesses responsibly or to pursue a CSR strategy. It was because the notion of CSR did not fit here in the text and obscured the definition of the SSE. Private enterprises used CSR because it helped them to maximize their profits, not from the point of view of values, but because the positive image it created helped them to increase profits. The SSE was intrinsically socially driven as well as economically and environmentally driven. The 2007 conclusions of the Committee on Sustainable Enterprises dealt with CSR in the context of sustainable enterprises. The subamendment did not take the matter forward. It was more likely to confuse persons consulting the conclusions into thinking that CSR and the SSE were the same thing.
- 562.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson mentioned that the Employers' group supported the subamendment because it emphasized, as the group had already indicated, that there was a complementarity between traditional enterprises and SSE entities. Contrary to what the Workers' group said, CSR had a real social purpose. In some countries, CSR regulations were giving strict guidelines on how the policy should be implemented.
- 563.** The amendment and subamendment were bracketed for later discussion.

Point 11

- 564.** Point 11, as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:
- The social partners should engage in bipartite and tripartite social dialogue with a collaborative and proactive attitude vis-à-vis the SSE [on issues of mutual interest], share knowledge and experiences, notably on good practices to promote decent work in the SSE.
- 565.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to change the fourth word of point 11 from "should" to "may". The intention was to give flexibility to the social partners regarding social dialogue.
- 566.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that the Workers' group did not support the amendment and preferred to keep "should" since it was a long-established view in the ILO that social dialogue should take place at bipartite and tripartite levels.
- 567.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, and the Government members of Argentina, Bahamas, France, speaking on behalf of the EU, and Saudi Arabia did not support the amendment.
- 568.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew the proposed amendment and presented a further amendment to delete the words "bipartite and tripartite". There was no need to qualify the dialogue since it could take many forms. As social partners, the Employers welcomed the fact that the social economy was present in the spaces where these public policies were conceived. But they recalled that the institutional dialogue that could be held with the representatives of the SSE must not be confused with the social dialogue that was the exclusive responsibility of the social partners.

- 569. The Worker Vice-Chairperson specified that the Workers' group preferred to keep the words "bipartite and tripartite".
- 570. The Government members of Brazil, Haiti and Senegal supported the amendment, as did the Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group.
- 571. The Worker Vice-Chairperson accepted the amendment to be flexible.
- 572. The amendment submitted by the Employers' group was adopted.
- 573. Point 11 was adopted as amended.

Point 12

- 574. The text of point 12 submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

Governments and the social partners should commit to promoting universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems; access to lifelong learning and training; incorporation of occupational safety and health [as a fundamental right / as a basic right / and preventive culture] to mitigate against such things as exposure to hazards, as well as to violence and harassment.

- 575. The Chairperson said that in addition to the amendments that had been submitted, the draft also included two text options divided by a forward slash, and the Committee would be asked to choose between those options.
- 576. The Government member of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced an amendment to include after the words "commit to" the words "SSE objectives in global financial communications and to [...]". His amendment was not seconded and fell.
- 577. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to replace "occupational safety and health" by "a safe and healthy working environment". Secondly, the amendment deleted the words "as a basic right/and preventive culture". She subamended the proposed amendment by deleting the words "incorporation of" for purposes of readability.
- 578. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and subamendment.
- 579. The amendment as subamended was adopted.
- 580. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete "to mitigate against such things as exposure to hazards, as well as to violence and harassment", given that the previous amendment adopted covered those issues. However, she subamended her group's amendment by proposing to add "; and an environment free of violence and harassment." at the end of the sentence.
- 581. The Government members of the Bahamas, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment and subamendment.
- 582. The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 583. Point 12 was adopted as amended and subamended.

Point 13

- 584. Point 13, as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

Employers' organizations should consider, where appropriate, extending membership to SSE entities wishing to become members and provide them with adequate support services. Employers' organizations could also facilitate SSE entities' access to business networks and

partners that can contribute to their development; enhance their business potential; entrepreneurial and managerial capacities; strengthen their productivity and competitiveness; and facilitate their access to international markets and institutional funding.

- 585.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to replace the third word "should" with "may" to include SSE entities that were considering becoming members of employers' organizations.
- 586.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, as it related to the Employers.
- 587.** The amendment was adopted.
- 588.** Point 13 was adopted as amended.

Point 14

- 589.** Point 14, as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

Workers' organizations share historical roots with SSE entities in the quest for the promotion of democracy and social justice in the economy and of human and labour rights. They support and defend the rights and interests of SSE workers and this interaction should be reinforced, including by increasing SSE workers' awareness of their labour rights and recruiting SSE workers to join unions; support their organizing and collective bargaining; develop partnerships and alliances to achieve common goals; and increase the visibility of SSE workers. They could also provide inputs and counselling, especially for SSE entities in their formative stages, facilitate the provision of SSE goods and services for union members, and contribute to the establishment of SSE entities, as relevant.

- 590.** The Government member of Argentina, on behalf of GRULAC, introduced an amendment to add "and responsibilities," after the words "awareness of their labour rights", as it was essential in the region for workers' organizations to undertake activities to raise SSE workers' awareness of their labour rights and responsibilities, including with regard to the autonomy and self-management of SSE work.
- 591.** The Worker and Employer Vice-Chairpersons did not support the amendment.
- 592.** The Government member of Argentina, on behalf of GRULAC, withdrew the amendment.
- 593.** Point 14 was adopted as drafted without amendment.

Part V. The role of the ILO

- 594.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson requested clarification on whether the section referred to the International Labour Organization's role or role the International Labour Office.
- 595.** The representative of the Secretary-General clarified that the content of the section referred to the role of the Office and suggested the inclusion of "International Labour Office" in the title, as follows: "Part V. The role of the International Labour Office".
- 596.** The title of Part V was adopted as amended.

Point 15

- 597.** Point 15, as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

Based on the constitutional mandate of the ILO, the Office should promote the establishment and development of strong and resilient SSE entities, while taking into account the diverse realities and needs of Member States, including the varying degrees of development of the SSE, and relevant international labour standards. [A non-exhaustive list of instruments of the

International Labour Organization and the United Nations relevant to decent work and the SSE is included in the Annex.]

- 598.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete the bracketed last sentence that referred to the Annex. It was not a common International Labour Conference practice to have an annex in committee conclusions. Moreover, a number of the listed Conventions had not been ratified by several countries, and others did not enjoy the support of the Employers. She asked the Office to explain the basis for the inclusion of instruments. The Annex was announced to be a non-exhaustive list since most of the key texts were included in the conclusions. She was against retaining the Annex.
- 599.** The Chairperson noted that the employer's amendment was to delete references to the Annex and that they intended to delete the Annex itself. The group presented a similar amendment earlier in respect of point 10(c), which had been bracketed for further discussion. He decided to address both amendments together.
- 600.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that while not all conclusions referred to the Annex, specific conclusions with regard to sustainable enterprises contained widespread references to the following Conventions and Recommendations:
- Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)
 - Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94)
 - Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135)
 - Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183)
 - Job Creation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Recommendation, 1998 (No. 189)
 - Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193)
 - Human Resources Development Recommendation, 2004 (No. 195)
 - Employment Relationship Recommendation, 2006 (No. 198)
- 601.** The Workers' group assumed the Annex would be included throughout the discussions. For that reason, the group had not tied the text to specific Conventions or Recommendations in all cases. The Workers' group preferred to maintain the Annex and the associated references in the text. She also requested an opportunity to amend the Annex to add other key Conventions and Recommendations that concerned sustainable enterprises. This would underline the complementarity between the SSE and sustainable enterprises.
- 602.** The Government member of Saudi Arabia supported the amendment to delete the Annex and associated references.
- 603.** The Government member of France, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, did not support the amendment and wished to retain the Annex, subject to any changes.
- 604.** The Government member of Bangladesh said there had been no discussions on the long list of instruments contained in the Annex. He questioned whether this list should be incorporated into the conclusions without discussion of its implications. He supported the amendment to delete the Annex.
- 605.** The Government member of Brazil said that the Annex was too long and contained many Conventions and Recommendations where consensus would be difficult to achieve regarding which should or should not be included. A non-exhaustive list did not add much value, and he supported the amendment to delete the Annex.

- 606.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, said that all the important instruments had been referred to in the text, and the inclusion of instruments that had not been adequately discussed would not do justice to the work of the Committee. He supported the amendment to delete the Annex.
- 607.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson regretted that no attention had been given to an Annex that had been requested eight days ago and subsequently provided by the Office. The text should be bracketed to address the amendments one at a time. Should the Annex be deleted, she questioned whether it would be appropriate to revisit amendments adopted earlier to ensure that the necessary additional instruments were referenced. In addition, she noted that there was no amendment included to delete the Annex.
- 608.** The Government member of Canada supported the EU and Workers' group proposal to bracket the text for later discussion. She agreed that if the Annex were removed, it would be necessary to revisit some of the language in the document to ensure that it aligned with the instruments that the Government of Canada would be proposing to include in the Annex.
- 609.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson underscored that her proposed amendment to delete the Annex was supported by three countries and two groups (GRULAC and the Africa group). Only the EU group did not support the amendment. For these reasons, she felt that there was more support for the deletion of the Annex.
- 610.** The Chairperson stated that it was understood that the Government member of Brazil was speaking in his national capacity but sought clarification from the Government member of Argentina .
- 611.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking in her national capacity, supported the position of Canada. She did not deem it appropriate to eliminate references to the Annex and preferred the text to be bracketed and discussed later.
- 612.** The Chairperson summarized that the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Bangladesh, and the Africa group supported the deletion of the Annex and its references. In contrast, the Governments of Argentina and Canada and the EU and its Member States supported retaining or bracketing the text for later discussion. He noted there was no consensus, including among the social partners.
- 613.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson asked the Office if there would be an opportunity to clarify language adopted previously if the Annex should be deleted.
- 614.** The Chairperson proposed to move to the discussion of the Annex, in light of the points made so far, the lack of consensus on previous amendments, as well as of the Employers' intent to delete the Annex.
- 615.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson was in favour of suspending the amendment discussion and continuing the discussion concerning the remaining text of the draft conclusions. The question of deleting the Annex would be decided later.
- 616.** The Chairperson observed that the Workers' group had worked under the presumption that there would be an Annex. Therefore, they had not sought to reference instruments by including them in the text. That problem would worsen if the Committee continued its discussions without resolving the fate of the Annex.
- 617.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson added that there were five proposed amendments to the Annex without a single amendment to delete it. Indeed, there were proposals for amendments to the list in the Annex from the Employers' group. For those reasons, the Workers had not imagined that the Annex could be removed. Had they done so, they would have proposed including

language at several points in the text to ensure harmony with specific instruments. Her group felt blindsided.

- 618. The Employer Vice-Chairperson understood the concern of the Workers, but the Employers were not ready to discuss the Annex.
- 619. The Worker Vice-Chairperson repeated that her group still felt blindsided. She sought to obtain an answer to her question of whether the deletion of the Annex would allow her group to propose a revision of the earlier adopted text.
- 620. The Employer Vice-Chairperson repeated that her group was against retaining the Annex and observed that a small majority within the Committee had supported its deletion. However, in the desire for consensus, her group was prepared to examine the Annex to address their concern with the focus on certain Conventions therein.

Annex. Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations relevant to decent work and the social and solidarity economy

- 621. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to remove three instruments from the list of Other Technical Conventions for the following reasons: (i) the Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94), since the Employers' group unanimously did not support its adoption; (ii) the Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177) because the standard-setting process had been controversial: the Employers' group had not participated in the second discussion of the Convention, as the text was at the time considered rigid given the complexity of the issues involved, such as the different forms of home work in industrialized and developing countries and the triangular relationship between employers, intermediaries, and homeworkers; and (iii) the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183): the Employers' group did not support the adoption of that instrument, since it did not reflect the reality of developing countries.
- 622. With regard to a second amendment, to remove the Employment Relationship Recommendation, 2006 (No. 198), from the list of Recommendations, the Employers' group recalled that the standard-setting process had been difficult and had failed to bridge opposing views. The group did not support the proposed indicators and criteria, nor the language that could lead to the presumed existence of an employment relationship, particularly with self-employed employers. However, following further reflection, the Employers' group wished to withdraw its amendment regarding the removal from the Annex of Convention No. 94 and Recommendation No. 198.
- 623. The Worker Vice-Chairperson emphasized that the Workers' group preferred to keep all listed instruments because they were up-to-date standards. The group strongly supported including Convention No. 183 since it was mentioned in the Annex of the 2007 conclusions on sustainable enterprises. Even if all sustainable enterprises were not in the SSE, all SSE entities were sustainable enterprises. However, for the sake of flexibility, the group could agree to remove it from the list. Convention No. 177 remained relevant, for although it had many aspects, SSE organizations could be small entities that operated from home. Indeed, because of COVID-19, many formal economy enterprises operated in a sphere where that Convention could be validly applied.
- 624. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, said that the group wished to keep the Annex as it was but for the sake of flexibility, supported the amendment submitted by the Employers.

625. The Government members of Bangladesh and China favoured the removal of the Annex but could support the amendment for the sake of consensus.
626. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the removal of Convention No. 183, but indicated that Convention No. 177 should be retained, as did the Government member of Barbados.
627. The Government members of Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia disagreed that the conclusions should retain an Annex that had not been discussed.
628. The Government member of Argentina supported retaining the Annex but could agree to the withdrawal of Convention No. 183 for the sake of consensus.
629. The Government member of Canada supported the inclusion of Convention No. 177 in the Annex.
630. The Government member of Switzerland agreed that the Annex should be retained and supported the inclusion of Convention No. 177.
631. The Government member of China supported the amendment to show flexibility.
632. The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that they would like to delete the reference to "the HomeWork Convention, 1996 (No. 177)", which represented a red line for her group.
633. At the request of the Worker Vice-Chairperson, the reference to Convention No. 177 in the text of the Annex was bracketed.
634. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that the present session of the International Labour Conference had earlier agreed that a safe and healthy working environment was a fundamental principle and right at work. In view of this, her group presented an amendment to add the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), to the list of Other Technical Conventions in the Annex. She also introduced an amendment to delete the two ILO resolutions listed in the Annex because they were not ILO instruments.
635. The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, sought clarification on whether Conventions Nos 155 and 187 could be added under the section on Fundamental Conventions in the Annex.
636. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that her group had intended to add the Conventions under that section.
637. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed to the inclusion of the two Conventions under the section on "Fundamental Conventions" of the Annex.
638. The Government member of Brazil recalled Brazil's earlier preference to delete the Annex. However, the Government of his country supported the inclusion of the two Conventions in the Annex because of the agreement reached thereon by the social partners.
639. The Government member of Barbados said that before he could support the Workers' group amendment, he needed clarity on the reasons motivating the Workers' group to delete the reference to the two resolutions in the Annex. It was important to allow all persons using the conclusions to have clear reference points.
640. The deputy representative of the Secretary-General explained that Conventions, Protocols and resolutions were all ILO instruments.

641. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that given the explanation provided by the Office, her group withdrew its proposal to delete the reference to the two resolutions in the Annex.
642. The Chairperson noted that there were no objections to adopting the Workers' group amendment on the inclusion of Conventions Nos 155 and 187 in the Annex.
643. The Workers' group amendment was adopted.
644. The Workers Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to include the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), in the list of Other Technical Conventions of the Annex in light of the recent discussion on this issue.
645. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed to the Workers' group amendment, consistent with point 12 of the conclusions.
646. The Government member of Barbados also supported the amendment.
647. The Government member of Argentina noted that the Workers' group amendment was very relevant given the scope of the proposed Convention.
648. The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, also supported the amendment.
649. The Chairperson noted the broad support for the Workers' group amendment.
650. The Workers' group amendment was adopted.
651. The Government member of Canada, speaking also for the Government of the United States, submitted an amendment to add the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the Annex.
652. The Worker Vice-Chairperson, wishing to show flexibility, agreed to the amendment.
653. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
654. The Government member of Bangladesh preferred to refer only to ILO instruments in the Annex. He explained that adding instruments from other international institutions could have an impact as such institutions might be less apt to deal with the issues the Committee discussed.
655. The Government member of Islamic Republic of Iran supported the statement made by Bangladesh.
656. The Chairperson noted that there were no objections to adopting the Workers' group amendment.
657. The Workers' group amendment was adopted.
658. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced a subamendment to include the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019, in the Annex. She stated that the Office was better positioned to propose where to place it in the Annex.
659. The representative of the Secretary-General suggested adding this reference after resolutions and before UN instruments.
660. The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed to the suggestion made by the Office.
661. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the Employer's group subamendment. She introduced a further subamendment to add a reference to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas, 2018.

- 662.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson noted that her group thought that the omission of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019 was an oversight by the Office. If that were not the case, her group would withdraw its subamendment.
- 663.** The representative of the Secretary-General noted that the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019 were referenced in point 4 of the conclusions. The omission of these two Declarations from the Annex could be seen as an oversight on the part of the Office. He did not recall a reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas, 2018, during any of the discussions.
- 664.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that if the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas, 2018, was problematic, her group could withdraw its insertion in the document. At one point in the discussion, workers in the rural economy had been mentioned; the group, therefore, thought that reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants was relevant.
- 665.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed to the inclusion of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019 in the Annex.
- 666.** The Government member of Bangladesh reiterated that the Annex included several UN instruments and noted that there were already strong institutions to cover the broader issues discussed by the Committee. He added that the Government of his country preferred to include only the ILO instruments relevant to the document.
- 667.** The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the inclusion of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019 in the Annex. He introduced a subamendment to add a reference in the Annex to the ILO Abidjan Declaration, Advancing Social Justice: Shaping the future of work in Africa.
- 668.** The Chairperson noted, following consultations with the Office, that the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work were in the report presented by the Office for the work of the Committee. This was not the case for the ILO Abidjan Declaration.
- 669.** The Chairperson noted that the Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons agreed to include these two ILO Declarations and that there were no objections from governments in that connection.
- 670.** The proposal to include the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019, was adopted.

Point 15

- 671.** Point 15, as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

Based on the constitutional mandate of the ILO, the Office should promote the establishment and development of strong and resilient SSE entities, while considering the diverse realities and needs of Member States, including the varying degrees of development of the SSE, and relevant international labour standards. [A non-exhaustive list of instruments of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations relevant to decent work and the social and solidarity economy is included in the Annex.]

672. The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew two amendments that had been proposed by the Employers' group.

673. Point 15 was adopted without amendment.

Point 16

674. The opening paragraph of point 16, as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

Actions taken by the Office to promote the SSE for a human-centred future of decent work, should focus on the provision of legal and policy advice; advocacy; knowledge generation; exchange and dissemination of good practices; training and education; capacity-building; and development cooperation. More specifically, the Office should aim to:

675. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to include after "decent work, should" the phrase ", with relevant partners,". The amendment was intended to reinforce the idea that stakeholder participation should guide the work of the Office, as was the case with the EU's work in this area.

676. The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that she was not clear about the added value of the amendment; nonetheless, the Employers' group was flexible.

677. The Worker Vice-Chairperson expressed concern that the amendment might have implications for development cooperation and hence the programme and budget, which was the responsibility of the Governing Body. She asked for clarification.

678. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, clarified that the focus of the amendment was on the method of working together with relevant partners of the SSE, which would not impact the budget.

679. The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted this clarification but expressed concern over the word "promote", which seemed so direct. She requested the Office to provide alternative language.

680. The representative of the Secretary-General proposed as alternative wording "in consultation with the relevant partners".

681. The Worker Vice-Chairperson accepted this alternative but wanted the record to reflect the Workers' group's intent not to overstep the boundaries of this Committee.

682. The amendment was adopted as subamended.

683. The opening paragraph of point 16 was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(a)

684. Clause 16(a), as submitted by the Drafting Group to the Committee, read as follows:

support ILO constituents in developing a conducive environment for [all enterprises, including] SSE entities [as sustainable enterprises], tackling legal and institutional barriers, including through the elaboration of policy frameworks on: the transition from the informal to the formal economy[, increase global productivity]; the creation of decent work including for young people and vulnerable groups; skills development and access to quality education and training; the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment [, particularly in the care economy,]; freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; non-discrimination; the elimination of child labour and forced labour; occupational safety and health; the just transition to environmental sustainability, and just digital transformation;

- 685.** The Workers' group introduced an amendment to delete "all enterprises, including" and "as sustainable enterprises. The amendment aimed to ensure that the focus would remain on SSE entities.
- 686.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson subamended to add after "support ILO constituents in" the phrase "pursuing the work on an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises"; replace "developing" with "develop"; and replace "tackling" with "to tackle".
- 687.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson accepted the spirit of the subamendment, which recognized the existing work on enabling environments. However, she proposed a further subamendment to change "develop" back to "developing", to clarify that the intent was to extend this work to the SSE.
- 688.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment as subamended by the Worker Vice-Chairperson.
- 689.** The Government member of Barbados also supported the amendment as subamended, noting that the text maintained the focus on SSE entities.
- 690.** The Government member of Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, also supported the amendment as subamended.
- 691.** The amendment was adopted.
- 692.** The Workers' group introduced an amendment to replace "increase global productivity" with "productivity challenges". She explained that the term "productivity challenges" was more general and hence more suitable in describing how the Office should support constituents in this area.
- 693.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment and noted that consequently the Employers' group amendment on the same issue would fall.
- 694.** The amendment was adopted.
- 695.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete ", particularly in the care economy. She explained that the care economy had already been included and was inappropriate in this clause.
- 696.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment, notwithstanding that gender equality in the care economy was crucial. This clause needed to take a general approach.
- 697.** The Government member of Canada stated that including this reference would highlight women's paid and unpaid work in the care economy and the role of the SSE within that economy. She introduced a subamendment, which was seconded from the floor, to replace "particularly" with "including".
- 698.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson reiterated her appreciation for gender equality in the care economy but also restated the Workers' concern that highlighting the sector might focus too much attention on it and not be sufficiently general. She pointed out that men also worked in the care economy. Therefore, the Workers' group did not support the subamendment.
- 699.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Worker Vice-Chairperson but indicated that the Employers' group was flexible.
- 700.** The Government member of Brazil also preferred to keep the clause general and exclude reference to the care economy.

- 701.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, also preferred a general approach because the sectors involved in the SSE differ by country. He did not support the subamendment.
- 702.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the subamendment.
- 703.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson recounted a tripartite preparatory discussion organized by the Office on e-waste recycling, revealing that almost all the workers involved were women. She stressed that many sectors would have heavy participation of women, and the gender balance of a given sector could change over time and indeed might change very rapidly. The group wanted to have gender empowerment in all spheres. Therefore, a more general approach was the most consistent with the intent of the text.
- 704.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Worker Vice-Chairperson.
- 705.** The Government member of Canada withdraw her subamendment.
- 706.** The amendment was adopted.
- 707.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to replace "occupational safety and health;" with "a safe and healthy working environment". She explained that the aim was to harmonize with the language used in point 12.
- 708.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported this amendment.
- 709.** The amendment was adopted.
- 710.** Clause 16(a) was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(b)

- 711.** Clause 16(b), as submitted by the Drafting Group to the Committee, read as follows:
- enhance understanding of the SSE, including through sharing good practices, conducting and disseminating research, and undertaking awareness-raising activities for constituents, academic institutions, the general public and other relevant stakeholders on the contributions of the SSE to decent work;
- 712.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to insert "meaningful and" before "decent work" and explained that the addition was to ensure consistency with language that had been agreed earlier.
- 713.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson thought that a new qualifier for decent work was unnecessary.
- 714.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed with the Employer Vice-Chairperson that "meaningful" was already part of the concept of decent work but was flexible.
- 715.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU, withdrew the amendment.
- 716.** Clause 16(b) was adopted without amendment.

Clause 16(c)

- 717.** Clause 16(c) as submitted by the Drafting Group to the Committee read as follows:
- support Member States in elaborating indicators that adequately measure the SSE's economic and social contribution, collecting and compiling comparable, reliable, harmonized data on the SSE, and work towards the development of international guidelines on statistics concerning the

SSE, in collaboration with SSE networks and representative bodies, national statistical offices and international organizations;

- 718.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU, introduced an amendment to replace "elaborating indicators that adequately" with "further developing a common methodological framework to". He explained that the aim was to broaden the scope of possible interventions in the Office.
- 719.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 720.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson also supported the amendment.
- 721.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, proposed a subamendment to remove the word "common". This would avoid giving the impression that all governments should do the same.
- 722.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the subamendment.
- 723.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment.
- 724.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment.
- 725.** The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 726.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, introduced an amendment to insert "timely" before the word "reliable" and "and" after it. The amendment sought to prevent gaps between the period of data collection and the publication of indicators, which made the latter less effective.
- 727.** The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons supported the amendment.
- 728.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment.
- 729.** The amendment was adopted.
- 730.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, presented an amendment to add the words "and examine the potential to establish an international observatory on SSE data" after the words "concerning the SSE". The Committee had noted the fundamental importance of producing statistics on the SSE. In line with the role of governments in that regard, the ILO should establish an international observatory on SSE data to draw on the data provided by the Member States. Taking into consideration the concern to the Workers raised in an earlier amendment, he also proposed a subamendment to add ", which could contribute to the promotion of decent work," after "SSE data".
- 731.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 732.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that she could support the amendment but requested a subamendment to replace "which could contribute" with "to contribute", there is no need to qualify the verb "contribute".
- 733.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the subamendment.
- 734.** The Government member of Barbados highlighted the value of making statistics available, especially concerning emerging economies.
- 735.** The amendment was adopted as subamended.

736. Clause 16(c) was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(d)

737. Clause 16(d) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

further integrate the SSE into ILO activities at regional and national levels, including through Decent Work Country Programmes, development cooperation projects, including South–South and triangular cooperation, and other relevant ILO activities, focusing on capacity building of the social partners on strengthening the institutional development of SSE entities and [the rights and] skills of the workers [and employers] in those entities;

738. The Worker Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to insert "labour rights and skills, and" before "strengthening" and delete the rest of the sentence after "SSE entities". She further proposed a subamendment to replace "on labour rights and skills and strengthening" with "to strengthen" to keep the meaning general. Capacity-building was conducted differently in every country, and the general approach allowed the Member States to determine their strategy.

739. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that her group favoured a general approach and supported the amendment.

740. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the consensus text.

741. The Government member of Malawi supported the subamended amendment.

742. The amendment was adopted as subamended.

743. Clause 16(d) was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(e)

744. Clause 16(e) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

strengthen and accelerate Office support for developing comprehensive national strategies and targeted programmes where SSE entities can be instrumental in pressing areas such as decent work in the care economy and the transition from the informal to the formal economy;

745. Clause 16(e) was adopted without amendment.

Clause 16(f)

746. Clause 16(f) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

promote partnerships between SSE networks and representative bodies and employers' and workers' organizations so that they can benefit from support services and advice favouring their development and the resolution of social and economic issues;

747. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to insert the words "the most" before "representative bodies" to align the text with the terminology used by the ILO.

748. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.

749. The Government member of Zambia supported the amendment, which was in line with the principles of tripartism.

750. The amendment was adopted.

751. The Employer Vice-Chairperson presented an amendment to delete the words "bodies and" before "employers' and workers' organizations". It was a term which could create confusion.

- 752. The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 753. The Government member for Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment as it made the text clearer.
- 754. The amendment was adopted.
- 755. Clause 16 was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(g)

- 756. Clause 16(g) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

provide training to promote decent work in the SSE that supports the development, among other things, of the governance and management of SSE entities to improve their levels of productivity [, resilience, social contribution and well-being] [and competitiveness], as well as the quality of goods and services they produce, in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO;

- 757. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to replace the word "training" with "capacity-building", which was more appropriate in the context.
- 758. The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons supported the amendment.
- 759. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment as it increased the scope of the clause.
- 760. The amendment was adopted.
- 761. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete the words between "development" and "in collaboration" and insert "of SSE entities" in their place. The amendment followed the group's earlier rationale of keeping the language general; it also focused on promoting decent work in the SSE in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO.
- 762. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she could agree to the rest of the deletion but would like to introduce a subamendment to keep the words "to improve their productivity and resilience".
- 763. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the Employers' subamendment was in keeping with the definition of sustainable enterprises. In that light, she proposed a further subamendment to keep the words "social contribution and well-being" as well.
- 764. The Employer Vice-Chairperson accepted the subamendment.
- 765. The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 766. Clause 16(g) was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(h)

- 767. Clause 16(h) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:

develop guidance and provide training to labour inspectors on effective enforcement of labour legislation in the SSE to ensure that SSE entities are neither set up nor used for non-compliance with labour law or used to establish disguised employment relationships;

- 768. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, introduced an amendment to replace the words "labour legislation" with "relevant legislation"

and "labour law" with "these laws". The SSE was not necessarily regulated under labour law and regulatory approaches varied from country to country. The amendment thus sought to make the clause more inclusive.

- 769.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she could support the amendment.
- 770.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the Committee should not shy away from labour legislation in the context of the work of the International Labour Conference of the ILO. Not all countries had all-embracing labour legislation, but the Committee's work sought to agree on an instrument that all Member States should aspire to adopt into their legislations. On that basis, the group wished to keep the words "labour legislation".
- 771.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, suggested, in the light of the Workers' concern, a subamendment to replace "inspectors" with "inspectional bodies" and "relevant legislation" with "labour legislation or other relevant legislation". At the end of the clause, "these laws" would revert to "labour law".
- 772.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson sought guidance from the Office on whether it was within the ILO's purview to train labour inspectors about legislation other than labour legislation.
- 773.** The representative of the Secretary-General said that there were cases in which the ILO would advise governments on implementing regulatory frameworks related to administration and the ease of doing business, as opposed to labour law per se. There might be other areas of legislation on which the ILO provided governments with assistance, but he would need to seek confirmation from the Office.
- 774.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson requested that the text be bracketed until the Committee received confirmation from the Office.
- 775.** The amendment was bracketed.
- 776.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to delete the words "in the SSE" to avoid repetition in the clause.
- 777.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the amendment.
- 778.** The amendment was adopted.
- 779.** The clause was bracketed pending consultations with the Office regarding the earlier amendment.

Clause 16(i)

- 780.** Clause 16(i) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group, read as follows:
- better integrate the SSE into the relevant outcomes, outputs and indicators of the ILO programme and budget, and reinforce the resources allocated to the work of the Office on the SSE;
- 781.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to replace the word "reinforce" with "taking into account the Governing Body guidance, examine ways to strengthen". Although the Conference was the supreme organ of the Organization, the Governing Body's role in guiding the Office should be acknowledged, since the budget needed to consider other needs.
- 782.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that her group did not consider the specification necessary. Regardless of the wording adopted by the Committee, the Office could not function without the Governing Body and was bound to follow its guidance on the programme and budget.

- 783.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson suggested, to reach consensus, a subamendment to delete "taking into account the Governing Body guidance" and reinstate "reinforce" instead of "strengthen".
- 784.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment.
- 785.** The amendment was adopted as subamended.
- 786.** Clause 16(i) was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(j)

- 787.** Clause 16(j) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- reactivate the Office-wide coordination mechanism on the promotion of the SSE, in particular with the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP) and the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV), in close cooperation with employers' and workers' organizations;
- 788.** Clause 16(j) was adopted without amendment.

Proposed new clause to follow clause 16(j)

- 789.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, presented an amendment to insert a new clause after point 16(j) which read as follows:
- promote the participation of SSE representatives in the ILO tripartite structure and the development of SSE activities;
- The amendment was based on the Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193), which referred to representatives of cooperatives, which were one of the entities included in the SSE. The particularity of the SSE was that it comprised a technical dimension, making it desirable to consult with technical representatives from the SSE.
- 790.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that she did not support the amendment because the tripartite structure of the ILO was already well defined and did not need to be redefined in the Committee's conclusions.
- 791.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson concurred with the Employers' position.
- 792.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, asked whether deleting the words "tripartite structure" would facilitate consensus.
- 793.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that despite the subamendments, her group was not in favour of the amendment. The conclusions referred on several occasions to how SSE entities could participate in consultations.
- 794.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that activities within the ILO were carried out in consultation with the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and the Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACTEMP). Participation of SSE representatives would be determined in those consultations. Accordingly, the amendment did not add anything to the tripartite value of the ILO.
- 795.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, said that he was prepared to withdraw the amendment, considering that the opening paragraph of point 16 indicated that the relevant stakeholders would be associated with the work of the Office.
- 796.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson asked that it be placed on the record that the Workers' position, in all consultations, would be to support the inclusion of SSE entities.

797. The amendment was withdrawn.

Clause 16(k)

798. Clause 16(k) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

strengthen its leadership on the SSE for advancing decent work and sustainable development, through its work in the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE, promoting policy coherence within the United Nations system, international financial institutions, and other multilateral institutions, with a view to mainstreaming international labour standards [and rights-based approaches], pro-employment, macroeconomic and industrial policies in global action on the SSE;

799. The Employer Vice-Chairperson introduced an amendment to remove the words "and rights-based approaches" from the text because she considered it too restrictive. She proposed a subamendment to replace the removed text with the words "so as to promote the rights that the ILO and the UN are defending, in accordance with international labour standards".
800. The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that her group found the text proposed by the Employers' group to be confusing and asked for further explanation.
801. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that the language was taken from paragraph 202 of the ILO Programme and Budget for the biennium 2022–23.
802. The Government representative of Bangladesh said that the reference to the UN in the Employers' group proposal cast the net too wide and took the clause beyond the mandate of the ILO. It included all human rights dealt with under the UN system. He could therefore not support it. He proposed a subamendment to remove the words "the rights that the ILO and the UN are defending, in accordance with" from the subamendment proposed by the Employers' group and to delete the words "so as". The subamendment was seconded by Saudi Arabia.
803. The Employer Vice-Chairperson noted that her original amendment also proposed deleting "with a view to mainstreaming international labour standards".
804. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed a further subamendment to the subamendment to insert "according to international labour standards" at the end of the clause after "SSE".
805. The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that the idea behind clause 16(k) was to ensure that the ILO played a leading role in advancing decent work in the SSE. In the UN system, many agencies played a role in the SSE. It was important for the ILO to mainstream there were many agencies that played a role in the SSE. It international labour standards in the broader UN system. She proposed that the reference to mainstreaming be retained but it should be changed to "to mainstream" instead of "to mainstreaming". She added that her group could not support the proposal to add "international labour standards" at the end of the clause and that it should be retained after "mainstream".
806. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that her group could support the subamendment proposed by the Workers' group.
807. The Government representative of Bangladesh expressed support for the subamendment proposed by the worker' group.
808. The amendment as subamended was adopted.
809. Clause 16(k) was adopted as amended.

Clause 16(l)

810. The text of clause 16(l) submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

maintain, intensify and where possible, broaden SSE-related partnerships, to better coordinate efforts on policy guidance and tools that enhance and complement existing frameworks and agreements.

- 811.** The Government representative of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, proposed an amendment to include the words "such as labels and certification schemes" after "guidance and tools". Certification schemes and labels were already present in many countries, and it was important to recognize that they could benefit the SSE and result in tax advantages. The ILO should not develop certification schemes or labels for SSE's but should consider the topic and map certification schemes that already exist with a view to identifying good practices and methodologies. Certificates and labels could help promote social savings and enable investors to target savings to support SSE's. Through its role, the ILO could also promote mutual recognition of certification schemes and help root out "pseudo" SSE entities.
- 812.** The deputy representative of the Secretary-General said that international instruments such as the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights placed a responsibility on business enterprises to respect human rights. Since these instruments were not legally binding, businesses often used labelling and certification schemes to distinguish themselves from other businesses. However, this was not the case with respect to SSE's who were not reliant on certification or private labelling initiatives to the same extent, given that they were social enterprises. There were also other concerns with certification schemes or labelling, such as who defined the label, its scope, what were the consequences of labelling or certification, and who ensured compliance with the standards set by the certification scheme or the labelling initiative.
- 813.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that in light of the explanation provided by the secretariat, her group was flexible and would support the consensus that emerged.
- 814.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that after considering the explanation provided by the secretariat, her group did not see the need for specific examples of policy guidance and tools and could therefore not support the amendment proposed by France on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- 815.** The Government representative of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, agreed with the Workers' group and did not support the specific reference to "labels and certification schemes". He said that the specific relation to labels and certification schemes would afford it undue importance and could even result in excluding certain SSE entities from ILO support.
- 816.** The Government representative of Canada indicated flexibility but said he could support the amendment proposed by France on behalf of the EU and its Member States because it was a topic of considerable importance in his country.
- 817.** The Government representative of Bangladesh agreed with the Africa group and noted that it was inappropriate to include specific examples of policy guidance and tools.
- 818.** The Government representative of the United States supported the view expressed by the Africa group and Bangladesh and did not support the amendment proposed by France on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- 819.** The Government representative of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, withdrew its amendment.

820. Clause 16(l) was adopted without amendment.

Clause 16(h)

821. Clause 16(h) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

develop guidance and provide training to labour inspectors on effective enforcement of labour legislation in the SSE to ensure that SSE entities are neither set up nor used for non-compliance with labour law or used to establish disguised employment relationships;

822. The deputy representative of the Secretary-General responded to the Workers' group's question on applying labour laws and other legislation. She explained that the labour inspectorates worked to enforce legislation concerning occupational safety and health, non-discrimination and forced and child labour. However, depending on the national legal framework, certain workplace violations could fall under criminal, administrative or constitutional law. In Spain, for example, workplace-related provisions in SSE entities fell under legislation governing small and medium-sized enterprises. On behalf of the secretariat, she proposed to include "or other workplace-related legislation applicable to the SSE" after "enforcement of labour" if that were agreeable to the Committee.

823. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the proposal.

824. The Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons supported the proposal.

825. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the proposal.

826. The Government member of Bangladesh said that he could support the proposal but asked the secretariat to check the grammatical accuracy of the wording "set up [...] for non-compliance".

827. The Government member of Brazil supported the amendment.

828. The amendment submitted by the EU and subamended by the secretariat was adopted.

829. Clause 16(h) was adopted as amended.

Second new point to be inserted after point 1

830. The Employer Vice-Chairperson proposed new and simplified text that read as follows:

According to the Centenary Declaration, the ILO must direct its efforts to promote an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises and the social and solidarity economy, to generate decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all.

831. The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed a subamendment to place "the social and solidarity economy" before "sustainable enterprises". As the paragraph referred to ILO efforts, she offered to move the point under Part IV entitled "the role of the ILO" to come after point 15.

832. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the two subamendments introduced by the Worker Vice-Chairperson.

833. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the amendment proposed by the Employers' group and subamendments by the Workers' group.

834. The Government member of the Philippines welcomed the inclusion of the term "sustainable enterprises" and supported the amendment and subamendments.

835. The employer's group's amendment as subamended was adopted.

Point 3

836. Point 3 as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

The Centenary Declaration sets down that the ILO must direct its efforts to "supporting the role of the private sector as a principal source of economic growth and job creation by promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy, to generate decent work, productive employment and improved living standards for all".

837. The Worker Vice-Chairperson withdrew her group's amendment as the point was no longer relevant.

838. The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, withdrew his amendment as it was no longer relevant.

839. The Government member of Canada, speaking on behalf of Japan and Türkiye, said that the three governments withdrew their amendments as they were redundant.

840. Point 3 became point 15 *bis*. Point 15 *bis* was adopted.

First sentence of point 10

841. The first sentence of point 10 as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:

Governments, in consultation with the social partners and through dialogue that is inclusive of organizations representing the entities and workers of the SSE, should, in accordance with national circumstances:

842. The Worker Vice-Chairperson introduced a subamendment to shorten the sentence as follows:

Members, with the support of the International Labour Office, should:

843. The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment.

844. The Government member of Bangladesh said that the reference to "national circumstances" was important for the Government of his country. Several ILO documents referred to "national circumstances" including the Global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. He introduced a subamendment to add "taking into account national circumstances" after "should" and to add a comma after the word "should".

845. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, seconded the subamendment.

846. The Worker Vice-Chairperson asked the secretariat to clarify whether the wording proposed by the Government member of Bangladesh was common ILO language. She pointed out that the resolution concerning inequalities and the world work, adopted at the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference, 2021, used the phrase "the International Labour Office should". ILO worked with governments and social partners and promoted its work according to national circumstances.

847. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that Part IV was entitled "The role of governments and the social partners" and thus implied that the subsequent clauses would also apply to Governments and social partners. He explained that a situational analysis was conducted in every country the ILO supported regarding national circumstances.

- 848.** The Government member of Bangladesh said it was standard practice to have redundancy in international discussions and documents. He pointed out that his subamendment received the support of the Africa group.
- 849.** The Government members of Brazil, Argentina and Mexico said that they were flexible on the inclusion of "national circumstances".
- 850.** The Government member of China indicated that she supported the subamendment introduced by the Government member of Bangladesh although it was redundant.
- 851.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson believed that the subamendment was redundant and invited the Government member of Bangladesh to show flexibility and withdraw his subamendment.
- 852.** The Government member of Bangladesh noted that although the subamendment was redundant, it did not harm any party. He requested to retain the inclusion of "national circumstances" in the first sentence of point 10.
- 853.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson indicated that there seemed to be doubt about how the Office had supported its Member States in the past. She highlighted that the standard language included in the resolutions concerning inequalities and the world of work; skills and lifelong learning (109th Session of the International Labour Conference, 2021) and the resolution concerning the second recurrent discussion on social dialogue and tripartism (107th Session of the International Labour Conference, 2018) was "the International Labour Office should". She invited the Africa group to reconsider their support for the subamendment introduced by the Government member of Bangladesh.
- 854.** The Government member of Bangladesh noted that he was aware of the ILO relationship with its Member States but believed that was not a reason to exclude the reference to "national circumstances". He stressed that other important ILO documents included the reference as customary practice. However, he agreed to withdraw the amendment on the understanding that the importance of considering national circumstances was covered by the subamendment proposed by the Workers' group.
- 855.** The first sentence of point 10, as subamended by the Workers' group, was adopted.

Clause 10(g)

- 856.** The text of clause 10(g) as amended by the Committee read as follows:
- provide quality public services, and strengthen the interaction between the SSE and public administration at all levels, including local and regional, and set up appropriate partnerships with the SSE, and through public procurement practices in line with Convention 94;
- 857.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson noted that the Annex already contained a reference to Convention No. 94. She introduced a subamendment to delete "provide quality public services, and" and "and set up appropriate public-private partnerships with the SSE, and through public procurement practices in line with Convention 94". The revised clause would read as follows:
- strengthen the interaction between the SSE and public administration at all levels, including local and regional;
- 858.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported subamendment proposed by the Workers' group.
- 859.** The Government member of Barbados supported the amendment. He noted that the inclusion of "public procurement" would have not posed a problem for him as his country used public procurement actively to support non-traditional actors. He recognized that "public administration" at the local level would also encompass "public procurement".

- 860.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, proposed a subamendment to add the words "and partnerships" after the word "interaction" and to add the word "entities" after the abbreviation "SSE".
- 861.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment introduced by the EU.
- 862.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson supported the subamendment, noting that the Committee should be consistent with Convention No. 94, which the Workers' group had proposed to add to the Annex.
- 863.** The subamendment was adopted.
- 864.** Clause 10(g) was adopted.

Clause 10(j)

- 865.** Clause 10(j) as submitted to the Committee by the Drafting Group read as follows:
- take measures to promote anti-corruption and good governance, facilitate registration, and simplify administrative procedures for the development of SSE entities and other enterprises;
- 866.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson proposed an amendment to delete the words "and other enterprises" after the word "entities", noting that the focus should remain on SSE entities, as well as their transition from the informal to formal economy.
- 867.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson stated that for her group the reference to other enterprises was important. She offered to withdraw a separate amendment that her group had made on the same clause, to add the words "including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises" after the word "enterprises", if the reference to enterprises were retained.
- 868.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that her group could accept inclusion of the word "enterprises" and proposed a subamendment to add the word "sustainable" before the word "enterprises".
- 869.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson supported the Workers' group subamendment.
- 870.** The Government member of Barbados stated that the Government of his country was flexible on this point. He understood the perspective of the Employers' group but urged the Committee to keep in mind that its purpose was to discuss the SSE.
- 871.** The Government member of Cameroon, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, noted that many SSE entities needed support to become sustainable in the first place.
- 872.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson withdrew her group's proposed amendment to add the words "including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises" after the word "enterprises".
- 873.** Clause 10(j) was adopted as amended.

Proposed new clause to follow 10(n)

- 874.** The Government member of Senegal introduced an amendment to add, following clause 10(n), a new clause that read:
- promote corporate social responsibility based on the principles of environmental sustainability and inclusive economic prosperity.
- 875.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson stated that corporate social responsibility was important for the purposes of economic enterprises, however the conclusions dealt with promoting decent work in the SSE. Balancing economic, social and environmental goals was intrinsic to SSE entities.

She stated that references to corporate social responsibility were better placed in conclusions regarding sustainable enterprises. To include them in the Committee's conclusions risked conveying a false impression that there was a role for corporate social responsibility in the SSE, and might elicit questions about the definition of the SSE that the Committee had adopted.

- 876.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson said that her group could be flexible with regard to the inclusion of the proposed new paragraph.
- 877.** The Government member of Senegal withdrew the proposed amendment but maintained that the issue remained relevant.
- 878.** Point 10 was adopted in its entirety, as amended.

Annex. Non-exhaustive list of instruments of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations relevant to decent work and the social and solidarity economy

- 879.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson, referring to the proposed amendment of her group to remove the Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177) from the Annex. Technical Conventions list, stated that Convention No. 177 had not been supported by the Employers' group and some governments when it was adopted. The concerns about the Convention persisted, as evidenced by the fact that only 11 countries had ratified it. Her group highlighted the primary responsibility of governments with regard to home work. She hoped governments would support its removal from the Annex.
- 880.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson made a plea to the Committee on behalf of the more than 100 million home based workers, especially those in the SSE, to retain Convention No. 177 in the Annex. Most of the workers in this sector were women, and including Convention No. 177 would make the conclusions more gender-sensitive and promote women's empowerment. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic had transferred a vast new set of workers into home work, marking a seismic shift in the world of work. While that shift was sometimes temporary, in many cases it would remain permanent. Convention No. 177 was the only standard that addressed home based work and was therefore highly relevant.
- 881.** The Government member of Barbados stated that the Government of his country had not ratified Convention No. 177. However, the Government spoke from a position of principle on matters pertaining to the world of work, without limiting itself to the subjects addressed in the Conventions Barbados had ratified. The world of work had changed due to the pandemic. Working from home had been normalized and included white collar professionals in mass numbers. Barbados would not return completely to previous working arrangements and there was a need to adapt to new realities, for example by ensuring occupational safety and health in homes. In the first conclusions dealing with the SSE after the onset of the pandemic, the Committee would be remiss if it were not to include a reference to home work and Convention No. 177 as a source of valuable guidance.
- 882.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, supported the inclusion of Convention No. 177, even if not all EU Member States had ratified it.
- 883.** The Government member of Argentina, supported retaining Convention No. 177, noting that her country had ratified it.
- 884.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking for the Africa group, supported retaining Convention No. 177 in the Annex.
- 885.** The Government member of Colombia supported retaining Convention No. 177 in the Annex.

- 886.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson recalled that in the 26 years since its adoption, only 11 countries had ratified Convention No. 177. Removing it from the Annex was of utmost importance to the Employers.
- 887.** The Chairperson noted that the Committee had reached stalemate on this point and would resume discussion on it at a later time.
- 888.** The deputy representative of the Secretary-General noted that the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work had not been included in the Annex. The Committee might wish to address that question.

Other technical Conventions

- 889.** The Employer Vice-Chairperson recalled that the Employers' group was not in favour of the principle of an Annex to conclusions, a practice that should not become recurrent at the ILO. It was also opposed to some of the standards included in the Annex, for clear reasons already expressed. During the work of the Committee, the Employers' group had been constructive and had always sought consensus. It had shown flexibility on these points, as had no doubt been appreciated. The arguments of the different groups concerning Convention No. 177 had been heard, and she wanted to recall those of the Employers. They were: (i) the Employers' group had always clearly expressed its opposition to the inflexible nature of Convention No. 177 and the controversial manner of its adoption, the Employers' group having not participated in the second discussion of the International Labour Conference Committee on the instrument; (ii) in the past 25 years only 11 of the 187 ILO Member States had ratified Convention No. 177; and (iii) the agenda of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group included a review of Convention No. 177 to determine whether it was still relevant and appropriate. It would have been better to wait for that review. The Employers' group understood that a majority had been in favour of maintaining the reference in the Annex, and in view of the quality of the Committee's work and the balanced text that had resulted, and to retain that spirit of compromise, the Employers' group had decided to agree to that inclusion and support the conclusions. However, the group insisted on stressing the strong reservations it had expressed. She asked for her statement to be included in full.
- 890.** The Worker Vice-Chairperson was sincerely grateful to the Employers' group for their agreement to accept the inclusion of Convention No. 177 in the Annex, notwithstanding their strong reservations as stated. She had been reflecting on what else could have been said to give meaning to Convention No. 177 for the millions of workers worldwide who could benefit from it. Throughout the discussions, her group had concentrated on promoting decent work for workers in the SSE. As she had been reflecting, she did not know why she had failed to make a stronger case for the inclusion of that Convention. According to the ILO's figures, in 2019, 260 million of workers were involved in home based work. With the onset of COVID-19 that number had nearly doubled, reaching 560 million by the middle of 2020. While the group recognized that some remote work arrangements were the result of the pandemic and temporary, large numbers would remain. A high proportion of SSE workers were among those who had to function in these highly informal situations. The issue was not to do with a Convention adopted in 1996 and which came into force in 2000 but more to do with the changes in the world of work that had occurred since then. In the context of these changes, more countries should consider ratifying Convention No. 177, ratification of which stood at 13, rather than 11. It was more important to improve its implementation to reflect the new reality of the world of work and extend the protection and coverage provided by international labour standards to all home based workers or those working remotely. She thanked all the

governments that had supported the argument of the Workers' group and extended special thanks to the Employers. A very solid set of conclusions had resulted from the debates.

- 891. The amendment was adopted as subamended by the Employers' group.
- 892. The Annex in its entirety was adopted as amended.

Adoption of the draft conclusions

- 893. The representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to two paragraphs of the conclusions which could be thought to be repetitious, one of which came under Part III: Guiding principles to address challenges and opportunities, and read as follows:

respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work, other human rights, and relevant international labour standards, including in all types of SSE entities;

The second text was in Part IV: The role of governments and the social partners. It read:

Member States have the obligation to respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work, other human rights, and relevant international labour standards, including in all types of SSE entities.

- 894. The Employer Vice-Chairperson said her group wished to maintain both paragraphs as drafted.
- 895. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed that repetition sometimes enhanced enforcement and said that the two paragraphs should remain.
- 896. The representative of the Secretary-General further indicated that there was no reference to ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998, as amended in 2022. However, it had been mentioned several times in the conclusions. The Committee might wish to include a reference to it in the Annex.
- 897. The Employer Vice-Chairperson indicated that, since the Annex had been qualified as non-exhaustive, the group could be flexible.
- 898. The Worker Vice-Chairperson agreed on the inclusion.
- 899. The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, supported the proposal of the Office.
- 900. The proposal of the Office was adopted.
- 901. The draft conclusions in their entirety were adopted as amended.

Adoption of the resolution

- 902. The draft resolution was adopted without amendment.

Closing remarks

- 903. The Chairperson observed that the Committee had accomplished the task given to them by the Conference and acknowledged the successful work of all present.
- 904. The Employer Vice-Chairperson thanked the Government members who had enriched the debate. She particularly thanked the Worker Vice-Chairperson for her many contributions, praising her quick and agile mind.
- 905. The Worker Vice-Chairperson said that the Organization had waited 103 years to fulfil the important task that had now been accomplished. She thanked all Government members for

their rich participation in the debates. She observed that the Workers, Employers and Governments now had a better understanding of the reality of the SSE, the challenges, and the opportunities that it held. Together, the groups had produced conclusions to guide the Office. In anticipation of their adoption by the Conference plenary the following day, she also extended thanks on behalf of all SSE entities.

- 906.** The Government member of France, speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States, was pleased with the conclusions. They represented a landmark in the multilateral system. They provided a basis to advance the work on the SSE in partnership with the OECD and others. Much remained to be done.
- 907.** The Government member of Barbados said he was pleased with the conclusions. He praised the frank and clearly stated exchange of opinion that had taken place during the discussion. The ILO was indeed the home of tripartism and social dialogue and an example to the world and other international organizations. The SSE was an appropriate field to pursue the challenges that the Member States, the especially small island States, had to face. States must engage with the SSE, civil society and other non-state actors, contributing to development.
- 908.** The Government member of Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the Africa group, said that the conclusions were relevant to the circumstances in his region. He had enjoyed the exchanges with the Workers and Employers and appreciated the Vice-Chairpersons' efforts to reach a consensus. He thanked all Government members, including those in his group. He believed the process had been historic.
- 909.** The Government member of Bangladesh was pleased with the outcome. The balanced text would help address the issues and challenges in the SSE. He trusted that his country would benefit from the set of conclusions.
- 910.** The Government member of Saudi Arabia thanked all participants. He had seen the importance of tripartite dialogue and was proud of the results.
- 911.** The Government member of Argentina, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, endorsed the words of other delegates. She had been impressed by the depth of knowledge of the Vice-Chairpersons, their ability to convey the relevant concepts, and their flexibility. The conclusions were important and provided a framework for focused work on the added value of the SSE in promoting decent work and in contributing to sustainable development. The conclusions would be a tool for advancing the fundamental principles and rights at work for SSE workers.
- 912.** The representative of the Secretary-General highlighted the importance of the first Conference discussion on the SSE. He thanked all staff, including those outside the Enterprises Department, for their hard work. Working with the constituents and the Chairperson had been an honour, and a privilege. He had appreciated the positive energy in the room.
- 913.** As Chairperson of the UNTFSSSE, he observed that the SSE was not an alternative model but rather a niche that did meaningful work for social and environmental sustainability. The positive role of the SSE and the work of the Committee had empowered the ILO to take its work on the SSE to a different level, together with the constituents.
- 914.** The Chairperson appreciated the prevailing spirit of consensus and said it had been an honour for him and for his country, the United States, to chair the Committee. He extended gratitude to the Vice-Chairpersons, without whose commitment it would not have been possible to achieve such a meaningful outcome. The work accomplished on the SSE would advance social justice and decent work.