



FOR INFORMATION

FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Follow-up to the Working Party on funding of the ITCILO and collaboration between Geneva and Turin on technical cooperation programmes

1. The report of the Working Party was discussed by the PFAC at the November 2007 session (GB.300/PFA/6/3) and its recommendations were adopted following strong statements of support. This report provides a brief update on the action taken in the different areas identified by the Working Party and describes ongoing processes.
2. The Working Party proposed that the ILO and the ITC-ILO take measures to ensure closer collaboration, notably by aligning the ITC-ILO's work with the ILO's Programme and Budget as well as by engaging in joint programming. A larger share of the ILO's extrabudgetary resources should be allocated by the ILO to training activities that are entrusted to the ITC-ILO. In addition, donors were asked to consider funding the ITC-ILO's programme directly. Finally, encouraging an exchange of staff was suggested as a way of strengthening collaboration.

Joint programming and closer alignment

3. The ITC-ILO has invested substantial time and resources in better integrating the work of the ITC-ILO with that of the ILO as a whole. An example is the matching of the ITC-ILO's training products and services with the Programme and Budget framework for 2008-09, setting out the ITC-ILO's contribution to each immediate and shared outcome. This has also led to changes at the ITC-ILO, where activities' contributions to ILO outcomes are now tracked.
4. At the same time, there is expanding collaboration between technical units in Geneva and at the ITC-ILO on transforming new ILO knowledge and expertise into new training products and services. In the areas of skills development, migration, discrimination and even 'green jobs', new joint work is under way.
5. A similar process is taking place with the ILO field offices, with the ITC-ILO responding to the regional priorities of each region. This involves using the RBTC resources reserved for use with the ITC-ILO in each region to attract further resources and to support regional ILO initiatives or specific DWCP outcomes.

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6. These efforts are being complemented by the appointment from 1 August 2008 of a senior adviser on cooperation between the ITC-ILO and the ILO's Department of Partnerships and Development Cooperation (PARDEV), based in Geneva. The process of alignment is expected to develop further. The ITC-ILO is already taking part in preparing the P&B proposals for 2010-11 and the Strategic Policy Framework for 2010-2015. The focus is on identifying the specific training and learning needs of constituents in the various areas of the ILO's work, in order to incorporate these into the immediate and joint outcomes being specified.

More of the ILO's TC resources flowing to the ITC-ILO

7. The Working Party recommended that an increasing share of the ILO's programme of technical cooperation should be channelled through the ITC-ILO for specific training and capacity-development activities. This was echoed in the discussions by the Committee on Technical Cooperation of the ILO's Governing Body in November 2007. Discussions between PARDEV and the ITC-ILO are under way.
8. First of all, the ITC-ILO will be systematically involved in the design and formulation of all ILO project proposals, in accordance with ILO appraisal procedures. The main focus here will be on proposals being prepared under partnership or framework agreements that the ILO has with a range of donors. As part of the appraisal process, PARDEV will verify that the training and capacity building outputs have been well specified in collaboration with the ITC-ILO. Projects will also be appraised for following the Common Principles of Action -- including gender equality, tripartism and international labour standards -- and for incorporating and using appropriate Turin Centre expertise for any training components.
9. Although the ILO has not yet established a clear framework for this, the result sought by the ITC-ILO is to have specific training outputs listed as part of the ILO's technical cooperation proposals. Such outputs would be linked to earmarked resources within project budgets, giving the ITC-ILO a basis for planning its work, for instance through a specific budget line to produce the training outputs. The additional advantage is that the involvement of ITC-ILO expertise in designing and implementing training activities within ILO technical cooperation projects will ensure that training and learning aspects are given due consideration.
10. With the substantial increase in technical cooperation resources available to ILO offices in the field (technical cooperation, RBSA, etc.) and the considerable challenge of providing the available resources, the ITC-ILO is actively encouraging ILO offices to draw more regularly upon the ITC-ILO's ability to run training in the field. The ITC-ILO has curricula available in all areas of the ILO's work, usually in several languages. This provides a significant opportunity to channel funds for training work to the ITC-ILO, provided appropriate medium-term planning has taken place. At the time this report was written, a number of measures to involve the Centre in the implementation of RBSA-funded programmes in certain regions were being taken. However, the planning of RBSA resources was still at an early stage, which made it difficult to assess the overall effectiveness of the Centre's participation in the context of the RBSA strategy.

Voluntary contributions by donors to the ITC-ILO

11. Although the inclusion of training outputs within larger ILO TC projects is important, there is also considerable scope for the ITC-ILO to propose capacity-building and training projects for direct funding by donors. A prerequisite is of course that such proposals complement those implemented by ILO units and offices and do contribute to the DWCPs. A series of suitable

proposals is available, covering areas such as youth employment, CSR and skills development. There are also region-specific proposals (for Portuguese-speaking Africa, the Arab States and CIS countries) that respond to constituents' demands.

12. PARDEV has invited the ITC-ILO to attend meetings with donors to the ILO that have partnership or framework agreements in place, but results in terms of new funding for the ITC-ILO have so far been limited. Three options, which are not mutually exclusive, should be considered. The choice among them depends on the nature and terms of the partnership between the donor agencies and the ILO: a) implementation by the ITC-ILO of training and human resource development components of larger ILO projects and programmes; b) direct allocation to the ITC-ILO of resources for the implementation of training, learning and knowledge-sharing programmes related to broad thematic priorities in the context of framework agreements with donors; and c) the possibility for the ITC-ILO to submit training and learning project proposals in accordance with donor priorities and the ILO's internal appraisal processes. The ITC-ILO, in close collaboration with PARDEV, is therefore going beyond existing ILO donors with structured relationships with the ILO to put forward specific proposals to other donors for furthering the Decent Work Agenda through specific ITC-ILO programmes. This is an area where more work is needed.

Exchange of staff and focal points

13. In recent months, there has been a spontaneous increase in the exchange of staff between the ITC-ILO and the ILO. At the moment, three ITC-ILO officials are posted with the ILO and three ILO Officials are seconded to the ITC-ILO. The Director of the Centre intends to encourage this mobility, in collaboration with the Director of the Human Resources Development Department of the ILO.
14. In late 2007, a system of ITC-ILO focal points was set up in the Africa field offices, as a first point of contact for ITC-ILO Technical Programmes seeking to identify opportunities, as well as to assist with the actual organization of activities. This system will be evaluated at the end of 2008, after which it may be extended to other ILO field offices. The Sectors in Geneva have not yet designated focal points, although there are key people in each technical department who deal mainly with the ITC-ILO. A further discussion with the Executive Directors on this is foreseen.

ILO staff training

15. The ITC-ILO has recruited an experienced training specialist to ensure effective use of the ILO's staff development funds. Working with the HRD and learning coordinators, a multifaceted joint training programme has been outlined. It comprises the development of e-learning platforms and training material as well as the actual design and implementation of staff training courses. Topics include orientation for new staff, project cycle management, training of learning coordinators, tripartism, procurement and results-based management. Staff development funds will allow ILO staff to participate in such training, run by the ITC-ILO. An internal mechanism has also been set up to encourage ILO staff to participate in standard or tailor-made training activities held on campus or in other countries.

Conclusion

16. There is evidence that the closer alignment is leading to more structured relationships and better medium-term joint planning, although this has not yet brought a clear increase in funding available to the ITC-ILO from the ILO. However, with the build-up of resources under the RBSA and within technical cooperation projects, it can be expected that in 2009 ILO offices and technical departments will increasingly want to draw upon the training capacity of the ITC-ILO. The challenge is to translate this into lasting joint planning, programming and implementation, in which training and capacity-building contributions by the ITC-ILO fit seamlessly into the larger ILO effort, 'delivering as one'.

Turin, September 2008.