

Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance

▶ Questionnaire

At the first meeting of the Tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance (TWGD), which was held on 11 December 2020, it was agreed that the members of the working group would be invited to express their views on the understanding and scope of the notion of democratization of the ILO's governance for the purpose of informing the discussions of the second meeting of the working group to be held in January 2021 and developing a possible programme of future work.

Accordingly, the Office has prepared the following questionnaire, bearing in mind that the Centenary Declaration and its accompanying Resolution are the framework within which the TWGD should carry out its work. The Office would be grateful if the replies could be sent by Wednesday 6 January 2021 to JUR@ilo.org.

1. Do you consider that the notion of democratization refers to aspirations of Member States regarding specific aspects of the functioning of governance organs, such as composition, decision-making, voting power, organization and access to meetings? Please elaborate and provide concrete examples.

Kenya opines that democratization of the ILO should be wholistic in line with the principle of sovereign equality of all Member States in line with Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. Democratization requires equitable representation in decision making and voting organs. There is therefore need to amend Article 7 of the ILO Constitution on "Governing Body" to eliminate the provision for non elective "Members of chief industrial importance" The ILO Constitution should further eliminate reference to "Members of Chief Industrial importance" with respect to the ratification of amendments to the ILO Constitution.

Kenya further supports the democratization process of elections of Director General by the International Labour Conference as the highest decision making organ of the ILO rather than the Governing Body. The 1986 Constitutional amendment provided basis for democratization of the ILO.

2. Do you consider that 'democratization of tripartite governance' concerns the ILO Governing Body only or should also cover the International Labour Conference and other aspects of ILO governance?

Democracy should and must cover all aspects of the tripartite governance and not only the Governing Body.

3. Based on the above, which aspects of democratization – in addition to those addressed in the 1986 constitutional amendment – would you consider the TWGD should examine in priority? Please specify.

Recruitment and deployment of staff including opportunities for internship

4. In your view, which are the core principles that should be guiding ILO's action towards democratization of its governance? Please specify.

Core principles that should guide ILO actions towards democratization of its governance are equality and sovereignty of Member States. The 1986 Constitutional Amendment and the Centenary Declaration elucidated the principles.

5. Do you have any concrete proposals for the second meeting of the TWGD and/or its future programme of work?

What are the other options besides the amendment of the Constitution that would lead to democratization of the ILO.