

Proceedings of the 51st Meeting of the CIS Network 11-12 November 2013, ITC-ILO Turin



International Labour Office - Geneva
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Overview

The ILO International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) held its 51st annual meeting on 11-12 November 2013 at the ILO International Training Centre (ITC) in Turin. Representatives of all CIS Centres – regional, national or collaborating – were invited to this important event for the future of the Network. A total of 56 participants from 41 agencies, institutions and organizations from 37 countries participated in the meeting. The main objective was to review and modernize the terms and conditions governing the participation of agencies, institutions and organizations in the CIS Network of national and collaborating Centres, as a means to improve its functioning and ensure further development.

The programme of the meeting¹ was built around a series of working sessions held on two days. The first day aimed at positioning the discussion on the future of the CIS network in the context of organizational changes at the ILO, and current practices and needs of ILO Member States. It offered the opportunity to present the latest development in OSH knowledge at the ILO, notably the new global database on OSH legislation (LEGOSH). The sessions in the afternoon aimed at bringing the focus on events, key achievements and latest developments in OSH knowledge management by the members of the CIS network. The second day pursued the already engaged discussion on the need to modernize the CIS network in light of the on-going reform at the ILO and its impact on the CIS. The entire day was devoted to debate various development options presented in the supporting document titled: *The ILO Knowledge for Prevention Initiative – A Proposal for Discussion*.²

The participants benefited from very rich presentations and engaged generously in the discussions on the future of the network. They notably agreed on the creation of a ‘steering committee’ and the development of a work programme that should focus on key priorities and produce relevant, solid and sustainable results to service the needs of constituents.

Day 1: Opening session

Welcome note by the representative of the ILO ITC hosting the meeting.

1. Mr Felix Martin-Daza, Senior Programme Officer for the ILO ITC welcomed the participants in the 51st meeting to the ITC. He explained that the ITC was an integral part of the ILO, as well as being the largest training centre of the United Nations system. He provided an overview of the functioning of the ITC as well as the training activities offered over the last calendar year.

Welcome note by the Chief a.i. of the Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Branch (LABADMIN/OSH).

¹ http://www.ilo.org/safework/cis/WCMS_222054/lang--en/index.htm

² http://www.ilo.org/safework/cis/WCMS_228609/lang--en/index.htm

2. Mr Giuseppe Casale, Chief a.i. of LABADMIN/OSH welcomed the participants. He reiterated the importance of this meeting, especially in the light of the structural changes happening within the ILO as a whole. He explained that the ILO's work was under more scrutiny, and the drive to become more efficient was of utmost importance, and this was also the case with the functioning of the CIS Network, as work could not continue as in the past. He said that the outcomes of this meeting of the network would decide how its work would continue in the future and looked forward to seeing what the meeting would propose.

Introduction to the programme of the 51st meeting.

3. Mr Claude D. Loiselle, Coordinator of CIS welcomed the participants. He explained that this meeting was happening in a time of change at the ILO, as Mr Casale would explain in his presentation. He informed the first day would look at the latest developments in ILO OSH knowledge and information products, discuss the impact of the ILO policy portfolio and administrative reform on the CIS, with the afternoon being dedicated to achievements from the Centres and participants in the meeting. The second day would look at the future of the CIS Network. He highlighted the importance of three working sessions that would take place, as well as the fourth session that would be used to consolidate the outcomes of each session. He informed the meeting that these outcomes would form the basis of discussions with higher level management on the work of the Network in the coming years. He also drew attention to the discussion paper for the second day, namely "The Knowledge for Prevention Initiative (KPI)", stressing that it was a proposal that could help the working groups with their deliberations, but in the end it would be up to the participants to decide on how the network would evolve in the future.
4. Mr Loiselle also informed the meeting of changes in the agenda for the afternoon session due to some participants not being able to travel to Turin.

Election of the Chairperson of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

5. Two proposals were received for the chair of the meeting, namely Professor Abdeljalil El Kholti (INVCT/Morocco), and Mr Steve Horvath (CCOHS/Canada). Each candidate briefly introduced themselves, with both confirming their willingness to serve as Chairperson. After a vote by show of hands, Pr Abdeljalil El Kholti (INVCT/Morocco) was elected Chairperson for the meeting. Following his election, the agenda was adopted with the changes explained by Mr Loiselle earlier.

Day 1: Session A – OSH Knowledge Management in a Changing World

6. Mr Robin Poppe, Chief of Learning and Communication at the ITC gave a presentation titled "Trends and opportunities in knowledge management: Perspective of the ILO ITC". He explained that times had changed and that education now had to be designed to target the specific learning needs of students, and as learning was now a lifelong process, it would not be possible to always have a teacher to support students. He also pointed out the new generation of students where all were IT savvy and had information at their fingertips, especially now due to websites such as Google. New trainers would thus have to realise that the search for knowledge was no longer a specialised function. In addition, learning is now a fundamental right and access to knowledge is now virtually free. This has had a huge impact to the functioning of the ITC. He gave a few statistics on how the access to knowledge had rendered some institutions irrelevant. An obvious example was the Encyclopaedia Britannica, which will no longer be produced because of the advent of Wikipedia. He also showcased YouTube where six billion hours of video are watched monthly, and where a hundred hours of new footage is posted every minute.

This had had a huge impact on training as knowledge seekers did not need to attend specialised schools, but could go online instead. He likened this to a shift in power. In the past, power was in the hands of those with knowledge, namely specialists, nowadays, the power was in the hand of knowledge providers. Hence a new shift into how knowledge was provided would be necessary, from paper based libraries to online libraries as access to knowledge only depended on the speed of internet connection. He concluded by saying that this shift would lead from centres of knowledge to spaces of cultures where students could develop, interact, be exposed and most importantly, be connected with the knowledge they need.

7. Mr Giuseppe Casale, before explaining the impact on OSH of the current reform process within the ILO, reiterated the main theme of the meeting, namely how the CIS and its Network of Centres would work in the future. This was especially relevant in the light of the post 2015 strategic framework being designed. He explained how the CIS in the past was a technical unit at the ILO headquarters, as well as serving as the secretariat of the Centres Network, and formed part of many other units within the ILO which also provided networks with a secretariat function. One example was the former International Industrial Relations Association (IIRA) for which he served as Secretary, which had a major rethink in 2007 to decide its future and which evolved into the International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) in 2009. The uniqueness of CIS at the time of its creation was that it had no competitors. It was the only international OSH Network. Referring to Mr Poppe's earlier presentation, this situation had now changed and thus a major rethink of how the CIS and its Network of Centres would work in the future was timely, and necessary.
8. Continuing on the subject of reform, Mr Casale informed the meeting that the former SafeWork, Labour Administration and Labour Inspection programmes had now been merged into one programme called the Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Branch, LABADMIN/OSH for short. He explained that the new Director-General wished for a single entry point within the organisation for OSH and inspection, and he wanted these services to be delivered to constituents jointly. Returning to the future of CIS, he pointed out that it was not only the case of how to deal with OSH knowledge management, but also how it would be financed as the reality of the world was that funds were decreasing. Now, the onus was to develop new products that could attract donors. The traditional role of providing access to OSH information to those in the most remote parts would still continue, but new smart products would have to be developed that would enable OSH information to be accessible to all. CIS could no longer continue as a collector of information as in the past. On the network, he believed that it should expand, but it should also become more efficient and relevant in order to attract resources and become self-sufficient.

The Chairperson then opened the floor for questions and comments from the meeting.

9. Mr Steve Horvath (CCOHS/Canada) agreed with Mr Poppe about information being readily accessible in the modern age. The CCOHS had conducted a survey and it was not the access to information that was the problem, but the determination of whether or not this information was credible or not. He asked how the ILO could bring credibility to the knowledge that was currently available. He also said that it was an issue on how to align OSH knowledge with the needs of those that would have to use it.
10. Mr Casale answered that under the new reform process taking place within the ILO, the new management had identified eight Areas of Critical Importance (ACIs) for which the Office should now work on. One of these directly involved the new branch, namely "Strengthening workplace compliance through labour inspection". Hence work for the

biennium would now be linked to one or several of these ACIs and countries would be targeted accordingly with a programme of action that would have a lasting impact. Information provided by the ILO would also have to follow this.

11. On credibility of OSH information, Mr Poppe agreed that this was a major problem, especially with the quantity of information available now. He explained that one way to give credibility would be to educate learners to responsibly use information, making sure that the information they did use was valid and credible.
12. Mr Loiselle added that accessing credible information on OSH was not enough, but persons should be able to use this information for prevention.
13. Mr Jeronimo Maqueda Blasco (ISCIII/Spain) expressed his concerns about the new reforms within the ILO. He understood that ILO efforts would have to be more focussed at country level, but in certain cases, countries did not have the capacity and resources to know exactly what they needed, and therefore depended on a global and more international vision as it was very hard to regulate everything.
14. Mr Casale said that it was a direct request by constituents for the ILO to be more focussed at country level. He reassured the meeting that international and global work would continue, but the main focus would be at national level.

Day 1: Session B – Latest Development in ILO OSH Knowledge Management

15. Dr Begoña Casanueva, Technical Specialist, LABADMIN/OSH, presented the developments which had taken place during the past year to modernise various CIS information products. With respect to the multilingual collection of International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC) hosted by the ILO under a partnership agreement with the WHO, she recalled the Cards preparation and updating process, pointing out the authoritative nature of the Cards because of the peer-reviewed information contained in those. She focussed on the Cards fixed format and standard sentences in the recently established Oracle database, which facilitated the updated translation of this material and gave examples on this. She then presented the new online edition of the OSH Thesaurus which contains more than 15000 OSH terms and synonyms in English, French and Spanish arranged hierarchically by subject, and indicated it could be used for translation and querying different databases in OSH. She also described the e-OSH 2013 DVD gathering most of ILO technical material in OSH in English, French and Spanish, including the HTML version of the ILO Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety, the ICSCs and ILO conventions and recommendations on OSH and labour inspection.
16. Mr Roland Müller, Communication and Knowledge Management Officer, LABADMIN/OSH, delivered a presentation on “The new ILO portal on OSH: Enhanced access to online knowledge and information”. He presented the new website structure and content. Some examples showed how packaging OSH knowledge and information for greater and easier access made ILO OSH web resources more accessible. Others focused on the way the content is interrelated and integrated with other OSH topics and wider themes related to the world of work. The presentation embarked the participants for a journey through the website to show the latest developments, features, tools, and capabilities. In the end, the audience was kindly requested to create cross-references to the portal and actively contribute to its further development.
17. Ms Valentina Beghini, Technical Officer, LABADMIN/OSH, introduced the concept and features of the new Global Database on OSH Legislation – LEGOSH. She explained that it contained extracts of legislative texts classified under a set of descriptors covering most OSH related legal requirements. It would also allow for users to compare texts which could be used as a means to identify best practices and trends across countries and

regions. She demonstrated the search, browse and compare features and briefly showed the current country coverage. She invited participants to use and promote the database.

The Chairperson opened the floor for questions.

18. Mr Steve Horvath (CCOHS/Canada) pointed out that the ICSCs were much appreciated in his country and that they were used as a reference tool precisely because of the peer review process which took place in their preparation, hence giving them the required credibility as a source of knowledge.
19. Ms Barbara Szczepanowska (CIOP/Poland) confirmed the usefulness of the OSH Thesaurus for CIOP, and informed participants that her institute had also translated it into Polish. She welcomed collaboration and cooperation with other centres.
20. Dr Rania Rushdie (AIOHS/Syrian Arab Republic) asked why the ICSCs had not been translated into Arabic yet as she had an agreement with the former Director of SafeWork to have them translated at her institute.
21. Dr Casanueva responded by saying that the Arabic version was in the pipeline. To complement, Mr Loiselle described the new platform which was now being used to develop the cards. This platform enabled cards to be translated much quicker than before. The Chairperson also added that Egypt had translated some cards and that this experience could be used for the Arabic version.
22. Professor Konstantin Todradze (RADQ/Russian Federation) pointed out that there were two aspects missing from LEGOSH, firstly legislation on recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases and secondly, legislation on personal protective equipment (PPE).
23. Ms Beghini reassured the meeting that the two elements referred to above were included within LEGOSH. She also explained that LEGOSH provided a flexible structure where new areas could be added with relative ease. She welcomed suggestions from participants on new field which could be included within the database.
24. Mr Steve Horvath (CCOHS/Canada) expressed the same concerns he had raised at the 50th meeting of the network on LEGOSH. As legislation was a dynamic area, there would be the need to keep the database updated regularly, and this would require resources. He queried on how the database would be kept up to date.
25. Mr Loiselle explained that LEGOSH was a global product of the ILO, and that the ILO now had a dedicated platform to host all technical databases. The platform, named "LEGPOL", had high-level backing and commitment from top management within the Office, and relevant databases would be transferred onto it. He informed the platform allowed for external contributions and reviewing, and that the plan was to establish a pool of voluntary contributors, notably CIS Centres, relevant government officials, academics and legal experts in the area of OSH through enhanced international collaboration. He took the opportunity to express the ILO's gratitude to the Government of Korea for providing some funding to develop the platform and its first application LEGOSH, and welcomed CIS Centres collaboration as regards the content.

The Chairperson summed up the session.

Day 1: Session C – World Events and Key Achievements in OSH Knowledge Management

26. Ms Suvi Lehtinen (FIOH/Finland) presented the role of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) in international knowledge development. Providing an overview of the structure of the institute, she stressed that everyone had the right to OSH knowledge. She informed the meeting of the three strategic goals of the institute

for the period 2011 – 2015: a) Evidence from research; b) targeted solutions for clients and partners; and c) better impact with the information provided. She then provided an outline of FIOH's international activities. These were mainly concentrated within the European Union (EU), especially in the field of nanosafety, this work being part of a global network on nanosafety. She also gave an overview of the Cochrane occupational safety and health review group whose editorial board was hosted at the FIOH. It gathered information and evidence based research on which occupational health interventions actually worked. She then shared with the meeting FIOH's different regional activities. This included training in East Africa as well as the publishing of regional newsletters on OSH. She also gave an overview of the Institutes' work as a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as its participation within the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH).

27. Dr Rania Rushdie (ALO-AIOHS/Syrian Arab Republic) provided an overview of the challenges faced by AIOHS in providing OSH services in Syria in the current context, and in the Arab States more largely. She outlined how the tripartite structure of AIOHS allowed them to provide services in standards development, policy formulation and the initiation of programmes in OSH to 21 Arab States, even with reduced funding due to unrest in some Arab countries. This was undertaken in two steps, firstly through the development of already specified objectives in the field of OSH under the ALO, and secondly in the evaluation of programmes to determine their success or not, and in the case of failure, to redesign them taking into account the reasons for their non-success. She indicated the decline in funding to AIOHS as being a major factor, but this did not mean a decrease in activities, as new activities were planned, especially in the area of crisis management planning.
28. Professor Abdeljalil El Kholti (INVCT/Morocco) delivered a presentation on how the Institut National des Conditions de Vie au Travail (INVCT) was established in Morocco. He firstly thanked the ILO for the continuing technical support and encouragement in making this project a reality. He started by giving an overview of the situation in Morocco. His analysis showed mainly that prevention was not a priority until recently, and that legislative texts were in dire need of revision. In addition, the lack of occupational health physicians, reliable OSH statistics and trained labour inspectors posed a big problem. He explained the current shift in focus to prevention in the field of OSH in his country. Unfortunately this was caused by tragedies involving loss of lives. He mentioned the fire incident at Rosamor where 55 people died with a further 17 severely injured was a critical awakening call for the Moroccan society.
29. He presented the results of the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis (SWOT) and explained that this provided the basis for upgrading the current OSH system within the country, with the establishment of the INVCT being one of the key outcomes. Its mandate is to develop and support the implementation of the national OSH strategy. This involves launching a public awareness raising campaign, undertaking applied research, providing training and capacity building activities, assistance and advice to workplaces. He outlined the roadmap of the institute for the period 2011-14 where the major focus is to assist enterprises upgrade their OSH performance. This will be followed by updating the national legislation and the drafting of a national OSH policy. He also shared the proposed work plan for the period 2014 – 2015 of the institute.
30. Dr Joseph Dieuboué (SCSST/Cameroon) gave a presentation on “Mobilising OSH Knowledge Capacities in Sub-Saharan French Speaking Africa – 1st Congress of the Cameroon Society of OSH”. He presented an overview of the common challenges in OSH. These were:

- lack of trained personnel;
 - lack of regulation;
 - lack of OSH labour inspection;
 - weak social security system;
 - lack of financial resources available to the institutions within the region;
 - poor commitment of companies to their corporate social responsibilities;
 - insufficient trade union staff educated in OSH;
 - poor sensitisation of the general public on OSH prevention;
 - illiteracy amongst the workforce; and,
 - expansion of the informal economy which meant a large proportion of the economically active population received no social protection coverage.
31. He then elaborated on the projects for the region in 2015. This included the elaboration of a national OSH policy, including action plan for implementation, and the adoption of an OSH code. These would be supplemented by the strengthening of OSH institutions to undertake risk mapping at national level. A specific output would be the creation of an OSH directory which would list those individuals qualified in OSH. He then provided a summary of the 1st Congress of the Cameroon Society for OSH, which main theme was prevention, productivity and sustainable development in Africa. The Congress examined five main areas, namely the use of productivity management systems tools (such as WISE and WIND); the management of OSH costs; the management of CSR; the involvement of social partners in OSH management; and OSH in the informal economy, with each area having a thematic conference. Two pre-congress training sessions also formed part of the agenda, with training for managers in the WISE approach and metrology of occupational hazards for OSH professionals being provided. A high-level panel opened the conference setting the scene with representatives of the Ministry of Labour of Cameroon, ILO, IAPRP, IFDD and NSIF taking part. In addition, a free paper session on the sidelines allowed for the presentation of research findings of various authors from the region. Overall, the congress was a resounding success with 278 participants attending from 13 countries. He finished by informing the meeting of upcoming events in the region.
32. Mr Renan Rojas Gutierrez (CCS/Colombia) gave an overview of recent OSH developments in Latin America and presented the results of a survey of users of the CIS Centre in Colombia on the services that needed to be provided. The main areas of needs identified were, in particular, industrial safety, risk management and environmental protection. In the area of provision of information from the CIS Centre, the main needs from Colombian users were in the areas of OSH publications, legislative texts and technical standards. On services desired, the main ones that needed to be provided were a better web search engine at the Centre, as well as improvements in the database of events and courses and RSS alerts.
33. He then presented the results of a similar survey carried out within the region, with 12 countries participating which formed part of the ALASEHT network. The survey looked at developments and changes that took place in 2012-13 within each country in eight main areas of relevance to OSH, namely:
- management system of occupational hazards;
 - issuance of new technical regulations or technical standards in OSH;
 - inspection and surveillance of occupational risks;
 - OSH management systems adoption;
 - ratification of ILO OSH Conventions and Recommendations;
 - production of new books, educational materials, videos and publications;

- development of web-based training tools; and,
 - graduate and postgraduate education courses.
34. From the results of the survey, it could be seen that a lot of work had been undertaken within the region, especially on new regulation, implementation of OSH management systems, production of new knowledge and information material, and web-based training tools.

The Chairperson opened the floor for questions, with Mr Loiseau moderating, after providing a brief overview of the main points of each presentation.

35. Professor Konstantin Todradze (RADQ/Russian Federation) informed that he had managed many projects in French-speaking Africa, and wanted to specifically know how OSH was managed “in the two Congos” as it seemed that they did not take part in the congress organized by the Cameroon OSH Society. Dr Dieuboué (SCSST/Cameroon) answered that both countries were invited, and mentioned that only one academic from the Democratic Republic of the Congo attended to present the results of a study she had conducted on safety and health in the country’s informal mining sector. He added that informality revealed to be the most important challenge to improving OSH in these two countries and others in this part of the world.
36. Concerning the work of the FIOH in East Africa, Dr Rania Rushdie (AIOSH/Syria) asked for clarification on how the study managed to identify that 85 per cent of the workforce had no OSH coverage. She informed the meeting that AIOSH had just finished a workshop on OSH in the region and one of the main difficulties was to identify who was covered by OSH systems, and in what sectors. She also highlighted the need to consider relocating activities because of the civil war in Syria and wondered what could be a better location, perhaps Egypt or another country in the region.
37. Ms Lehtinen (FIOH/Finland) concurred that it was very difficult to identify the coverage by OSH systems in countries, let alone a region. She explained that the figure was an estimate based on those countries that had reliable statistics in the region, and then extrapolated to those that had none. This extrapolation was done by Professor Rantanen at ICOH based on the replies received to the FIOH questionnaire asking countries about what percentage of their economically active population were covered under the national OSH systems. Unfortunately, the response rate was not high hence the need to estimate and extrapolate. She indicated that this study would be repeated in 2015 and hopefully better data would be obtained.
38. On the possible relocation of AIOSH due to unrest in the Arab Region, Professor El Kholti (INVCT/Morocco) agreed that Egypt could be an option but, he added, the recent political unrest would need to be carefully considered if this option was to be explored further. He explained that technical progress often depended on political processes, and cited the case of his own country where only a Royal Decree could enable decisive action to start, while an inter-ministerial commission worked relentlessly for eleven months prior to it.

Day 1: Session D – Innovations and Latest Developments by Members of the CIS Network

39. Ms Vidhya Venugopal (Sri Ramachandra University/India) explained that the institution she belonged to was recognized both as a CIS Centre and as a Collaborating Centre of WHO. A central area of work was to manage the physical environment in the workplace. Activities on climate change and health, health effects research for air and water toxicants, heat stress implications, industrial toxicology and safety engineering were taking place, with a focus on capacity building. Training on occupational and environmental health, industrial health and industrial hygiene was carried out. OSH

research was also going on; she mentioned in particular the key findings of a project on heat stress financed by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

40. Ms Barbara Szczepanowska (CIOP/Poland) described the activities of the Institute with focus on scientific research and the promotion of OSH information through courses, publications and web portal. CIOP had been collaborating with the ILO-CIS since the 1960s in the collection and dissemination of OSH information. She referred to the participation of the institute in the World Day for Safety and Health at Work ILO campaign and showed pictures of their latest exhibition in Warsaw in relation with this campaign. She displayed some web pages of the Centre, with links to ILO-CIS, and the Polish OSH country profile on the CIS pages, where the material prepared for the former CISDOC database was now displayed, and explained the use of the ILO OSH Thesaurus, which had been translated into Polish. CIOP was also the Polish focal point of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.
41. Mr Shlomo Idzikowski (IIOSH/Israel) presented briefly the activities of the Institute with regard to OSH prevention, which were, among others, visiting and counselling, training, answering requests, conducting industrial hygiene surveys, and web promotion through web pages and newsletters. In terms of collaboration, he mentioned in particular the translation of information sheets from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) into Arabic, Hebrew and Russian. He then showed a video on workers with disabilities as a sample of the OSH training and promotional videos produced by the Institute.
42. Ms Helen Smith (HSE/United Kingdom) focussed her presentation on the HSE activities related to knowledge and information sharing, emphasizing the goal of making sure that users got the information they needed. In particular, the web site of the institution had been made simple and clear in a consistent format, with different levels of information according to specificity. Credibility was an important aspect of the information displayed. With regard to the information which would be available in the near future on the Web, she mentioned the management of health and safety in businesses. She also explained that in the area of migrant workers, they had put together questions by this category of workers and given answers in a Question and Answers format in about 18 languages. Mobile platforms and new applications were in the planning with a view to reaching more users.
43. Ms Nuha Mahmood Shakir (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs/Iraq) presented a short report on this CIS Centre and their accomplishments since the last meeting. She precisely cited the following activities: Conducting an OSH training programme in the oil and gas industry; preparing a national directory of OSH employees in order to set up a national programme in this field; celebrating the World Day for Safety and Health at Work; expanding the coverage of OSH services to include the Kurdistan region in Iraq; promoting safety culture through 12 courses and a number of scientific meetings; publishing training materials; coordinating with the Ministry of Health in developing a national programme on occupational injuries; and updating the national OSH profile.
44. Mr Jerónimo Maqueda Blasco (ISCARLOSIII/Spain) explained that one important objective of the Institute was to train medical doctors in order to prevent work-related diseases, subject which had a direct relationship with the 2013 World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The Institute had started a programme involving more than 10 regions in Spain, in which particular attention was given to the medical assessment of disability and training for primary care physicians. This institution collaborated closely with the National Institute for Safety and Hygiene at Work in Spain, also a CIS Centre in the country, in different activities, such as the development of guides for the clinical diagnosis of

occupational diseases. They also cooperated with Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), notably on health surveillance. A web portal on occupational health was being developed. He ended by recalling the long-lasting collaboration with the ILO-CIS.

45. Ms Amany Mohamed El Yamany (NIOSH/Egypt) started her presentation by giving some historical facts about the institute and explaining that it had been established in 1969 with the support of the ILO and UNDP. She then spoke of the objectives of NIOSH, which in broad lines were: A safe working environment and high quality products with no accidents or injuries. She showed photos of the building in Cairo and of the Information Technologies Department of the Institute-. She referred to the main activities of the Centre, to training in particular, and described the type of work done in the laboratories of the Occupational Environment Department. She informed that the Centre was facing some challenges due to lack of resources and called for assistance, like for instance in receiving technical materials.
46. Mr Antonio José Robalo dos Santos (ACT/Portugal) introduced the CIS Centre's functioning, its resources and services and explained that the ILO-CIS information tools, in addition to the ones from the Centre, were used to give answers to requests from users. The main users were students, OSH technicians, enterprises, and labour inspectors. For the subjects of the requests, he mentioned construction safety, OSH legislation, automobile industry, biologic hazards, alcohol and drugs, and stress in the workplace. The web site of the Centre was being updated with the aim of disseminating all OSH relevant electronic publications, collective agreements and European legislation applying in Portugal. Agreements with the National Library and the Cultural Activities National Inspectorate were under way in order to ensure access to OSH material. He then proposed some ideas which might be useful in the discussion of the functioning of the CIS Network, such as a search engine to retrieve documents using the key words of the OSH Thesaurus; an online tool like a helpdesk service; and a knowledge bank through open source contributions.
47. The Chairperson thanked the presenters and summarised the afternoon session. He stressed the need for international collaboration as mentioned by the representative from India, and congratulated Poland in the way they had manage to publicise the importance of OSH through posters and a street exhibition. He appreciated the use of multimedia in Israel for sensitising people to OSH, and especially the multilingual nature of the tools used as it was the case nowadays, especially with a lot of migrant labour, that one language would not be sufficient. He stressed the need for simple and easy-to-use information, and was impressed at the work of the HSE in the United Kingdom in this regard. He congratulated the work in Iraq, especially in difficult circumstances and stressed where there is the will, there is always a way. The idea of regional networks was also important, and the work carried out by Spain showed this.
48. Mr Loiselle added that even in difficult times in some regions, countries had managed to improve their OSH systems, as well as update their national lists on occupational diseases, citing Egypt as an example.
49. Before the close of the day, Ms Nuha Mahmood Shakir (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs/Iraq) quickly queried on how the ILO could provide assistance for those national and regional CIS Centres that were in difficulty.
50. Mr Loiselle explained that all requests for assistance should be made through the ILO Offices in the region, in coordination with stakeholders in the country. This was particularly important when a CIS Centre was not under the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Labour. In the case of Iraq, he explained that the request should be

channelled through the ILO Office in Beirut. Mr Loisel concluded by thanking the participants for their passion and hard work for the day.

Day 2 - Introduction

51. Mr Loisel introduced the programme for the second day which aimed at pursuing the discussion engaged in 2012 on the need to modernize the CIS network in light of the ongoing reform at the ILO and its impact on the CIS. Mr Loisel introduced the discussion paper put forward to the meeting "*The Knowledge for Prevention Initiative – A Proposal for Discussion*", and explained the background of the proposal by referring to earlier discussions.
52. The main objective of the KPI proposal was to enhance the accessibility to quality information and knowledge in the field of OSH for the purpose of prevention. The strategy for implementing this objective would mobilise key OSH knowledge stakeholders globally and strengthen their capacities to protect lives at work. For the ILO, key development challenges in OSH knowledge management appeared to be:
- adoption of a needs-based approach;
 - identification and mobilisation of expertise, be it individual or amongst organisations;
 - preparation of a generation of OSH practitioners and specialists through targeted and specific educational programmes;
 - fostering of collaboration in OSH knowledge at national level; and,
 - strengthening of institutional capacities in OSH knowledge management.
53. He explained the functioning of the CIS Network would have to be modernised to respond to these challenges. From previously being a clearing house for bibliographic references and information, a renewed role would be to provide a basis for international collaboration and cooperation specifically to respond to the key development challenges mentioned above. This would require adapting the network constitution and structure, adopting and implementing a dedicated work plan along with participatory governance modalities, with self-governance becoming a development goal. Mr Loisel explained that the KPI proposal submitted for discussion provided suggestions on possible objectives for the Network in three main areas:
- facilitate international OSH knowledge sharing;
 - enhance international networking activities in relation to OSH knowledge management; and,
 - strengthen institutional capacities to acquire and use knowledge for prevention.
54. Mr Loisel hoped that the KPI proposal would provide food for thought for the Network members in their deliberations on the way forward in the following working sessions. For this purpose the representatives of CIS centres were gathered in seven working groups and asked to debate various options for the future functioning of the network. The groups were constituted according to a mix set of loosely defined criteria taking into consideration the level of development, geographical location, language and type of organization (e.g. research institute, ministerial division, other). Each group was submitted the same series of questions to guide exchanges. The group discussions were organized in three separate but interrelated sessions that were followed by each group feed-back and a plenary discussion that he facilitated.

Day 2: Session F – Working Groups on the Network Programme of Activities

55. The first session aimed at clarifying whether the network should have its own work programme, and identifying what would be its most important strategic objective while

also identifying the key knowledge and information products and priority topics for international collaboration and cooperation in the area of OSH knowledge. The feedback provided by the seven working groups was compiled and summarized by Mr Loiselle.

56. He noted that there was a clear consensus on the need for a detailed plan of work for the network, which of course would be linked to the strategic objectives. Most groups agreed that the proposed objectives were all important as they were interrelated and mutually supportive but a majority stressed the need to first strengthen the capacities of the organisations within the network to acquire and use OSH knowledge for the purpose of prevention in order to facilitate international OSH knowledge sharing. Thus building capacity was recognized as the main priority objective, while it was agreed that international networking should be considered as a means for knowledge and information sharing rather than an objective in itself.
57. Methods and guides for risk assessment and control, as well as chemical safety information and support tools for implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) were identified as priority knowledge and information products to develop and disseminate. The global database on OSH legislation (LEGOSH) and the establishment of an online multilingual glossary of OSH terms (based on the existing ILO glossary) came as second most important. Many other products were identified by the various groups and it was clear that the needs varied according to the constitution of each working group.
58. The most important topics for international collaboration and cooperation agreed upon by the participants were the following:
 - Conduct joint research projects and studies on priority areas of concern
 - Develop educational programmes, from college and TVET to university levels
 - Support the development and delivery of training and advisory services
59. On topics, a group insisted that support was most needed for the development and delivery of training programmes, as this was essential for developing countries, and could be a potential important source of funds for an organisation. Mr Loiselle indicated that requests to build up the capacities of organisations so that they would be able to provide training and advisory services as a source of future funding were common, and that a range of OSH agencies, institutions and organisations were partly funded on that basis, especially in developed countries. He suggested that an in-depth survey could be undertaken amongst them to further explore this.

Day 2: Session G – Working Groups on the Network Constitution and Structure

60. Mr Loiselle introduced the second working session by explaining they would discuss the constitution and structure of the Network, and in particular the utility and feasibility of organizing the network membership base according to the category or type of organizations, geographic location or language. He asked the groups to debate whether or not there should be a difference, as was the case at present, between National and Collaborating Centres. He also wanted the groups to think about how should the membership of the Network be determined and how and what types of organisations could join, and what the criteria for joining should be.
61. Feedback from the seven working groups provided a very similar outlook on what the Network should look like. For all the Network constitution and structure needs to be flexible, dynamic, practical and based on needs. It should bring on-board credible partners that are legitimate. It was recognized that its strength was in its diversity and global coverage, and that the following categories of organisations could be invited to join and participate on the basis of the expertise, value-added and credibility they would

bring, with a clear priority given to public institutions and the academia (ref. categories a and b below):

- public institutions (e.g. ministries, labour inspectorates, social security organisations and OSH agencies);
- academia (e.g. research institutes, universities, TVET centres, research groups, chairs);
- employers' and workers' organisations; and,
- professional organisations such as ASSE, IALI, IOSH and NGOs.

62. The participants also agreed that there should be no distinction between National and Collaborating CIS Centres in the future, and the aim should be for the Network to be able to form clusters or technical working groups for priority areas of need.

63. On the question of a fee to join the network, the groups were divided. Some did feel that a fee would be useful, whereas others felt that it was not necessary. Another point of discussion was that if there would be a fee, would it be the same for all.

Day 2: Session H – Working Groups on Network Governance Modalities

64. Mr Loiselle introduced the third and final working session on the governance modalities for the Network. It provided the opportunity to deliberate on the network governance modalities, and notably on the possible establishment of a steering committee to lead the implementation of a possible network programme of activities as discussed during Session F (see above).

65. The feedback from the groups stated clearly that decisions on Network activities should be made in a collective process. The participants stated there was no wish to turn the Network into a stand-alone international organisation or association.

66. They felt the need for a 'steering committee' as an important aspect with the ILO being a permanent member. The constitution of this 'steering committee' would preferably not exceed ten (10) members, with proper consideration being given to geographical location, category of organisation, language and the level of development and services provided. The groups suggested that establishing the initial 'steering committee' should be the responsibility of the ILO.

Day 2: Sessions I and J – Consolidating the Outcome of the Discussions and Way Forward, and Conclusion

67. In the interest of time, the Chairperson decided to combine the last two items on the agenda, and provided his observations and conclusions on the work that had been undertaken over the course of the meeting.

68. With regard to discussions on the first day, he thanked the ILO colleagues for explaining the changes occurring within the institution and their impact on the Network of CIS Centres. He expressed his appreciation to representatives of Centres who have shared their experiences during the afternoon session, and highlighted the high level of knowledge and competencies of the various agencies, institutions and organisations that constitute the Network.

69. Turning to the group discussions of the day, he stated that the conclusions from the three group sessions pointed altogether to the need to change the way the Network was organized and functioning. From the debates in the groups and exchanges during the plenaries, it was clear that the new Network should be open to all categories proposed, with some additional technical working groups as needed. He mentioned there should be no fee for joining, and that decisions to welcome new partners should only be based

on the competency of the candidate organisation and its foreseen contribution to the programme of activities.

70. He noted the collectively expressed wish for a 'steering committee' to be set up, with the ILO being a permanent member, and that this 'steering committee' would be constituted of approximately ten members to be appointed by the ILO on a geographical basis first, with a fair balance of consideration given to the category of organisation and level of development, with the view of responding to the priority needs set out in the work programme. Each member of this steering committee would serve for a term of between two to three years with membership rotating. He expressed his hope that resources could be found with the support of the ILO as a priority step for establishing this 'steering committee' and thus engaging the Network towards a new era of international collaboration and cooperation.
71. In conclusion, he warmly thanked the participants for the trust put in him to act as Chairperson for this important meeting, and wished all a safe journey home.
72. Mr Casale thanked the Network members for their active participation over the course of the meeting. He mentioned that while OSH was a new area to him, it was one that the ILO had a lot of experience in, and a key priority for the institution. He reassured the Network that a new era of international collaboration in OSH with new ways of working collectively would emerge as a result of this meeting. He stressed again that it was now the right time to change. The creation of the 'steering committee' should be undertaken in the nearest possible future, with the development of a work programme that should focus on priorities and produce solid and sustainable results, and become relevant to service the needs of constituents.

The Chairperson declared the 51st meeting of the CIS Network closed.