

Whereas some Members have not taken such steps as are within their competence to promote the well-being and development of their people although their need for improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security is greatest ; and

Whereas it is now highly desirable that such Members take all necessary steps as soon as possible to reach the accepted international minimum standards and develop those standards ; and

Whereas it is now desirable to take further steps towards the attainment of income security by the unification or co-ordination of social insurance schemes, the extension of such schemes to all workers and their families, including rural populations and the self-employed, and the elimination of inequitable anomalies ; and

Whereas the formulation of certain general principles which should be followed by Members of the Organization in developing their income security schemes along these lines on the foundation of the existing Conventions and Recommendations, pending the unification and amplification of the provisions of the said Conventions and Recommendations, will contribute to this end ;

The Conference—

- (a) Recommends the Members of the Organization to apply progressively the following general guiding principles, as rapidly as national conditions allow, in developing their income security schemes with a view to the implementation of the fifth principle of the Atlantic Charter, and to report to the International Labour Office from time to time as requested by the Governing Body, concerning the measures taken to give effect to the said general guiding principles ;
- (b) Calls the attention of the Members of the Organization to the suggestions for the application of these general guiding principles submitted to the Conference and contained in the Annex to this Recommendation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

General

1. Income security schemes should relieve want and prevent destitution by restoring, up to a reasonable level, income which is lost by reason of inability to work (including old age) or to obtain remunerative work or by reason of the death of a breadwinner.

2. Income security should be organized as far as possible on the basis of compulsory social insurance, whereby insured persons fulfilling prescribed qualifying conditions are entitled, in consideration of the contributions they have paid to an insurance institution, to benefits payable at rates, and in contingencies, defined by law.

3. Provision for needs not covered by compulsory social insurance should be made by social assistance ; certain categories of persons, particularly dependent children and needy invalids, aged persons and widows, should be entitled to allowances at reasonable rates according to a prescribed scale.

4. Social assistance appropriate to the needs of the case should be provided for other persons in want.

Social Insurance

5. The range of contingencies to be covered by compulsory social insurance should embrace all contingencies in which an insured person is prevented from earning his living, whether by inability to work or inability to obtain remunerative work, or in which he dies leaving a dependent family, and should include certain associated emergencies, generally experienced, which involved extraordinary strain on limited incomes, in so far as they are not otherwise covered.

6. Compensation should be provided in cases of incapacity for work and of death resulting from employment.

7. In order that the benefits provided by social insurance may be closely adapted to the variety of needs, the contingencies covered should be classified as follows :—

- (a) Sickness ;
- (b) Maternity ;
- (c) Invalidity ;
- (d) Old age ;
- (e) Death of breadwinner ;
- (f) Unemployment ;
- (g) Emergency expenses ; and
- (h) Employment injuries.

Provided that benefits should not be payable at the same time for more than one of the following contingencies : invalidity, old age and unemployment.

8. Supplements for each of the first two children should be added to all benefits payable for loss of earnings, provision for further children being left to be made by means of children's allowances payable out of public funds or under contributory schemes.

9. The contingency for which sickness benefit should be paid is loss of earnings due to abstention from work necessitated on medical grounds by an acute condition, due to disease or injury, requiring medical treatment or supervision.

10. The contingency for which maternity benefit should be paid is loss of earnings due to abstention from work during prescribed periods before and after childbirth.

11. The contingency for which invalidity benefit should be paid is inability to engage in any substantially gainful work by reason of a chronic condition, due to disease or injury, or by reason of the loss of a member or function.

12. The contingency for which old-age benefit should be paid is the attainment of a prescribed age, which should be that at which persons commonly become incapable of efficient work, the incidence of sickness and invalidity becomes heavy, and unemployment, if present, is likely to be permanent.

13. The contingency for which survivors' benefits should be paid is the loss of support presumably suffered by the dependants as the result of the death of the head of the family.