



## SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Director-General***Addendum***I. Obituary****Mr. Michael C. Wamalwa**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 23 August 2003, of Mr. Michael C. Wamalwa, President of the 91st Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2003.
2. Born in 1944 in Kitale, in the Rift Valley province of Kenya, Mr. Wamalwa completed his secondary education in Kenya before embarking on a brilliant undergraduate career, reading law and criminology at King's College in Cambridge and the London School of Economics, where in 1969 he obtained a Master's degree in international law. His exceptional legal abilities quickly marked him out, and he was called to the Bar in the same year before returning to Kenya to teach law at the University of Nairobi. The law of treaties and conflicts in law became his specialities. In 1979, he began a second career as a Senator, taking over his father's seat in the Kenyan Parliament. With this, he entered the political life of the country and became one of its most prominent figures. He was Secretary of the Parliamentary Group of the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) between 1983 and 1991, before joining the opposition, becoming opposition leader in 1994. Following the election of Mr. Mwai Kibaki as President in 2002, he was appointed Vice-President and Minister for Regional Development in the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Government.
3. Respected and admired both in his own country and internationally for his integrity and his commitment to democracy, he was elected in June 2003 to preside over the 91st Session of the International Labour Conference, and guided its debates with dignity, firmness and far-sightedness. All those among the ILO's constituents who were fortunate enough to benefit from his intelligence, his diplomatic skills and his wholehearted commitment to the principles of fairness and liberty, will remember a man of immense moral and political stature.

***4. The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey his sympathy to the family of Mr. Michael C. Wamalwa and to the Government of Kenya.***

Geneva, 13 November 2002.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 4.