



SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General*Addendum***I. Obituary****Mr. Marwan Nasr**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 13 November 2003, of Mr. Marwan Nasr, former Employer member of the Governing Body.
2. Born on 9 October 1920, at Al-Monsif in Lebanon, Mr. Nasr obtained a first degree and then a Master's degree in economics and finance at the American University of Beirut. After two years of teaching in Lebanon and Iraq, his reputation as a brilliant economist led him while still very young to a senior post in Lebanon's Ministry of the Economy, where he was Chief of the Industrial Sector for ten years (1942-52), and Director of Industry from 1952 to 1954. From 1954 until his retirement in 1986, he was First Executive Secretary of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists. In that capacity he rapidly became one of the major figures in the world of business, and as a spokesman for the employers at the regional and international levels he was respected and listened to far beyond the borders of his own country. From 1975 to 1976 he was President of the International Organisation of Employers.
3. In Lebanon, he was actively involved in the foundation of a number of national bodies, the most important of these being the Lebanese Institute for Scientific Research, the Lebanese Institute for Specification and Standardization, and the Lebanese National Centre for Vocational Training. He also played an active part, in 1972, in the creation of the Arab Labour Organization, participated in all the sessions of the Arab Labour Conference until 1992 and served on the Executive Committee.
4. In June 1956, he participated in the International Labour Conference for the first time as an Employer's delegate for Lebanon. Between 1956 and 1996, he did not miss a single session of the Conference. He was an Employer Vice-Chairperson on numerous technical committees, including the Committee responsible for follow-up to the World Employment Conference of 1979 and the Committee on Collective Bargaining in 1980, and was twice appointed Employer Vice-President of the Conference (in 1968 and 1978). He also put his name to the resolution concerning the use of Arabic at the ILO, which was adopted by the

International Labour Conference in June 1979, making Arabic an official working language of the ILO.

5. From 1957 until 1996, almost 40 years, he was an Employer member of the ILO's Governing Body, where he was particularly closely associated with the committee responsible for programmes of practical activities and then the Committee on Technical Cooperation, in which he was particularly active for some 30 years as an Employer Vice-Chairperson. Over the same period, he served on the executive body of the International Institute for Social Studies, becoming an employer member in June 1963. He represented the Governing Body at many regional meetings, where on many occasions he reaffirmed his dedication to the principles of justice and freedom and his belief in the social activities of the ILO.
6. As the author of numerous articles on the relationship between vocational training and employment and various other economic and social issues, he leaves behind, to all who were privileged to know him, the memory of a distinguished personality whose convictions found expression throughout a long and distinguished international career dedicated to creating a world of greater solidarity in the world of work and in the face of the major economic and social concerns of our time.
7. ***The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey his sympathy to the family of Mr. Marwan Nasr, to the International Organisation of Employers and to the Association of Lebanese Industrialists.***

Geneva, 17 November 2003.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.