



Reports of the Credentials Committee

First report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee of the 90th Session of the Conference is composed of Mr. J. M. Oni, Government delegate, Benin, Chairman; Ms. L. Sasso Mazzufferi, Employers' delegate, Italy; and Mr. U. Edström, Workers' delegate, Sweden.

Composition of the Conference

2. Since the signing of the brief report made on behalf of the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (*Provisional Record* No. 5A), the following modifications have occurred in the composition of the Conference.

3. The number of member States of the International Labour Organization represented at the Conference is at present 160, i.e., four more than those accredited at the signing of the brief report (Armenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Latvia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic).

Accredited Delegates and Advisers

4. The total number of accredited delegates is 626, comprised of 314 Government delegates, 156 Employers' delegates and 156 Workers' delegates.

5. There are 1,834 accredited advisers, comprised of 880 Government advisers, 422 Employers' advisers and 532 Workers' advisers.

6. The total number of accredited delegates and advisers is therefore 2,460.

7. With regard to the resolution concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, adopted by the Conference at its 67th Session in June 1981, there are 82 women among the 626 delegates accredited to the Conference and 418 among the 1,834 accredited advisers. The total number of women accredited to the Conference is therefore 500, i.e. 20.33 per cent of the total number of delegates and advisers as against 20.09 per cent last year. Although the Committee notes a slight increase in this connection, it regrets the still modest number of women included in the delegations.

Registered Delegates and Advisers

8. The following is the present situation concerning the registration of delegates which, in accordance with practice approved by this session of the Conference, is the basis for determining the quorum for voting (see enclosed table).

9. At this time the number of registered delegates is 540, comprised of 282 Government delegates, 128 Employers' delegates and 130 Workers' delegates.

10. In addition, the number of registered advisers is 1,545, comprised of 794 Government advisers, 314 Employers' advisers and 437 Workers' advisers.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that, to date, fifteen member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Chad, Comoros, Dominica, Gambia, Grenada, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have not sent a delegation. It further notes that, at the present time, the accredited delegations of four countries (Armenia, Belize, Somalia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are exclusively governmental. There is no delegation comprising of only one of the non-governmental delegates. The Committee hopes that all Members will in the future attempt to comply with the requirement of Article 3 of the Constitution that a complete tripartite delegation be sent to the Conference. The Committee recalls that pursuant to a decision of the Governing Body, the Director General each year requests that the governments of all member States which did not send a delegation or a complete tripartite delegation to the Conference indicate the reasons for their failure to do so, and that the information received in reply to that request be duly communicated to the Governing Body.

12. The Committee also notes that there is some imbalance between the number of advisers to the delegates of each group and also between the number of Employers' and Workers' advisers. It once again urges governments to take greater account, when nominating delegations, of the proportions in the composition of the Conference envisaged by paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 3 of the Constitution. The Committee further recalls the request contained in the resolution concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the International Labour Organization, adopted by the Conference in 1971, and expresses the hope that Governments will accord equal treatment to each of the groups when appointing advisers to their country's delegation to the Conference. The Committee recalls in this connection the obligation of Members under Article 13, paragraph 2(a), of the Constitution, to pay the tra-

velling and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers and trusts that this obligation will be respected for the whole duration of the Conference.

Quorum

13. Twenty-four advisers, who are substitutes to delegates who have not registered, are taken into account in calculating the voting strength of the Conference.

14. Since eighteen member States¹ (compared to 34 last year) represented at the Conference are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization so as to come within the terms of paragraph 4 of Article 13 of the Constitution, these States may not at present participate in the voting in the Conference or in its committees (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Congo, Djibouti, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo). For this reason, in fixing the quorum, 33 registered delegates are not taken into consideration.

15. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 266. This number represents 540 registered delegates (see par. 9), plus 24 substitute delegates (see par. 13) minus 33 registered delegates not entitled to vote (see par. 14), the total divided by two. The Committee appeals to delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival and to announce their departure so that the quorum will be as precise as possible and to ensure that they are not considered present when they are in fact not yet or no longer at the Conference.

16. Although the Committee welcomed the significant decrease in the number of States in arrears present at the Conference, it regretted that the consequences of the application of Article 13, paragraph 4, of the Constitution deprived the Employers' and Workers' delegates of the Members concerned of their right to vote.

Observers, Organizations and Liberation Movement invited

17. The Conference is also being attended by:

- representatives of two observer delegations (a delegation from the Holy See and a tripartite delegation from East Timor) invited in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 3(e), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
- a tripartite delegation from Palestine invited in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 3(k), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
- representatives of the United Nations and some of its organs invited by virtue of Article II, paragraph (1) relating to reciprocal representation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization;
- representatives of specialized agencies and other official international and regional organizations, invited in conformity with Article 2, para-

¹ In the Brief Report on credentials (*Provisional Record* No. 5A), Guinea had been included by error in the list of member States that could not exercise their right to vote due to their being in arrears of their contributions due to the Organization.

graph 3(b), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;

- representatives of non governmental international organizations with which consultative relations have been established, invited in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 3(j), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
- representatives of other non governmental international organizations also invited in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 3(j), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;

18. A list of these representatives is appended to the Provisional List of Delegations published on 4 June as a Supplement to the Provisional Record of the Conference and will be updated in the Revised List of delegations, to be issued on 12 June.

Objections and Complaints

19. To date, the Committee has before it several objections concerning the credentials of certain delegates and advisers. It has forthwith commenced its examination. The Committee considers that its work has been facilitated by the fact that a substantial number of credentials had reached the Office prior to the Conference. It regrets, however, that despite its urgent call made last year the credentials of thirteen Members were not sent on time for their publication in the Provisional List of Delegations (Armenia, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Mongolia, Niger, Somalia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda). Further, it is important that governments utilize the suggested form for credentials of delegates, enclosed with the letter of convocation and the Memorandum communicated to governments every year prior to the session of the Conference. In order to comply with Article 3, paragraph 5, of the Constitution, it is necessary that Governments provide exact information on the employers' and workers' organizations consulted in nominating Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers, as well as, on the organizations that have agreed to such nominations.

20. The Committee further recalls that in order to fulfill its mandate, last year it urged all governments to indicate in their credentials the organization to which each of the Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers belonged, as well as their functions within those organizations. However, eight Governments (Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Swaziland, Zambia) have failed altogether this year to provide such information, and twenty-two governments (Argentina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, San Marino, Sudan, Togo and Venezuela) have not provided the required information in respect of all of the Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers. The Committee therefore urges these governments to complete this information as soon as possible and hopes that in future sessions of the Conference, such information will be made available on time for its publication in the Provisional List of Delegations that is issued the opening day of the Conference and which, in accordance with Arti-

cle 26, 4 (a) of the Standing Orders, serves as the basis for the submission of objections to credentials.

21. The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference in order that the Conference may take note of it.

Geneva, 7 June 2002.

(Signed) Mr. J. M. Oni
Chairman

Ms. L. Sasso Mazzufferi

Mr. U. Edström

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