



Reports of the Credentials Committee

Brief report presented by the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, on the credentials of delegates and advisers to the 91st Session of the International Labour Conference

1. The composition of each delegation and the method of appointment of delegates and advisers to sessions of the International Labour Conference are governed by article 3 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization.
2. In accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of article 3 of the Constitution, it is for the governments to communicate to the International Labour Office the nominations made by the respective employers' and workers' organizations. The Conference examines these nominations and decides, in the case of dispute, whether delegates and advisers have been nominated in accordance with this article.
3. The Conference exercises this power in accordance with the procedure laid down in articles 5 and 26 of its Standing Orders, through the Credentials Committee.
4. In particular, paragraph 2 of article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference provides that "A brief report upon these credentials, drawn up by the Chairperson of the Governing Body, shall, with the credentials, be open to inspection by the delegates on the day before the opening of the session of the Conference and shall be published as an appendix to the record of the first sitting".
5. The present report serves for fixing provisionally, in accordance with paragraph 1(2) of article 20 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the quorum necessary to give validity to the votes taken.
6. The table below shows the numerical composition of the Conference. It was established on Monday, 2 June 2003 at 4.30 p.m. and is based on the files containing the names of the delegates and advisers and the credentials with which they have been provided or the official communications transmitted to the International Labour Office. In this regard, it should be noted that the persons who have been nominated both as substitute delegates and as advisers have been included in the table amongst the advisers.
7. To date, 156 member States have communicated the names of the members of their delegations. Eighty (80) countries, seven (7) less than last year, deposited their credentials on or before 19 May 2003, thus meeting the fifteen- (15) day deadline before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference, in compliance with paragraph 1 of article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference. The *Provisional List of Delegations* appearing on the opening day of the Conference contains the names of accredited participants received up to

Saturday, 31 May 2003 and, thus, it does not include the twelve (12) member States (Bahamas, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Paraguay, Sri Lanka) whose credentials were received on the same date as this report.

8. On the other hand, while the Conference and the Credentials Committee have previously insisted on the obligation which article 3 of the Constitution imposes on governments requiring them to send complete delegations to the Conference, two (2) countries (Djibouti and Paraguay) have appointed Workers' delegates, but not Employers' delegates, and one (1) government (Mauritius) has appointed an Employers' delegate, but not a Workers' delegate. All other delegations are complete with regard to paragraph 2 of article 4 of the Constitution, which is to say including both Employers and Workers.
9. In addition, eight (8) governments (Argentina, Chad, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia, Zimbabwe) have not mentioned in their communications the organizations to which all of their Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers belong and their respective functions. These governments are urged to complete this information as soon as possible.
10. Sixty-six (66) governments have not confirmed that they were paying the travelling and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers in accordance with paragraph 2(a) of article 13 of the Constitution. In this regard, in order to ensure greater clarity in establishing the credentials, it would be advisable that governments use, for the nomination of delegates and advisers, the form enclosed with the letter of convocation to the Conference which the Office addresses every year to member States or the electronic version made available by the Office.
11. Finally, I should like to urge all delegates and advisers to register in person at the Information and Reception Desk, the daily quorum being calculated on the basis of the number of delegates actually registered.

Composition of the Conference and quorum

12. At present 312 Government delegates, 154 Employers' delegates and 155 Workers' delegates – a total of 621 delegates – are accredited to the Conference.
13. There are, in addition, 982 Government advisers, 464 Employers' advisers and 555 Workers' advisers – a total of 2,001 advisers.
14. The total number of delegates and advisers who have been nominated in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of the Organization to take part in the work of the Conference is 2,622.
15. Amongst those member States actually represented, thirteen (13) are in arrears in the payment of their contributions to the Organization. Those Members, under the terms of paragraph 4 of article 13 of the Constitution, may not at present participate in the voting of the Conference or any of its committees (Azerbaijan, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Gambia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Togo). Account is therefore not taken of fifty (50) delegates in calculating the quorum, including those who in accordance with article 4, paragraph 2, of the Constitution cannot vote because of the incomplete nature of their respective delegations (see paragraph 8 above).

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16. In conformity with article 17 of the Constitution of the Organization and with article 20 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the necessary quorum to give a vote validity will provisionally be 285.¹

Observers

17. For the moment, accredited to the Conference is an observers' delegation of the Holy See.

Liberation movement and organizations invited

18. The Conference is also attended by:

- a tripartite delegation from Palestine, as a liberation movement 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, which came into effect on 14 December 1946;
- representatives of specialized agencies and other official international organizations, invited in conformity with article 2, paragraph 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; and
- representatives of other non-governmental international organizations also invited in conformity with article 2, paragraph 3(j), of the Standing Orders of the Conference.

19. A list of these representatives is appended to the list of delegations published as a supplement to the *Provisional Record* of the Conference.

Geneva, 2 June 2003.

(Signed) Lord Bill Brett,
Chairperson of the Governing Body.

¹ That is, half the number of accredited delegates after subtraction of the number not entitled to vote on account of arrears.
