



Reports of the Credentials Committee

First report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee of the 91st Session of the Conference is composed of Mr. Jules Medenou Oni, Government delegate, Benin, Chairperson; Ms. Lucia Sasso Mazzufferi, Employers' delegate, Italy; and Mr. Ulf Edström, Workers' delegate, Sweden.

Composition of the Conference

2. Since the signing of the brief report presented by 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. Of the 176 member States of the International Labour Organization, 158 are represented at the Conference. That is to say, two more than were accredited at the time that the brief report was signed, i.e., Haiti and Somalia.

Accredited Delegates and Advisers

4. The total number of accredited delegates is 624, comprising 316 Government delegates, 154 Employers' delegates and 154 Workers' delegates.
5. There are 2,018 accredited advisers, comprising 1,003 Government advisers, 461 Employers' advisers and 554 Workers' advisers.
6. The total number of accredited delegates and advisers is therefore 2,642.
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 76 women among the 624 delegates accredited to the Conference and 464 among the 2,018 accredited advisers. The total number of women accredited to the Conference is therefore 540, i.e. 20.44 per cent of the total number of delegates and advisers as against 20.33 per cent last year. The Committee deplores that this percentage remains very low and that it has not increased over the past few years. Notably amongst the delegates women do not represent more than 12.18 per cent of the total, as compared to last year, where it was 13.10 per cent (82 women out of the 626 accredited delegates).

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 attached table, established this day at noon).
9. At this time the number of registered delegates is 523, comprising 276 Government delegates, 120 Employers' delegates and 127 Workers' delegates.
10. In addition, the number of registered advisers is 1,578, comprising 829 Government advisers, 334 Employers' advisers and 415 Workers' advisers.

Incomplete and non-accredited Delegations

11. The Committee notes that, to date, 18 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belize, Comoros, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu). It further notes that at the present time, the accredited delegations of two countries (Haiti and Somalia) are exclusively governmental. Two countries (Djibouti and Paraguay) have a Workers' delegate but not an Employers' delegate, while two countries (Fiji and Mauritius) have an Employers' delegate but not a Workers' delegate. The Committee regrets the number of incomplete and non-accredited delegations and wishes to affirm once again the necessity for governments 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 the governments of all member States which did not send any delegation or complete tripartite delegations to the Conference to indicate the reasons for their failure to do so, and that the information received in reply to that request is 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, particularly, between the number of Employers' advisers (334) and Workers' advisers (415). It once again urges governments to take greater account, when nominating delegations, of the proportions in their composition to the Conference as 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 at its 56th Session 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 travelling 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. Thirty-seven advisers, who are substitutes to delegates and who have not registered are taken into account in calculating the voting strength of the Conference.
14. Since 13 member States, compared to 18 at this time 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 (Azerbaijan, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Gambia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Paraguay, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan, and Togo). Compared to the list mentioned in the brief report (*Provisional Record* No. 5A), Chad has recovered the right to vote and Somalia has been accredited in the interim. For this reason, in fixing the quorum, 22 registered delegates are not taken into consideration. Two further votes are excluded, that being of the incomplete delegations with the right to vote (Fiji and Mauritius).

15. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 268. This number represents 523 registered delegates (see paragraph 9), plus 37 substitute delegates (paragraph 13) minus 24 registered delegates not entitled to vote (see paragraph 14), the total being divided by two. The Committee appeals to delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival and to timely notify the date of their departure, so that the quorum will be as precise as possible and to ensure that they are not considered present when they in fact are not at the Conference.
16. Although the situation has improved since last year, the Committee still regretted the fact that so many member States were in arrears of their contributions, thereby depriving the tripartite delegations from exercising their right to vote.

Observers, Organizations and Liberation Movement invited

17. The Conference is also being attended by:
 - representatives of two observer delegations (Holy See and a tripartite delegation from Bermuda), invited by the Conference;
 - a tripartite delegation of a liberation movement (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, 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;
 - 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 list of delegations published as a supplement to the *Provisional Record* of the Conference, and will be updated in the revised list of delegations to be issued on 11 June.

Objections and Communications

- 19.** To date, the Committee has before it several objections and communications 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. Further, it is important that governments utilize the suggested form for credentials of delegates, enclosed with the letter of convocation to the Conference communicated to governments every year or the electronic version made available by the Office. 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 fulfil 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, despite the urgent call made by the Chairperson in the brief report, four Governments (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe) have still not provided any information, and seven governments (Afghanistan, Argentina, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, and Zambia) 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 article 26, paragraph 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, 6 June 2003.

(Signed) Mr. Jules Medenou Oni,
Chairperson.

Ms. Lucia Sasso Mazzufferi

Mr. Ulf Edström

