



## Reports of the Credentials Committee

### First report

1. The Credentials Committee of the 95th Session of the Conference is composed of Mr. Jules Medenou Oni, Government delegate, Benin, Chairperson; Ms. Lidija Horvatić, Employers' delegate, Croatia; 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 composition of the Conference has been modified as follows.
3. Of the 178 member States of the International Labour Organization, 164 are represented at the Conference, that is, six more than were accredited at the time that the brief report was signed. These are Djibouti, Haiti, Nepal, Paraguay, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine.

### Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 642 delegates, including 326 Government delegates, 158 Employers' delegates and 158 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 2,070 advisers, including 984 Government advisers, 496 Employers' advisers and 590 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,712 delegates and advisers have been accredited.
7. With regard to the resolutions concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, adopted by the Conference at its 67th and 78th Sessions (June 1981 and June 1991), 105 of the 642 delegates and 565 of the 2,070 advisers that are accredited to the Conference are women. Women delegates represent no more than 15.4 per cent of total delegates, against 15.5 per cent last year. A total of 670 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 24.4 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 23.24 per cent last year. Although this number reflects a slight increase as compared to last year, the Committee strongly deplores the fact that this percentage has remained low for several years. The Committee wishes to recall that the United Nations set a target of increasing the proportion of women in decision- and policy-making bodies to at least 30 per cent which was referred to by the Director-General in the letter of convocation sent to the Members. The

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Committee calls upon the constituents to strive to meet this target of representation of women in delegations to the International Labour Conference.

## Registered delegates and advisers

8. In accordance with the practice of the Conference, the following is the current status of the registration of delegates which is the basis for determining the quorum for voting (see also, attached table established Saturday, 3 June 2006, at noon).
9. Currently 563 delegates, including 296 Government delegates, 132 Employers' delegates and 135 Workers' delegates are registered.
10. In addition, 1,698 advisers, including 865 Government advisers, 378 Employers' advisers and 455 Workers' advisers are registered.

## Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that, to date, 14 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Dominique, Gambia, Grenada, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu). It further notes that, at the present time, the accredited delegations of five countries (Belize, Haiti, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Somalia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), are exclusively governmental. One country (Armenia) has a Workers' delegate but no Employers' delegate, and one country (Myanmar) has an Employers' delegate but no Workers' delegate. The Committee regrets that so many delegations are either incomplete or not accredited and wishes to affirm once again the necessity for governments to comply with the requirement of article 3 of the ILO Constitution to send a complete tripartite delegation to the Conference. The Committee recalls that, pursuant to a decision of the Governing Body,<sup>1</sup> each year the Director-General requests the governments of all member States, which did not send a delegation or only sent an incomplete delegation to the Conference, to indicate the reasons for their failure to do so, in order that this information may be communicated to the Governing Body. The Committee would encourage those governments that have not done so to provide the relevant information.
12. The Committee also notes that the number of advisers in each group is not evenly balanced; in particular, there are fewer Employers' advisers (496) than Workers' advisers (590). In addition, the Committee observes that the composition of some delegations shows a serious imbalance between the number of Employer and Worker advisers when compared to the number of advisers appointed for the Government delegates. It once again urges governments to pay more attention to the relative proportions of the various categories of delegation members when making nominations to the Conference, as envisaged in article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Constitution. The Committee further recalls the request contained in the resolution, adopted by the Conference at its 56th Session (1971), concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the International Labour Organization, and hopes that governments will accord equal treatment to each of the groups when appointing advisers to their national delegations to the Conference. The Committee recalls in this connection the Members' obligation under

<sup>1</sup> See Annex VI, *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office* (Geneva, Feb. 2006), p. 73.

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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 entire duration of the Conference.

## Quorum

13. Twenty-six advisers, who are also substitutes to delegates who have not registered, have been taken into account in calculating the voting strength of the Conference.
14. Fourteen member States, three less than last year, accredited to the Conference are in arrears in their financial contributions to the Organization under the terms of article 13, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and therefore may not, at present, participate in the voting in the Conference or its committees. These are Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Since publication in the brief report (*Provisional Record* No. 5A) of the list of Members not allowed to vote, the delegations of two (Djibouti and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), who also do not have the right to vote, have been accredited. Therefore 30 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. Two delegates from countries entitled to vote (Armenia and Myanmar) are also excluded, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 2, of the ILO Constitution, because their national delegations are incomplete. According to this article “if one of the Members fails to nominate one of the non-Government delegates whom it is entitled to nominate, the other non-Government delegate shall be allowed to sit and speak at the Conference, but not to vote”.
15. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 278. This number represents 563 registered delegates (see paragraph 9 above), plus 26 substitute delegates (see paragraph 13 above) minus 32 registered delegates not entitled to vote (see paragraph 14 above), the total being divided by two. **The Committee strongly appeals to the delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival and to give timely notice of their departure date, in order to ensure that the quorum is as accurate as possible and that they are not counted as present when they are in fact absent from the Conference.**
16. The Committee still regrets the fact that so many member States are in arrears in their payments, thereby depriving the Employers’ and Workers’ delegations from exercising their right to vote.

## Observer, organizations and liberation movement invited

17. The Conference is also being attended by:
  - representatives of one observer delegation (the Holy See) 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 bodies invited by virtue of Article II, paragraph 1, concerning reciprocal representation, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, which came into effect on 14 December 1946;

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- 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 *Provisional List of Delegations* published as a supplement to the *Provisional Record* of the Conference on Wednesday, 31 May 2006, and will be updated in the *Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 6 June 2006.

## Objections, complaints and communications

19. To date, the Committee has before it several objections, complaints and communications. It has forthwith commenced their examination. The Committee believes that its work was 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 credentials form enclosed with the letter of convocation to the Conference, which is sent to governments every year, or the *Online Credentials*<sup>2</sup> application made available by the Office. This year, however, 37 per cent of member States have used neither method to submit their credentials. In order to comply with article 3, paragraph 5, of the Constitution, governments should provide accurate 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. The Committee would encourage those governments that have not done so to provide the relevant information.

20. In order to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate, all governments are urged to indicate in their credentials the organizations 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 of the Governing Body in his brief report, five governments (Afghanistan, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Lesotho and Timor-Leste) have not yet provided the required information for all of the Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers. In addition, one Government (Paraguay) who had submitted its credentials after the publication of the brief report also has not provided the required information. 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 provided on time for publication in the *Provisional List of Delegations*, which in accordance with article 26bis, paragraph 1(a), of the Conference Standing Orders,<sup>3</sup> serves as the basis for the submission of objections to credentials.

<sup>2</sup> <http://ilc.ilo.org/credentials/index.asp>.

<sup>3</sup> Interim provisions concerning verification of credentials adopted by the Conference at its 92nd Session (June 2004) and effective from the 93rd Session (June 2005) to the 96th Session (June 2007) of the International Labour Conference.

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

Geneva, 3 June 2006.

*(Signed)* Mr. Jules Medenou Oni,  
Chairperson.

Ms. Lidija Horvatić.

Mr. Ulf Edström.



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