



First sitting

Wednesday, 31 May 2006, 10.35 a.m.

Presidents: Mr. Tomada, Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and Mr. Sajda

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Original Spanish: Mr. TOMADA (Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

As Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, it is an honour for me to declare this 95th Session of the International Labour Conference open and to welcome you all.

(Applause)

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

Original Spanish: Mr. TOMADA (Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

Our first task, and a pleasant one it is indeed, is to elect the President of the Conference. I will therefore give the floor to Ambassador Fernando of Sri Lanka, who will propose a candidate for the presidency of the Conference on behalf of the Government group.

Mrs. FERNANDO (Government, Sri Lanka)

It is my great honour, as Chairperson of the Government group, and on behalf of the group, to put forward the candidature of Mr. Čestmír Sajda as President of the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference. Mr. Sajda is Deputy Minister for European Union and International Relations in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic. Mr. Sajda's candidature was unanimously endorsed by the Government group yesterday. He holds a PhD in law and an MBA in business studies. His professional experience both in the field of business, as managing director of major foreign trade and investment groups, and in administration in the Ministries for Regional Development and for Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, will certainly be particularly relevant in the tripartite environment of the ILO. He represents his country in many high-level European Union groups. I have no doubt that Minister Sajda has the skill and competencies to guide our work here over the next two weeks to a successful conclusion.

With these words, I am honoured to submit his candidature as President of this session of the Conference.

Original Spanish: Mr. TOMADA (Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

I thank Ambassador Fernando, and now give the floor to Mr. Funes de Rioja of Argentina to speak on behalf of the Employers' group.

Original Spanish: Mr. FUNES DE RIOJA (Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

On behalf of the Employers' group at this Conference, it is an honour and a pleasure to support the proposed candidature of Mr. Sajda as President of the Conference. His personal qualities and public activities guarantee that we will have an outstanding President at this International Labour Conference.

Original Spanish: Mr. TOMADA (Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

I thank Mr. Funes de Rioja, and now give the floor to Sir Roy Trotman to speak on behalf of the Workers' group.

Mr. TROTMAN (Worker Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

I would like, first of all, on behalf of the Workers' group, to welcome you and to welcome all our colleagues and all of the other participants to this Conference and to express the hope that we shall have a very fruitful and successful set of deliberations.

The Workers' group wishes to endorse the nomination of the candidate from the Czech Republic. We do not hold against him the fact that he was an Employer representative. In fact, we hope that that particular qualification will assist in bringing in a business-like approach to the work that we have to do during this very important, though short, session of the Conference, and we give him our pledge of support.

Original Spanish: Mr. TOMADA (Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

The nomination of Mr. Sajda, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, has been duly proposed and seconded. Since there are no other nominations, I declare Mr. Sajda of the Czech Republic unanimously elected President of the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference.

I sincerely wish him success and invite him to take the President's chair.

(Mr. Čestmír Sajda, Deputy Minister for European Union and International Relations in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, is elected President of the Conference and takes the President's chair.)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT

On my behalf and that of the Czech Republic, may I offer our sincere thanks for the honour you do me and my country in electing me President of the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference.

I am deeply grateful to the European group for its unanimous support for my nomination as President. My thanks go also to her Excellency, Ambassador Sarala Fernando of Sri Lanka, spokesperson of the Government group, as well as to Mr. Funes de Rioja, spokesperson of the Employers' group, and to Sir Roy Trotman, spokesperson of the Workers' group, for the support they have expressed on behalf of their respective groups.

My country was among the 42 founding Members of the International Labour Organization and it has accompanied the ILO throughout its life of nearly 90 years. An illustrious compatriot of mine to hold this high post was Mr. Edward Benes, Foreign Minister and late President of Czechoslovakia, who presided over the Seventh Session of the International Labour Conference in 1925. In his opening words to this assembly, Mr. Benes highlighted and I quote:

“The extent to which the Labour Conference is bound up with the great work of peace, with the essential task of the League of Nations and with the great world problems which remained purely social and economic. In working for the coordination of the economic activity of the various States and for the regulation of questions of industrial competition, and internationalizing social and economic measures, we eliminate possible causes of friction between nations, we bring them closer together, we work for peace and we prepare an atmosphere of friendly and intimate international collaboration.”

Although these words were spoken in the years following the First World War, I am sure you will agree that they have retained their relevance to our work just as the International Labour Organization has remained relevant in this changing and globalizing world.

With humility, therefore, I hope that I may prove a worthy successor to President Benes. I shall endeavour to do everything I can to advance the work of this Conference. I am sure that I may count on your cooperation and support. I have no doubt that if we work together with confidence, enthusiasm and belief, our work will be crowned with success.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCE

The PRESIDENT

In accordance with article 25, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, we will now elect the Vice-Presidents of the Conference. I give the floor to the Clerk of the Conference to read out the nominations made by the groups.

The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE

The nominations to the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Conference are as follows:

Government group:

Ms. Abdel Hady (*Minister of Manpower and Migration, Egypt*)

Employers' group:

Mr. de Regil (*Mexico*)

Workers' group:

Mr. Adyanthaya (*India*)

The PRESIDENT

May I take it that these proposals are adopted?

(The proposals are adopted.)

NOMINATION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GROUPS

The PRESIDENT

I now call upon the Clerk of the Conference to read out the names of the persons who have been elected as Officers of the various groups.

The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE

The groups have chosen their Officers as follows:

Government group:

Chairperson: Ms. Fernando (*Sri Lanka*)

Employers' group:

Chairperson: Mr. Funes de Rioja (*Argentina*)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Suzuki (*Japan*)

Mr. M'Kaissi (*Tunisia*)

Mr. Lima Godoy (*Brazil*)

Mr. Potter (*United States*)

Mr. Barde (*Switzerland*)

Secretary:

Mr. Peñalosa (*International Organisation of Employers*)

Workers' group:

Chairperson: Mr. Trotman (*Barbados*)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Ahmed (*Pakistan*)

Ms. Brighi (*Italy*)

Ms. Kipulu Katani

(*Democratic Republic of the Congo*)

Mr. Martinez (*Argentina*)

Secretary:

Ms. Biondi (*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*)

Further Officers of the Workers' group, apart from the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons, are: Mr. Adyanthaya (*India*); Mr. Azouz (*Syrian Arab Republic*); Ms. Anderson (*Mexico*); Ms. Burrow (*Australia*); Ms. Engelen-Kefer (*Germany*); Mr. Nakajima (*Japan*); Mr. Oshiomhole (*Nigeria*); Mr. Sidorov (*Russian Federation*) and Mr. Zellhoefer (*United States*).

CONSTITUTION AND COMPOSITION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The PRESIDENT

The next agenda item concerns the constitution of the various committees that will examine matters put before the Conference. The Conference may wish to establish the following committees: the Selection Committee; the Finance Committee; the Committee on the Application of Standards; the Committee on Safety and Health; the Committee on the Employment Relationship; and the Committee on Technical Cooperation. The Conference may also wish to take as a basis for discussion the texts

prepared by the Office and to refer them to the appropriate committees, as foreseen in article 40, paragraph 1, of the Standing Orders. If there are no objections, may I take it that these proposals are adopted?

(The proposals are adopted.)

COMPOSITION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT

I shall now ask the Clerk of the Conference to read out the nominations made by the groups for the composition of the Selection Committee.

The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE

The composition of the Selection Committee, in conformity with article 4 of the Conference Standing Orders, and the nominations by the respective groups, are as follows:

The 28 Government members are the regular members of the Governing Body of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cuba, El Salvador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom and the United States.

The Deputy Government members are: Barbados, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Viet Nam.

The 14 regular Employer members are: Mr. Barde (*Switzerland*), Mr. Dahlan (*Saudi Arabia*), Mr. Ferrer Dufol (*Spain*), Mr. Funes de Rioja (*Argentina*), Mr. Lambert (*United Kingdom*), Mr. Lima Godoy (*Brazil*), Mr. M'Kaissi (*Tunisia*), Mr. Oshinowo (*Nigeria*), Mr. Potter (*United States*), Mr. Suzuki (*Japan*), Mr. Tabani (*Pakistan*), Mr. Traoré (*Mali*), Mr. Trogen (*Sweden*) and Mr. Van Vuuren (*South Africa*).

The Deputy Employer members are Mr. Allam (*Egypt*), Mr. Anand (*India*), Mr. de Arbeloa (*Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*), Ms. Awassi Atsimadja (*Gabon*), Mr. Boisson (*France*), Ms. Cokelloyd (*Jamaica*), Mr. Ereemeev (*Russian Federation*), Mr. Hilton-Clarke (*Trinidad and Tobago*), Ms. Horvatic (*Croatia*), Mr. Jeetun (*Mauritius*), Mr. O'Reilly (*New Zealand*), Mr. de Regil (*Mexico*), Ms. Romchatthong (*Thailand*) and Mr. Soriano (*Philippines*).

The regular Worker members are the 14 names I read out previously as Officers of the Workers' group.

The Deputy Worker members are Mr. Cortebeeck (*Belgium*), Ms. Seminario (*United States*), Mr. Patel (*South Africa*) and Ms. Yacob (*Singapore*).

The PRESIDENT

If there are no objections, may I take it that the composition of the Selection Committee is adopted by the Conference?

(The proposals are adopted.)

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

The PRESIDENT

As you are aware, at its 295th Session in March this year, the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization decided to place an additional item on the agenda of this session of the Conference:

“Review of further action that could be taken by the ILO in accordance with its Constitution in order to: (i) effectively secure Myanmar’s compliance with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry; and (ii) ensure that no action is taken against complainants or their representatives.”

The discussion of this question is without prejudice to paragraph 1(a) of the resolution concerning the measures recommended by the Governing Body under article 33 of the ILO Constitution on the subject of Myanmar, adopted by the Conference at its 88th Session in June 2000. Under that paragraph, the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry set up in 1997 and of the application of Convention No. 29 by Myanmar should be discussed at future sessions of the International Labour Conference, at a sitting of the Committee on the Application of Standards specially set aside for the purpose, so long as this Member has not been shown to have fulfilled its obligations.

It is proposed to hold the special sitting of the Committee on the Application of Standards to discuss this question on Saturday 3 June. It is further proposed that the discussion of the additional agenda item should take place in the Selection Committee, in a dedicated sitting, on Tuesday 13 June, that is, in the last week of the Conference. The Committee will have before it an analysis of all relevant options which the Conference could consider taking to ensure compliance with the Convention, or to draw, in any other appropriate way, the consequences of the situation. It will report back to the Conference, making appropriate recommendations. Every effort will be made to ensure that there is close coordination between these two discussions, so that they are fully complementary.

May I take it that these arrangements are adopted by the Conference?

(The proposals are adopted.)

SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONFERENCE

The PRESIDENT

The next agenda item concerns the suspension of certain provisions of the Standing Orders of the Conference. The purpose of these suspensions is to implement recommendations made by the Governing Body at its 292nd Session, in March 2005 regarding the discussion of the Global Report that the Director-General presents under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

My fellow Officers and I unanimously recommend, in accordance with article 76 of the Standing Orders, that the Conference decide that the discussion of the Global Report should not fall under the limitation concerning number of statements by each speaker and that, to that extent, article 12, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders should be suspended. In the case of government delegations, speaking pref-

erence will be given to ministers or to the accredited Government delegate. We further recommend that the Conference decide, to a reasonable degree, that the discussion should not be governed by the provisions regarding time limits to speeches and, to that extent, suspend article 14, paragraph 6, of the Standing Orders, and that the Conference decide not to apply, to the extent required, the provisions of article 14, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders on the sequence in which the floor is given to speakers in order to facilitate an exchange of views.

Is that acceptable to the Conference? Yes. Thank you.

(It is so decided.)

The discussion of the Global Report, *The end of child labour: Within reach* will take place on Friday, 9 June during two sittings. There will be no other plenary sittings on that day.

There will be no formal list of speakers for the Global Report sittings. Participants will be able to register their wish to speak on the day of the discussion itself by means of the application forms that will be available in the room. The speaking order will be decided by the President. At the beginning and towards the end of the debate, time will be allocated to those who speak on behalf of a group. The objective is for us to have a discussion which is interactive and aims at giving guidance for future ILO action against child labour. In the middle of the day, there will also be a special event to highlight best practices in the elimination of child labour.

As determined by the Governing Body at its March 2006 session, the absence of a Resolutions Committee at this session of the International Labour Conference would entail the suspension of the references to it in article 17, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders of the Conference as well as paragraphs 4 to 10 of the same article. In addition, within the context of the discussion in plenary of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General, the arrangements for the reproduction of participants' five-minute speeches in English, French and Spanish, depending on the language chosen by the government of the speaker's country for the purpose of official correspondence with the ILO, call for the suspension of the corresponding part of paragraph 5 of article 24 of the Standing Orders. My fellow Officials and I also recommend that these provisions be suspended for this session in accordance with article 76 of the Standing Orders of the Conference.

If there are no objections, may I take it that this proposal will take effect with the agreement of the Conference as from the next plenary sitting, which will be held on next Monday, June 5? Thank you.

(The proposals are adopted.)

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT

The proceedings in plenary will be web-cast in video format in the original language. The statements will be recorded and so may also be viewed at a later date. The URL at which they can be found is published in the *Daily Bulletin*.

I should now like to say a few words on health and security. At its 288th Session in November 2003, the Governing Body recommended that ac-

cess to the ILO building should be controlled for the purposes of security. Measures were introduced two years ago. On behalf of my fellow Officers, may I ask participants kindly to accept any inconvenience that such security measures may entail. We count on the cooperation of all to ensure that Conference activities run smoothly. Please bring to the attention of the guards or secretariat staff any irregularity you feel could compromise the security of individuals or buildings. Please wear at all times the Conference badge that you received at registration.

May we also ask you to respect scrupulously the health rules that have been established and to bear in mind that we are all responsible for health and security. With your permission, I should also like to bring to your attention article 13, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, under which the President of the Conference is responsible for maintaining order throughout the proceedings.

Again, I thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

The PRESIDENT

I would now like to give the floor to Mr. Carlos Tomada, Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, to present his report on the activities of the Governing Body for 2005-06. I would recall that the discussion on this report, and on the Report submitted to the Conference by the Director-General of the ILO will begin on Monday, 5 June.

Original Spanish: Mr. TOMADA (Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office)

Thank you. Firstly, I should like to welcome you all to this Conference and wish to take this opportunity to point out that, despite having attended these sessions of the ILC for many years, I am, nonetheless, struck by the presence of so many eminent delegations here today and the quality of the Government representatives in attendance. Recently, the Director-General told me that we count among our number over 100 ministers and deputy-ministers for labour, not to mention the, as ever, distinguished Worker and Employer representatives.

I have the honour of presenting you with the annual report on the work of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office for the year June 2005 to June 2006, a period during which I chaired the Governing Body.

This report can be found in full in *Provisional Record* No. 1, so I will simply make a few comments on the main axes of the ILO agenda.

Without wishing to embark upon a detailed analysis of the situation, it is clear that, since the end of the Cold War, an international order has been forming, driven by developments affecting new information and communication technologies and by the liberalization of trade and financial flows; an order following a different economic path and in which social considerations are afforded little importance.

It was, of course, the ILO which identified this failing and which has since striven to correct it. The development and consolidation of the Decent Work Agenda, the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, the Maritime

Labour Convention, 2006 (which concerns probably the most globalized sector), along with other initiatives launched by this Office, should be viewed as attempts to create a place for social issues within a new framework of leadership.

These efforts by the ILO are bearing fruit, as can be seen by the already famous paragraph 47 of the United Nations World Summit Outcome document of 2005. Discussions during the high-level segment of the next substantive meeting of ECOSOC in a few weeks' time here in Geneva will no doubt prove to be an important step along this path.

As to the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization, the Governing Body considered that the Policy Coherence Initiative on Growth, Investment and Employment was a key issue with regard to globalization and supported calls for the Office to maintain a permanent dialogue with other bodies, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO.

The World Summit Outcome document of 2005 recognizes the relevance of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and the interrelationship between development and the fundamental principles and rights at work. This is surely a turning point. Decent work is a goal around which policy coherence and convergence at a national and international level can be developed.

The members of the Governing Body supported ILO participation in the wider process of reform of the United Nations, and considered the World Summit Outcome of 2005 to be an advance in the effort to create an efficient United Nations system that will act as a vehicle for peace, development and freedom.

The members of the Governing Body agreed to the proposal to organize a forum on decent work for a fair globalization. This forum, to be held in 2007, will raise awareness of ILO policies, programmes and activities, with a view to preparing a framework for multilateral organizations and the main parties concerned with labour issues.

I should like to emphasize that progress has been made on this point. In early May, the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting of the ILO took place in the city of Brasilia. This Meeting needs to be viewed within a regional context in which the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas met at the Summit of the Americas at Mar del Plata under the slogan "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance". In the same spirit, in the course of the Meeting in Brasilia a great deal of importance was attached to the Director-General's Report, *Decent work in the Americas: An agenda for the Hemisphere*, for generating decent work in the Americas. What was new about the Report was that it did not simply list the ILO's activities; it also set out an action programme, with objectives, targets and well-defined policies. The Meeting concluded with an announcement by Governments, Employers and Workers of the start of a "Decade of promoting decent work in the Americas". It was stressed that decent work country programmes could make an important contribution to promoting sustainable social and economic development, and delegates reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating the worst forms of child labour.

In November, the Governing Body decided that the Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting would be held from 29 August to 1 September 2006 in Busan, in the Republic of Korea.

As regards the functioning of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body established a working party which met in March 2006 to draw up recommendations on the structure and functioning of the Conference, which will be presented to the Governing Body in November 2006. I am aware that this is not an easy subject. I understand the reservations expressed by our Worker friends, but must emphasize that this is something that needs to be tackled, a pending issue, and I encourage them to continue their efforts.

In the area of standards-related activity, I would like to turn to the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998. In 2005, all member States that had not ratified the eight fundamental ILO Conventions presented reports on the situation with regard to these principles and rights, indicating the obstacles encountered to ratification and the areas in which they needed assistance. In parallel with this, the campaign to ratify the fundamental ILO Conventions continued, and as a result some 119 ILO member States, of the total of 178, have now ratified the eight fundamental Conventions.

The second main aspect of the follow-up to the Declaration is, as you know, the presentation of the Global Report. This year, the theme for the report – for the second time since the Declaration was adopted – was child labour. I can tell you that since 2002, when the report, *A future without child labour* was presented, the road has been a long and winding one. But this year's Global Report, *The end of child labour: Within reach*, affirms that the worst forms of child labour are now, for the first time, in decline throughout the world, and that if the global momentum could be kept up, it would be possible to eliminate most of the worst forms of child labour within ten years.

With this aim in mind, it is important to highlight the importance of ensuring coherence between the discussions at the Conference, the Governing Body's Committee on Technical Cooperation, and the IPEC Steering Committee.

The Governing Body also closely followed the activities undertaken to develop strategic guidelines on standards relating to discrimination in employment and occupation.

The *Manual for drafting ILO instruments* was published on the ILO web site in an interactive format. It is hoped that the full version in three languages will be available to all of you at the next session of the Conference in 2007.

I am also able to announce that the *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*, which contains all the rules applicable to the Governing Body, was published in March in Spanish, French and English.

As regards complaints presented under article 26 of the ILO Constitution, I am bound to bring up the serious matter of non-compliance by the Government of Myanmar with the forced labour Convention. Although the threats against the Liaison Officer have ceased, and the Government has stated its intention to collaborate with the ILO, rather than withdraw from the Organization, it was not possible during the course of the year to reach an agreement regarding the establishment of a reliable system for dealing with complaints concerning instances of forced labour.

The authorities continue to prosecute anyone presenting what they regard as "false" complaints con-

cerning forced labour, and still keep a number of people imprisoned.

At the request of the Workers' group, as the President of the Conference has indicated, the Governing Body in March decided to include an item on this subject on the agenda of this session of the Conference. This means that it will be for all of you to examine any new measure which the ILO might adopt under its Constitution to ensure Myanmar's compliance with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and ensure that no action is taken against complainants or their representatives.

I should point out here that the Governing Body has also urged the Government of Belarus to take immediate measures to ensure that workers in that country can form and join organizations as they see fit and carry on their activities without interference by the public authorities.

The Committee on Freedom of Association continued its invaluable work. During the period under consideration, it presented five reports to the Governing Body and examined 196 cases relating to different countries. I would like to draw particular attention to the significant positive measures undertaken by a number of these countries.

In the area of employment, the Governing Body's Committee on Employment and Social Policy continued to work on ways of integrating the fundamental elements of the World Employment Programme into the ILO's own work. It emphasized the importance of follow-up to the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa in 2004, which should lead to concrete improvements in the labour market situation in Africa, especially for young people.

In March, the Committee took a step towards implementing the World Employment Programme. The document proposes specific action, approaches and tools for applying the employment-related component of the decent work country programmes. As part of the follow-up to the resolution concerning youth employment adopted by the Conference in 2005, the Governing Body analysed the specific activities undertaken in order to ensure that the topic of youth employment is tackled by the Organization as a whole.

The Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises is examining the question of how to assess the follow-up action taken under the Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. The Governing Body adopted amendments made to the Declaration with a view to updating it, and approved the plan to hold an international forum in 2007 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its adoption.

As regards financial matters, in March 2006 the Governing Body considered proposals for future work on results-based management, in particular, for the preparation of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2008-09.

The most recent report on the ILO's technical cooperation activities notes as before a trend towards a reduction in funding from the United Nations system and an increase in the expenditure covered by multi-bilateral and trust funds.

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to encourage donors to increase extra-budgetary funding in support of the Decent Work Agenda. From November, on this date every year, the Committee on Technical Cooperation will examine a report on progress made in implementing

the decent work country programmes. Emphasis has also been placed on the importance of that Committee continuing to receive thematic evaluations of technical cooperation projects, which will, among other things, enable the Committee to define the overall policy orientation of the ILO's technical cooperation activities.

The enhanced programme of technical cooperation for the occupied Arab territories is continuing. As part of the special technical cooperation programme for Colombia, which was extended until the end of this month, a special investigation unit has been set up within the Office of the Attorney-General. This unit will be responsible for investigating criminal acts perpetrated against workers, trade unionists and union officials.

To conclude, as you know, the Maritime Labour Convention was adopted in February at the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference, with 314 votes in favour, no votes against and four abstentions. This historic instrument consolidates and brings up to date some 68 ILO maritime labour Conventions and Recommendations; it is a new "road map" for labour relations in this sector. It establishes a very comprehensive system of enforcement of the instrument's provisions based on collaboration between all the ratifying States, with a view to ensuring that decent working conditions are constantly maintained. I believe that it will be a milestone in the future standards-related activity of the ILO, and we will always remember the tripartite work that led up to this and the magnificent 94th Session of the Conference in February 2006.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Governing Body colleagues, Mr. Daniel Funes de Rioja, the Employer Vice-Chairperson, and Sir Roy Trotman, the Worker Vice-Chairperson, for their invaluable and cordial collaboration throughout the year; this considerably lightened the task I have the honour to bear in guiding the work of the Governing Body. I would also like to thank the Director-General, Mr. Juan Somavia, and his staff, for their constant support and help at all times.

With these observations, I submit my report to you, taking the opportunity before I do so once again to congratulate the President, Mr. Sajda, and wish him every success in guiding this session of the Conference to a successful conclusion.

The PRESIDENT

I thank Mr. Tomada and congratulate him both for his work and for that succinct account of the work of the Governing Body during his term of office as Chairperson.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

The PRESIDENT

The fact that the next plenary sitting will not be held before 5 June implies that the everyday tasks related to the organization of the Conference will be carried out by the Officers of the Conference, if the Conference wishes to confer on them the necessary powers to do so.

I shall now ask the Clerk of the Conference to read out, for your approval, the delegation of authority.

The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization hereby delegates to its President and three Vice-Presidents authority to take any decisions or perform any functions within the competence of the Conference, with respect to any matter that needs to be dealt with before the Conference resumes its plenary sittings, unless the Officers consider that the Conference should hold a sitting to discuss such matters.

Decisions taken under this delegation of authority will be set out in the *Provisional Record* of the work of the Conference.

This delegation shall take effect at the end of this sitting and shall terminate when the Conference resumes its plenary sittings.

The PRESIDENT

If there are no objections, I take it that the delegation of authority is accepted.

(The delegation of authority is accepted.)

I now declare closed the first sitting of the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference.

(The Conference adjourned at 11.30 a.m.)

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