



Reports of the Credentials Committee

First report

1. The Credentials Committee of the 96th Session of the Conference is composed of Mr Johnston Kavuludi, Government delegate, Kenya, 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. 4A), the composition of the Conference has been modified as follows.
3. Of the 180 member States of the International Labour Organization, 169 are represented at the Conference, that is, one more (Guinea) than were accredited at the time that the brief report was signed.

Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 666 delegates, including 337 Government delegates, 164 Employers' delegates and 165 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 2,147 advisers, including 1,050 Government advisers, 486 Employers' advisers and 611 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,813 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), 113 of the 666 delegates and 565 of the 2,147 advisers that are accredited to the Conference are women. Women that are nominated as titular delegates represent 17 per cent of total delegates, against 15.4 per cent last year. A total of 678 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 24.1 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 24.4 per cent last year. Although this number reflects a slight increase among titular delegates as compared to last year, the Committee strongly deplores the fact that the overall percentage has decreased and remains low. 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 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 Friday, 1 June 2007, at noon).
9. Currently 550 delegates, including 298 Government delegates, 121 Employers' delegates and 131 Workers' delegates are registered.
10. In addition, 1,685 advisers, including 901 Government advisers, 339 Employers' advisers and 445 Workers' advisers are registered.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that, to date, 11 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Timor-Leste, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). It further notes that, at the present time, the accredited delegations of two countries (Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis), are exclusively governmental. Three countries (Afghanistan, Gambia and Nicaragua) have a Workers' delegate but no Employers' delegate, and two countries (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Somalia) have 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,¹ 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.² 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 (486) than Workers' advisers (611). In addition, the Committee observes that the composition of some delegations shows a serious imbalance between the number of Employers' and Workers' 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 ILO 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

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

² For the latest report, see GB.298/15/4.

the Conference. The Committee recalls in this connection the Members' obligation under article 13, paragraph 2(a), of the ILO 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. Thirty-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. Fifteen member States, one more 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 ILO Constitution, and therefore may not, at present, participate in the voting in the Conference or its committees. These are Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Tajikistan and Uganda. Therefore 28 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. Three delegates from countries entitled to vote (Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) 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 550 registered delegates (see paragraph 9 above), plus 36 substitute delegates (see paragraph 13 above) minus 31 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 their Employers' and Workers' delegates 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;

-
- 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.

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, 30 May 2007, and will be updated in the *Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 5 June 2007.

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 International Labour Office prior to the Conference. The Committee, however, notes with regret that 15 countries less than that of last year deposited their credentials with the Office by the deadline required by article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference (15 May 2007).³ The Committee encourages member States to respect their constitutional obligations in this regard, since timely accreditation promotes transparency of the national nomination process.
20. 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*⁴ application made available by the Office. These forms for credentials are important as they provide information on organizations consulted in the nomination process and on the payment of travel and subsistence expenses. In order to comply with article 3, paragraph 5, of the ILO 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. Governments are also required to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers in accordance with paragraph 2(a), of article 13, of the ILO Constitution. The Committee notes that this year 35 per cent of member States have used neither method to submit their credentials. The Committee encourages those governments that have not done so to provide all the relevant information at the present session, and invites all governments to use the abovementioned forms for future sessions of the Conference.
21. 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 belong, as well as their functions within those organizations. However despite the urgent call made by the Chairperson of the Governing

³ See paragraph 7 of *Provisional Record* No. 4A.

⁴ <http://ilc.ilo.org/credentials/index.asp>.

Body in his brief report, three Governments (Equatorial Guinea, Iraq and Sao Tome and Principe) have not yet provided the required information for 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 provided on time for publication in the *Provisional List of Delegations*, which in accordance with article 26bis, paragraph 1(a), of the Standing Orders of the Conference,⁵ serves as the basis for the submission of objections to credentials.

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

Geneva, 1 June 2007.

(Signed) J. Kavuludi,
Chairperson.

L. Horvatić.

U. Edström.

⁵ 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.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Reports of the Credentials Committee</i>	
First report.....	1
Composition of the Conference.....	1
Accredited delegates and advisers.....	1
Registered delegates and advisers.....	2
Incomplete and non-accredited delegations	2
Quorum	3
Observer, organizations and liberation movement invited.....	3
Objections, complaints and communications.....	4