



NINTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Working Group on the
International Labour Conference**

1. In line with the terms of reference agreed upon by the Governing Body at its 300th Session (November 2007),¹ the Working Group on the International Labour Conference met on 13 March 2008 for a final examination of the detailed proposals for arrangements for the 97th Session (28 May to 13 June 2008) of the International Labour Conference. The Working Group session was chaired by Ambassador M. Khan of Pakistan.
2. The Working Group had before it a document² summarizing the Working Group's proposals which the Governing Body had already endorsed in November 2007. The document referred to the arrangements which were also to be discussed by the LILS Committee and which would be submitted to the Conference through the Standing Orders Committee proposed to be set up for that purpose.
3. Governing Body elections are scheduled to take place on 2 June 2008. As article 48 of the Standing Orders provides³ that the Governing Body elected at a session of the Conference can be installed only after that session of the Conference has been closed, the 302nd Session of the Governing Body would be held on the afternoon of 13 June 2008. The Working Group specified, however, that such a decision would not prejudice any decision taken concerning the date of the Governing Body at subsequent sessions of the Conference.
4. While considering that discussion should continue on the means of finding a satisfactory procedure for dealing with draft resolutions in the absence of a Resolutions Committee, the Working Group also noted that the practice which consisted of referring to the Selection Committee any draft resolution not related to an item included on the agenda would continue to apply at the forthcoming session of the Conference.⁴

¹ GB.300/11.

² GB.301/WG/ILC, appended to this document.

³ Article 48 of the Standing Orders.

⁴ Procedure provided for by article 17, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders of the Conference. See also article 4, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders of the Conference for the mandate of the Selection Committee.

5. The Working Group further welcomed the arrangements made by the Office to reintroduce the production of the *Provisional Record* in English, French and Spanish. It also expressed the wish that the Office continue to explore practical solutions for organizing electronic votes so that they do not disrupt or hold up the debates in the Conference plenary.
6. Emphasizing the need to continue discussion on the organization of the plenary debate and the search for ways, such as interactive panels or other question and answer sessions, which might make the discussion more interesting for delegates, the Working Group reiterated its wish that the Office continue to explore innovative ways to enhance the quality of the debate and the visibility of the International Labour Conference. The Working Group further emphasized that the number of special guests at the Conference should not be too great and those high-level guests should address matters within the ILO's mandate.
7. *In the light of the foregoing considerations, the Governing Body may wish to:*
 - (i) *decide that the 302nd Session of the Governing Body will be held on Friday, 13 June 2008, following the closure of the 97th Session of the Conference;*
 - (ii) *note that, in the absence of a Resolutions Committee, the procedure provided for by article 17, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, will continue to apply; and*
 - (iii) *request the Office to continue to explore ways to improve the organization and quality of plenary debates.*

Geneva, 17 March 2008.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.



Preparations for the 97th Session (June 2008) of the International Labour Conference

1. Further to the recommendation of its Working Group on the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body decided, at its 300th Session (November 2007), that the structure put in place for the 96th Session of the Conference in June 2007 should be used again for the next session of the Conference in June 2008, as reflected in the tentative plan of work reproduced in the appendix. It also endorsed a number of amendments proposed by the Working Group for the 97th Session (June 2008) concerning:
 - (i) the opportunity to bring forward the discussion on candidates for the Credentials Committee to a date before the beginning of the Conference, and to enable the Conference to establish the Credentials Committee immediately after the opening of the Conference;
 - (ii) the establishment of a Standing Orders Committee, which would be responsible for examining the *Interim provisions*,¹ in addition to other changes to the Standing Orders likely to facilitate the introduction of the proposed changes to the planning and organization of the Conference.²
2. In November 2007, the Working Group stressed again the need to improve time management in plenary sittings of the Conference. It also underlined the desirability of improving the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, possibly with the contribution of a moderator who could make the debate more interactive.

¹ *Interim provisions of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference concerning verification of credentials.*

² The amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference implied by the changes already adopted by the Working Group are described in document GB.301/LILS/3(Rev.).

3. The Governing Body decided that, at its March session, the Working Group would hold a brief meeting to have a last look at the details of preparations for the Conference, taking into account the following elements:
- (i) in the light of the relevant provisions of the Standing Orders,³ the 302nd Session of the Governing Body could be held immediately after the closure of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference, on Friday, 13 June;
 - (ii) in the absence of a Resolutions Committee, the emergency procedure, which consists of referring to the Selection Committee any draft resolution not related to an item on the agenda, could continue to apply.
4. The Office is currently examining the issue of the production of the *Provisional Records* in English, French and Spanish in order to find a suitable solution.

Geneva, 7 March 2008.

Submitted for guidance.

³ See GB.301/LILS/3(Rev.).

Appendix

Tentative plan of work 97th Session (28 May–13 June 2008) of the International Labour Conference

	T 27	W 28	Th 29	F 30	S 31	M 2	T 3	W 4	Th 5	F 6	S 7	M 9	T 10	W 11	Th 12	F 13
Group meetings	■										■					
Plenary sittings		■								■ ²		■ ³	■ ³	■ ³	■ ³	■
GB elections						■										
Selection Committee		■ ¹														
Finance Committee							■	■		A				PI		
Committee on the Application of Standards		■ ¹	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		A			PI
Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity		■ ¹	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	□	A		PI		
Committee on Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction		■ ¹	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		A		PI		
Committee on Skills Development		■ ¹	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		A		PI		
Standing Orders Committee				■				A					PI			
Governing Body		■ ⁵									□					■ ⁴

¹ From 11 a.m.

² Discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration.

³ Extended sitting if necessary.

⁴ On completion of the Conference.

⁵ Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee.

A Adoption by the Committee of its report.

PI Adoption of the report by the Conference in plenary sitting.

■ Half-day sitting.

■ All-day sitting.

□ Sitting if necessary.