



Reports of the Selection Committee

First report

1. Election of the Officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 57 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the Selection Committee elected its Officers as follows.

Chairperson: Mr A. Shahmir (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Employer Vice-Chairperson: Mr A. M'Kaissi (Tunisia)

Worker Vice-Chairperson: Mr L. Trotman (Barbados)

2. Reminder of the Selection Committee's authority under the Standing Orders

The Selection Committee was reminded that, at its 90th Session (2002), the Conference had adopted a set of amendments to its Standing Orders aimed at streamlining a number of Conference procedures.¹

For the Selection Committee, these amendments have resulted in two important changes. Firstly, under article 4, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders, the Selection Committee, in addition to its traditional authority to fix the time and agenda of the plenary sittings, is now responsible for acting on behalf of the Conference with respect to decisions on non-controversial questions of a routine nature. Thus, except where consensus cannot be reached in respect of any particular question requiring a decision for the proper conduct of business, the Selection Committee can now decide on its own authority and its decisions no longer need to be endorsed by the Conference. Secondly, under article 9(a) of the Standing Orders, the Committee is no longer responsible for approving changes in the composition of committees, once their initial membership has been determined by the Conference. This responsibility is now exercised by each group, except in the case of the Selection Committee itself, the Credentials Committee, the Conference Drafting Committee and the Finance Committee of Government Representatives.

¹ See International Labour Conference, 90th Session, Geneva, 2002, *Provisional Record*, Vol. I, p. 2/1.

3. Discussion of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General: Opening date for the discussion and closing date for the list of speakers

The Selection Committee decided that the discussion of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General would begin on Monday, 9 June, at 10 a.m., and that the list of speakers would be closed on Thursday, 5 June, at 6 p.m., under the usual conditions.

4. Discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

At its 292nd Session (March 2005), the Governing Body invited the Conference to adopt a set of provisional ad hoc arrangements for the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the Declaration, which are reproduced in Appendix I.

On the basis of those proposed arrangements and following the Conference's approval of the necessary suspension of the Standing Orders, the Selection Committee decided that the Global Report under the follow-up to the Declaration would be dealt with separately from the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General, in a maximum of two plenary sittings entirely devoted to it, on the same day. The Committee further decided that the two sittings would be held on Friday, 6 June.

5. Plan of work of Conference committees

The Selection Committee adopted a draft plan of work for committees, which is not binding but would enable them, in organizing their work, to take maximum possible account of the overall needs and possibilities of the Conference. This draft plan is attached in tabular form in Appendix II.

6. Governing Body elections

The Selection Committee decided that the closing date for the submission of candidatures for membership of the Governing Body should be fixed at Friday, 30 May at 12 noon, and that the meetings of the electoral colleges should be held in the morning and in the afternoon of Monday, 2 June.

In accordance with the provisions of article 52, paragraph 3, of the Conference Standing Orders, the three electoral colleges could choose to use the electronic voting system for the elections.²

As regards the Government electoral college, it may be recalled that, when the Conference in 1995 approved an amendment to its Standing Orders increasing the number

² A description of the electronic voting system is attached in Appendix III.

of Government deputy members from 18 to 28, it endorsed the principle that the ballot papers for the Government group should be drawn up and dealt with by the latter in such a manner as to guarantee an overall distribution of regular and deputy seats among the regions corresponding to that envisaged in the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the ILO, 1986.

7. Suggestions to facilitate the work of the Conference

As in previous years, the Selection Committee confirmed the following principles:

(a) Quorum

- (i) The quorum will be fixed provisionally, on the basis of the credentials received, in the brief report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body on the day before the opening of the Conference; the said report is published as a *Provisional Record*. This provisional quorum will remain unchanged until the Credentials Committee determines the quorum on the basis of registrations, it being understood that, if an important vote were to take place in the initial stages of the Conference (once the Credentials Committee has been appointed), the Conference might request the Credentials Committee to determine the quorum in an urgent report.
- (ii) Thereafter, the quorum will be adjusted, under the authority of the Credentials Committee, so as to take into account new registrations and notices of departure from delegates leaving the Conference.
- (iii) Delegates should register personally, immediately on arrival, as the quorum is calculated on the basis of the number of delegates registered.
- (iv) Acceptance of appointment as a delegate implies an obligation to be available in Geneva personally, or through an adviser authorized to act as a substitute for the work of the Conference until its end, as important votes often take place on the last day.
- (v) Delegates who are nevertheless obliged to leave the Conference before it finishes should give notice of their forthcoming departure to the secretariat of the Conference. The form utilized to indicate their date of departure also enables them to authorize an adviser to act and to vote in their place. At group meetings held during the second half of the Conference the attention of members of the groups will be drawn to the importance of completing and handing in this form.
- (vi) In addition, one Government delegate of a country may report the departure of the other Government delegate, and the secretaries of the Employers' and Workers' groups may also give notice of the final departure of members of their groups, who have not authorized advisers to act in their place.
- (vii) When a record vote is taken in plenary while committees are sitting, delegates are both entitled and expected to leave committees to vote unless they are replaced by a substitute in plenary. Announcements are made in the committees to ensure that all delegates are aware that a record vote is about to take place. Appropriate arrangements will be made for committees meeting in the ILO building.

(b) Punctuality

The Selection Committee would encourage committee chairpersons to start proceedings punctually, irrespective of the number of persons present, but on condition that votes will not be taken unless a quorum is clearly present.

(c) Negotiations

In order to facilitate more continuous negotiation in committees among delegates, representatives of each group should meet with the chairperson and reporter of the committee and with the representative of the Secretary-General, whenever this is desirable, to ensure that the leaders of each group know fully the minds of the delegates in the other groups. The function of these informal meetings is to afford opportunities for a fuller understanding of differences of view before definite positions have crystallized.

8. Participation in Conference committees by Members having lost the right to vote

At its 239th Session (February–March 1988), the Governing Body considered the implications of the appointment, as regular members of Conference committees, of representatives of a member State which had lost the right to vote under article 13, paragraph 4, of the Constitution of the ILO. It noted that, while the appointment of Employer and Worker representatives from such a State had no practical implications, because the Employers' and Workers' groups operated an effective system under article 56, paragraph 5(b), of the Conference Standing Orders for ensuring that deputy members of a committee voted in the place of regular members deprived of the right to vote, the same was not true of the Government group. As a result, if a Government that has lost the right to vote is appointed as a regular member of a committee, the distribution of votes between the three groups is distorted because the weighting of votes is based on the full regular membership and in practice the Government regular members of committees who are unable to vote do not make use of the possibility afforded by article 56, paragraph 5(a), of appointing a deputy member to vote in their place.

The Governing Body accordingly recommended that, in order to avoid such distortions, members of the Government group should not apply for regular membership of committees if they were not at the time in question entitled to vote. Should this practice, which has been maintained at all sessions of the Conference since 1987, for any reason not be fully respected, the weighting coefficients in committees should be calculated on the basis of the number of Government members entitled to vote.

The Selection Committee confirmed that the calculation of weighting coefficients for votes in committees should be based on the number of regular Government members entitled to vote.

9. Requests for representation in Conference committees submitted by non-governmental international organizations

In accordance with article 2, paragraph 3(j), of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the Officers of the Governing Body have invited on its behalf certain non-

governmental international organizations to be represented at the present session of the Conference, it being understood that it would be for the Selection Committee of the Conference to consider their requests to be present at the committees dealing with items on the agenda in which they have expressed a particular interest.

In accordance with article 56, paragraph 9, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the Selection Committee invited the following organizations to be represented in the committees stated:

Committee on the Application of Standards

African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters

African Organization of Mines, Metal, Energy, Chemical and Allied Trade Unions

Building and Woodworkers International

Caritas Internationalis

Education International

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions

Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations

International Alliance of Women

International Association of Labour Inspection

International Catholic Migration Commission

International Energy and Mines Organization

International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions

International Federation of Employees in Public Services

International Federation of University Women

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations

International Union of Lawyers

Latin American Union of Municipal Workers

Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers

Public Services International

Solidar

Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees

Trade Unions International of Transport Workers

Trade Unions International of Workers in Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Textiles and Allied Industries

Trade Unions International of Workers of the Building, Wood and Building Materials Industries

Union Network International

Union of International Associations

World Association of Public Employment Services

World Federation of Clerical Workers

World Organization against Torture

Committee on Rural Employment

African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters

African Organization of Mines, Metal, Energy, Chemical and Allied Trade Unions

Building and Woodworkers International

Caritas Internationalis

International Alliance of Women

International Association of Labour Inspection

International Federation of University Women

International Kolping Society

International Movement ATD Fourth World

International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth

International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations

International Young Christian Workers

Latin American Union of Municipal Workers

Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers

Trade Unions International of Workers in Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Textiles and Allied Industries

World Organization against Torture

Committee on Skills

African Organization of Mines, Metal, Energy, Chemical and Allied Trade Unions

Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining and Chemical Workers

Building and Woodworkers International

Caritas Internationalis

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America

International Alliance of Women

International Association of Labour Inspection

International Christian Union of Business Executives

International Coordination of Young Christian Workers

International Energy and Mines Organization

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions

International Federation of Employees in Public Services

International Federation of University Women

International Kolping Society

International Metalworkers' Federation

International Movement ATD Fourth World

International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth

International Union of Lawyers

International Young Christian Workers

Latin American Union of Municipal Workers

Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers

Solidar

Soroptimist International

Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Trade Unions International of Transport Workers

Trade Unions International of Workers in Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Textiles and Allied Industries

Union Network International

World Association of Public Employment Services

World Federation of Clerical Workers

World Movement of Christian Workers

World Organization against Torture

Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity

African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters

African Organization of Mines, Metal, Energy, Chemical and Allied Trade Unions

Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining and Chemical Workers

Building and Woodworkers International

Education International

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America

International Alliance of Women

International Association of Labour Inspection

International Catholic Migration Commission

International Christian Union of Business Executives

International Energy and Mines Organization

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions

International Federation of Employees in Public Services

International Federation of University Women

International Metalworkers' Federation

International Movement ATD Fourth World

International Transport Workers' Federation

Latin American Union of Municipal Workers

Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers

Public Services International

Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees

Trade Unions International of Transport Workers

Trade Unions International of Workers in Agriculture, Food, Commerce, Textiles and Allied Industries

Trade Unions International of Workers in Energy

Trade Unions International of Workers of the Building, Wood and Building Materials Industries

Union Network International

World Federation of Clerical Workers

World Movement of Christian Workers

World Organization against Torture

10. Delegation of authority to the Officers of the Selection Committee

In accordance with the usual practice and by virtue of article 4, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders, the Selection Committee delegated to its Officers the authority to arrange the programme of the Conference and fix the time and agenda of plenary sittings as well as to decide on any non-controversial issues of a routine nature necessary for the running of the Conference.

The effect of this delegation of authority will be that the Selection Committee will only be called on to meet during the present session of the Conference if other substantive matters requiring a decision arise. Any such meeting will be announced in the *Daily Bulletin*.

11. Other questions: Electronic voting system

A description of the electronic voting system, to be used in principle for all votes in plenary sittings in accordance with article 19, paragraph 15, of the Standing Orders, is attached in Appendix III.

The Worker Vice-Chairperson expressed concern that the electronic voting system had so far proved slower and more complicated than the manual system it had replaced. Voting manually had always been achieved in half a day or less. Valuable time, which could be devoted to the important debates, was being wasted. The group intended to bring this problem firstly to the attention of the Conference, and then to that of the Governing Body.

The Employer Vice-Chairperson was in concurrence with the views expressed by the Worker Vice-Chairperson, in that the Conference schedule was already tight without the delays in question.

The Chairperson noted the issue and indicated that appropriate solutions would be sought to the problem raised.

Appendix I

Ad hoc arrangements for the discussion of the Global Report under the follow-up to the Declaration at the 93rd Session of the International Labour Conference ¹

Principle of the discussion

Having regard to the various options referred to in the annex to the Declaration, the Governing Body recommends that the Global Report submitted to the Conference by the Director-General should be dealt with by the Conference, separately from the Director-General's Reports under article 12 of the Conference Standing Orders.

Timing of the discussion

A maximum of two sittings on the same day should be convened for the thematic discussion of the Global Report, with the possibility, if necessary, of extending the sitting. In order to take account of the programme of work of the Conference and of the fact that a number of ministers who usually are present during the second week of the Conference may wish to take the floor, the discussion of the Global Report should be held during the second week of the Conference. The date will be determined by the Selection Committee.

Procedure for the discussion

The separate discussion of the Global Report recommended above implies in particular that the statements made during the discussion of the Global Report should not fall under the limitation concerning the number of statements by each speaker in plenary provided for in article 12, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders, and that the discussion should not be governed by the provisions of article 14, paragraph 6, concerning the time limit for speeches. Furthermore, exchanges of views on the suggested points for thematic discussion should not be subject to the restrictions laid down in article 14, paragraph 2, concerning the order in which speakers are called. These provisions should accordingly be suspended under the procedure provided for in article 76 of the Standing Orders to the extent necessary for the discussion of the Global Report.

Organization of the discussion

Given that the thematic discussion is not intended to lead to the adoption of conclusions or decisions by the Conference, on the one hand, and in consideration of the abovementioned suspensions of the Standing Orders, on the other, the Selection Committee may decide that this discussion should be conducted as a plenary committee and be chaired by one of the Officers of the Conference. Should the need arise, the Chairperson might be assisted by a moderator appointed by the Officers of the Conference.

Report to the plenary

The Chairperson of the plenary committee would present a short oral report to the plenary of the Conference and the thematic discussion would be reproduced in the *Provisional Record*

¹ Adopted by the Governing Body at its 292nd Session (March 2005).

Appendix II

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		■				■ ⁶				■ 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.

⁶ 3 p.m.: Special sitting to receive President Danilo Türk of the Republic of Slovenia.

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.

Appendix III

The electronic voting system

The electronic system provides for votes (in most cases: yes, no, abstention) to be expressed by means of a “voting station” that will be made available to all delegates or persons empowered to vote on their behalf.

Where the electronic system is used, the subject and question to be voted on will be displayed and the President or Chairperson will announce the beginning of the vote. After the President or Chairperson has made sure that all delegates have been given sufficient opportunity to record their vote in one of the voting stations available to them, the President or Chairperson will announce the closure of the vote.

Where the method of vote is by show of hands, once all votes have been registered the final voting figures will be immediately displayed and subsequently published with the following indications: total number of votes in favour, total number of votes against, total number of abstentions and the quorum as well as the majority required.

Where a record vote is taken, once all votes have been registered the final voting figures will be immediately displayed with the following indications: total number of votes in favour, total number of votes against, total number of abstentions and the quorum as well as the majority required. These indications will subsequently be published together with a list of the delegates who have voted, showing how each has voted.

In the case of a secret ballot, once all votes have been registered the final voting figures will be immediately displayed and subsequently published with the following indications: total number of votes in favour, total number of votes against, total number of abstentions and the quorum as well as the majority required. There will be absolutely no access possible to individual votes nor any record of how each delegate has voted.

It is important that each delegate should already have decided whether he or she or another member of their delegation will exercise the right to vote in a given case. Where more than one vote is nevertheless cast on behalf of a delegate at two different moments, or from two different places, only the first vote will be recognized, whether made by a delegate, by a substitute delegate or by an adviser who has received a specific written authorization to that end. Such specific authorizations must reach the secretariat sufficiently before the opening of voting is announced, so as to be duly recorded.

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