



Reports on credentials

First report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee of the 97th Session of the Conference is composed of Mr Isaiah B. Kirigua, 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 182 member States of the International Labour Organization (Tuvalu became a Member on 27 May 2008), 168 are represented at the Conference, that is, four more (Bolivia, Senegal, Tajikistan and Viet Nam) than were accredited at the time that the brief report was signed.

Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 660 delegates, including 333 Government delegates, 164 Employers' delegates and 163 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 2,174 advisers, including 1,062 Government advisers, 496 Employers' advisers and 616 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,834 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), 131 of the 660 accredited titular delegates are women, representing 19.8 per cent of accredited titular delegates, against 17 per cent last year. Furthermore, 597 of the 2,174 advisers (27.5 per cent) that are accredited to the Conference are women. A total of 728 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 25.7 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 24.1 per cent last year. While noting the slight increase, the Committee deplores the fact that the overall percentage still 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 and that the ILO Director-General's convocation letter urged the member States "to achieve a gender balance in

delegations". 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. 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, 30 May 2008, at 3 p.m.).
9. Currently, 583 delegates, including 302 Government delegates, 139 Employers' delegates and 142 Workers' delegates are registered.
10. In addition, 1,821 advisers, including 938 Government advisers, 382 Employers' advisers and 501 Workers' advisers are registered.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that, not taking into account Tuvalu, to date 13 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu). It further notes that, at the present time, the accredited delegations of three member States (Somalia, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste), are exclusively governmental. Two member States (Haiti and Myanmar) have nominated an Employers' delegate but no Workers' delegate, and one member State (Gambia) has nominated a Workers' delegate but no Employers' 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. The governments that have not done so are requested to provide the relevant information without delay.
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 (616). 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 urges governments to make a genuine effort to reduce the imbalance of the various categories of delegation members when making nominations to the Conference, in light of 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 article 13,

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

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. Fifteen member States 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: 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 Togo. Therefore 34 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. Two delegates from member States entitled to vote (Haiti 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 286. This number represents 583 registered delegates (see paragraph 9 above), plus 26 substitute delegates (see paragraph 13 above) minus 37 registered delegates not entitled to vote, 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.

Observers, organizations and liberation movement invited

17. The Conference is also being attended by:
 - observers appointed by a State invited to attend the Conference (the Holy See and the Maldives);
 - 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, 28 May 2008, and will be updated in the *Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 3 June 2008.

Objections, complaints and communications

19. To date, the Committee has before it several objections. 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 only 90 member States deposited their credentials with the Office by the deadline required by article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference (13 May 2008).² The Committee expects 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*³ application made available by the Office. These forms for credentials are important as they help in providing clear information on the role of each member of the delegation as well as 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 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 Constitution. The Committee notes that this year 28 per cent of member States have used neither the written or online form 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 urges all governments to use one of 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. Nevertheless five governments (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-

² See para. 7 of *Provisional Record* No. 4A.

³ <http://ilc.ilo.org/credentials/index.asp>.

Bissau and the Philippines) have not 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 in time for publication in the *Provisional List of Delegations*, which, in accordance with article 26bis, paragraph 1(a), of the Conference Standing Orders,⁴ 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, 30 May 2008.

(Signed) Mr Isaiah B. Kirigua
Chairperson

Ms Lidija Horvatić

Mr Ulf Edström

⁴ Interim provisions concerning verification of credentials adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 92nd Session (June 2004).

CONTENTS

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