



## Reports on credentials

### First report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee of the 98th Session of the Conference is composed of Mr James Smythe, Government delegate, Australia, 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 183 member States of the International Labour Organization (Maldives became a Member on 15 May 2009), 167 are represented at the Conference, that is, three more (Gambia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) than were accredited at the time that the brief report was signed.

### Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 661 delegates, including 333 Government delegates, 165 Employers' delegates and 163 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 1,938 advisers, including 979 Government advisers, 425 Employers' advisers and 534 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,599 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), 136 of the 661 accredited titular delegates are women, representing 20.6 per cent of accredited titular delegates, against 19.8 per cent last year. Furthermore, 605 of the 1,938 advisers (31.2 per cent) that are accredited to the Conference are women. A total of 741 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 28.5 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 25.7 per cent last year. The Committee notes that the participation of women in the Conference has moved a little closer to the United Nations target of increasing the proportion of women in decision- and policy-making bodies to at least 30 per cent. The Committee also notes that the ILO Director-General's convocation letter urged the member States "to achieve a gender balance in delegations". The Committee notes with interest that gender equality is an item on the agenda of this session of the

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Conference and urges the constituents to strive to meet a gender balance in delegations to the International Labour Conference in the future.

## 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 the attached table established Friday, 5 June 2009, at 6.30 p.m.).
9. Currently, 521 delegates, including 292 Government delegates, 113 Employers' delegates and 116 Workers' delegates are registered.
10. In addition, 1,492 advisers, including 841 Government advisers, 281 Employers' advisers and 370 Workers' advisers are registered.

## Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that, not taking into account the newest member State, Maldives, to date 15 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu). It notes that this represents two more than in 2008 and four more than in 2007. It also notes that, at the present time, two member States (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) have accredited delegations that are exclusively governmental. It further notes that two member States (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia) have nominated an Employers' delegate but no Workers' delegate. The Committee deeply regrets that so many delegations are either incomplete or not accredited and urges 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,<sup>1</sup> 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 (425) than Workers' advisers (534). 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 expects governments to 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,

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

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paragraph 2(a), of the Constitution, to pay the travelling and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers and expects that this obligation will be respected for the entire duration of the Conference.

## Quorum

13. Thirty-seven 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. Eleven 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, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Therefore 14 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. Two delegates from member States entitled to vote (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia) 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 271. This number represents 521 registered delegates (see paragraph 9 above), plus 37 substitute delegates (see paragraph 13 above) minus 16 registered delegates not entitled to vote, the total being divided by two.
16. The Committee notes with satisfaction that its recommendation to restrict the practice of allowing permanent missions to collect Conference badges for the whole delegation of the member State has been endorsed by the Governing Body at its 303rd Session (November 2008).<sup>2</sup> In accordance with this decision, when registering the delegations to this session to the Conference, the Office has allowed permanent missions to collect badges for the Employers’ and Workers’ delegations only when they have been specifically authorized in writing to do so.
17. ***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.***
18. The Committee still regrets the fact that so many member States are in arrears in their payments, thereby depriving their Employers’ and Workers’ delegates of their right to vote.

<sup>2</sup> See GB.303/LILS/1(Rev.), paras 9–11 and GB.303/12, para. 15(a).

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## Observers, organizations and liberation movement invited

19. The Conference is also being attended by:

- observers appointed by a State invited to attend the Conference (Bhutan and the Holy See);
- 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.

20. 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, 3 June 2009, and will be updated in the *Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 9 June 2009.

## Objections, complaints and communications

21. To date, the Committee has before it several objections and complaints. 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 102 member States deposited their credentials with the Office by the deadline required by article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference (19 May 2009).<sup>3</sup> The Committee expects member States to respect their obligations in this regard, since timely accreditation promotes transparency of the national nomination process and is essential for the employers' and workers' organizations concerned.

22. 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*<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> See para. 7 of *Provisional Record* No. 4A.

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

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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 article 13, paragraph 2(a), of the Constitution. The Committee notes that this year, 21 per cent of member States have used neither the written nor online form to submit their credentials (against 28 per cent last year). 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.

- 23.** In order to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate, all governments are required 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. The Committee notes with satisfaction that this year Governments have generally complied with this requirement and it hopes that they will continue to do so in the future.
- 24.** The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference so that it may take note of it.

Geneva, 5 June 2009.

*(Signed)* Mr James Smythe  
Chairperson

Ms Lidija Horvatić

Mr Ulf Edström



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