



Reports on credentials

First report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee of the 100th Session of the Conference is composed of Mr Prosper Vokouma, Government delegate, Burkina Faso, Chairperson; Ms Lidija Horvatić, Employers' delegate, Croatia; and Mr Yves Veyrier, Workers' substitute delegate, France.

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. 5A), the composition of the Conference has been modified as follows.
3. Of the 183 member States of the International Labour Organization, 166 are represented at the Conference, that is, three more (Equatorial Guinea, Paraguay and Turkmenistan) than was accredited at the time that the brief report was signed.

Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 650 delegates, including 330 Government delegates, 160 Employers' delegates and 160 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 2,293 advisers, including 1,161 Government advisers, 481 Employers' advisers and 651 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,943 delegates and advisers have been accredited (see the attached table of accredited delegates and advisers established on Friday, 3 June 2011, at 7 p.m.)
7. With regard to the resolutions concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 67th and 78th Sessions (June 1981 and June 1991), 131 of the 650 accredited titular delegates are women, representing 20.2 per cent of accredited titular delegates, against 21.5 per cent last year. Furthermore, 689 of the 2,293 advisers (30 per cent) that are accredited to the Conference are women. A total of 820 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 27.9 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 27.7 per cent last year. The Committee notes with regret that the proportion of women among titular delegates has decreased. The Committee regrets that the overall participation of women in the Conference has again not achieved the target the United Nations set in 1990 of increasing the proportion of women in decision- and

policy-making bodies to at least 30 per cent, even though this participation has slightly increased this year. The Committee also notes that the ILO Director-General's convocation letter urged the member States to make every effort to achieve a gender balance in delegations.

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 the attached table of registered delegates and advisers established on Friday, 3 June 2011, at 7 p.m.).
9. Currently, 517 delegates, including 290 Government delegates, 112 Employers' delegates and 115 Workers' delegates are registered.
10. In addition, 1,753 advisers, including 985 Government advisers, 319 Employers' advisers and 449 Workers' advisers are registered.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that to date 16 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Marshall Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). It notes that this represents three less than in 2010 but one more than in 2009, at the time of signature of the first report.
12. With respect to one other State (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), two communications have been received from different sources, each claiming to be the competent authority to appoint the delegation of that country to the Conference. Pending completion of the examination of this question by the Credentials Committee, no person mentioned in these communications has been recorded as accredited to the Conference or included in the tables annexed to this report.
13. The Committee notes that four member States (Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) have accredited delegations that are exclusively governmental. It further notes that two member States (Fiji and Myanmar) have appointed an Employers' delegate but no Workers' delegate and two member States (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Uzbekistan) have nominated a Workers' delegate but no Employers' 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,¹ the Director-General regularly 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 doing so, in order that this information may be communicated to the Governing Body.
14. The Committee also notes that the number of accredited advisers in each group is not evenly balanced; there are fewer Employers' advisers (481) than Workers' advisers (651). In addition, the Committee observes that the composition of some delegations shows a

¹ See Annex VI, *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office* (Geneva, Nov. 2010), p. 73.

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 this imbalance when making nominations to the Conference, in light of article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Constitution. The Committee was informed of the discussions held during the 309th Session of the Governing Body concerning tripartite imbalance within delegations. In this regard, the Committee is seeking further information from 17 governments whose credentials appear to reveal important imbalances between the number of Government advisers accredited to the 100th Session of the Conference compared to the number of Employers' and Workers' advisers.

15. 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, 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

16. Forty-one advisers, who are also substitutes to delegates who have not registered, have been taken into account in calculating the quorum of the Conference.
17. Ten member States that have registered a delegation to the Conference (Burundi, Cape Verde, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sudan and Uzbekistan) are in arrears in their financial contributions to the Organization under the terms of article 13, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and therefore their delegates may not, at present, participate in the voting in the Conference or its committees. Consequently, 17 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. In addition, five registered delegates from member States entitled to vote are excluded in accordance with article 4, paragraph 2, of the ILO Constitution, because their 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".
18. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 268. This number represents 517 registered delegates (see paragraph 9 above), plus 41 substitute delegates (see paragraph 16 above) minus 22 registered delegates not entitled to vote, the total being divided by two.
19. The Committee regrets the fact that so many member States are still in arrears in their payments, thereby depriving their Employers' and Workers' delegates of their right to vote.
20. The Committee strongly appeals to the delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival and to ensure they give formal 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.

Observers, organizations and liberation movement invited

21. The Conference is also being attended by:

- observers appointed by two States (Bhutan and the Holy See) invited to attend 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.

22. 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, 1 June 2011, and will be updated in the *Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 7 June 2011.

Objections, complaints and communications

23. To date, the Committee has before it several objections and complaints. It has forthwith commenced their examination. The Committee believes that its work is facilitated by the fact that a substantial number of credentials had reached the International Labour Office prior to the Conference. The Committee notes with satisfaction that 122 member States deposited their credentials with the Office by the deadline required by article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference (17 May 2011).² 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.

24. Further, it is important that governments utilize, and complete in full, 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

² See para. 7 of *Provisional Record* No. 5A.

³ www.ilo.org/credentials/index.asp.

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 as required by paragraph 2(a) of article 13 of the Constitution. 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. The Committee notes that this year 86.1 per cent of member States have used either the written or online form to submit their credentials (against 83.5 per cent last year). However, only 20.5 per cent of the member States used the online form this year, compared to 21.1 per cent last year. The Committee encourages more member States to use the online form for future sessions of the Conference, as not only does this prevent transcription errors in the credentials, but it also allows the Organization to use better the resources provided to the secretariat.

- 25.** Nevertheless, the Committee notes that not all member States have clearly identified, in their credentials, the persons who are nominated as delegates and those who are nominated as advisers and it recalls the obligation of governments under article 3, paragraph 8, of the ILO Constitution to communicate to the Office the names of the delegates and their advisers. It wishes to stress the importance of governments identifying clearly in the credentials the delegates and advisers nominated. Credentials that do not contain this information cannot be considered as credentials and may be rejected by the Office.
- 26.** 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 the effort made by the governments in this regard. It hopes that in future sessions of the Conference such information will continue to 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, serves as the basis for the submission of objections to the Committee.
- 27.** The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference so that it may take note of it.

Geneva, 4 June 2011

(Signed) P. Vokouma
Chairperson

L. Horvatić

Y. Veyrier

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