



Reports on credentials

First report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee of the 101st Session of the Conference is composed of Mr Kouka Célestin Sawadogo, Government delegate, Burkina Faso, Chairperson; Mr Jørgen Rønne, Employers' substitute delegate, Denmark; and Ms Trine Lise Sundnes, Workers' delegate, Norway.

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 185 member States of the International Labour Organization (South Sudan became a Member on 29 April 2012 and Palau on 29 May 2012), 168 are represented at the Conference, that is, four more (Djibouti, Kazakhstan, Solomon Islands and Tajikistan) than were accredited at the time that the brief report was established.

Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 655 delegates, including 330 Government delegates, 162 Employers' delegates and 163 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 2,306 advisers, including 1,145 Government advisers, 487 Employers' advisers and 674 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,961 delegates and advisers have been accredited (see the attached table of accredited delegates and advisers established Friday, 1 June 2012, at 8.30 a.m.).
7. With regard to the resolutions addressing the participation of women in ILO meetings, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 67th (1981), 78th (1991) and 98th (2009) Sessions,¹ 129 of the 655 accredited titular delegates are women, representing

¹ Resolution concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, 1981;

Resolution concerning ILO action for women workers, 1991;

Resolution concerning gender equality at the heart of decent work, 2009 (see paragraph 55(c)).

19.7 per cent of accredited titular delegates, against 20.2 per cent last year. Furthermore, 661 of the 2,306 advisers (28.6 per cent) that are accredited to the Conference are women. A total of 790 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 26.6 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 27.9 per cent last year. The Committee notes with deep concern that the proportion of women among delegates and advisers has decreased. The Committee deeply regrets that the 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. The Committee also notes that the ILO Director-General's convocation letter had yet again urged the member States to make every effort to achieve a gender balance in delegations. In light of this lack of progress, the Committee would like to request the Governing Body, through the Conference, to consider concrete measures to improve the situation in this respect.

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 Friday, 1 June 2012, at 8:30 a.m.).
9. Currently, 528 delegates, including 310 Government delegates, 106 Employers' delegates and 112 Workers' delegates are registered.
10. In addition, 1,782 advisers, including 1,048 Government advisers, 298 Employers' advisers and 436 Workers' advisers are registered.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

11. The Committee notes that, not taking into account the newest member State Palau, to date 16 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Somalia, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). It notes that this represents the same number as 2011 but three less than 2010, at the time of signature of the first report.
12. The Committee notes that five member States (Kyrgyzstan, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) have accredited delegations that are exclusively governmental. It further notes that one member State (Bosnia and Herzegovina) has 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,² 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.
13. The Committee also notes that the number of accredited advisers in each group is not evenly balanced; there are fewer Employers' advisers (487) than Workers' advisers (674).

² See Annex VI, *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office* (Geneva, Nov. 2010), p. 73.

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 this imbalance when making nominations to the Conference, in light of article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Constitution.

14. The Committee further recalls the request contained in the resolution concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the International Labour Organization, adopted by the Conference at its 56th Session (1971), 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

15. Thirty-eight advisers, who are also substitutes to delegates who have not registered, have been taken into account in calculating the quorum of the Conference.
16. Ten member States that have registered a delegation to the Conference (Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tajikistan 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, 25 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum.
17. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 271. This number represents 528 registered delegates (see paragraph 9 above), plus 38 substitute delegates (see paragraph 15 above) minus 25 registered delegates not entitled to vote, the total being divided by two.
18. The Committee deeply 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.
19. 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

20. 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;

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- 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.

21. 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, 30 May 2012, and will be updated in the *Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 5 June 2012.

Objections, complaints and communications

22. 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 that 126 member States deposited their credentials with the Office by the deadline required by article 26 of the Standing Orders of the Conference (15 May 2012).³ 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.

23. 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*⁴ 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 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 with satisfaction that this year 93.4 per cent of member States have used either the written or online form to submit their credentials (against 86.1 per cent last year). The Committee also notes with satisfaction that 26.2 per cent of the member States used the online form this year, compared to only 20.5 per cent last year. The Committee encourages more member States to use the online form for future sessions

³ See para. 7 of *Provisional Record* No. 4A.

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

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.

- 24.** 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. Seven member States did so only after having received a note verbale from the Office requesting this information. 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.
- 25.** 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.
- 26.** The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference so that it may take note of it.

Geneva, 1 June 2012

(Signed) Mr Kouka Célestin Sawadogo
Chairperson

Mr Jørgen Rønne

Ms Trine Lise Sundnes

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