



Governing Body

317th Session, Geneva, 6–28 March 2013

GB.317/INS/13/3

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 19 March 2013

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THIRTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

Third report: Arrangements for a Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Facilitating Transitions from the Informal Economy to the Formal Economy (Geneva, 16–20 September 2013)

Background

1. It should be recalled that an item entitled “Facilitating transitions from the informal economy to the formal economy” is included in the proposals for the agenda of the 103rd Session (2014) of the Conference.¹ This proposal builds on the Conference conclusions concerning decent work and the informal economy (2002) and the outcome of the ILO Tripartite International Symposium on the Informal Economy (2007). The conclusions concerning the recurrent discussion on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2012, called for the convening of a meeting of experts on advancing fundamental principles and rights at work in the informal economy, which would provide important guidance for the proposed instrument.
2. Discussions held in the framework of informal consultations in September 2012 and February 2013, as well as at the 316th Session of the Governing Body, demonstrated substantive support for this proposal with a view to a standard-setting activity (double discussion). There was agreement that a meeting of experts on the subject should be part of the preparatory work. It should also be noted that the subject of the informal economy is one of the areas of critical importance included in the Programme and Budget proposals for 2014–15.

¹ GB.317/INS/2(Rev.).

3. The Programme and Budget for 2012–13 contains no provision for this Meeting. Any decision of the Officers concerning the holding of this Meeting will therefore be subject to the financial arrangements the Governing Body may adopt to ensure its funding.

Composition

4. It is proposed that this Meeting be attended by 12 experts nominated after consultations with Governments, 12 experts nominated after consultations with the Employers' group and 12 experts nominated after consultations with the Workers' group. Other governments may also attend as observers at their own cost.
5. In order to obtain the government nominations, the Director-General intends, after consultation with the Regional Coordinators, to approach the governments of 12 countries. A reserve list would also be established which would include the governments of 12 other countries.
6. *The Officers of the Governing Body recommend that the Governing Body approve the above composition formula.*

Agenda

7. The purpose of the Meeting is to provide guidance on the nature and content of the proposed instrument. Building on the outcome of the Meeting of Experts, guidance for the proposed instrument would be gathered concerning innovative solutions and up-to-date experience (legal, policy, institutional, governance and other interventions) which have proved successful in supporting the transition of informal workers and enterprises to formality, preventing others from entering the informal economy and enhancing rights and opportunities.
8. *The Officers of the Governing Body recommend that the Governing Body approve the above agenda.*