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**Suspension of various provisions of the
Standing Orders of the International
Labour Conference**

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Introduction

1. The implementation of the proposed format of the 106th Session (5–16 June 2017) of the International Labour Conference requires a number of changes to the Standing Orders of the Conference. Pending the adoption of amendments to the Standing Orders, the Governing Body has decided to proceed, as in the past, by suspending the relevant Standing Orders provisions for this session in accordance with article 76 of the Standing Orders.¹
2. All proposed suspensions have, unless otherwise specified, already been applied over the last three sessions of the Conference.

Proposed suspensions

World of Work Summit

3. For the ILO World of Work Summit, to the extent necessary to enable statements of Heads of State and Government, Prime Ministers and Vice-Presidents, and interactive panel-style sessions, it is proposed to suspend:
 - (a) the limitation concerning the number of statements by each member State in plenary and, to that extent, article 12, paragraph 3;
 - (b) the provisions regarding time limits of speeches and, to that extent, article 14, paragraph 6;
 - (c) the sequence in which the speakers are given the floor, in order to facilitate an exchange of views and, to that extent, the provisions of article 14, paragraph 2; and
 - (d) the rules on moving the closure of the discussion provided in article 16.

Records of the Conference

4. As regards the records of the Conference, it is proposed to suspend several provisions of article 23, namely:
 - (a) paragraph 1 to the extent necessary to permit the publication only after the Conference of the *Provisional Records* containing the speeches made during the plenary discussion of the reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General;
 - (b) paragraph 2 solely for the purpose of permitting the Director-General to present only in writing his reply to points raised in the discussion in plenary of his Report to the Conference; and
 - (c) paragraph 3 with respect to the deadline for receiving proposed corrections to the *Provisional Records*, to permit that all records – those published during the session as well as those published afterwards – be reviewed together within the same time period following the Conference.

¹ [GB.329/WP/GBC/3](#) and [GB.329/INS/18](#), para. 10.

Time limits for filing objections and complaints with the Credentials Committee

5. To enable the Committee to examine all objections and complaints in time, it is proposed to reduce the time limit for lodging objections from 72 to 48 hours from the opening of the Conference (and from 48 to 24 hours from the publication of a *Revised list of delegations*) (with the possibility for the Committee to make exceptions) and to reduce the time limit for complaints from seven to five days. In addition to suspending article 26bis(1)(a) and article 26ter(3)(a) to the extent that they provide for the current, longer time limits, this would also require adopting amended provisions to replace them, which provide for the new, shorter, time limits. For the duration of the 106th Session of the Conference only, the relevant provisions would thus read as follows (emphasis added):

ARTICLE 26BIS

Objections

1. An objection in pursuance of article 5, paragraph 2(a), shall not be receivable in the following cases:
- (a) if the objection is not lodged with the Secretary-General within **48** hours from 10 a.m. of the first day of the Conference, the date of publication in the *Provisional Record* of the official list of delegations, on the basis of the presence of a person's name or functions on this list, or its absence. If the objection is based on a revised list, the time limit shall be reduced to **24** hours;

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ARTICLE 26TER

Complaints

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3. A complaint shall be receivable if:
- (a) it is lodged with the Secretary-General of the Conference before 10 a.m. on the **fifth** day following the opening of the Conference or, thereafter, in the case of a complaint referred to in paragraph 2, it is lodged within 48 hours of the alleged act or omission preventing attendance of the delegate or adviser concerned, and if the Committee considers that there is sufficient time to deal with it properly; and

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Conference Drafting Committee

6. In accordance with article 40(7) and article 6(3) of the Standing Orders, once adopted by the plenary of the Conference, a draft Convention or Recommendation has to be reviewed by the Drafting Committee of the Conference, which prepares the final text of the instrument to be put to the vote of the Conference. However, since under the proposed arrangements for the two-week Conference the adoption of the committee report containing the proposed instrument and the final vote on the instrument will take place on the same morning, there will be no time for a full review by the Conference Drafting Committee. In the case of a Recommendation, under normal circumstances, the task of the Conference Committee is limited to merely double-checking the legal consistency of the text and the concordance between the English and French versions, as the proposed instrument has already been fully

reviewed by the drafting committee of the competent technical committee (article 59(1) of the Standing Orders) and no further amendments to the text are normally adopted by the committee or the plenary.

7. It is accordingly proposed to suspend article 40(7) and article 6(3) of the Standing Orders to the extent necessary to omit the review of the proposed Recommendation concerning Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience by the Conference Drafting Committee, provided that the text is adopted by the plenary as proposed by the drafting committee of the Committee on Employment and Decent Work for the Transition to Peace. The general responsibilities of the Conference Drafting Committee as set out in article 6(3) of the Standing Orders will be assumed by the Committee Drafting Committee. Should the Conference amend the text proposed by the Committee Drafting Committee, a short meeting of the Conference Drafting Committee – which should still be appointed – could take place to review such amendment and its possible consequences on the rest of the text.

Adoption of committee reports

8. Since 2014, technical committees have delegated to their officers the authority to approve their reports to avoid the holding of an additional committee sitting to adopt the reports before their submission to the plenary. This does not in itself require the suspension of any Standing Orders. However, with respect to standard-setting committees, whose reports contain a proposed instrument, it would be necessary to suspend article 67 – which concerns the possibility for a standard-setting committee to consider amendments to the text of a proposed instrument submitted by its drafting committee – to avoid that the committee may have to hold an additional sitting for the adoption of the report containing the proposed instrument. It is therefore proposed to suspend article 67.

Presentation of the proposed suspensions to the Conference

9. Under article 76 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, a suspension of a provision of the Standing Orders can only be adopted by the Conference at a sitting following that at which the proposed suspension is presented to the Conference. In order to contribute to the streamlining of the Conference and in line with the approach adopted in the last two sessions of the Conference, it is intended that the publication of the above proposed suspensions in a *Provisional Record* issued before the start of the Conference replace the formal presentation of the proposed suspensions to the opening plenary, so that, unless the Officers of the Conference decide otherwise, the Conference may approve those suspensions at its first sitting.