

# ***Provisional Record***

107th Session, Geneva, May–June 2018

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# **3D**



**Date:** Thursday, 14 June 2018

## **Plenary sittings**

### **Reports on credentials**

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Thursday, 31 May 2018, 2.30 p.m.

*President: Mr Mattar, Employer Vice-President  
of the Conference*

## **Submission and noting of the first report of the Credentials Committee**

**The President**  
*(Original Arabic)*

It is my great pleasure to declare open this third plenary sitting of the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference.

I would like to draw your attention to the first report of the Credentials Committee, which is contained in *Provisional Record* No. 3B.

This report includes the calculation of the quorum required to validate votes held in plenary, as well as detailed information on the composition of the Conference and the various delegations, for example the percentages of women and men present.

The Conference is called on to take note of this report.

*(The Conference takes note of the report.)*

*(The Conference continues its discussion of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General.)*

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Friday, 8 June 2018, 2.45 p.m.

*President: Ms Majali*

## **Submission and noting of the second report of the Credentials Committee and approval of the Committee's proposals**

### **The President**

I declare open the fourteenth sitting of the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference.

We begin this afternoon's proceedings with the second report of the Credentials Committee, which can be found in *Provisional Record* No. 3C.

If you permit, I would like to briefly remind you of the composition of the Committee – the Chairperson, Mr. Hobby, the Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Yllanes Martínez and the Worker Vice-Chairperson, Mr Ohrt.

The Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, Mr Hobby, will present the Committee's second report.

### **Mr Hobby**

Chairperson of the Credentials Committee

I am pleased to present to the Conference the second report of the Credentials Committee, which is contained in *Provisional Record* No. 3C. But why should you care? Why should you read it? Why does it matter? I want to tell you why.

The role of the Credentials Committee is to examine the credentials of delegates and advisers and any objections which challenge those credentials or that relate to a government's failure to accredit a complete tripartite delegation to the Conference.

The Credentials Committee also examines complaints regarding the non-payment of travel and subsistence expenses for Employer or Worker delegates, allegations of serious and manifest imbalance between the tripartite groups in a delegation, and allegations that an accredited delegate or adviser has been prevented from attending the Conference owing to an act or omission by a government. We also monitor any situation arising from those objections or complaints, concerning which we have requested a member State to take action and report back to us.

So again why do we do this, why does it matter? Well, simply put, the whole point of this Conference is that freely chosen, independent tripartite participants are able to travel here to Geneva each year to participate in its policy-making and standard-setting activities. The Conference affects the whole world of work and it cannot function without the effective participation of the key players in the world of work – the Workers, the Employers and the Governments. Under the provisions of the Constitution, the ILO member States undertake to make this happen. If those conditions are not fulfilled and they cannot, the Conference is compromised.

The role of the Credentials Committee is thus to ensure that Members meet their constitutional obligations so that this Conference and the ILO function as intended, in the true spirit and reality of tripartite participation.

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So, the question then is how are we – or rather you – meeting those obligations? You will note from the report that during this session of the Conference we examined 40 cases, compared with 36 last year. They comprised three ongoing cases of monitoring, 27 objections and ten complaints. Five of those objections related to the accreditation of incomplete delegations to the Conference, and a large number alleged a lack of consultation, a lack of agreement, or both.

The Committee is concerned at this situation. Member States have an obligation to hold consultations with their most representative organizations and to actively facilitate agreement on the nomination of delegations, so that they are the most representative.

Of particular concern for us are situations where governments accredit only themselves to the Conference. In our view, if you are coming here as a government without social partners, that is a clear breach of your obligations which calls into question the legitimacy of your participation at the Conference.

Consequently, the Committee considers that the possibility for it to be seized with incomplete cases automatically, together with the general question of how to ensure full tripartite participation and improved compliance by member States with their constitutional obligations, warrant serious deliberation by the Governing Body.

Two cases before us, those involving Djibouti and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, were sufficiently serious to warrant recommending the continuation of monitoring to the Conference. In the case of Somalia, the Committee decided, on the basis of the information before it, that the monitoring measures should be discontinued. However, in the case of Mauritania, the Committee considered that monitoring measures are necessary.

The Committee also received nine complaints alleging governmental failure to pay travel and subsistence expenses and raising the issue of serious and manifest imbalance between numbers of Government advisers and Employers' and Workers' advisers. Here, we note that the Conference can only work properly if there is a sufficient number of advisers present in the three groups of the Conference and an adequate balance between them.

We also received one complaint alleging that an accredited Workers' delegate had been prevented from attending the Conference owing to an act or omission of the Government. We view such cases most seriously.

In the broader context, this Committee remains deeply concerned at the number of routine failures to comply with key obligations. Our mandate is to ensure the application of the principle of tripartism. The cases that come before us, and their history, indicate that member States need to improve their understanding of and compliance with their obligations as ILO Members.

Another issue of some concern to the Committee is the size of the Conference itself. Delegations have grown continuously, so that this year saw an all-time high of 6,438 accreditations to the Conference.

This may well reflect increased interest from tripartite constituents in the work of the Conference, but we are concerned at the impact on the efficient functioning of the Conference. We have all experienced issues of crowding, access to committee rooms and so forth. I reiterate the Committee's view that there needs to be an in-depth analysis of all current accreditation arrangements and practices to identify possible areas for improvement. We also think that practical arrangements, such as direct communications, need to be undertaken with member States with a view to maintaining the size of their delegations within reasonable limits. The Committee also calls upon member States to evaluate the

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specific functions of their individual delegates, so that they send only those whose role and function relate directly to the Conference.

I will turn now to issues of gender. The Committee regrets that, as we approach the ILO centenary, participation in the Conference remains primarily a male affair, with women representing only 32.7 per cent of the accredited delegates and advisers.

In the regional context we note that, in the delegations from the African region, women's representation is 24.4 per cent, in those from the Americas it is 38.8 per cent, in those from Asia and the Pacific it is 28.9 per cent, and in those from Europe it is 44.3 per cent.

The Committee urges all member States to reach at least the 30 per cent minimum level of women's participation in their delegations, particularly in positions of leadership within those delegations, as we try to move towards the ultimate goal of gender parity.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my Vice-Presidents, Mr Yllanes Martínez (Mexico) for the Employers and Mr Ohrt (Denmark) for the Workers. We truly worked as a team, and this report reflects our unanimous view. I also want to express the Committee's sincere and specific thanks to our secretariat, whose members worked long and hard to support us throughout the Conference, in what could not be described as decent working conditions. This includes the translators and interpreters, without whose assistance we could not have completed our work.

Thank you for your attention, and I commend this report to you.

## **The President**

The Credentials Committee has unanimously adopted its report and requests the Conference to take note of its content and to adopt the proposals put forward in paragraphs 12, 29 and 82 of *Provisional Record* No. 3C relating to Djibouti, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Mauritania, respectively.

In accordance with article 26*bis*, paragraph 7, and article 26*qtr* of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the proposals shall be adopted without discussion.

If there is no objection, may I take it that the Conference takes note of the report and approves the three proposals?

*(The Conference takes note of the report and approves the three proposals.)*

That concludes our discussion of the second report of the Credentials Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers of the Committee for their excellent work. I hear that the atmosphere in the Committee was very positive and that the work was carried out in a spirit of fruitful collaboration.

*(The Conference continues its work in plenary.)*