



Governing Body

343rd Session, Geneva, November 2021

Programme, Financial and Administrative Section

PFA

Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment

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Fifth item on the agenda

Proposal for the funding of postponed 2020–21 meetings in the biennium 2022–23

Purpose of the document

This document contains a proposal on the use in 2022–23 of funds unspent in 2020–21 to cover the costs of meetings postponed from the current to the next financial exercise, and seeks endorsement from the Governing Body to refer the request to the International Labour Conference at the resumed part of its 109th Session (November–December 2021) for approval (see the draft decision in paragraph 9).

Relevant strategic objective: Cross-cutting.

Main relevant outcome: Enabling outcome B: Effective and efficient governance of the Organization.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: Exceptional approval by the Conference of the use of part of the projected underspending under the financial exercise 2020–21 to finance official meetings postponed to 2022–23 (as listed in the appendix).

Financial implications: US\$3,312,842 to be used for the proposed purpose.

Follow-up action required: Draft resolution to be submitted for approval by the International Labour Conference at the resumed part of its 109th Session (November–December 2021).

Author unit: Office of the Treasurer and Financial Comptroller (TR/CF).

Related documents: [GB.341/PFA/2](#); [GB.343/INS/15](#).

▶ Background

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation or postponement to the biennium 2022–23 of a series of official meetings that had been planned and budgeted for during the biennium 2020–21, as listed below.

Budgeted official meetings cancelled in the biennium 2020–21 that will not take place at a future date

- Annual session of the International Labour Conference in 2020.
- 338th and 339th Sessions of the Governing Body (March and June 2020).

Savings from the cancellation of these three meetings alone in 2020 are estimated at over US\$7,788,973. ¹

Budgeted official meetings postponed to the biennium 2022–23 by a decision of the Governing Body ²

- 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting, originally foreseen for 2020, now tentatively scheduled for November–December 2022.
- 11th European Regional Meeting, originally foreseen for 2021, now planned to take place after the Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (dates to be determined).
- Meeting of Experts to revise the 1992 code of practice on safety and health in construction, originally foreseen as part of the 2020–21 programme of sectoral meetings, now tentatively scheduled for February 2022.
- Technical meeting on the impact of digitalization in the finance sector, originally scheduled for 22–26 February 2021, now tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.
- Meeting of Experts to produce joint ILO–IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers, originally scheduled for the third quarter of 2021, now postponed to 2023 (dates to be determined).
- Technical meeting on the protection of whistle-blowers in the public service sector, originally foreseen as part of the 2020–21 programme of sectoral meetings, now postponed to a future period (dates to be determined).

Projected unused funds allocated to cover the costs of these meetings in 2020–21 are estimated at US\$2,172,842.

2. Since March 2020, the Governing Body has also decided to convene a number of additional meetings for which no specific budgetary allocation had been made and which it will not be possible to organize before 2022 owing to the dense calendar of meetings

¹ Table 1, GB.341/PFA/2.

² GB.342/INS/10(Rev.2)/Decision.

during the last semester of the biennium 2020–21, including the resumed part of the 109th Session of the Conference. These additional meetings are listed below.

- Part II of the fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, tentatively scheduled to take place from 25 to 29 April 2022.³
 - Meeting of the Tripartite Working Group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains, tentatively scheduled for January–February 2022.⁴
 - Tripartite Meeting of Experts on decent work in the platform economy, tentatively scheduled to take place during the first half of April 2022.⁵
 - Meeting of Experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards, tentatively scheduled to take place at the end of March 2022.⁶
3. The cost of holding these meetings - estimated at approximately US\$1,140,000, including travel costs in case the meetings can be held in person – would normally have been covered by savings realized from Part I of the regular budget for the current financial exercise.
 4. Details of the estimated cost of organizing each of the postponed meetings (including travel costs in case the meetings can be held in person) are provided in the appendix.

▶ Proposal

5. In view of the exceptional circumstances that prevented the holding of a number of official meetings in the biennium 2021–22 and the Governing Body's subsequent decisions to reschedule them for 2022 or 2023, the Director-General proposes the retention of part of the anticipated underspending for 2020–21, generated by the cancellation or postponement of official meetings, to cover the costs of convening them instead in the 2022–23 financial period.
6. Transferring allocated resources from one biennium to another is not specifically regulated in the Financial Rules and Financial Regulations of the Office. Accordingly, the use of any 2020–21 budgetary underspending in the following financial period, as an exceptional measure, would require approval by the Conference as the supreme authority concerning budgetary matters. Such approval would lead to a decrease in the amount that would be subject to the provisions of article 18.2 of the Financial Regulations, which stipulate that any surplus resulting from an underspending of the approved budget should be used to reduce the contributions of Member States for the next financial period.
7. The proposed retention would not create any continuing obligation. Funds would be held in a separate account and any expenditure would have to be incurred over the 2022–23 financial exercise.

³ GB.342/INS/10(Rev.2)/Decision.

⁴ GB.341/INS/13/2/Decision.

⁵ GB.341/INS/3/1(Rev.2)/Decision.

⁶ GB.342/INS/10(Rev.2)/Decision.

8. Since the planned activities for the postponed meetings would have to take place as early as the first quarter of 2022, authority for the Office to use part of the projected underspending for 2020–21 in 2022–23 would have to be granted by the Conference before the end of 2021 and therefore before the closure of the 2020–21 financial period, in other words during the resumed part of the 109th Session (November–December 2021).

▶ Draft Decision

9. **The Governing Body took note of the information provided in document GB.343/PFA/5 and proposed to the International Labour Conference at the resumed part of its 109th Session (November–December 2021) that part of the projected underspending for 2020–21, amounting to US\$3,312,842, be used to finance the holding in 2022–23 of the meetings listed in the appendix to document GB.343/PFA/5, and that it adopt a resolution in the following terms:**

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

Noting that, for the biennium 2020–21, there is a significant projected underspending resulting from the cancellation or postponement of budgeted official meetings in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Decides that, on an exceptional basis and owing to the unprecedented circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, part of the projected underspending for 2020–21, in the amount of US\$3,312,842, be used to finance the holding in 2022 or 2023 of meetings postponed from the biennium 2020–21, as listed in the appendix to document GB.343/PFA/5;

Notes that, with the above appropriation, the amount available for the 2020–21 financial period under article 18.2 of the Financial Regulations for reducing the assessed contributions of Member States will have been reduced by the same amount, expressed in Swiss francs; and

Delegates to the Governing Body the authority to deal with any residual financial issues arising out of the holding of these meetings.

▶ **Appendix**

Official meetings budgeted for in 2020-21 and postponed to the 2022-23 financial exercise	Estimated cost (US\$)
17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting	629 811
11th European Regional Meeting	546 031
Meeting of Experts to revise the 1992 code of practice on safety and health in construction	252 000
Technical meeting on the impact of digitalization in the finance sector	260 000
Meeting of Experts to produce joint ILO-IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers	255 000
Technical meeting on the protection of whistle-blowers in the public service sector	230 000
Total	2 172 842
Other official meetings postponed to the 2022-23 financial exercise	Estimated cost (US\$)
Part II of the fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended	400 000
Meeting of the Tripartite Working Group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains	260 000
Tripartite Meeting of Experts on decent work in the platform economy	230 000
Meeting of Experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards	250 000
Total	1 140 000