



Governing Body

344th Session, Geneva, March 2022

Legal Issues and International Labour Standards Section

LILS

International Labour Standards and Human Rights Segment

Date: 16 February 2022

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Fourth item on the agenda

Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations: Proposals on extending the duration of its annual session to ensure sufficient time is allocated to discharge its workload

Purpose of the document

To enable consideration of proposals on extending the duration of the CEACR annual session to ensure sufficient time is allocated to discharge its workload (see the draft decision in paragraph 9).

Relevant strategic objective: All four strategic objectives.

Main relevant outcome: Outcome 2: International labour standards and authoritative and effective supervision.

Policy implications: Strengthen authoritative and effective supervision of international labour standards by further enhancing the transparency of the supervisory system.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: The additional expenditure of approximately US\$28,000 for a full biennium will be met from existing resources.

Follow-up action required: Implementation of the Governing Body's decision.

Author unit: International Labour Standards Department (NORMES).

Related documents: [GB.343/LILS/3](#).

▶ Introduction

1. At its 343rd Session (November 2021), the Governing Body held a discussion about the procedure for the appointment of members of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.
2. In that context, the Governing Body considered how best to address the increased workload faced by the Committee of Experts. Since 1983, it has a membership of 20 experts and fulfils its mandate at an annual session which lasts two and a half weeks, plus a three-day pre-session working group for the examination of the General Survey.
3. In comparison, looking at the practice of other United Nations (UN) bodies, it is worth noting that the sessions of the UN treaty bodies, each one supervising a single treaty, can add up to eight to ten weeks each year, with additional pre-session working group meetings resulting in a further two to three weeks per year.¹
4. Guidance had been sought from the Governing Body on two possible approaches. The first approach was to formally extend the duration of the session of the Committee of Experts by two weeks to recognize the remote preparatory work done by Committee members before the meeting in Geneva. That approach would take full advantage of the investment in digitalizing case management and in enabling the Committee to work remotely. The second approach consisted in considering increasing the number of experts.
5. The first approach was strongly favoured over the second one and the Governing Body decided to request the Office to prepare proposals for its 344th Session (March 2022), based on its guidance for extending the duration of the Committee's annual session to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to discharge the workload of the Committee of Experts.²

▶ Proposals for extending the duration of the Committee of Experts' annual session to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to discharge its workload

6. Having had the opportunity to consult the members of the Committee of Experts at their last session in November–December 2021, it is proposed to extend the duration of the annual session of the Committee and to organize it as follows:
 - two weeks of preparatory remote work;
 - two weeks of meetings in Geneva;
 - four-day pre-session working group for the examination of the General Survey.

¹ OHCHR, *Handbook for Human Rights Treaty Body Members*, 42.

² GB.343/LILS/3.

▶ Financial implications

7. Within the current arrangements, an honorarium of CHF5,200 is paid to each member of the Committee of Experts for their participation in an annual session of two and a half weeks, plus a three-day pre-session working group for the examination of the General Survey.³ In addition, during their stay in Geneva, members receive a daily subsistence allowance and their travel expenses are covered.
8. The proposal submitted in paragraph 6 provides for two weeks of remote preparatory work, two weeks of meetings in Geneva and a four-day pre-session working group for the examination of the General Survey. The two weeks of remote preparatory work would call for an adjustment of the total amount of the honorarium paid, which with the additional days would equal US\$51,111. This increase would be offset by estimated savings in daily subsistence allowances paid, due to the reduction of the duration of the meeting in Geneva, amounting to US\$37,145. The net result would be an additional expenditure of approximately US\$28,000 for a full biennium, which will be met from existing resources. The overall honorarium paid to each member of the Committee of Experts for these sessions would amount to CHF7,500.

▶ Draft decision

9. **The Governing Body decided:**
 - (a) **to extend the annual session of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations to include two weeks of remote preparatory work, two weeks of meetings in Geneva and a four-day pre-session for the working group examining the General Survey;**
 - (b) **to increase correspondingly the honorarium paid to each member of the Committee of Experts to CHF7,500; and**
 - (c) **that the dates of the annual session of the Committee of Experts in Geneva will be from 28 November to 10 December 2022, with a four-day pre-session working group on the General Survey.**

³ GB.322/INS/13/6.