



Governing Body

352nd Session, Geneva, 28 October–7 November 2024

Institutional Section

INS

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Twentieth item on the agenda

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

First report: Proposed arrangements for the 20th American Regional Meeting

1. According to articles 1 and 2 of the [Rules for regional meetings](#), the Governing Body decides on the composition, determines the date and venue, and establishes the agenda of each regional meeting.

► Background information on the trial period for regional meetings

2. Further to the discussions initiated in 2022 to review the functioning of regional meetings, ¹ the Governing Body adopted, at its 350th Session (March 2024), the new modalities for the ILO regional meetings to be held on a trial basis for a period of four years (2025–28). ²
3. To resume the cycle of regional meetings in line with the applicable rules, the following calendar of regional meetings will be applied during the trial period: the Americas (2025); Africa (2026); Europe (2027); and Asia and the Pacific (2028).
4. After a full cycle of regional meetings under the arrangements for the trial period, the Office will prepare an evaluation report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the new regional

¹ GB.346/INS/17/7, GB.347/INS/11 and GB.349/INS/9(Rev.1).

² GB.350/INS/7.

meeting format, which will serve as the basis for a discussion by the Governing Body in 2029 to decide whether to continue implementing the new format.

5. At its 350th Session, the Governing Body also agreed to suspend article 10(7) of the Rules for regional meetings during the trial period and decided that, except with the unanimous consent of the Officers of the meeting, no speech shall exceed four minutes.
6. In addition, the Governing Body requested the Office to prepare, for consideration at its 352nd Session (October–November 2024), a document indicating the proposed venue and date of the next regional meeting.

► New modalities for regional meetings during the trial period

7. The modalities set out below will apply to regional meetings held during the trial period.
 - (a) The regional meeting's duration will be three days.
 - (b) Participation will be in-person for delegations from Member States invited by the Governing Body as full members (comprising two Government delegates, one Employers' delegate and one Workers' delegate). Remote participation (webcasting) will be arranged for additional delegates and advisers.
 - (c) The general overview of the programme will be as follows:
 - (i) Day 1: opening ceremony in the morning and plenary discussion of the Director-General's report in the afternoon;
 - (ii) Day 2: technical thematic panels or round tables in both the morning and the afternoon;
 - (iii) Day 3: technical thematic panels or round tables in the morning and adoption of conclusions and closing sitting in the afternoon.
 - (d) The duration of the opening and closing sittings will be a maximum of two hours each.
 - (e) The plenary discussion of the Director-General's report will take place on the first day, after the opening sitting.
 - (i) The time limit for speeches during the plenary discussion of the Director-General's report will be four minutes.
 - (ii) The Director-General's report will be limited to 25 pages in length.
 - (iii) In order to accommodate all requests for the floor, the Officers of the meeting, in consultation with the tripartite constituents, may decide to allocate additional time, on the second day, to the plenary discussion of the Director-General's report, to be interspersed with technical thematic panels or round tables.
 - (f) Thematic panels or round tables will be devoted to subjects pertaining to the region and identified through tripartite consultations.
 - (i) The thematic panels or round tables will be organized to take place successively in the plenary.
 - (ii) The constituents may decide to introduce subregional elements into the thematic panels or round tables.

- (iii) The Office will prepare thematic reports not exceeding ten pages each in length for discussion by the thematic panels or round tables.
- (g) One or several high-level segments may be scheduled on the agenda of the regional meeting, on any day, to be interspersed with the plenary discussion of the Director-General's report and the thematic panels or round tables. These could include ceremonies with host country authorities and Heads of State and Government, or panels with ministers and senior officials from the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and development partners who may be invited to address the regional meeting to enhance partnerships and policy coherence at the regional level.
- (h) Parallel activities and side events will not be authorized.
- (i) A tripartite drafting group will be responsible for preparing the draft conclusions of the regional meeting.
 - (i) The length of the final outcome document will be less than three pages.
 - (ii) The work of the tripartite drafting group will be organized so as to avoid late evening sittings.
- (j) The Credentials Committee will discharge its mandate to examine objections to credentials and complaints concerning the non-payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of delegations, with secretarial support from the Office provided only remotely.
- (k) The Office will prepare a meeting report remotely.

► Venue

8. The Introductory note to the Rules for regional meetings provides that “[r]egional meetings are held in the country where the relevant ILO regional office is located, unless the Governing Body accepts the offer of another Member State of the region to host a meeting”.
9. The Government of the Dominican Republic has expressed interest in hosting the 20th American Regional Meeting in Punta Cana. The Office is in the process of consulting with the Government to clarify the specific needs, requirements and related arrangements.
10. As required under article 2(2) of the Rules, the Government shall guarantee at least the level of protection afforded under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, 1947, including its Annex I relating to the International Labour Organization. The Dominican Republic has been a party to that Convention since 7 March 1947. However, it has not acceded to Annex I. In accordance with the provision, a host country agreement incorporating the standard clauses appended to the Rules, as well as the level of in-kind and financial contribution from the Dominican Republic, will be concluded in due course.

► Dates and agenda

11. In view of prior commitments and the dates of other ILO major official meetings, the Dominican Republic would be in a position to host the meeting in the first half of October 2025.

The meeting duration would be for three days (from Tuesday to Thursday). The exact dates will be confirmed in due course.

12. In accordance with the Rules for regional meetings, the Director-General's report is the only item on the agenda. For the 20th American Regional Meeting, it is proposed that the report assess the current social and economic situation in the Americas regarding the attainment of social justice through full and productive employment and decent work for all in the context of both existing structural challenges and transformations impacting the world of work. The report will include a short section on the progress made in the seven years since the 19th American Regional Meeting, which was held in Panama in October 2018.
13. In addition, the constituents in the region may decide to further define the agenda in line with regional priorities. The agenda could potentially include: (a) a high-level segment to which Heads of State and Government, and senior officials from the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and development partners would be invited; (b) technical thematic panels or round tables on the issues of highest priority or importance to the region, the outcome of which would determine the priorities for future Office activities in the region; and (c) subregional round tables to discuss policy and technical issues pertaining to the subregion in question, to be held in parallel. The identification of specific topics for future action and possible thematic discussions will be undertaken in consultation with the tripartite constituents from the region.

► Composition

14. With respect to the composition of the Meeting, it is recalled that, under article 1(2) of the Rules for regional meetings, "[e]ach Member State shall be invited by the Governing Body as a full member to the regional meetings of only one region". It is also recalled that the list of Member States to be invited to attend as full members by region was approved by the Governing Body at its 334th Session (October–November 2018) and is appended to the Rules.
15. Member States from other ILO regions, States that are not Members of the ILO, and official international organizations or non-governmental organizations of universal or regional character interested in being represented at the meeting as observers should send their requests to the International Labour Office by the end of January 2025, so that the Governing Body can consider them at its 353rd Session (March 2025).

► Languages

16. In line with previous American Regional Meetings and taking into consideration the composition of the meeting, the proposed working languages of the Meeting are English and Spanish.

► Preparatory process and consultations with constituents

17. One of the key goals of the new trial format is to reduce time spent on general statements during the discussion of the Director-General's report in plenary sittings, while increasing the

time allocated to discussing the substantive matters of a technical or policy nature that are of relevance to the region.

18. Against this background, the Office is undertaking consultations with all groups to agree on the final modalities, including those concerning the submission of objections (or complaints) concerning credentials,³ and on the agenda of the 20th American Regional Meeting.

► Draft decision

19. **The Governing Body, on the recommendation of its Officers, noted with appreciation the invitation by the Government of the Dominican Republic to host the 20th American Regional Meeting in Punta Cana in the first half of October 2025 and deferred the final decision on the modalities of the Meeting to its 353rd Session (March 2025).**

³ GB.350/INS/7, para. 16.