



FOR DECISION

SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Obituary

Addendum

Mr Alain Ludovic Tou

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 17 June 2009, of Mr Alain Ludovic Tou, former Chairperson of the Governing Body and member of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.
2. Mr Tou was born in 1952 in Koudougou (Burkina Faso). He held a Diploma of Higher Studies in sociology from the University of Paris VIII, as well as a Certificate of Specialized Studies in the management of social institutions from the National Centre for Higher Studies in Social Security. His chosen field took him in 1988 to the National Social Security Fund (CNSS), where he was principally responsible for family benefits, occupational hazards and pensions. He went on to become the CNSS's Manager of Debt Collection and Disputes Settlement, to which post he was appointed in 1994.
3. During the same period, Mr Tou was a member of his country's Economic and Social Council and President of the Executive Committee of the People's Front. He was appointed Minister of Housing and Urban Planning in 1991, and Minister of Health from 1997 to 2000. In 2000, he was offered the post of Minister of Health, Employment and Youth, where he remained until he was obliged to withdraw from active life following a serious accident in 2005.
4. Mr Tou's career took on a regional and then an international dimension when he was chosen to head the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in 1999 and to the chair of the African Regional Labour Administration Centre in 2000. As Minister of Employment, he took part in several sessions of the International Labour Conference. His dedication to the elimination of poverty and inequality was apparent in all his statements. In June 2001, Mr Tou was elected Chairperson of the Governing Body, where he applied his political and diplomatic skill to its efficient administration. As Chairperson, he headed the Governing Body's tripartite delegation to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban in September 2001. In 2002, he was appointed member of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization. He played an active role in the work of the Commission and contributed to

the attention paid in its report to the fundamental concern of the African peoples for a more just and more equitable globalization.

5. Mr Tou was a man of convictions who devoted his entire career to the service of his country, in recognition of which he was awarded in December 2005 the title of Commander of the National Order of Burkina Faso.
6. *The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Mr Alain Ludovic Tou and to the Government of Burkina Faso.*

Geneva, 18 June 2009.

Point for decision: Paragraph 6.