



Governing Body

353rd Session, Geneva, 10–20 March 2025

Institutional Section

INS

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Fifteenth item on the agenda

Report of the Director-General

Regular report – Addendum: Obituary

Arni Walters

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the passing, on 19 January 2025, of Mr Arni Walters, former Government member of the Governing Body.
2. Mr Walters had an academic background in labour law, human resources management and industrial relations. He worked in the public and private sectors in Barbados, serving both in the Government-owned Barbados Transport Board and in the Barbados Employers' Confederation. Subsequently, he worked for a number of years as Senior Assistant Registrar at the Caribbean Examinations Council, while also lecturing part-time at various renowned higher education institutions in the region. In the following years, he was appointed Head of Human Resources at the Barbados Agricultural Management Company Ltd and later became Chief Operations Manager at the Barbados Cane Industry Corporation, both of which played an important role in the management of sugar production in the Barbadian economy.
3. In 2008, while serving as a member of the Senate in the Parliament of Barbados, Mr Walters was appointed Minister of Employment, Labour Relations and the Social Partnership. In this position, he represented the Government at several international forums. Within the ILO specifically, he took part in the 97th (2008) and 98th (2009) Sessions of the International Labour Conference and attended five Governing Body sessions as a Government representative between 2008 and 2009. Simultaneously, Mr Walters also served voluntarily in the Human Resources Management Association of Barbados from 1994 to 2025.
4. His contributions at the national, regional and international levels, including his voluntary work and his dedication to the ILO's mission, will be remembered and valued.

Youssoufa Wade

5. The Director-General announces with deep regret the passing, on 6 February 2025, of Mr Youssoufa Wade, former Employer member of the Governing Body.
6. A leading figure among Senegalese employers, Mr Wade served as President of the National Council of Employers of Senegal from 1994 to 2002 and then as President of the National Committee for Social Dialogue from 2004 to 2015. Through his commitment, he had a lasting influence on private sector development and played a major role in promoting and strengthening tripartite social dialogue in Senegal, in West Africa and within the ILO.
7. Mr Wade served as Vice-President of the International Organisation of Employers for Africa and as a deputy member (1998–99) and then titular member (1999–2005) of the Governing Body of the ILO. He was the Employers' delegate for Senegal to the International Labour Conference from 1998 to 2003 and was elected Employer Vice-President of the Conference at its 92nd Session (2004).
8. In performing his duties, he consistently demonstrated commitment, self-sacrifice, patience and courtesy in promoting the role of employers, taking into account the concerns of workers and encouraging the development and implementation of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, thereby contributing to the strengthening of tripartite social democracy. His work has left a lasting impression on Senegalese employers and at the ILO, where his commitment to social dialogue and tripartite consultation will remain a benchmark.

► Draft decision

9. **The Governing Body:**
 - (a) **paid tribute to the memory of Mr Arni Walters and invited the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Mr Walters and to the Government of Barbados;**
 - (b) **paid tribute to the memory of Mr Youssoufa Wade and invited the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Mr Wade and to the National Council of Employers of Senegal and the International Organisation of Employers.**