



Governing Body

353rd Session, Geneva, 10–20 March 2025

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 10 March 2025

Original: English

Sixteenth item on the agenda

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

First report: Arrangements for the 20th American Regional Meeting (Punta Cana, October 2025)

► Introduction

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.
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. At its 352nd Session (October–November 2024), 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.³

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

² GB.350/INS/7 and GB.350/PV, para. 256.

³ GB.352/PV, para. 831.

► Dates and venue

4. The meeting will be held in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Taking into account the programme of ILO official meetings and other events taking place during the last quarter of the year as well as the availability of local meeting facilities, it is proposed to hold the meeting from 1 to 3 October 2025.

► Update on the preparatory process

5. One of the key features of the new trial format for regional meetings is engagement in a constituent-driven preparatory process to ensure that the agenda is focused on substantive policy and technical matters of relevance for the region.
6. Following consultations with the host government on the logistical aspects of the meeting, in December 2024 the Office set up a tripartite preparatory steering committee responsible for undertaking consultations with the constituents to define the final agenda, programme and modalities, including concerning the submission of objections or complaints relating to credentials.⁴ The steering committee has agreed to hold a series of meetings for this purpose between December 2024 and September 2025.

Agenda and programme

7. The agenda and programme are being developed by the preparatory steering committee taking into account the guidance provided by the Governing Body at its 352nd Session⁵ and in line with the new trial format:
 - Day 1: opening ceremony in the morning followed by the discussion of the report of the Director-General that will continue in the afternoon.
 - Day 2: technical thematic panels or round tables on subjects pertaining to the region both in the morning and in the afternoon. A tripartite drafting group will meet at the end of the afternoon to prepare the draft conclusions for consideration on the final day.
 - Day 3: technical thematic panels or round tables in the morning and adoption of conclusions and closing sitting in the afternoon.
8. The discussion of the report of the Director-General and the thematic panels or round tables will take place successively in the plenary, and one or more high-level segments may be included in the programme of any day. If necessary to accommodate all requests for the floor, the Officers of the meeting, in consultation with the tripartite constituents, may decide to allocate additional time to the discussion of the report of the Director-General, interspersed with high-level segments and thematic panels on the second day.
9. The agenda and programme will be published in due course on the meeting website, where participants will find all practical information about the meeting.

⁴ GB.350/INS/7, para.16.

⁵ GB.352/INS/20/1, paras 12–13 and GB.352/PV, paras 826–831.

► Composition and participation

10. The list of Members to be invited to attend as full members by region is appended to the Rules for regional meetings. Concerning observers, the Office did not receive any requests from Member States from other ILO regions, non-Member States, and other international and non-governmental organizations to attend the meeting as observers by the end of January 2025.⁶ Therefore, any such requests will need to be considered by the Governing Body at its 354th Session (June 2025).
11. It is proposed that the meeting be held in person and the option to connect remotely upon request be used only for passive attendance.

► Draft decision

12. **Noting with appreciation the actions taken by the Office to prepare for the 20th American Regional Meeting, which will be held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and considering that the agenda was being finalized by the preparatory steering committee based on the ILO's strategic framework, the Governing Body, on the recommendation of its Officers, approved the dates and modes of participation for the meeting proposed in document GB.353/INS/16/1.**

⁶ GB.352/INS/20/1, para. 15.