



Governing Body

354th Session, Geneva, 14 June 2025

Institutional Section

INS

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Ninth item on the agenda

Report of the Director-General

Obituary

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 30 April 2025, of Ambassador Thomas M. T. Niles, former Employer member of the ILO Governing Body from the United States of America. He died at the age of 85.
2. A distinguished career diplomat, Ambassador Niles served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) from 1999 to 2005 and advocated tirelessly for American employers and the broader business community on international policy issues. In this capacity, he was elected as an Employer member of the ILO Governing Body in 1999 and served as the Employer spokesperson on the Committee on Employment and Social Policy until 2005. He also represented American employers at the 87th (1999), 88th (2000) and 89th (2001) Sessions of the International Labour Conference.
3. Prior to joining USCIB, Ambassador Niles served as a United States Foreign Service Officer from 1962 to 1999. His diplomatic postings included assignments at United States embassies in Belgrade and Moscow – serving twice in the latter – as well as the United States Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels. After a year at the National War College in Washington, DC, he held a series of roles at the United States Department of State, culminating in his appointment as Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs.
4. Ambassador Niles also served as Ambassador of the United States to Canada (1985–89), the European Community (1989–91), and Greece (1993–97). He concluded his Foreign Service career as President of the National Defense University in Washington, DC (1997–99). He will be greatly missed by the international community and will undoubtedly continue to inspire all those who knew him and had the privilege of working alongside him.

► Draft decision

5. The Governing Body paid tribute to the memory of Ambassador Thomas M. T. Niles and requested the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Ambassador Niles, the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) and the Government of the United States.