



Governing Body

355th Session, Geneva, 17–27 November 2025

Institutional Section

INS

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Eighteenth item on the agenda

Composition, agenda and programme of standing bodies and meetings

► Part I. Composition and agenda of standing bodies and meetings

I.1 Deferral of ILO official meetings for which dates and arrangements had been approved by the Governing Body

1. In addition to the statutory sessions of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body had approved the dates of the following meetings at its previous sessions:
 - (a) Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice on occupational safety and health in aquaculture (8–12 December 2025);
 - (b) Meeting of Experts on occupational safety and health in extreme weather events and changing weather patterns (2–6 February 2026);
 - (c) Meeting of Experts on the application of the fundamental principles and rights at work in the professional sports sector, as well as on violence and harassment in the world of sport (16–20 February 2026);
 - (d) Meeting of Experts on challenges to the implementation and ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185), (21–23 April 2026);
 - (e) Meeting of Experts on paternity and parental protection and other care leave (4–8 May 2026).

2. In light of the ongoing financial uncertainty and following a comprehensive review of the ILO's critical activities for the remainder of 2025 and the projected expenditures for 2026, the Office was obliged to suspend the organization of aforementioned meetings and defer them. The Officers of the Governing Body were informed accordingly in September. The technical preparatory work for these meetings is ongoing, with a view to rescheduling them as soon as the financial resources required are confirmed. Noting that a lead time of at least two months is necessary to organize these meetings, given the time required to confirm the nomination of experts and dispatch the invitations and for participants to request entry visas to Switzerland, it will therefore not be possible to reschedule any of these meetings in January or February 2026.
3. To facilitate the rescheduling of deferred meetings, two possible scenarios, depending on the financial situation, are outlined below.

Scenario A: Financial resources for official meetings are available at the beginning of January 2026

4. If funding were to be available only in January, it would not be possible to hold official meetings in February. The earliest a meeting could realistically be organized would be in early March, to ensure that the meeting would end two weeks before the 356th Session of the Governing Body which commences on 27 March 2026. The following meetings could therefore be rescheduled as follows:
 - The Meeting of Experts on the application of the fundamental principles and rights at work in the professional sports sector, as well as on violence and harassment in the world of sport, originally scheduled on 16–20 February, could be held on **2–6 March**.
 - The Technical Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Decent Work, Productivity and a Just Transition Arising from Artificial Intelligence in the Manufacturing Industry could be held on **13–17 April**, if the arrangements proposed in GB.355/POL/3 are approved by the Governing Body.¹
 - The Meeting of Experts on occupational safety and health in extreme weather events and changing weather patterns, originally scheduled on 2–6 February, could be held on **20–24 April**.
 - The Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice on occupational safety and health in aquaculture, originally scheduled on 8–12 December 2025, could be held on **4–8 May**.
5. For the other two meetings that had been approved for the second quarter of 2026 for which preparations are ongoing, a confirmation of funds only in January 2026 would not allow for sufficient time to complete preparations and hold those meetings on the originally scheduled dates. Alternative dates are proposed below:
 - The Meeting of Experts on challenges to the implementation and ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185), originally scheduled on 21–23 April, could be held on 13–15 October.
 - The Meeting of Experts on paternity and parental protection and other care leave, originally scheduled on 4–8 May 2026, could be held in February 2027.

¹ GB.355/POL/3.

6. The Officers of the Governing Body will review the situation in January 2026, based on information on the available financial resources to be provided by the Office, and decide on the proposed rescheduling accordingly. In the meantime, the preparatory work which can be carried out by the Office within the available resources for these meetings will continue.

Scenario B: Funding is not confirmed in January 2026

7. If the financial situation remains unclear, no official ILO meeting, except for the March session of the Governing Body and the session of the Conference would take place in the first half of 2026. The Office would proceed with preparatory work and consultations, as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, and submit to the Governing Body in March a new schedule of official meetings for the remainder of 2026 and for 2027, based on available financial resources.

I.2. Proposed dates for other official meetings in 2026 and 2027

8. At its 353rd Session (March 2025), the Governing Body approved the convening of the following meetings for which the proposed dates are now submitted to the Governing Body for approval, on the understanding that the organization of these meeting will be contingent on the availability of funds: ²
 - (a) Technical Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Decent Work, Productivity and a Just Transition Arising from Artificial Intelligence in the Manufacturing Industry – proposed dates: 13–17 April 2026;
 - (b) Technical Meeting on Occupational Safety and Health in the Retail Sector – proposed dates: 28 September–2 October 2026;
 - (c) Meeting of Experts on ergonomic hazards and human factors – proposed dates: 12–16 April 2027 (pending clarification on funding, the proposed arrangements for this meeting will be submitted to the Governing Body at its 356th Session (March 2026)).

I.3. Arrangements for the 15th African Regional Meeting

Background

9. At its 350th Session (March 2024), the Governing Body approved new modalities for ILO regional meetings, following discussions on proposals for the format of future meetings. ³ The 20th American Regional Meeting was held in Punta Cana from 1 to 3 October 2025 under this revised framework. ⁴ In line with the approved calendar of regional meetings for the trial period 2025–28, the next regional meeting would be the 15th African Regional Meeting, scheduled for 2026.

Venue and dates

10. Noting that the preparations for a regional meeting should begin one year in advance, the Governing Body is required to approve the meeting arrangements in the first quarter of 2026, at the latest.

² GB.355/POL/3.

³ GB.350/INS/7.

⁴ GB.355/INS/13 and GB.353/INS/16/1.

11. To avoid overlap with preparations for the International Labour Conference session in June and the Governing Body sessions in March and November, regional meetings are typically held in early October or early December. In line with past practice, it is proposed that the 15th African Regional Meeting be scheduled either in early October or early December.
12. The Government of Namibia has expressed interest in hosting the meeting. The Officers recommend that the Governing Body approve the venue at this session, and request the Office to submit to the Governing Body the prospective dates and the proposed observers to be invited for consideration at its 356th Session (March 2026) contingent upon the availability of funding, or propose alternatives to reschedule the meeting to 2027 should funding not be confirmed by then.

I.4 Invitation of observers to official meetings

13. Invitation of observers to official meetings other than the International Labour Conference is determined according to the following criteria:
 - (a) intergovernmental organizations that the Director-General intends to invite on the basis of a standing arrangement with the ILO. These organizations are presented for information only;
 - (b) intergovernmental organizations that the Director-General intends to invite, as authorized by the Officers of the Governing Body;
 - (c) international non-governmental organizations that the Director-General intends to invite, subject to authorization by the Governing Body.
14. The Officers recommend to the Governing Body that it authorize the Director-General to issue an invitation to the organizations listed in the appendix of document GB.355/INS/18 to participate in the meetings listed therein as observers, subject to the availability of funding for holding those meetings.

► Part II: Programme of ILO official meetings for the remainder of 2025, proposed rescheduling of meetings for 2026, and advance information for 2027 (including deferrals, subject to further Governing Body decisions)

15. The Officers of the Governing Body approved the programme of meetings for 2026 and advance information for 2027, and the approach proposed by the Office concerning the rescheduling of deferred meetings outlined in section I.2 above, subject to further Governing Body decisions.

Tentative dates	Title of meeting	Place
2025		
1–13 December	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	Geneva
[8–12 December ¹	Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice on occupational safety and health in aquaculture (deferred until further notice; could be rescheduled on 4–8 May 2026) ⁶	Geneva]
15–19 December	ILO/IMO/UNECE Group of Experts for the finalization of modifications and restructuring of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (2014 CTU Code)	Geneva
2026		
[2–6 February	Meeting of Experts on occupational safety and health in extreme weather events and changing weather patterns (deferred until further notice; could be rescheduled on 20–24 April 2026) ⁶	Geneva]
[16–20 February ¹	Meeting of Experts on the application of the fundamental principles and rights at work in the professional sports sector, as well as on violence and harassment in the world of sport (deferred until further notice; could be rescheduled on 2–6 March 2026) ⁶	Geneva]
19–21 March	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
23 March–2(3) April ²	356th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
[13–17 April ⁶	Technical Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Decent Work, Productivity and a Just Transition Arising from Artificial Intelligence in the Manufacturing Industry	Geneva]
[21–23 April ³	Meeting of Experts on challenges to the implementation and ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185) (deferred until further notice; could be rescheduled on 13–15 October 2026) ⁶	Geneva]

Tentative dates	Title of meeting	Place
[4–8 May ⁴	Meeting of Experts on paternity and parental protection and other care leave (deferred until further notice; could be rescheduled in February 2027) ⁶	Geneva]
28–29 May	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
1–12 June	114th Session of the International Labour Conference	Geneva
13 June	357th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
14–18 September ⁵	Tenth Meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG)	Geneva
[28 September–2 October] ⁶	Technical Meeting on Occupational Safety and Health in the Retail Sector	Geneva
4–5 November	Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO	Turin
5–7 November	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
9–19(20) November	358th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
30 November–12 December	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	Geneva
Last quarter	15th African Regional Meeting	Windhoek, Namibia
2027		
11–13 March	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
15–25(26) March	359th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
[12–16 April] ⁶	Meeting of Experts on Ergonomic Hazards and Human Factors	Geneva
June (dates tbc)	115th Session of the International Labour Conference	Geneva
June (tbc)	360th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
28–30 October	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
27–28 October	Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO	Turin
1–11(12) November	361st Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
Last quarter	11th European Regional Meeting	Geneva (tbc)
29 November–11 December	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	

¹ Further to the decision adopted by the Governing Body at its 353rd Session (GB.353/POL/3/Decision). ² As the 355th Session will only conclude on 27 November 2025, the 356th Session will be held late exceptionally. Future sessions will revert to the regular time frame. ³ Further to the decision adopted by the Governing Body at its 352nd Session (GB.352/INS/22/Decision).

⁴ Further to the decision adopted by the Governing Body at its 352nd Session (GB.352/INS/3/2/Decision). ⁵ Further to the decision to be adopted by the Governing Body at its 354th Session (GB.354/INS/11/Decision). ⁶ Subject to the decisions to be adopted by the Governing Body at its 355th and 356th Sessions.

► Draft decision

16. The Governing Body, upon the recommendation of its Officers:

- (a) took note of the deferral of the official meetings identified in paragraph 1 of document GB.355/INS/18;
- (b) took note of the programme of meetings contained in Part II of document GB.355/INS/18, and of the approach proposed by the Office concerning the rescheduling of deferred meetings, subject to further decision-making of the Governing Body;
- (c) endorsed the proposals made in relation to the invitation of intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to official meetings, as listed in the appendix to document GB.355/INS/18;
- (d) noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of Namibia to host the 15th African Regional Meeting in the last quarter of 2026 and deferred the approval of its arrangements to its 356th Session (March 2026), subject to the availability of funds.

► Appendix

Proposed invitations of observers to official meetings

Title of the meeting	Intergovernmental organizations (by standing arrangement)	International non-governmental organizations (authorized by the Governing Body)
Meeting of Experts on the application of the fundamental principles and rights at work in the professional sports sector, as well as on violence and harassment in the world of sport (Geneva, postponed from 16–20 February 2026, could be rescheduled on 2–6 March)	United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) • United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) • World Health Organization (WHO) • World Intellectual Property Organization Regional organizations: • African Union (AU) • Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) • European Commission (EC) • Council of Europe	Organizations having general consultative status with the ILO: • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • International Organisation of Employers (IOE) • International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) • Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) • Business Africa • World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Other organizations: • International Olympic Committee • International Paralympic Committee • Centre for Sport and Human Rights • Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) • Commonwealth Sport • UNI World Players • Sport & Rights Alliance • Play the Game • Global Observatory for Gender Equality & Sport
Technical Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Decent Work, Productivity and a Just Transition Arising from Artificial Intelligence in the Manufacturing Industry (Geneva, 13–17 April 2026 (to be confirmed), subject to the availability of funding and the	United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: • International Telecommunication Union (ITU) • United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Organizations having general consultative status with the ILO: • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • International Organisation of Employers (IOE) • International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) • Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) • Business Africa • World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Title of the meeting	Intergovernmental organizations (by standing arrangement)	International non-governmental organizations (authorized by the Governing Body)
decision to be taken by the Governing Body on GB.355/POL/3)	• United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) • United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) • United Nations University (UNU) • World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) • World Bank Group Other organizations: • Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Regional organizations: • African Union (AU) • Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) • European Commission (EC)	Other organizations: • IndustriALL Global Union • Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) • International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)
Technical Meeting on Occupational Safety and Health in the Retail Sector (Geneva, 28 September–2 October 2026, subject to the availability of funding and the decision to be taken by the Governing Body on GB.355/POL/3)	United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: • World Health Organization (OSH division) • United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Other organizations: • Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Regional organizations: • African Union (AU) • Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) • European Commission (EC)	Organizations having general consultative status with the ILO: • International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • International Organisation of Employers (IOE) • International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) • Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) • Business Africa • World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Other organizations: • Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) • IndustriALL Global Union • Public Services International (PSI) • C40 Cities • Bureau of International Recycling (BIR)