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International Labour Conference – 109th Session, 2021

Resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance

(18 June 2021)

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, meeting at its 109th Session, 2021,

Recalling that the Instrument for the Amendment of the ILO Constitution, 1986, was adopted with 352 votes in favour, 44 votes against and no abstentions principally for the purpose of rendering the membership of the Governing Body as representative as possible including by eliminating the seats guaranteed for the Members of chief industrial importance;

Noting that to date, 116 Member States have ratified the 1986 instrument of constitutional amendment, and nine additional ratifications, including at least three ratifications from Members of chief industrial importance, are required for the amendment to take effect;

Recalling that according to the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, the full contribution of the ILO's constituents to the endeavour towards social justice can be assured only through their full, equal and democratic participation in its tripartite governance;

Recalling also its Resolution on the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, which calls for the completion, at the earliest opportunity, of the process of ratification of the Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution, 1986, in order to definitively democratize the functioning and composition of the governing bodies of the ILO;

Mindful that the reference to the "socialist" States of Eastern Europe in article 7(3)(b)(i) of the 1986 instrument of constitutional amendment has given rise to concern and has been invoked by certain Member States as an impediment to ratification due to profoundly changed factual circumstances;

Underscoring the need for fair representation of all regions and establishing the principle of equality among Member States;

Acknowledging the ongoing work of the tripartite working group on full, equal and democratic participation in the ILO's tripartite governance,

1. Declares that the notion of “socialist” States of Eastern Europe referred to in article 7(3)(b)(i) of the 1986 instrument of constitutional amendment no longer corresponds to the current geopolitical situation and is therefore considered obsolete;
2. Calls upon Member States, and in particular the States of chief industrial importance, which have not yet ratified the 1986 instrument of constitutional amendment to examine the ratification of the said instrument as a matter of priority;
3. Invites the Governing Body to intensify its efforts for the completion of the process of ratification of the 1986 instrument of constitutional amendment and further invites the Chairperson of the Governing Body to include in the annual report of the Chairperson to the Conference a specific section on this topic;
4. Invites the Governing Body to request the Director-General to intensify his promotional activities by reaching out to all Member States that have not yet ratified the 1986 instrument of constitutional amendment and present their responses at every session of the Governing Body.