



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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Update on the status of ratification of the 1986 Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the ILO

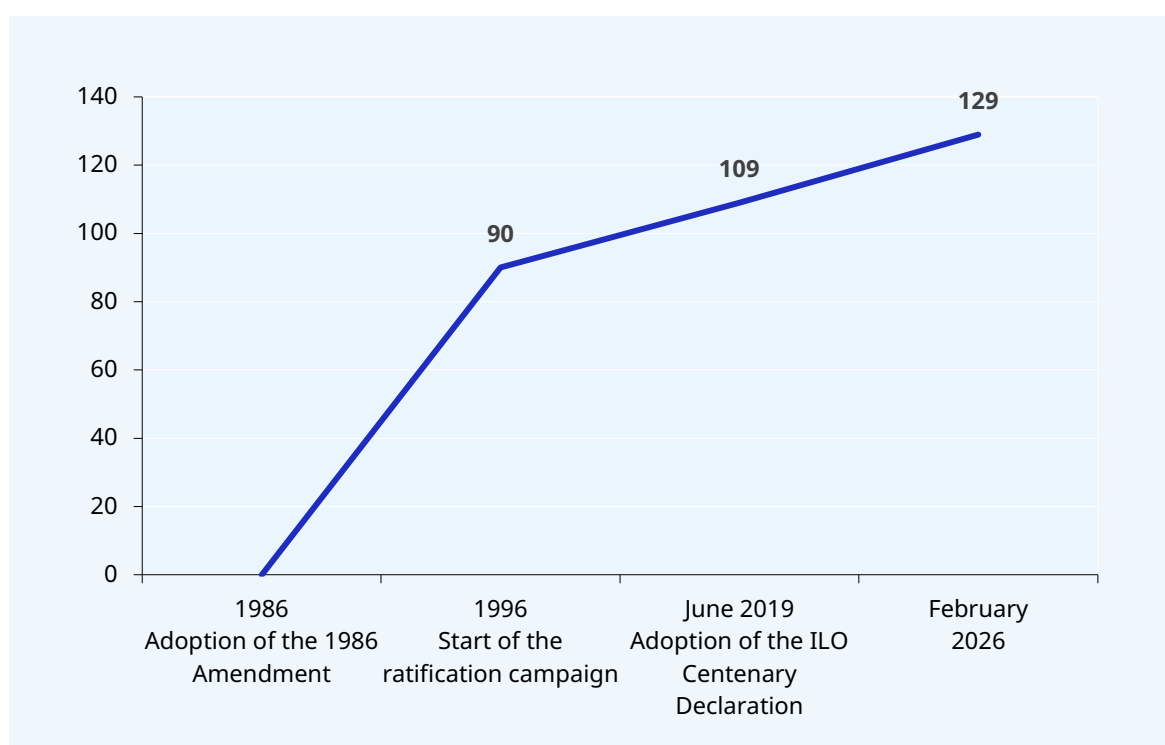
Summary: Further to the decision of the Governing Body at its 332nd Session (March 2018) and the discussion at the 353rd Session (March 2025), this document provides an update concerning the ratification of the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, 1986 ("the 1986 Amendment") and recent action to promote its ratification.

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Related documents: [GB.353/INS/6](#); [GB.353/PV](#).

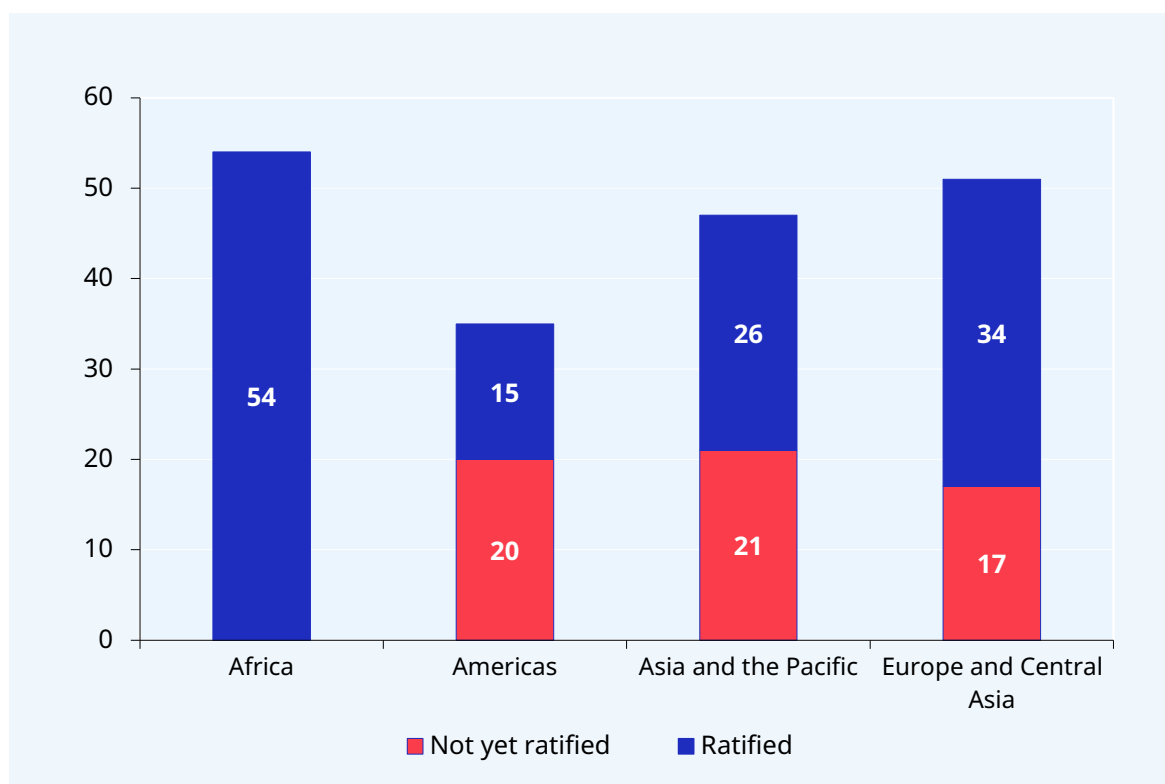
1. At the 353rd Session (March 2025) of the Governing Body, the Office provided updated information on the status of ratification of the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, 1986 ("the 1986 Amendment"). At that session, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to continue to use all means within his authority, including organizing a high-level event in the margins of the 114th Session (2026) of the International Labour Conference, to promote the ratification of the 1986 Amendment.¹
2. Since then, two new ratifications have been registered, by Estonia and Maldives. As of 23 February 2026, the 1986 Amendment had been ratified by 129 Member States – more than two thirds, or 69 per cent, of ILO Member States (see figure 1). The ratifications include two from the ten Members of chief industrial importance (India and Italy).

► **Figure 1. Evolution of the number of ratifications of the 1986 Amendment**



3. Africa continues to be the only region where all ILO Member States have ratified the 1986 Amendment (see figure 2). The ratification rate is 43 per cent in the Americas (15 ratifications among 35 Member States), 55 per cent in Asia and the Pacific (26 ratifications among 47 Member States) and 67 per cent in Europe and Central Asia (34 ratifications among 51 Member States).

¹ GB.353/INS/6 and GB.353/PV, para. 218. The follow-up concerning the high-level event is addressed in GB.356/INS/2/2.

► **Figure 2. Number of ratifications per region (as of February 2026)**

4. Three ratifications from eight Members of chief industrial importance (Brazil, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America) are still needed for the 1986 Amendment to take effect.
5. The Office has continued to promote the ratification of the 1986 Amendment among Member States, including the Members of chief industrial importance that are yet to ratify it. The Director-General has discussed the ratification of the 1986 Amendment in high-level bilateral meetings and instructed the regional and liaison offices concerned to continue to promote its ratification. Responsible field offices have continued to address the ratification of the 1986 Amendment in their discussions with those Governments that have not ratified the Amendment, including the Governments of the Members of chief industrial importance. The following information was provided by the field offices in relation to the regions concerned.
 - In the Asia and the Pacific region, meetings and other follow-up activities have been undertaken with Member States that have not yet ratified the 1986 Amendment, emphasizing its importance, and opportunities for advocacy in this regard are being pursued during 2026. The Office has continued to address the ratification of the 1986 Amendment in meetings with the Governments of China and Japan. In the Arab States, the ratification of the 1986 Amendment has been raised in meetings with governments.
 - In the Americas, the Office has been informed that internal procedures with a view to ratifying the 1986 Amendment are making further progress in Brazil. A bill to approve the Amendment is before the Parliamentary Committee on Labour and Social Security Affairs in Uruguay. Internal procedures to ratify the Amendment have been initiated in Belize. Meetings and other follow-up activities were undertaken during 2025, and further are planned for 2026, with other Member States, including in the context of CARICOM meetings.

- In Europe and Central Asia, the ratification of the 1986 Amendment has been raised in the context of bilateral meetings with governments, including the Members of chief industrial importance, as appropriate.
6. In addition, the Office has updated and expanded the dedicated web page promoting the ratification of the 1986 Amendment² by adding further information concerning the Amendment. It has also revised the promotional video, which is available in English, French and Spanish on the web page. Promotional materials were displayed during the 113th Session of the International Labour Conference and the 20th American Regional Meeting. At the high-level event to be organized on the margins of the 114th Session of the International Labour Conference, the Office will display updated promotional materials, including the promotional brochure and banners.

² See “Questions and answers about the 1986 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution”.