



Governing Body

356th Session, Geneva, 23 March–2 April 2026

Policy Development Section

POL

Social Dialogue Segment

Date: 26 March 2026

Original: English

Third item on the agenda

Proposed programme of ILO official meetings for 2026–27

Purpose of the document

This document provides an update on the rescheduling of ILO official meetings that had been deferred due to financial constraints; proposes arrangements for approved meetings scheduled in 2026 and 2027 and includes the programme of official meetings for the remainder of 2026 and for 2027 (see draft decision in paragraph 14).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Main relevant outcome: All.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: See the table in paragraph 5.

Follow-up action required: Implement the decision of the Governing Body in relation to the meetings concerned.

Author unit: Official Relations, Meetings and Language Services Department (RELMEETINGS) and Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR).

Related documents: GB.356/INS/20/3; [GB.356/POL/2](#); [GB.355/INS/18](#); [GB.353/POL/3](#)

► Introduction

1. At its 355th Session (November 2025), the Governing Body endorsed the recommendations of the Tripartite Meeting on the Review of the Functioning of the Governing Body, held from 5 to 8 May 2025. It requested the Office to implement the recommended changes, including the consolidation of information relating to the approval of meetings that had previously been presented in separate documents. To facilitate both the overview and the approval process by the Governing Body, the present document brings together the proposed arrangements for ILO official meetings and the programme of official meetings approved by the Officers of the Governing Body.

► I. Update on ILO official meetings deferred in 2025

2. At its 355th Session (November 2025), the Governing Body agreed to defer six meetings for which it had already approved the dates, due to financial constraints. It also agreed that the Officers of the Governing Body would review the financial situation in January 2026 and, subject to the availability of funding, decide on the proposed rescheduling of those meetings. Based on the information on available financial resources provided by the Office, the Officers confirmed that the following four meetings would be held in the first half of 2026:
 - Meeting of Experts on the application of the fundamental principles and rights at work and on violence and harassment in the world of sport, **2–6 March**;
 - Technical Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Decent Work, Productivity and a Just Transition Arising from Artificial Intelligence in the Manufacturing Industry, **13–17 April**;
 - Meeting of Experts on occupational safety and health in extreme weather events and changing weather patterns, **20–24 April**;
 - Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice on occupational safety and health in aquaculture, **4–8 May**.
3. In November 2025, the Office had also proposed possible alternative dates for the two meetings listed below, which had been originally scheduled for the second quarter of 2026. The Governing Body is invited to confirm the proposed dates at its 356th Session:
 - 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 for 21–23 April, to be held on **13–15 October 2026**;
 - the Meeting of Experts on paternity and parental protection and other care leave, originally scheduled for 4–8 May 2026, to be held on **1–5 February 2027**.

► II. Proposed arrangements for approved meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2026 and in 2027

A. Meeting of Experts on ergonomic hazards and human factors

Background

4. At its 331st Session (October–November 2017), the Governing Body requested the Office to prepare for consideration of inclusion on the agenda of future sessions of the International Labour Conference at the earliest possible dates, proposals for a standard-setting item on ergonomics, recognizing the regulatory gaps identified in that area, namely considering that the instruments concerning maximum weight had not lost their purpose but were limited in scope. In that sense the Maximum Weight Convention (No. 127) and Recommendation (No. 128), 1967 should be classified as requiring further action to ensure continued and future relevance. Follow-up action could also involve a meeting of experts on how to modernize the existing instruments in the context of the broader issue of ergonomics and manual handling.¹ At its 353rd Session, the Governing Body requested the Office to submit to its 355th Session (November 2025) proposals for convening a tripartite meeting of experts prior to standard-setting on the same subject matter.² At that session, the Governing Body decided to convene a meeting of experts on ergonomics and human factors from 12 to 16 April 2027, subject to clarification on funding, and requested the Office to submit the proposed arrangements for the meeting to the Governing Body at its 356th Session (March–April 2026).³

Arrangements

5. **Purpose of the meeting:** Convention No. 127 and Recommendation No. 128, while still relevant, do not adequately address the evolving understanding of ergonomics and manual handling practices. Human factors or ergonomics apply theory, principles, and data from relevant disciplines to the design of products and work processes and systems, considering the interactions between the human factors, the environment, tools and equipment, and technology to enhance human performance and well-being at work. Based on a background report prepared by the Office, the meeting of experts will agree on technical conclusions clarifying the scope and key elements of ergonomics hazards within the framework of the ILO and in line with current scientific knowledge. The conclusions will also identify areas where there is a technical consensus, as well as issues where views differ. The conclusions will inform and provide a sound technical foundation for future standard-setting discussions on ergonomics and human factors.
 - **Proposed location and dates:** Geneva, 12–16 April 2027 (five days).
 - **Proposed composition:** Eight experts nominated after consultation with Governments,⁴ eight Employer experts nominated after consultation with the Employers' group and eight

¹ GB.331/LILS/2.

² GB.353/INS/2/1(Rev.1)/Decision.

³ GB.355/INS/18, para. 8(c) and GB.355/PV, para. 893(b).

⁴ Except Belarus, in accordance with the [decision](#) adopted by the Governing Body in March 2023 concerning options for measures under article 33 of the ILO Constitution, as well as other measures, regarding Belarus; and the Russian Federation,

Worker experts nominated after consultation with the Workers' group, plus advisers and observers as provided for under the Standing Orders for Meetings of Experts. It is also proposed that the Director-General invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations listed in document GB.356/INS/20/3. In line with article 6.2 of the Standing Orders for Meetings of Experts, the Chairperson shall be an independent person with expertise on the matters covered by the agenda selected by the Office.

► Financial arrangements

Item	Costs (US\$)
Experts' travel and DSA	110 000
Chairperson's travel and DSA	4 000
Interpretation and meeting operators	150 000
Translation and report production	52 000
Total	316 000

6. It is proposed that the meeting is financed in the first instance from savings that may arise under Part I of the budget for 2026–27 or, failing that, from the provision for unforeseen expenditure under Part II or, should this not be possible, from alternative methods of financing to be proposed by the Director-General.

B. Sectoral meetings (February–April 2027)

7. At its 353rd Session (March 2025), the Governing Body endorsed the programme of sectoral meetings for 2026–27.⁵ The Governing Body is invited to endorse the proposed dates, duration, official title, purpose and composition of the meetings proposed to be held in the first half of 2027, subject to any decision it could take in the context of the discussion concerning the ILO in a changing multilateral environment, including on the possible reduction of the number of sectoral meetings due to financial constraints.

Technical meeting on the future of employment and perspectives for decent work in the tobacco growing and manufacturing sector

8. **Purpose of the meeting:** To discuss recent economic trends and developments in tobacco growing and manufacturing and to examine how these impact future employment and decent work perspectives. The discussion will also consider key megatrends and drivers of change – including technological advances, shifting consumption patterns, demographic transitions, and other relevant global developments – that impact business continuity and job creation. The discussions aim to reach agreement on a set of conclusions outlining how the ILO and its constituents can contribute to the goal of full, productive, and freely chosen employment and decent work for all in the sector.

in accordance with the [resolution concerning the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine from the perspective of the mandate of the ILO](#), adopted by the Governing Body in March 2022.

⁵ GB.353/POL/3.

- **Proposed location and dates:** Geneva, 8–12 February 2027 (five days).
- **Proposed composition:** All Governments, ⁴ eight Employer representatives, eight Worker representatives, advisers and observers as provided for under the Standing Orders for technical meetings. It is also proposed that the Director-General invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations listed in document GB.356/INS/20/3.

Technical meeting on advancing decent work and sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector

- Purpose of the meeting:** To discuss opportunities and challenges for decent work and sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector. The meeting can address related issues such as development and retention of water and sanitation workers, relevant skills development and training, occupational safety and health, informality in the sector and resilience in view of climate change, in line with the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. ⁶
- **Proposed location and dates:** Geneva, 26–30 April 2027 (five days).
 - **Proposed composition:** All Governments, ⁴ eight Employer representatives, eight Worker representatives, advisers and observers as provided for under the Standing Orders for technical meetings. It is also proposed that the Director-General invite as observers the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations which will be submitted to the Governing Body at its 358th Session (November 2026).

Officers of these two meetings

- In accordance with article 6 of the [Standing Orders for technical meetings and for meetings of experts](#), the Officers of these meetings consist of one Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons (one for each of the three groups). For technical meetings, the Governing Body appoints one of its titular or deputy members as Chairperson (in practice, the appointment is made on a rotating basis among the three groups) or requests the Office to select an independent person with expertise on the matters covered by the agenda and to notify the meeting accordingly. The three Vice-Chairpersons for both forms of meetings are elected from among the representatives, experts or their advisers in each of the three groups.
- Following the rotating schedule, the Governing Body is invited to endorse the appointments to be made by the groups regarding the Chairpersons for the following technical meetings:

Meeting	Dates	To be appointed by
Technical meeting on the future of employment and perspectives for decent work in the tobacco growing and manufacturing sector	8–12 February 2027	Employers' group
Technical meeting on advancing decent work and sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector	26–30 April 2027	Workers' group

⁶ The Governing Body took note of this Strategy at its 352nd Session (November 2024). See [GB.352/PV](#), para. 973(g).

12. In the absence of such a nomination 30 days before the meeting, the Office will select an independent person with expertise on the matters covered by the agenda and notify the meeting accordingly.

► III. Programme of ILO official meetings for 2026 and 2027 (subject to availability of financial resources and further Governing Body decisions)

13. The Officers of the Governing Body approved the following programme of meetings for 2026 and 2027. This programme will be implemented subject to availability of financial resources. In case of any financial shortcomings, the Office will inform the Officers of the Governing Body and submit any related contingency measures to them for consideration and decision.

Date	Title of meeting	Place
2026		
2–6 March ¹	Meeting of experts on the application of the fundamental principles and rights at work and on violence and harassment in the world of sport	Geneva
19–21 March	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
23 March–2 April ²	356th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
13–17 April ³	Technical Meeting on Challenges and Opportunities for Promoting Decent Work, Productivity and a Just Transition Arising from Artificial Intelligence in the Manufacturing Industry	Geneva
20–24 April	Meeting of Experts on occupational safety and health in extreme weather events and changing weather patterns	Geneva
4–8 May ⁴	Meeting of Experts to adopt a code of practice on occupational safety and health in aquaculture	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
13–15 October ⁷	Meeting of Experts on challenges to the implementation and ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185)	Geneva
5–6 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

Date	Title of meeting	Place
30 November– 12 December	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	Geneva
2–4 December ⁷	15th African Regional Meeting	Windhoek, Namibia
2027		
1–5 February ⁷	Meeting of Experts on paternity and parental protection and other care leave	Geneva
8–12 February ⁷	Technical meeting on the future of employment and perspectives for decent work in the tobacco growing and manufacturing sector	Geneva
11–13 March	Committee on Freedom of Association	Geneva
15–25 March	359th Session of the Governing Body	Geneva
12–16 April ⁷	Meeting of Experts on Ergonomic Hazards and Human Factors	Geneva
26–30 April ⁷	Technical meeting on advancing decent work and sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector	Geneva
June (dates to be confirmed)	115th Session of the International Labour Conference	Geneva
June (date to be confirmed)	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 (dates to be confirmed)	11th European Regional Meeting	Geneva (to be confirmed)
29 November– 11 December (to be confirmed)	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations	Geneva

¹ Further to the decisions adopted by the Governing Body at its 353rd Session ([GB.353/POL/3/Decision](#)) and 355th Session ([GB.355/INS/18/Decision](#)). Originally scheduled for 16–20 February 2026. ² As the 355th Session concluded 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 decisions adopted by the Governing Body at its 355th Session ([GB.355/POL/3](#) and [GB.355/INS/18/Decision](#)). ⁴ Further to the decisions adopted by the Governing Body at its 353rd Session ([GB.353/POL/3/Decision](#)) and 355th Session ([GB.355/INS/18/Decision](#)). Originally scheduled for 8–12 December 2025. ⁵ Further to the decision adopted by the Governing Body at its 354th Session ([GB.354/INS/11/Decision](#)). ⁶ Further to the decisions adopted by the Governing Body at its 355th Session ([GB.355/POL/3/Decision](#) and [GB.355/INS/18/Decision](#)). ⁷ Subject to the decision to be adopted by the Governing Body at its 356th Session.

► Draft decision

- 14. The Governing Body, subject to the availability of funds and further decision-making:**
- (a) approved the new dates of the Meeting of Experts on challenges to the implementation and ratification of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185) and the Meeting of Experts on paternity and parental protection and other care leave;**
 - (b) approved the arrangements for the following meetings:**
 - (i) Meeting of Experts on ergonomic hazards and human factors;**
 - (ii) Technical meeting on the future of employment and perspectives for decent work in the tobacco growing and manufacturing sector;**
 - (iii) Technical meeting on advancing decent work and sustainable development in the water and sanitation sector;**
 - (c) took note of the programme of meetings contained in Part III of document GB.356/POL/3.**