



Governing Body

357th Session, Geneva, 12 and 13 June 2026

Institutional Section

INS

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Fifth item on the agenda

Determination of the Members of chief industrial importance: Proposal for the appointment of the committee of experts and related financial arrangements

1. At its 356th Session (March 2026), in the context of the discussion on the process of the determination of the Members of chief industrial importance, the Governing Body:
 - (a) decided to undertake a determination of the Members of chief industrial importance and to place a corresponding item on the agenda of its 358th Session (November 2026) for decision;
 - (b) invited the Director-General to submit a proposal concerning the appointment of a committee of experts and the related financial arrangements to its Officers, so that the Governing Body could take the corresponding decisions at its 357th Session (June 2026).¹
2. Under article 7(3) of the Constitution: "all questions relating to the selection of the Members of chief industrial importance are considered by an impartial committee before being decided by the Governing Body". Under paragraph 1.3.2 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body, "the Committee is composed of experts qualified to advise on the most appropriate criteria of industrial importance and on the relative industrial importance of States assessed on the basis of such criteria."

¹ GB.356/INS/5/Decision; GB.356/INS/PV, para. 282.

3. As provided in paragraph 1.3.2 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body, the mandate of the committee of experts is:
 - (a) to identify the most appropriate criteria for determining industrial importance and the relative weight to be assigned to each, if applicable;
 - (b) to advise on the relative industrial importance of Member States by applying the identified criteria.
4. As recalled in the document presented to the Governing Body at its 356th Session (March–April 2026), the impartiality and technical expertise of the proposed experts will be paramount in its determination of the committee’s composition.² The committee will be composed of internationally recognized impartial experts of the highest statistical authority, with strong credentials in the field of economic statistics. Past committees have been international in character, with geographical representation across ILO regions. All experts are appointed in their personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective countries, institutions or regions.
5. Against this background, immediately following the Governing Body’s decision in March 2026, the Office undertook a scoping exercise to identify suitable expert candidates for the committee, drawing on established professional networks within the international statistical community. In keeping with past practice, the Office sought experts holding, or having previously held, senior leadership positions with national statistical institutions with strong expertise in economic statistics and familiarity with the latest standards on labour statistics adopted by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. In identifying experts, particular importance was attached to professional independence, technical expertise and impartiality, consistent with the principles underpinning the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.³ No Government was approached by the Office in the nomination process. Rather, potential experts were contacted in their personal capacity through established statistical networks, to ensure that the exercise remained focused on the highest level of technical statistical expertise and to safeguard the objectivity and independence of the process.
6. In addition to drawing on the ILO’s direct statistical network, the Office held discussions with members of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System, the Heads of Statistics of the Regional Economic Commissions, as well as the Chief Statisticians of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat. These discussions resulted in a list of 14⁴ internationally recognized experts with the requisite expertise and experience and who had expressed their willingness and availability to serve. On this basis, the Office initially proposed that, in the light of the current budgetary constraints, the composition of the committee could be limited to one expert per region and one international expert,⁵ resulting in a total of five members. Additional experts could be appointed as substitutes to replace any of the titular members who might be unable to attend the meetings. This proposal together with the profiles of the 14 experts was presented during

² GB.356/INS/5, para.18.

³ The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are a set of internationally agreed principles that were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 through [Resolution 68/261](#) to protect the independence, impartiality and credibility of the national statistical institutions. Organizations like the ILO and Eurostat also committed to them through the endorsement of the Principles governing international statistical activities.

⁴ A list of 13 profiles of potential candidates was presented during the consultations, and an additional profile of an African woman candidate was subsequently added.

⁵ The international expert was proposed to ensure that the statistical data, concepts and definitions underpinning the proposed criteria were harmonized across all regions.

consultations held on 6, 8 and 11 May 2026 with governments and with the secretariats of the Workers' and Employers' groups respectively.

7. During the consultations, constituents raised a number of observations regarding the proposed composition and functioning of the committee of experts. These related in particular to the need to ensure adequate gender balance; the participation of experts from countries currently included as Members of chief industrial importance; the role of substitute members; the respective roles of a proposed international expert and the other experts; not including experts from States expected to fall either just above or just below a line of demarcation between the Members of chief industrial importance and the other countries; the need for diversity in the background of experts; the need for clarity regarding the modalities of work and responsibilities within the Committee; and clarification of method to effectively ensure the impartiality of the committee of experts.
8. Taking into account the feedback provided by constituents during the consultations, the Office contacted some additional experts to serve on the committee and proposes to increase the number of members of the committee from five to eight, in total. It is proposed that the committee of experts include two experts from each ILO region (no expert is designated as an international expert any longer) and full gender parity achieved through the appointment of one woman and one man per region. With this configuration, substitute members are not required, as each region would continue to be adequately represented even in the event that one of the experts from the region is unable to participate in certain meetings. The revised proposal brings together a team of highly competent, impartial and independent experts of the highest level of statistical authority. It was presented by the Director-General to the Officers of the Governing Body for information. The Officers of the Governing Body took note of the Director-General's proposal and agreed that the Office would submit it to the Governing Body for consideration and decision.
9. On this basis, the Director-General proposes, for the Governing Body's consideration, that the committee of experts be composed of the following experts:
 - Africa: Ms Celina Molato (Lesotho), Director of Bureau of Statistics; and Mr Ivan Murenzi (Rwanda), Director-General, National Institute of Statistics;
 - Americas: Ms Graciela Márquez (Mexico), President, National Institute of Statistics and Geography; and Mr Pedro Ignacio Lines (Argentina), General Director, National Institute of Statistics and Censuses;
 - Asia-Pacific: Ms Aishath Hassan (The Maldives), Chief Statistician, Bureau of Statistics; and Mr Pravin Srivastava (India), Former Chief Statistician, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;
 - Europe: Ms Antonia Martínez Luengo (Spain), Director, Macroeconomics Statistics, Eurostat; and Mr Stefan Schweinfest (Germany), Former Director, UN Statistics Division.

Brief descriptions of each expert's profile are set out in the appendix. The description of these profiles is based on the curriculum vitae, biodata and other relevant information provided by each expert which were compiled by the Office in keeping with the original information provided by the experts and their personal drafting styles.

10. On the assumption of online meetings and a one-day in-person meeting in Geneva, the proposed appointment of the committee of experts has the following financial implications, estimated at US\$146,000:
 - Travel costs and honoraria for eight experts: estimated cost of US\$80,000.
 - Secretarial support (one G-4 staff member at 50 per cent for four months): estimated cost of US\$26,000.

- Interpretation and translation: estimated cost of US\$40,000.
11. In so implementing the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 356th Session (March–April 2026), the Office is mindful of the views expressed by governments during the consultations regarding the desirability of ensuring transparency in the implementation of the process for the determination of Members of chief industrial importance, including continued adherence to the Constitution and the Standing Orders. Taking this into account, the Governing Body may wish to consider requesting the organization of an information session between the independent experts and members of the Governing Body.

► Draft decision

12. The Governing Body approved:
- (a) **the appointment of the experts listed in paragraph 9 of document GB.357/INS/5 as members of the impartial committee provided for in article 7(3) of the Constitution, in accordance with the decision adopted at its 356th Session (March–April 2026) to undertake a determination of the Members of chief industrial importance;**
 - (b) **the cost of the committee of experts estimated at US\$146,000, not budgeted in the Programme and Budget for 2026–27, to be prioritized and financed under Part I of the budget for the current biennium.**

► Appendix

Summary of the assessment of each proposed candidate for the committee of experts on the determination of Members of chief industrial importance

Africa

Ms Celina Malehloa Molato (Lesotho) has devoted her entire 40-year career to the Bureau of Statistics Lesotho (BOS), where she is currently serving as Director since February 2017. Her career has been built around the technical core of economic and macroeconomic statistics: she worked in the National Accounts Section from the outset of her career, was promoted to head the Economics Statistics Division, and served as Chief Statistician of the National Accounts and Enterprise Surveys Division, with direct responsibility for national accounts, business registers, industrial statistics, price statistics, wholesale and retail trade statistics and household budget surveys. She participated in and supervised the rebasing of Lesotho's national accounts estimates and coordinated the Household Budget Surveys. As Director, she is currently Commissioner for the 2026 Population and Housing Census and is leading the 2025–26 Economic Activity Census and the 2024 Integrated Labour Force Survey. She participated in many international meetings, including the UN Statistical Commission, PARIS21 Fall Meetings, the SADC Annual Meetings for Directors General, the African Union Commission Committee of Directors General, demonstrating consistent engagement in regional and continental statistical harmonization. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Statistics and Economics from the National University of Lesotho and a Master of Statistics from the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Uganda.

Mr Ivan Murenzi (Rwanda) has served at the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) since April 2017, first as Deputy Director General and, since June 2024, as Director General. In this capacity he leads an institution of 455 staff responsible for the full range of Rwanda's official statistics. He has overseen the rebasing of Rwanda's national accounts, regularly publishes quarterly GDP estimates by sector, and has championed the NISR's adoption of international statistical standards across economic, demographic and social statistics. He has also overseen the 7th Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey and is leading the NISR's integration of alternative and big data sources, including satellite imagery and administrative data, into official statistical production. His earlier career included work on financial inclusion at Access to Finance Rwanda, macroeconomic statistics compilation at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, policy economics research at the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research, and senior advisory work at PricewaterhouseCoopers Rwanda. Beyond statistical leadership, he serves as a Board Member of the Monetary Policy Committee and Member of the National Bank of Rwanda, giving him direct exposure to macroeconomic policy analysis and comparative economic data at the highest institutional level. He has also been a board member of the Rwanda National Investment Trust Fund. His commitment to statistical independence and adherence to international methodological standards has been publicly articulated, including Rwanda's collaboration with the World Bank, the IMF and the UN Statistics Division in validating the NISR's methodologies. He holds a BSc in Statistics from Makerere University, Kampala, and a Master of Arts in Policy Economics from the Centre for Development Economics, Williams College, Massachusetts. He is currently completing a PhD in Science, Technology and Innovation in Public Policy at University College London.

Americas

Ms Graciela Márquez (Mexico) served as Minister of Economy of Mexico (2018–2020), becoming the first woman to hold this position in the country's history, with responsibility for Mexico's industrial, trade and investment policy frameworks. She was appointed Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in 2021, where she oversaw the National Subsystem for Economic Information encompassing national accounts, science and technology, financial information, prices and labour statistics. Since January 2022, she has served as President of INEGI, the first woman to do so, leading one of the largest and most technically advanced national statistical offices in the Americas, with full institutional autonomy guaranteed under Mexican law. She chaired the 57th session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2026 and the committee on measuring informality statistics at the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 2023. INEGI maintains active collaboration with the OECD, ECLAC, the World Bank and the UN Statistics Division on macroeconomic data frameworks and statistical harmonization. She holds a BA in Economics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, an MA in Economics from El Colegio de México and a PhD in Economic History from Harvard University. Her doctoral dissertation was awarded the Gerschenkron Prize by the Economic History Association, one of the most prestigious distinctions in the field of comparative economic development. She subsequently held tenured academic positions at El Colegio de México and visiting professorships at the University of Chicago and the University of California San Diego, publishing on Latin American economic history, comparative economic growth and crises.

Mr Pedro Ignacio Lines (Argentina) is currently General Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, a position he has held since February 2026. In this capacity, he provides overall administrative and technical leadership of the national statistical office, oversees the National Statistical System, the Annual Statistical Programme and Census Programme, the institutional budget, and represents INDEC in legal and international matters. Prior to this, he served as Technical Director of INDEC, where he led and coordinated the preparation and implementation of Argentina's annual statistical programme and the development of technical standards and procedures for household and enterprise surveys, censuses and economic and social indicators. He also coordinated the OECD review of Argentina's statistical system and official statistics. Earlier, he served as National Director of International Accounts, with responsibility for quarterly Balance of Payments, External Debt and International Investment Position statistics, and acted as Argentina's focal point for the G20 Data Gaps Initiative and IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard. He is a member of the United Nations Advisory Expert Group (AEG) of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA). He has also contributed to international methodological publications, including *Essential SNA: Building the basics* (Eurostat, 2010), and previously lectured in advanced econometrics at the University of Buenos Aires. He possesses extensive expertise in macroeconomic statistics, national accounts, international accounts and statistical governance. He holds a master's degree in economics from the Centro de Estudios Macroeconómicos de Argentina and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Buenos Aires.

Asia-Pacific

Ms Aishath Hassan (The Maldives) is currently serving as Chief Statistician of the Maldives Bureau of Statistics. She was appointed to this position in August 2021, following more than two decades of professional experience within the national statistical system. Over the course of her career, she progressed through a range of technical and managerial functions in economic statistics, including service as Head of the National Accounts and Economic Statistics Division. In her current capacity, she provides strategic and technical leadership for the production, coordination and dissemination of official statistics in the Maldives. Her extensive expertise is demonstrated through her work in the compilation of GDP, supply and use tables, input-output tables, and tourism satellite accounts and analysis. She has also made significant contributions to price statistics, where she led the rebasing of the consumer price index, producer price index, government wage index, and the unit value index of imports and exports. Additionally, she has also been a leader in the analysis of economic surveys and censuses, with a particular focus on income, expenditure and employment. Her work in these areas has contributed to strengthening the evidence base for economic and social policymaking in the Maldives. Beyond her professional work, she has shared her knowledge as a part-time lecturer at the Maldives National University and the Islamic University of Maldives. She holds a BSc in Economics and Management from the University of London and a Master of Arts in Econometrics.

Mr Pravin Srivastava (India) retired in August 2020 from the position of Secretary and Chief Statistician of India, the highest statistical office in India, overseeing the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and its National Statistical Office. He was involved from the early stages of his career in the revision of the base year of India's GDP series, coordination of industrial production and price statistics, and led preparatory work for further rebasing exercises during his tenure as Chief Statistician. He also steered the adoption of the UN Quality Assurance Framework for official statistics in India, initiated a cloud-based National Integrated Information Portal for statistical data integration, and planned new nationwide surveys covering the labour force, services sector, unincorporated enterprises and time-use. Earlier in his career he served as Deputy Director General of the National Sample Survey Office and led India's employment market information systems at the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Since retirement he has served as Chairperson of the Madhya Pradesh State Statistical Commission. He served as Co-Chair of the Governing Board of the World Bank's International Comparison Programme (ICP) for the 2017 cycle. He was also a Member of the Bureau of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, Vice-Chair of the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics, Member of the UN Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, and Member of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs for two terms. He led the Indian delegation to the UN Statistical Commission and collaborated with the ILO's Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics. He holds a BSc in Physics, Mathematics and Statistics and an MSc in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Lucknow, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, and an MSc in Macroeconomic Policy and Planning for Developing Countries from the University of Bradford. He is a 1983 batch officer of the Indian Statistical Service.

Europe

Ms María Antonia Martínez Luengo (Spain) has served as Director for Macroeconomic Statistics at Eurostat (European Commission, DG ESTAT) since September 2024, with responsibility for macroeconomic data and statistics for administrative purposes across the European Statistical System. She brings nearly 30 years of professional management experience in quantitative economics and statistical operations, combining deep technical expertise in national accounts with senior leadership roles across national and European statistical institutions. In this role she oversees the production and harmonization of national

accounts, government finance statistics and macroeconomic frameworks across EU Member States, working in direct collaboration with national statistical authorities. She chairs sessions of the OECD Working Party on National Accounts (WPNA) and the OECD Conference on National Economic and Financial Accounts (CNEFA), engaging with over 200 participants from 47 countries and seven international organizations on macroeconomic statistical topics including GDP measurement, price and volume indices, purchasing power parity, environmental-economic accounting and the implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2025). Previously, she worked at the National Statistics Institute of Spain (INE), one of the most technically advanced statistical offices in Europe. She served progressively as Deputy Director of Economic Accounts and Employment before being appointed Director of the National Accounts Department and Member of the Board of Directors of INE. In this capacity she was directly responsible for the compilation, methodology and dissemination of Spain's national accounts, including quarterly and annual GDP estimates, benchmark revisions and integration of the European System of Accounts (ESA). She holds a PhD in Applied Economics and began her career as a researcher and associate professor in the Faculty of Economics at the Autonomous University of Madrid, where she taught statistics and probability.

Mr Stefan Schweinfest (Germany) served as Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) from 2013 to 2025, leading an organization of 140 staff responsible for the global architecture of official statistics. In this capacity, he led the development of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2025), the updated international standard for national accounts. As Director, he also served as Executive Secretary to the UN Statistical Commission and led the coordination of the UN statistical system through annual meetings of specialized agency statisticians. He oversaw the global SDG indicator framework and the World Population and Housing Census Round 2020 and established the World Data Forum as a multi-stakeholder platform for international data cooperation. He successfully elevated the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to a UN General Assembly resolution, a landmark in securing institutional independence for national statistical systems globally. His earlier career as Head of Unit and Statistician in the UNSD National Accounts Section (1989–1999) included co-authoring a methodological handbook on national accounts compilation, conducting national accounts project work across Africa, Latin America and Asia, and undertaking research in green accounting and macroeconomic time series. He holds a Diploma in Economics from the University of Würzburg and Bonn (Germany), a “Diplôme d’Études Approfondies” in Mathematical Economics from the Université Sorbonne-Panthéon Paris and completed the MPhil in Quantitative Economics at the London School of Economics, where he also served as Teaching Assistant in Mathematics for Economists.