



Governing Body

357th Session, Geneva, 12 and 13 June 2026

Institutional Section

INS

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Ninth item on the agenda

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

First report: Arrangements for the 15th African Regional Meeting (Windhoek, Namibia, 2–4 December 2026)

► Introduction

1. According to articles 1 and 2 of the *Rules for regional meetings*, the Governing Body decides on the composition, determines the date and venue, and establishes the agenda of each regional meeting.
2. Further to the discussions initiated in 2022 to review the functioning of regional meetings,¹ the Governing Body adopted at its 350th Session (March 2024) the modalities for the ILO regional meetings to be held on a trial basis for a period of four years (2025–28).²
3. At its 356th Session (March–April 2026), the Governing Body, noting that a tripartite steering committee had been set up with a view to finalizing the agenda and preparing the draft outcome document of the meeting, and on the recommendation of its Officers: (a) approved the dates, venue, composition and overall arrangements for the 15th African Regional Meeting proposed in document GB.356/INS/20/2; and (b) decided that the detailed agenda and arrangements for the meeting would be considered at its 357th Session (June 2026).³

¹ GB.346/INS/17/7, GB.347/INS/11 and GB.349/INS/9(Rev.1).

² GB.350/INS/7 and GB.350/PV, para. 256.

³ GB.356/INS/20/2/Decision.

► Update on the preparatory process

4. Building on consultations undertaken with the Government of Namibia since February 2026 regarding the logistical aspects of the meeting, the Office has been working closely with the Government on the finalization and signing of a host agreement.
5. One of the key features of the new trial format for regional meetings is engagement in a constituent-driven preparatory process to ensure that the agenda is focused on substantive policy and technical matters of relevance for the region. Accordingly, a tripartite steering committee has been set up, chaired by the host Government, to prepare the final agenda and the draft conclusions of the meeting. The committee will hold a series of virtual meetings for this purpose between May and November 2026, with two such meetings already held in May 2026.

► Agenda and programme

6. The agenda and programme are being developed by the tripartite steering committee, taking into account the guidance provided by the Governing Body at its 356th Session ⁴ and the new trial format. The meeting is expected to be structured as follows:
 - Day 1: The opening ceremony will be held in the morning, followed by the discussion of the Director-General's report, which will continue in the afternoon.
 - Day 2: Technical thematic panels and a high-level dialogue on subjects of priority for the region will be held at both the morning and afternoon sittings. A tripartite drafting group will meet at the end of the afternoon to finalize the draft conclusions for consideration on the last day.
 - Day 3: Technical thematic panels will be held in the morning, followed by the adoption of the conclusions and the closing sitting in the afternoon.
7. The discussion of the Director-General's report, the thematic panels and the high-level dialogue will take place successively in the plenary. If necessary, and in order to accommodate all requests for the floor, the Officers of the meeting, in consultation with the tripartite constituents, may decide to allocate additional time to the discussion of the Director-General's report, by scheduling interventions around the high-level dialogue and thematic panels on the second day.
8. Themes being discussed by the tripartite steering committee for the thematic panels include: skills and pro-employment policies, with a particular focus on jobs for young people; universal social protection; formalization; resilient and inclusive trade and investment; and labour governance. The high-level dialogue will discuss labour market transformations in Africa.
9. The agenda and programme will be published in due course on the meeting website, where participants will find all practical information about the meeting.

⁴ GB.356/INS/20/2, paras 7 and 8 and GB.356/INS/PV, paras 777–788.

► Composition and participation

10. The list of Members to be invited to attend as full members by region is appended to the Rules for regional meetings. With regard to Member States from other ILO regions, the Office has received a request from the Government of France to attend the meeting as an observer. A list of the international and non-governmental organizations that have requested observer status is provided in the document *Intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to be invited as observers to ILO official meetings*.⁵
11. It is proposed that the meeting be held in person and the option to connect remotely upon request be used only for passive attendance.

► Draft decision

12. **Noting with appreciation the actions taken by the Office, by the Government of Namibia and by the tripartite steering committee to prepare for the 15th African Regional Meeting, to be held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 2 to 4 December 2026, and considering that the programme was being finalized by the tripartite steering committee, the Governing Body, on the recommendation of its Officers, approved the agenda and arrangements for the meeting as proposed in document GB.357/INS/9/1.**

⁵ GB.357/INS/INF/2.