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MINUTES OF THE 131ST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

GENEVA, 6-9 MARCH 1956



APPENDIX XXII

Twenty-second Item on the Agenda: Report of the Committee on Standing Orders and the Application of Conventions and Recommendations

1. The Committee on Standing Orders and the Application of Conventions and Recommendations met on Saturday, 3 March 1956, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kaufmann (Switzerland). The items on the Committee's agenda related exclusively to the application of Conventions and Recommendations.¹

Choice of Conventions and Recommendations Which, in 1957, Should Be the Subject of Reports Under Article 19 of the Constitution

2. The Committee had before it a note prepared by the Office which drew attention to two groups of texts on which information under article 19 of the Constitution might be requested for submission in 1957. The first of these groups contained four Recommendations concerning vocational training and guidance, and the second two Conventions and two supplementary Recommendations dealing respectively with minimum wage fixing machinery in industry and commerce, and in agriculture.

3. There was general agreement that the question of vocational training and guidance, while of great practical importance, appeared to be less suitable at the present stage than the question of minimum wage fixing machinery, since the former had already been the subject in 1950 of reports under article 19, whereas no such reports had been requested so far either in respect of minimum wage fixing machinery or in respect of agriculture.

4. The Committee decided, therefore, to recommend that the Governing Body request governments to submit for 1957 reports under article 19 of the Constitution on the following texts:

Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Convention, 1928 (No. 26);

Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery Recommendation, 1928 (No. 30);

Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery (Agriculture) Convention, 1951 (No. 99);

Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery (Agriculture) Recommendation, 1951 (No. 89).

5. One member of the Committee pointed out that among the suggestions concerning future groups of texts in respect of which reports under article 19 might be requested, texts concerning seafarers deserved a high priority. No reports on this subject had been requested since 1949 and he therefore suggested that the Office might consider the possibility of including in its future proposals some of the seafarers' Conventions on which reports under article 19 had already been made in 1949, some of the other Conventions adopted at Seattle in 1946

and finally, one or the other of the three Seattle Conventions revised in 1949.

Suggested Amendment of the Form of Report relating to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)

6. At the last session of the Committee one of its members had suggested that the information requested in the form of annual report concerning the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), might be supplemented by including two additional questions relating respectively to provisions in the national legislation restricting the right to strike, and to provisions applicable with regard to freedom of association for public officials and employees of public or semi-public corporations. The Committee noted that the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention does not cover the right to strike. There was general agreement therefore that it would not be advisable to include in the form of annual report a question which would go beyond the obligations accepted by ratifying States. The Committee further noted that the Convention guarantees the right of association to all workers and that special provisions apply only to the members of the armed forces and of the police force. The inclusion in the report form of a special question relating to the trade union rights of public officials and employees of public or semi-public corporations might therefore result in drawing particular attention to this specific category of workers only.

7. The Committee finally noted that governments had been requested to submit this year reports under article 19 of the Constitution in regard to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention. In accordance with a decision taken by the Governing Body in November 1955, the Committee of Experts will undertake in this connection in 1957 a general examination of the position of the different countries from the standpoint of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, whether or not they have ratified the Convention. In these circumstances the Committee suggests that the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations be asked to consider in connection, with the over-all review which it will carry out in 1957 in regard to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), whether the inclusion in the form of annual reports of an additional question relating to the freedom of association of public officials and of employees of public or semi-public corporations or of other special categories of workers would seem to be called for, and, if so, to submit appropriate proposals to the Governing Body.

M. KAUFMANN,
Chairman.

¹ Consideration of the procedure for the examination of credentials at regional conferences, which was discussed by the Governing Body at its 130th Session, was again deferred until the 133rd Session. See above, Minutes of the Sixth Sitting, p. 57.