

Thank you chair

I am speaking on behalf of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Our Governments align themselves with the statements of ASPAG, IMEC and of course, the Government Group as a whole. We would like to further highlight some particular points.

Chair, points about the need to improve time management and timely distribution of documents have been made often and are very important. At the same time, we would urge that we not lose sight of the deeper issues to address – namely, revisiting and clarifying the roles of the Governing Body and ILC and using this to influence the number and nature of the issues and papers which we cover in light of these roles.

In our view, an appropriate benchmark to apply for matters which should be considered by the Governing Body is that they should be substantive items which relate to items of genuine significance to the strategies and outcomes to be achieved by the International Labour Office, in line with the Strategic Policy Framework, Programme and Budget and Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation. They should be “for decision” wherever possible, and the decisions involved should be of substance. Matters which simply involve the noting of the outcomes of other meetings, or are essentially procedural, for example, could be handled out of session.

A move to limit the matters considered by the GB to substantive items of strategic significance may have flow-on advantages of reducing the burden on the Office in relation to peak meetings.

Chair, on another matter, we strongly believe that there is a need for increased and improved consultation with Governments, both through regional coordinators and directly. This is a particularly important point for those Governments who do not have Geneva-based staff, of which there are many in our own Asia-Pacific region. Many nations in our region, including many Pacific Island member states, are also constrained in the number of Geneva-based meetings they can attend. A lack of information and consultation between the ILO and Governments can lead to marginalization of such ILO member States, and of the decent work deficits which exist there.

Thank you