

Working Party on the
Functioning of the Governing Body and Conference

Intervention By Nigeria

Thank You Chairperson,

Nigeria welcomes the Office non – paper and the document No. GB. 306/ WP/ GBC/1 in circulation and support the views expressed in these documents. Nigeria, as a Country supports the position that the Governing Body should carry out its governance functions of oversight, policy articulation and monitoring activities very effectively.

We support the following:-

- More concise GB documents
- More strategic agenda settling
- Improved time management
- Early distribution of documents for publishing in the web.

We support the views expressed in the document that when a committee does not have a substantial business to do, it should not sit, or hold its meetings. This is bound to reduce the number of days of meeting. For example, in March 2009, the GB lasted for 23 days; 17 working days and 6 weekend days i.e. 3 weeks and two days (i.e. 5 -27 March, 2009). For the November, 2009, GB, it was planned to last for 12 working days and 6 weekend days i.e. a total of 18 days (i.e. November, 5 – 20, 2009) thereby saving 5 days, excluding travel days. Such progressive reduction of meeting days for GB is most welcome and should be pursued in future.

For the existing sub- Committees that report to the main Committees e.g. PFA / ICTS Sub-Committee for example, it is hereby suggested that oversight and guidance functions of the Governing Body would demand that the Office reports

on progress made on the implementation of any strategy and outcomes expected in a given biennium. This role should apply to other aspects, where critical observations were strongly recommended e.g. in areas of policy reviews within the legitimate demands made by the Governing Body, which are consistent with the Constitution of the ILO and in keeping with the Conference Guidelines.

Bearing in mind the unique role of the ILO, with its tripartite structure within the UN family, and in the context of the application of the Strategic Policy Framework, now being put in place, the Office should work towards the achievement of greater effectiveness and efficiency, with a view to serving the constituents better in the following ways:

- For strategic policy debates at the GB, the speaking time should be allowed to run the maximum of 5 minutes per presentation, though, we accept that greater flexibility and insight could be allowed for Social Partners. On general terms, we believe that good time management should begin right from the start of any sittings. The time for intermission and wrap-up should all tally with pre-arranged times for any given meeting. That means, the period of meetings are defined *apriori*. Unfinished meetings could be carried forward, if the main points are not exhausted. For PFA and CFA, we suggest that it could be arranged to take on additional sub-Committees, which shall proceed or sit concurrently, depending on key thematic issues under consideration. Each Constituent member of the ILO should be allowed to sought out how it would be represented in the increased number of sub-Committees to feed outcomes of sittings into the main PFAC. In this way, the number of days devoted to PFAC work could be reduced and the load of assignments shared among participating ILO constituents for greater effectiveness to be achieved in terms of quality of

discussion and conclusions to be derived there from. Realistically, all subjects and issues could be covered adequately in the PFAC and CFA, with greater room to compare output to given inputs. The adequacy of financial decisions taken when compared with outcomes, could be closely monitored within the context of the implementation of the strategic objectives.

- Decent work is at the core of ILO mandate and this should be pursued in terms of the time devoted to GB meetings. We should all work towards achieving the elimination of excess time of working on Sundays, on a permanent basis.
- Informal consultations and the circulation of addresses of the participants could be allowed for facilitation of information sharing.

Finally, Nigeria supports the view on the need for more effective and improved tripartism in the working methods of GB by securing the representation of the Government group inputs into the Office decision-making process, bearing in mind that greater effect should be given to the ILO serving its members better. While we acknowledge the value of the Regional Coordinators in providing the linkage between the Office and the regions for effective Communication, the core oversight function is intended in this improved tripartite GB functions. Nigeria thinks that improved GB effectiveness and efficiency remain Consistent with the import of the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. It is in this way that greater collaboration between the Office and State-members will foster improved performance at the GB sessions, the ILC and at the Office level.

Thank You Chairperson!