



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

The Standards Initiative

Addendum

Recommendations of the twelfth meeting of the Tripartite Working Group on the Working Methods of the Committee on the Application of Standards (Geneva, 23 March 2015)

1. It will be recalled that, at its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Governing Body decided in particular:

...to take the necessary steps to ensure the effective functioning of the Committee on the Application of Standards at the 104th Session of the International Labour Conference, and to this end reconvene the Working Group on the Working Methods of the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards to prepare recommendations to the 323rd Session of the Governing Body in March 2015, in particular with regard to the establishment of the list of cases and the adoption of conclusions;¹

2. The Tripartite Working Group on the Working Methods of the Committee on the Application of Standards (the CAS Working Group) held its twelfth meeting on 23 March 2015 during the 323rd Session (March) of the Governing Body. It was composed of: nine Employer representatives, nine Worker representatives and nine Government representatives.² The meeting was also attended by a number of observers. The meeting was chaired by Mr Sipho Ndebele (Government representative, South Africa). The Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Application of Standards at the 103rd Session (2014) of the International Labour Conference, Ms Sonia Regenbogen, and the

¹ GB.322/PV, para. 209(3). See also GB.323/INS/5, para. 1.

² The Government representatives were from the following nine countries: Africa: Algeria and Egypt; Americas: Canada and Cuba; Asia and the Pacific: China, Japan and Jordan; Eastern Europe: Republic of Moldova; Western Europe: Austria.

Worker Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body, Mr Luc Cortebееck, spoke on behalf of the Employers' and the Workers' groups, respectively.

3. The CAS Working Group held a constructive meeting. In accordance with its usual practice, a full report of the discussions will be communicated directly to the members of the Working Group.
4. It is important to highlight that the Joint Statement of the Workers' and Employers' groups and the two statements from the Government group, which are attached to the Outcome of the Tripartite Meeting on the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), in relation to the right to strike and the modalities and practices of strike action at national level (February Outcome), contain elements which are relevant to the work of the CAS Working Group and that were taken into account in its deliberations.
5. The CAS Working Group adopted the following recommendations.

Establishment of the list of cases and adoption of conclusions

■ Modalities for the establishment of the list of cases

Preliminary list

The preliminary list of cases should be available no less than **30 days** before the opening of the International Labour Conference (i.e. 1 May 2015).

Final list

The final list should be agreed upon by the Workers' and Employers' spokespersons on the Friday before the opening of the International Labour Conference (29 May 2015) and should be adopted no later than the second sitting of the Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS). The discussion of the individual cases would begin with double-footnoted cases.

Explanation to governments

Explanations will be given to governments immediately following the adoption by the CAS of the final list of cases.

■ Criteria for the determination of the list of cases

In the establishment of the list of cases, in addition to the criteria outlined in Document D.1, the following should also be considered: balance between fundamental, governance and technical Conventions; geographical balance; balance between developed and developing countries.

■ Preparation and adoption of conclusions

There was consensus on:

- The importance of adopting conclusions on all cases. Conclusions should be reached within a reasonable time frame and should be short, clear and specify the action expected of Governments, including the technical assistance to be

provided by the Office, if applicable. The conclusions should reflect consensus recommendations. Divergent views can be reflected in the CAS record of proceedings.

- Conclusions on the cases discussed should be adopted at dedicated sittings.

Functioning of the CAS in the context of the two-week session of the International Labour Conference in 2015

6. The CAS Working Group agreed on the following:

- meetings should start on time;
- the provisional working schedule should take account of group meetings;
- evening sittings should end at 21.00 and the sitting on the first Saturday of the Conference should end at 13.00; if additional time is needed to complete the examination of the cases, evening sittings could be envisaged during the second week of the Conference;
- four individual cases should be discussed per day to achieve 24 during the session;
- the report of the Committee should continue to be adopted by the Committee itself.

Other business

7. The meeting agreed to add the following points to the agenda of a future session of the CAS Working Group:

- Composition of the Working Group, including the proposal made by the group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC) that the composition should be a multiple of eight, with 16 Government representatives, 8 Employer representatives and 8 Worker representatives.
- A date for the next meeting of the Working Group should be set in advance.
- Consideration could be given to holding simultaneous sittings for certain matters (e.g. cases of serious failure by Governments to respect their reporting and other standards-related obligations).