



Governing Body

349th Session, Geneva, 30 October–9 November 2023

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 1 November 2023

Original: English

Eighteenth item on the agenda

Report of the Director-General

Fifth Supplementary Report: Arrangements for the 349th *bis* and 349th *ter* Special Sessions of the Governing Body

► Introduction

1. At the screening group meeting of 28 September 2023, the Office was requested to provide information on the practical modalities of the two upcoming special meetings of the Governing Body scheduled for 10–11 November 2023 in the event the Governing Body were to decide at its 349th Session (October–November 2023) to meet, in part, as a Committee of the Whole. This document has been prepared in response to this request with a view to facilitating the Governing Body's consideration and decision.
2. It is recalled that in accordance with article 7(8) of the ILO Constitution and paragraph 3.2.2 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body, two special meetings of the Governing Body shall be held on 10 and 11 November 2023; the 349th *bis* Special Session on the possible referral of the dispute concerning Convention No. 87 in relation to the right to strike to the International Court of Justice for decision, as requested by the Workers' group and 36 governments, and the 349th *ter* Special Session on the inclusion of a standard-setting item on the right to strike on the agenda of the 112th Session (June 2024) of the Conference, as requested by the Employers' group. In discussing the date and duration of the special meetings, some constituents have expressed the view that in the interest of inclusiveness, the Governing Body should meet as a Committee of the Whole.

3. The possibility for the Governing Body to meet as a Committee of the Whole is provided for in article 4.3.1 of its Standing Orders, which reads as follows:

The Governing Body may decide to meet as a Committee of the Whole in order to hold an exchange of views, in which representatives of governments that are not represented on the Governing Body may, in the manner determined by it, be given an opportunity to express their views with respect to matters concerning their own situation. The Committee of the Whole shall report to the Governing Body.

4. Should the Governing Body decide to convene either or both special meetings, in part, as a Committee of the Whole, consideration could be given to the following practical arrangements, it being understood that the Chairperson, in consultation with the Vice-Chairpersons, may decide on any adjustments as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the discussion:

- During the morning sitting (10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.), the Governing Body shall hold an exchange of views on the agenda item with the full participation of governments which are not represented in the Governing Body and which will be entitled to make no more than one statement not exceeding three minutes.
- Governing Body members representing governments will be entitled to make no more than one statement not exceeding three minutes.
- The following time limits could apply to other participants: 15 minutes for the opening and closing statements of the Employer and Worker spokespersons; and 5 minutes for the statements made on behalf of government groups.
- The Chairperson may reduce the time limits where the situation warrants it, for instance if there is a very long list of speakers.
- Delegates wishing to take the floor during the morning sitting should be registered at least 24 hours in advance at governingbody@ilo.org.
- In the afternoon (3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.), the Governing Body shall meet in plenary sitting to conclude the discussion and take a decision on the agenda item. The plenary sitting will begin with an oral report by the Chairperson on the exchange of views held in the Committee of the Whole. The afternoon sitting may be extended into the evening, if necessary.

► Draft decision

5. **The Governing Body approved the arrangements for its 349th *bis* and 349th *ter* Special Sessions as set out in paragraph 4 of GB.349/INS/18/5(Rev.1) and requested that those arrangements be promptly brought to the knowledge of all Member States and be published on the public webpage of the Governing Body.**