



Governing Body

350th Session, Geneva, 4–14 March 2024

Institutional Section

INS

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Seventeenth item on the agenda

Report of the Director-General

Regular report – Addendum: Obituary

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the passing, on 24 January 2024, of Ms Cornelie Hak, former Employer member of the ILO Governing Body.
2. Ms Hak, a law graduate, served as Secretary for International Affairs at the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW), the most representative employers' organization in the country, and as Adviser for International Social Affairs at the Netherlands Council of Employers Federations (RCO). She represented Dutch employers at the ILO for more than two decades, as a deputy member of the Governing Body from 1975 to 1995 and as a regular member over ten sessions of the Governing Body between 1990 and 1996. In her capacity as a regular Employer member of the Governing Body, she took on the role of Employer spokesperson in the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards (LILS) and in the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises (MNE) from 1993 to 1996.
3. Ms Hak also represented Dutch employers at the International Labour Conference from 1975 to 1996. She was a well-regarded member of the Committee on Discrimination and the Committee on Action against Apartheid. In the latter, she played a role that was one of the major factors for change in South Africa.
4. In recognition of her commitment to the Employers' group in the ILO, Ms Hak became President of the General Council of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) in 1995.

5. Ms Hak was a tenacious advocate for the interests of companies and employers, but she also had an excellent sense for constructive social dialogue and valued the importance of concluding workable agreements. It is worth remembering her particular dedication to the developments in South Africa, and her great pride for having met former President Nelson Mandela in person. Ms Hak followed events at the ILO with great interest until her senior years. For many years, her integrity was admired, as was the determination with which she defended her convictions. Her valuable contributions left an indelible mark upon the International Labour Organization.

► Draft decision

6. **The Governing Body paid tribute to the memory of Ms Cornelia Hak and invited the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Ms Hak, to the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) and to the International Organisation of Employers (IOE).**