

**Seventeenth American Regional Meeting
Santiago de Chile, 14-17 December 2010**

It is my pleasure to invite your country to be represented at the *Seventeenth American Regional Meeting* of the International Labour Organization, which will be held in Santiago de Chile, from Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 December 2010. The Meeting will take place at the Convention Center of the Sheraton Santiago Hotel.

At four-yearly intervals, the American Regional Meeting brings together the political, economic and social actors from the countries of the Region. This Seventeenth Meeting will focus particularly on the themes taken up in the report that I shall submit, which will be sent to you in October 2010.

The first part of the report, *The Decent Work Decade in the Americas: 2006-2015*, assesses progress made by the countries of the Region towards achieving the objectives established by the Hemispheric Agenda for Decent Work four years ago. The second part of the report examines the advances of the Hemispheric Agenda, the Decent Work Decade and the prospects for creating new opportunities to encourage policies that give priority to promoting good-quality employment. Both parts set out the basis for the discussions and for strategic planning for the coming period.

The attached *Rules for Regional Meetings* (2008) will govern the powers, functions and procedures of the *Seventeenth American Regional Meeting*. Your attention is drawn in particular to articles 1 and 9 of the Rules, which deal respectively with the tripartite composition of delegations and with the submission of credentials. The attached form for the presentation of credentials must be filled in and returned to the Office of the Legal Adviser of the International Labour Office in Geneva, **before Monday, 29 November 2010**.

I wish to reiterate my earlier appeals to Governments of States Members of the ILO, as well as to national organizations of employers and of workers, to redouble their efforts to ensure that the number of women in their delegations to the *Seventeenth American Regional Meeting* represents, in so far as is possible, **30 per cent** of the members of the delegation.

I also enclose the provisional programme for the Meeting, together with an information note. The latter contains details concerning the agenda and procedures of the *Seventeenth American Regional Meeting*, as well as practical information. The ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is at your disposal to provide any additional information you may need. To this end, you may also consult the Meeting Web site at the following URL: www.oit.org.pe/americas2010.

I would be most grateful if you would communicate this information to the representatives of the employers' and workers' organizations that will be part of your national delegation.

The *Seventeenth American Regional Meeting* has before it the crucial task of giving form to the ILO's programme for the Region in the years to come. It is the active participation of our member States from the Region that will allow us, together, to chart the way forward.

I very much hope that I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you to Santiago de Chile, on the occasion of this important Meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Juan Somavia
Director-General

ANNEXES

Draft programme
Form for credentials
Information note
Hotel booking form
Rules for Regional Meetings (2008)