



Governing Body

315th Session, Geneva, 15 June 2012

GB.315/INS/7

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 7 June 2012

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SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Timing of the Governing Body sessions

1. At its 310th Session (March 2011), the Governing Body adopted a reform package¹ to improve its functioning which entailed new requirements concerning the timeliness of Governing Body documents.
2. According to paragraph 5.5.5 of the revised Standing Orders of the Governing Body,² the documents submitted to the Governing Body must be available electronically, in the three official languages, 15 working days (i.e. three weeks) prior to the start of the public Governing Body meetings and, in the case of the programme and budget proposals, 30 working days (i.e. six weeks).
3. The experience of the 312th Session of the Governing Body (November 2011), which was the first after the reform, demonstrated that, in light of the time constraints between the November and March sessions, the implementation of these requirements might create serious difficulties to the Office for the preparation of the documents requested for the March 2012 session of the Governing Body. This situation also emphasized the need to re-examine the implications of the further requirement of a period of 30 working days in the case of the programme and budget proposals.
4. The attention of the Screening Group was drawn to the fact that only 15 weeks separated the November 2011 and the March 2012 sessions, while 31 weeks separated the March and November 2012 sessions. The Screening Group therefore asked the Office to explore the possibility of rescheduling the dates of the March and November sessions of the Governing Body, either by advancing the session of November to October, or postponing the session of March to April.
5. To that end, the Office conducted a survey on official meetings scheduled, respectively in April and October 2012 and 2013 within the ILO and across the UN system, and submitted a document to the Officers in March 2012 analysing the pros and cons of both options. At the 313th (March 2012) Session, the Governing Body requested that further enquiries be

¹ GB.310/9/1.

² *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*, Standing Orders, Section 5 – Procedures.

made to include information on other organizations based in Geneva which may have scheduled major official meetings at that time. More than 20 organizations have been approached to this end and the results are included in the updated tables appended to this document.

6. For obvious reasons linked to the calendar of consultations related to the preparation of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2014–15 and to the advanced recruitment of interpreters, such a rescheduling could not be envisaged before 2013. Moreover, postponing the March session to April would probably not be considered as a good solution due to the proximity of the World Health Assembly in May and the International Labour Conference in June. During its meeting held in December 2011, the Screening Group thus expressed its clear preference for bringing forward the autumn session to October.
7. For 2013, given the dates currently scheduled for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2–11 October), it might therefore be proposed to reschedule the Governing Body for the period 17–31 October.

Draft decision

8. *The Officers of the Governing Body recommend that, as from 2013, the autumn sessions of the Governing Body be scheduled in October, and that the 319th Session of the Governing Body be held from 17 to 31 October 2013.*

Appendix

ILO meetings and other major tripartite meetings scheduled in October 2012, April 2013 and October 2013

	October 2012	April 2013	October 2013
ILO meetings	None	Ninth European Regional Meeting (8–11 April)	19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2–11 October)
Other major tripartite meetings	None	Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union	None

Major meetings reported by UN system organizations (as of 21 May 2012)

	October 2012	April 2013	October 2013
Conference on Disarmament (CD)	None	None	None
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	None	Data not yet available	Data not yet available
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	None	None	None
International Organization for Migration	Permanent Committee on Programme and Finance (30–31 October)	None	Permanent Committee on Programme and Finance (not yet scheduled)
International Trade Centre (ITC)	World Expo Development Forum (12–14 October)	None	World Expo Development Forum (12–14 October)
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	None	None	ITU Council (7–25 October)
Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)	None	None	None
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	None	None	None
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)	None	None	None
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Annual Forum on Mining (16–18 October)	None	Annual Forum on Mining (mid-October)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Executive Committee (first week of October)	None	Executive Committee (first week of October)

	October 2012	April 2013	October 2013
United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	Committee on the Rights of Child (CRC) (17 September–5 October) Social Forum (1–3 October) HRC Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice (1–5 October) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Plenary (1–19 October) Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (8–19 October) UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (5–19 October) Human Rights Committee (15 October–2 November) CEDAW Pre-sessional Working Group for the 55th Session UPR Working Group (22 October–5 November) Meeting of States Parties to OPCAT (25 October) Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (29 October–2 November) Committee against Torture (CAT) (29 October–23 November) Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (31 October–9 November)	Data not yet available	Data not yet available
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)	None	None	None
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	None	None	None
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)	None	Annual Board Meeting (first week of April)	None
UN New York	None	None	None

	October 2012	April 2013	October 2013
World Health Organization (WHO)	None	None	None
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	General Assembly (1–9 October)	None	General Assembly (end of September– beginning of October)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Extraordinary Session of WMO Congress (29 October–1 November)	None	None
World Trade Organization (WTO)	None	None	None
