



Governing Body

329th Session, Geneva, 9–24 March 2017

GB.329/INS/18

Institutional Section

INS

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EIGHTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference

Report of the Chairperson of the Working Party

1. The Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference met in the afternoon of Thursday, 16 March 2017. The Office had prepared four documents¹ for the Working Party, in response to the decisions taken by the Governing Body at its 328th Session (November 2016). These dealt with the following issues: Composition of the Governing Body; Arrangements for the 106th Session (2017) of the International Labour Conference; Review of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference; and Review of the role and functioning of the Regional Meetings. As Chairperson of the Governing Body, I presided over the sitting, Mr Woolford spoke for the Employers on the first three documents, while Mr O'Reilly spoke for the Employers on the question of Regional Meetings. The Worker Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body, Mr Cortebeeck, was Worker spokesperson.

Composition of the Governing Body

2. The question of the composition of the Governing Body has been a matter of concern for many years, notably for the Africa group. Despite the Office's best efforts, 20 ratifications, including three by member States of chief industrial importance, of the 1986 Instrument of Amendment to the constitution of the ILO, are needed for the amendment to come into force. Representatives of the three groups spoke in support of the 1986 Instrument of Amendment, expressing the view that it provided more far-reaching changes, and greater representativeness, than those made under the 1995 amendment to the Standing Orders of the Governing Body. It was pointed out that the composition of the Governing Body should be based on the principle of sovereign equality of all States, as upheld in the United Nations

¹ [GB.329/WP/GBC/1](#); [GB.329/WP/GBC/2](#); [GB.329/WP/GBC/3](#) and [GB.329/WP/GBC/4](#).

Charter. The Working Party felt that the Office should continue its efforts to promote ratification of the Instrument, including through targeted action by the Director-General.

Draft decision

3. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) *invites Members which have not yet done so to ratify the 1986 Instrument for the Amendment of the ILO Constitution; and*
- (b) *requests the Director-General actively to pursue promotional efforts for the ratification of the instrument of amendment, including through direct contacts with Members, and to report at the 331st Session (November 2017) on the results obtained and the feedback from Members concerned on the reasons which prevent or delay such ratification.*

Improving the functioning of the International Labour Conference: Arrangements for the 106th Session (2017)

- 4. The Working Party next considered the arrangements to be put in place for the upcoming session of the International Labour Conference. As usual, the Office report contained a tentative programme for the work of the Conference. There was broad approval from all three groups for the majority of measures included in the document, both for those measures which had proved successful during the previous two-week Conferences, and for suggestions advanced by the Office to manage the complicated agenda of the 106th Session. A number of suggestions were made for fine-tuning proposals put forward in the report, and these were duly noted by the Office. Much importance was placed on the early appointment of Conference committee Chairpersons, considered critical for the smooth running of the Conference; this should be completed in the month of April. Another focus of interest were the efforts made to provide interpretation services for groups. The point was made that it was important to inform the Office as early as possible if a meeting did not require interpretation, to allow redeployment of those interpreters to other meetings, where interpretation was needed.
- 5. The Working Party recognized that information technology could not resolve all problems, but appreciated the use to which it had been put so far. The Conference application had proved valuable, although there was still room for its improvement. E-forms for registration, online posting of draft reports, and the use of email for disseminating information were greatly appreciated technological aids. A number of Working Party members welcomed the return in 2017 of delegates' pigeon holes for the delivery of documents. The proposal made in the report to keep conclusions short and action-oriented was well received by the Working Party, which also stressed the need for further efforts in the area of time-keeping. Some support was voiced for the idea of introducing speaking time-limits in Conference committees.
- 6. A serious concern, shared by both Employers' and Workers' groups, was the proposed further reduction in the time limits for the presentation of complaints to the credentials committee. Another concern was centred on the proposals for the cessation of the publication of the written *Provisional Records of speeches* made in plenary in the discussion of the reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General. The Office

indicated that it would provide more information on this proposal to the next meeting of the Working Party.

Review of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference – First set of amendments for the effective functioning of the ILO in its reduced two-week format

7. In its decision of November last year, the Governing Body requested the Office, after consultation with all groups, to submit a first set of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference, aimed at ensuring the effective functioning of the Conference in its two-week format. Essentially, the amendments concerned the functioning of the Credentials Committee, the merging of the committee drafting committees with the Conference drafting committee, and the abolition of the Resolutions Committee, with the transfer of its tasks to the Selection Committee. Many of the amendments proposed in the document met with the approval of the Working Party. There was overall approval for the merging of the Conference and committee drafting committees, given the time constraints imposed by the two-week format. However, the Africa group expressed some concern at this measure, and the Workers' group argued for not altering the Standing Orders in this sense until a trial had been run at a Conference that was adopting a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation. There was also approval of the amendments proposed for the transfer of the tasks of the Resolutions Committee to the Selection Committee, though the Workers' group wished to stress the importance of Conference resolutions, and asked for information on the rights of delegates to submit resolutions, and the related procedure, to be included in the Conference guide. The Group of Latin America and the Caribbean countries (GRULAC) had a reservation in respect of the proposed amendment to article 76 of the Standing Orders, which the group pointed out was not the same as that proposed to the 319th Session of the Governing Body. That proposal had enjoyed tripartite support at the time.
8. The Working Party encountered two main difficulties with the proposed amendments. The first was the proposed amendment to enshrine in the Standing Orders the replacement of trilingual Provisional Records of the texts of speeches made in the plenary discussion of the reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General by audio records of such speeches. Some governments wished for the trilingual publication of these speeches to be restored, even if published only after the Conference. The other point of difficulty, as mentioned above, arose with the proposed amendments to the provisions governing the Credentials Committee, with neither Employers nor Workers able to accept a reduction in the time limits for presenting complaints. The Workers' group suggested that an alternative option would be to begin the Conference on a Tuesday or a Wednesday, which would avoid the submission of the complaint falling on a Saturday, when many government offices were shut, and officials could not respond to the points raised. Increased staffing levels to service the Committee might provide another possible solution. The Workers' group in general stressed the need for caution in adopting any amendments, before the Conference had experienced the adoption of a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation under the two-week format. The group stressed the need for fuller consultations on the amendments before going ahead.
9. These problems could not be resolved during the Working Party discussions. Therefore, at the request of the Working Party and taking into account specific proposals made by members, the Office revised the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders and the suspensions of Standing Orders, proposed for trialling those amendments at the 106th Session of the Conference, after consultations with the groups. The revised proposed

suspensions and amendments are contained in Appendix II to this report. The Working Party consequently submits the following draft decision to the Governing Body for adoption.

Draft decision

10. *The Governing Body:*

- (a) decides to propose to the Conference that it implement the arrangements contained in document GB.329/WP/GBC/2 and the tentative plan of work for the 106th Session (June 2017) of the Conference in Appendix I;*
- (b) takes note of the first set of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference in Appendix II to be trialled at the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference through suspending the relevant provisions as set out in Appendix III;*
- (c) decides to review this trial at its 331st Session (November 2017); and*
- (d) requests the Office to prepare additional amendments for simplification and modernization of the Standing Orders for its consideration at its 331st Session.*

Review of the role and functioning of the Regional Meetings

11. The Working Party continued the discussion, begun at its session in November, on the role and functioning of Regional Meetings. Once again, there was approval for many of the suggestions in the Office paper. Participants across the three groups felt that Regional Meetings provided the opportunity to examine regional issues, exchange best practice and share knowledge at a regional level, in the context of achieving the ILO's strategic objectives and of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Working Party noted that a number of improvements had been introduced in recent years starting at the 9th European Regional Meeting (Oslo, Norway, 2013). These included shorter, more action-oriented conclusions in the form of a "Declaration", no parallel sessions, and no side-events. The Working Party stressed the need for early dissemination of information on issues to be covered by the Meeting. An opinion, expressed most clearly by the Employers' and Workers' groups, but also by some governments, held that Regional Meetings should act in coherence with the strategy and approach decided by the Governing Body or by the Conference. In other words, Regional Meetings should support the governance of the Organization and their conclusions could serve to adapt the global strategies of the ILO at regional level. However, they should in no circumstances re-open and re-discuss issues already decided by the Governing Body or the Conference. In this connection, the proposal that Regional Meetings could be used to discuss how member States were achieving the full potential of the 2008 Social Justice Declaration attracted interest. The Workers' group, and others, commented that there should be more specific follow-up to Regional Meeting conclusions, with a plan of action for implementation, and progress reports submitted to the Governing Body. There was support for the four-day duration of Regional Meetings, with some members suggesting that there could be a degree of flexibility, allowing the region to fix the duration on a needs basis. The Working Party expressed approval for the linguistic arrangements for the translation of the Director-General's report to the Meeting, of the report and conclusions of the Meeting, and of the report of the Credentials Committee, as set out in the document.

12. The Working Party advanced different opinions with regard to the question of the participation as full members of Regional Meetings of member States from another region, but with responsibility for territories within the region of a particular Meeting. The Africa group had raised concerns in this respect at the 13th African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30 November–3 December 2015). The document provided by the Office contained a number of alternative approaches to this question. Governments with responsibility for the external relations of territories in a region other than their own explained that they were under a constitutional obligation to represent their constituents in those territories, and that the suggested alternatives would diminish their capacity to fulfil their role.

Draft decision

13. *The Governing Body decides:*

- (a) to pursue its review of the role and functioning of Regional Meetings; and*
- (b) to request the Office to prepare, for its consideration at the 331st Session (November 2017), further proposals, taking into account the views expressed and the guidance provided during the discussion.*

14. This then is my summary report of the discussion held by the Working Party. Many, more detailed suggestions were put forward by participants, and the Office has taken full note of these. I believe that the Working Party provided clear and interesting guidance, and the Office now has a basis which will allow it to move the various issues forward, certainly through arranging Geneva-based consultations with the three groups between now and the 331st Session of the Governing Body, this coming November. I commend the decision points to the Governing Body for adoption.

Appendix I

Tentative plan of work – 106th Session (5–16 June 2017) of the International Labour Conference

	Su 4	M 5	T 6	W 7	Th 8	F 9	Sa 10	M 12	T 13	W 14	Th 15	F 16	Sa 17
Plenary sittings		I		I	I	I		I	I	I	I ³	I	
GB elections								I					
Committee on the Application of Standards		I ¹	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	A	Pl	
Committee for Labour Migration (general discussion)		I ¹	I	I	I **	I **	I **	□ ***	I	I		Pl	
Committee on Employment and Decent Work for the Transition to Peace (standard setting, second discussion) CDC *		I ¹	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I		Pl/V	
Committee for the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (recurrent discussion)		I ¹	I	I	I	I **	I **	□ ***	I	I	Pl		
Finance Committee			I			I (V) ⁵			Pl	V			
Selection Committee		I ¹		Pl	I ⁴			Pl		V ⁴			
Group meetings	I	I					I						
Governing Body		I ²											I

¹ As from 2.30 p.m.

² Programme, Financial and Administrative Section of the Governing Body.

³ World of Work Summit.

⁴ For the abrogation of Conventions Nos 4, 15, 28, 41, 60 and 67.

⁵ If there is a request from a member State to recover the voting right.

The committee will have to determine the time and frequency of the meetings of its Committee Drafting Committee (CDC) ** Drafting Group *Receipt of amendments*

A Adoption by the Committee of its report.

Pl Adoption of the report by the Conference in plenary sittings.

I Half-day sitting. I All-day sitting.

□ Sitting if necessary. V vote in plenary.

Appendix II

Draft amendments required to facilitate the functioning of the Conference in its reduced two-week session format

ARTICLE 4

Selection Committee

1. The Conference shall appoint a Selection Committee consisting of twenty-eight members nominated by the Government group, fourteen members nominated by the Employers' group and fourteen members nominated by the Workers' group. In none of these categories shall a country have more than one member.
2. It shall be the duty of the Selection Committee to arrange the programme of the Conference, to fix the time and agenda for the plenary sittings, to act on behalf of the Conference with respect to decisions on non-controversial questions of a routine nature and to report to the Conference on any other questions requiring a decision for the proper conduct of its business, in accordance with the Conference Standing Orders. Where appropriate, the Committee may delegate any of these functions to its Officers.
3. The Selection Committee shall examine any other question referred to it by the Conference, including any proposed resolution, and shall submit a report, or reports, on the question to the Conference.

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ARTICLE 6

Conference-Drafting Committee

- ~~1. The Conference shall appoint on the nomination of the Selection Committee a Conference Drafting Committee consisting of at least three persons who need not be either delegates or advisers.~~
- ~~2. The Committee Drafting Committee appointed by each committee under article 59(1) of these Standing Orders shall form part of the Conference Drafting Committee when any proposed Convention or Recommendation is submitted to the Conference by the committee concerned.~~
- ~~3. The Conference Drafting Committee shall have the functions entrusted to it by the rules concerning Convention and Recommendation procedure (Section E) and the rules concerning the procedure for the amendment of the Constitution of the Organisation (Section F) and shall, in general, be responsible for expressing in the form of Conventions and Recommendations the decisions adopted by the Conference and for ensuring agreement between the English and French versions of the texts of all formal instruments submitted to the Conference for adoption.~~
1. There shall be a Drafting Committee responsible for ensuring agreement between the authentic texts of all formal instruments submitted to the Conference for adoption. It shall refine the drafting of all texts referred to it and shall advise on drafting questions as requested by the Conference or by the committee concerned.

2. The Drafting Committee shall be composed of two Government delegates or advisers, two Employers' delegates or advisers and two Workers' delegates or advisers appointed by the committee which refers the text to be reviewed, or by the Conference if the text is considered in full Conference, as well as the Reporter of the committee concerned and the Legal Adviser of the Conference. Members of the Drafting Committee shall, to the extent possible, be conversant with the official languages of the Conference and shall be assisted by officials of the secretariat.

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ARTICLE 12

Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Director-General

1. During the session at the times fixed by the Selection Committee, the Conference shall discuss the report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body on its work and the Report of the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the subjects specified in paragraph 2 below.
2. ~~(1) At each session of the Conference in the first year of a biennial financial period, the Director-General shall report on programme implementation and the activities of the Organisation during the preceding financial period, together with proposals for advance planning as well as information on the steps taken by the Governing Body and the Director-General to give effect to the decisions of the Conference at its previous sessions and the results achieved. At each session preceding the beginning of a financial period, (c) said r~~The Report of the Director-General shall be devoted to a social policy theme of current interest chosen by the Director-General, without prejudice to other questions on which the Conference may have requested the Director-General to report to it on an annual basis.
(2) In addition, at each session of the Conference in the first year of a biennial financial period, the Director-General shall report on programme implementation and the activities of the Organization during the preceding financial period.
3. One delegate representing the Government, one delegate representing the Employers and one representing the Workers may participate in the discussion in respect of each member State, provided that a visiting minister may speak in addition to the Government delegate. No speaker may intervene in the discussion more than once.
4. If the Conference decides that a part or all of the discussion on the reports referred to in paragraph 1 is to be conducted in the form of interactive debates, the following provisions of these Standing Orders shall not apply to those debates:
 - (a) paragraph 3 of this article;
 - (b) paragraphs 2 and 6 of article 14;
 - (c) article 15, paragraph 1 and paragraphs 3–8; and
 - (d) article 16.

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ARTICLE 17

Resolutions relating to matters not included in an item placed on the agenda

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3. Subject to paragraph 2 above, all resolutions relating to matters not included in an item placed on the agenda by the Conference or the Governing Body shall be referred by the Conference for report to ~~a Resolutions~~ the Selection Committee unless the Conference, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, decides that a particular resolution relates to a matter for which another committee is competent and refers it to that other committee.
4. The ~~Resolutions~~ Selection Committee shall consider in respect of each resolution referred to it whether it satisfies the conditions of receivability set forth in paragraph 1.
5. If more than one resolution is referred to the Selection Committee, its Officers ~~The Resolutions Committee~~ shall determine the order in which resolutions which have been declared receivable shall be examined. In case of disagreement, the matter shall be referred to the Selection Committee, as follows:
 - (a) ~~After having given the author, or one of the authors, of each resolution the possibility of moving it in a speech which shall not exceed ten minutes, the Committee shall, without discussion, determine by ballot the first five resolutions to be considered, in the following manner:~~
 - (i) ~~each member of the Committee shall receive a ballot paper on which the titles of all the resolutions to be considered appear, and shall indicate thereon the five resolutions which the member wishes to be discussed first, the first preference being marked "1", the second "2", and so forth; a ballot paper which does not indicate preferences for five resolutions shall be void;~~
 - (ii) ~~whenever a resolution is indicated as a first preference, it shall be allotted five points, whenever it is indicated as a second preference, four points, and so forth; resolutions for which no preference has been indicated will receive no points;~~
 - (iii) ~~where the Government, Employers' or Workers' members of the Committee are entitled to cast more than one vote, to take account of the unequal representation of the group on the Committee, the total number of points secured by each resolution shall be calculated separately for each group and multiplied by the multiplier applicable to the votes of members of the group;~~
 - (iv) ~~the resolution obtaining the largest number of points, as determined in accordance with clauses (ii) and (iii), shall be discussed first, the resolution obtaining the second largest number of points shall be discussed second, and so forth for five resolutions; if the voting results in an equal number of points for each of two or more of the first five resolutions, priority shall be decided by lot in one or more eastings, as appropriate.~~
 - (b) ~~The Committee shall, at the beginning of its proceedings, set up a Working Party composed of three Government members, three Employers' members and three Workers' members to make recommendations as to the order in which the resolutions which were not included in the first five as a result of the procedure set forth in subparagraph (a) should be examined.~~
6. ~~The Resolutions Committee shall begin its work as soon as possible after the opening of the session of the Conference, in order to enable it to complete its agenda, and shall terminate its work not later than at 6 p.m. on the last Saturday of the session. If, nevertheless, any resolution referred to the Selection Committee has not been considered by the Committee~~ it by the date on which it terminates its work, the Conference shall not discuss or act upon that resolution.
7. ~~(1) If members of the Resolutions Committee having not less than one quarter of the voting power of the Committee move that the Committee should take the view that a resolution is not within the competence of the Conference, or that its adoption is inexpedient, this preliminary question shall be determined by the Committee after hearing the author, or, where there are several, one of the authors of the resolution, not more than one speaker for and against the motion from each group, and the reply of the author or one of the authors.~~

- (2) ~~A recommendation by the Resolutions Committee that a resolution is not within the competence of the Conference, or that its adoption is inexpedient, shall be accompanied by a report of the discussion in the Committee and shall be put to the vote in the Conference without debate.~~
8. ~~The Resolutions Committee may, after hearing the author or authors of a resolution, amend it in form or substance in such manner as it may consider desirable.~~
97. It shall be the special duty of the ~~Resolutions~~ Selection Committee to distinguish, by appropriate drafting, resolutions the adoption of which by the Conference would involve exact legal consequences from resolutions intended for consideration by the Governing Body, governments or any other body, but not creating any legal obligation.
10. ~~The Resolutions Committee shall submit a report to the Conference.~~

ARTICLE 18

Proposals involving expenditure

- Any motion or resolution involving expenditure shall in the first instance, or in the case of resolutions referred to the ~~Resolutions~~ Selection Committee as soon as that Committee is satisfied that the resolution is receivable and within the competence of the Conference, be referred to the Governing Body which shall communicate its opinion to the Conference.

ARTICLE 19

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Methods of voting

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- The names of the delegates voting in a record vote shall be inserted in the ~~verbatim report~~ Record of Proceedings of the sitting.

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ARTICLE 23

~~Verbatim report~~ Records of Proceedings

- ~~verbatim report shall be printed at the conclusion~~ Records of Proceedings of each sitting shall be published by the secretariat. There shall be included in the ~~report~~ Records of Proceedings any texts adopted and the results of any votes taken.
- Any delegate who has made a speech may demand the right to revise any part of the report ~~containing that speech~~. Speeches or parts of speeches that have not been delivered during the sitting shall not be published in the ~~report~~ Records of Proceedings, with the exception of the Director-General's reply to the discussion of the Report provided for in article 12.
- Any person who has made a speech may propose corrections to that speech in the Records of Proceedings. The secretariat shall fix a reasonable period following the publication of all Records of Proceedings within which ~~In order that~~ any proposed corrections should be published, they should be communicated to it the secretariat, in writing, ~~not later than ten days after the close of the Conference.~~

4. ~~The verbatim reports shall be signed by the President of the Conference and the Secretary-General.~~

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ARTICLE 26

Examination of credentials

1. The credentials of delegates and their advisers shall be deposited with the International Labour Office at least ~~15~~ 21 days before the date fixed for the opening of the session of the Conference.

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ARTICLE 26BIS

Objections

1. An objection in pursuance of article 5, paragraph 2(a), shall not be receivable in the following cases:
- (a) if the objection is not lodged with the Secretary General within ~~72~~ 48 hours from 10 a.m. of the first day of the Conference, the date of publication ~~in the Provisional Record~~ of the first official list of delegations, on the basis of the presence of a person's name or functions on this list, or its absence. If the objection is based on a revised list, the time limit shall be reduced to ~~48-24~~ hours. The Credentials Committee may in exceptional cases extend these time limits by an additional 24 hours;

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ARTICLE 26TER

Complaints

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3. A complaint shall be receivable if:
- (a) it is lodged with the Secretary-General of the Conference before 10 a.m. on the ~~seventh~~ fifth day following the opening of the Conference or, thereafter, in the case of a complaint referred to in paragraph 2, it is lodged within 48 hours of the alleged act or omission preventing attendance of the delegate or adviser concerned, and if the Committee considers that there is sufficient time to deal with it properly; and

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ARTICLE 39

Preparatory stages of double-discussion procedure

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4. These reports shall be submitted to a discussion by the Conference either in full sitting or in committee, and if the Conference decides that the matter is suitable to form the subject of Conventions or Recommendations it shall adopt such conclusions as it sees fit, after having referred them to the Drafting Committee, and may either:
 - (a) decide that the question shall be included in the agenda of the following session in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, of the Constitution; or
 - (b) ask the Governing Body to include the question in the agenda of a later session.

ARTICLE 40

Procedure for the consideration of texts

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4. If the Convention or Recommendation be referred to a committee, the Conference shall, after receiving the text prepared by the Drafting Committee and the report of the committee, proceed to discuss the Convention or Recommendation subject to the provisions of paragraph 6 in accordance with the rules laid down in paragraph 3. The discussions shall not take place before the day following that on which the text of the Convention or Recommendation and copies of the report have been made available ~~circulated~~ to the delegates.
- ~~5. During the discussion of the Articles of a Convention or Recommendation, the Conference may refer one or more Articles to a committee.~~
- ~~6. If a Convention contained in the report of a committee is rejected by the Conference, any delegate may ask the Conference to decide forthwith whether the Convention shall be referred back to the committee to consider the transformation of the Convention into a Recommendation. If the Conference decides to refer the matter back, the report of the committee shall be submitted to the approval of the Conference before the end of the session.~~
- ~~57. The provisions of a Convention or Recommendation, after having been considered in full Conference or by a committee, as adopted by the Conference shall be referred to the Drafting Committee for the preparation of a final text. This text shall be circulated to the delegates.~~
- 5bis. The text prepared by the Drafting Committee shall be submitted to the Conference.
68. No amendment shall be allowed to this text, but notwithstanding this provision the President, after consultation with the three Vice-Presidents, may submit to the Conference amendments which have been handed to the secretariat before the final vote is taken.
79. On receipt of the text prepared by the Drafting Committee and after discussion of amendments, if any, submitted in accordance with the preceding paragraph, the Conference shall proceed to take a final vote on the adoption of the Convention or Recommendation in accordance with article 19 of the Constitution of the Organisation.

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ARTICLE 44

Procedure in case of revision of a Convention

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7. The amendments together with consequential amendments of the unamended provisions of the Convention under revision, as adopted by the Conference, shall be referred to the

~~Conference~~-Drafting Committee, which shall combine with them the unamended provisions of the Convention under revision, so as to establish the final text of the Convention in the revised form. This text shall be circulated to the delegates.

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ARTICLE 45

Procedure in case of revision of a Recommendation

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6. The amendments, together with the consequential amendments of the unamended provisions of the Recommendation under revision, as adopted by the Conference, shall be referred to the ~~Conference~~-Drafting Committee, which shall combine with them the unamended provisions of the Recommendation under revision so as to establish the final text of the Recommendation in the revised form. This text shall be circulated to the delegates.

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ARTICLE 47

Procedure for the consideration of proposed amendments to the Constitution by the Conference

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6. The amendments as adopted by the Conference shall be referred to the ~~Conference~~-Drafting Committee which shall embody them, together with any necessary consequential amendments of the unamended provisions of the Constitution, in a draft instrument of amendment the text of which shall be circulated to the delegates.

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Committees of the Conference

ARTICLE 55

Scope

1. These Standing Orders apply to all committees appointed by the Conference except the Credentials Committee and the Drafting Committee.
2. The following provisions do not apply to the Selection Committee:
 - (a) article 56, paragraphs 6, 8, 9 and 10, except when it considers other questions in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3;
 - (b) the words “in agreement with the Selection Committee” in article 60;
 - (c) article 63, except when it considers other questions in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3;
 - (d) paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 65.

3. These Standing Orders apply to the Finance Committee of Government Representatives, except in so far as they are inapplicable because that Committee is not tripartite in character and consists solely of Government representatives.

In addition, the following provisions do not apply to the Finance Committee:

- (a) article 56, paragraphs 6 and 10;
 - (b) article 57, paragraph 2;
 - (c) the words “from each group” in the first sentence of article 64, paragraph 3; and the second sentence in that paragraph;
 - (d) article 65, paragraph 1.
- ~~4. These Standing Orders apply to the Resolutions Committee subject to the special provisions contained in articles 62, paragraph 4, and 64, paragraph 4.~~

ARTICLE 57

Officers of committees

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3. Each committee shall then elect from among its members one or more Reporters to present the result of its deliberations to the Conference on its behalf. ~~Before presenting a report to the committee for its approval, the Reporter or Reporters shall submit it to the Officers of the committee.~~

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5. Before presenting a report to the committee for its approval, the Reporter or Reporters shall submit it to the Officers of the committee. The committee may delegate the approval of its report to the Officers.

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ARTICLE 59

Committee drafting committees; ~~s~~Subcommittees

- ~~1. Each committee to which the Conference, in accordance with article 40 of the rules of procedure for Conventions and Recommendations, refers as a basis of discussion texts of proposed Conventions or Recommendations shall set up at an early sitting a committee drafting committee consisting of one Government delegate, one Employers' delegate and one Workers' delegate together with the Reporter or Reporters of the committee and the Legal Adviser of the Conference. In so far as may be possible the committee drafting committee shall comprise members conversant with both official languages. The committee drafting committee may be assisted by the officials of the Secretariat of the Conference attached to each committee as experts on the particular item of the agenda concerned. The committee drafting committee shall form part of the Conference Drafting Committee when any Convention or Recommendation is submitted to the Conference by the committee concerned.~~
21. Each committee shall have power to set up subcommittees after due notice has been given to the three groups in the committee.
32. The Chairperson of a committee shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the ~~committee drafting committee~~ and of the subcommittees set up by the committee.

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ARTICLE 62

Right to address the committee

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- ~~4. In the case of the Resolutions Committee the Chairperson may, after consultation with the two Vice Chairpersons, submit to the Committee for decision without debate a proposal to reduce the time limit for speeches on a specific topic to five minutes.~~

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ARTICLE 64

Closure

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- ~~4. In the case of the Resolutions Committee only the sponsor of the motion, resolution or amendment under discussion, or one of the sponsors if there were several, shall have the right to speak on the question under discussion after the closure has been voted.~~

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ARTICLE 67

[Deleted]

Amendments to text submitted by committee drafting committee

~~Amendments to a text submitted to a committee by its drafting committee may be admitted by the Chairperson after consultation with the Vice Chairpersons.~~

SECTION J

Suspension of a provision of the Standing Orders

ARTICLE 76

1. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Conference, on the unanimous recommendation of the President and three Vice-Presidents, may exceptionally decide to suspend any provision of the Standing Orders, for the purpose of dealing with a specific non-controversial question before it when this will contribute to the orderly and expeditious functioning of the Conference. ~~A decision may not be taken until the sitting following that at which a proposal to suspend the Standing Orders has been submitted to the Conference.~~
2. Any proposal to suspend the Standing Orders shall be published at least 24 hours before the sitting at which it is discussed.

Appendix III

Suspension of various provisions of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference

Introduction

1. The implementation of the proposed format of the 106th Session (5–16 June 2017) of the International Labour Conference requires a number of changes to the Standing Orders of the Conference. Pending the adoption of amendments to the Standing Orders, it is proposed to proceed, as in the past, by suspending the relevant Standing Orders provisions for this session in accordance with article 76 of the Standing Orders.
2. All proposed suspensions have, unless otherwise specified, already been applied over the last three sessions of the Conference.

Proposed suspensions

World of Work Summit

3. For the ILO World of Work Summit, to the extent necessary to enable statements of Heads of State and Government, Prime Ministers and Vice-Presidents, and interactive panel-style sessions, it is proposed to suspend:
 - (a) the limitation concerning the number of statements by each member State in plenary and, to that extent, article 12, paragraph 3;
 - (b) the provisions regarding time limits of speeches and, to that extent, article 14, paragraph 6;
 - (c) the sequence in which the speakers are given the floor, in order to facilitate an exchange of views and, to that extent, the provisions of article 14, paragraph 2; and
 - (d) the rules on moving the closure of the discussion provided in article 16.

Records of the Conference

4. As regards the records of the Conference, it is proposed to suspend several provisions of article 23, namely:
 - (a) paragraph 1 to the extent necessary to permit the publication only after the Conference of the *Provisional Records* containing the speeches made during the plenary discussion of the reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General;
 - (b) paragraph 2 solely for the purpose of permitting the Director-General to present only in writing his reply to points raised in the discussion in plenary of his Report to the Conference; and
 - (c) paragraph 3 with respect to the deadline for receiving proposed corrections to the *Provisional Records*, to permit that all records – those published during the session as well as those published afterwards – be reviewed together within the same time period following the Conference.

Time limits for filing objections and complaints with the Credentials Committee

5. To enable the Committee to examine all objections and complaints in time, it is proposed to reduce the time limit for lodging objections from 72 to 48 hours from the opening of the

Conference (and from 48 to 24 hours from the publication of a *Revised list of delegations*) (with the possibility for the Committee to make exceptions) and to reduce the time limit for complaints from seven to five days. In addition to suspending article 26bis(1)(a) and article 26ter(3)(a) to the extent that they provide for the current, longer time limits, this would also require adopting amended provisions to replace them, which provide for the new, shorter, time limits. For the duration of the 106th Session of the Conference only, the relevant provisions would thus read as follows (emphasis added):

ARTICLE 26BIS

Objections

1. An objection in pursuance of article 5, paragraph 2(a), shall not be receivable in the following cases:
 - (a) if the objection is not lodged with the Secretary-General within **48** hours from 10 a.m. of the first day of the Conference, the date of publication in the *Provisional Record* of the official list of delegations, on the basis of the presence of a person's name or functions on this list, or its absence. If the objection is based on a revised list, the time limit shall be reduced to **24** hours;

...

ARTICLE 26TER

Complaints

...

3. A complaint shall be receivable if:
 - (a) it is lodged with the Secretary-General of the Conference before 10 a.m. on the **fifth** day following the opening of the Conference or, thereafter, in the case of a complaint referred to in paragraph 2, it is lodged within 48 hours of the alleged act or omission preventing attendance of the delegate or adviser concerned, and if the Committee considers that there is sufficient time to deal with it properly; and

...

Conference Drafting Committee

6. In accordance with article 40(7) and article 6(3) of the Standing Orders, once adopted by the plenary of the Conference, a draft Convention or Recommendation has to be reviewed by the Drafting Committee of the Conference, which prepares the final text of the instrument to be put to the vote of the Conference. However, since under the proposed arrangements for the two-week Conference the adoption of the committee report containing the proposed instrument and the final vote on the instrument will take place on the same morning, there will be no time for a full review by the Conference Drafting Committee. In the case of a Recommendation, under normal circumstances, the task of the Conference Committee is limited to merely double-checking the legal consistency of the text and the concordance between the English and French versions, as the proposed instrument has already been fully reviewed by the drafting committee of the competent technical committee (article 59(1) of the Standing Orders) and no further amendments to the text are normally adopted by the committee or the plenary.

7. It is accordingly proposed to suspend article 40(7) and article 6(3) of the Standing Orders to the extent necessary to omit the review of the proposed Recommendation concerning Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience by the Conference Drafting Committee, provided that the text is adopted by the plenary as proposed by the drafting committee of the Committee on Employment and Decent Work for the Transition to Peace. The general responsibilities of the Conference Drafting Committee as set out in article 6(3) of the Standing Orders will be assumed by the Committee Drafting Committee. Should the Conference amend the text proposed by the Committee Drafting Committee, a short meeting of the Conference Drafting Committee – which should still be appointed – could take place to review such amendment and its possible consequences on the rest of the text.

Adoption of committee reports

8. Since 2014, technical committees have delegated to their officers the authority to approve their reports to avoid the holding of an additional committee sitting to adopt the reports before their submission to the plenary. This does not in itself require the suspension of any Standing Orders. However, with respect to standard-setting committees, whose reports contain a proposed instrument, it would be necessary to suspend article 67 – which concerns the possibility for a standard-setting committee to consider amendments to the text of a proposed instrument submitted by its drafting committee – to avoid that the committee may have to hold an additional sitting for the adoption of the report containing the proposed instrument. It is therefore proposed to suspend article 67.