

**Governing Body - 343<sup>rd</sup> Session, November 2021**  
**Programme, Financial and Administrative Section**  
**Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment**

**Workers' Group Comments**

**Document for Ballot by Correspondence**

**GB.343/PFA/5(Rev.1)**

**Proposal for the funding of postponed 2020–21 meetings in the biennium 2022–23**

The Workers' Group has taken note of the important information contained in this document. The Group considers it extremely important that the Office be authorized to use part of the projected underspending in 2020-21 to finance the holding in 2022-23 of the meetings listed in the appendix to the document. As the draft Conference resolution recognizes, many meetings planned in 2020-21 had to be cancelled due to the unprecedented circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is however important that they take place in the next biennium.

The Workers' Group therefore supports the point for decision in paragraph 9 and the draft Conference resolution including the exceptional derogation of article 18.2 of the Financial Regulations.

In conclusion, we also very much hope that the sanitary situation will allow all these meetings to take place in-person. If, due to the sanitary situation, meetings continue to be held virtually or in a hybrid format for some more time, greater consideration should be given to the hidden costs that workers may incur if they cannot join meetings from their office premises, nor easily join from home due to the lack of proper IT facilities. In these circumstances the Office should seek to address these constraints in the best possible way, depending on the specific situation at hand.

***Draft decision concerning the proposal for the funding of postponed 2020–21 meetings in the biennium 2022–23 - [GB.343/PFA/5 \(Rev.1\)](#)***

This statement is being submitted on behalf of IMEC.

IMEC notes that the following official meetings were postponed to the biennium 2022–23 by a decision GB.342/INS/10(Rev.2) of the Governing Body:

- 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting, originally foreseen for 2020, now tentatively scheduled for November–December 2022.
- 11th European Regional Meeting, originally foreseen for 2021, now planned to take place after the Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (dates to be determined).
- Meeting of Experts to revise the 1992 code of practice on safety and health in construction, originally foreseen as part of the 2020–21 programme of sectoral meetings, now tentatively scheduled for February 2022.
- Technical meeting on the impact of digitalization in the finance sector, originally scheduled for 22–26 February 2021, now tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.
- Meeting of Experts to produce joint ILO–IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers, originally scheduled for the third quarter of 2021, now postponed to 2023 (dates to be determined).
- Technical meeting on the protection of whistle-blowers in the public service sector, originally foreseen as part of the 2020–21 programme of sectoral meetings, now postponed to a future period (dates to be determined).

IMEC further notes that the Governing Body has also decided to convene a number of additional meetings for which no specific budgetary allocation had been made and which it will not be possible to organize before 2022 owing to the dense calendar of meetings during the last semester of the biennium 2020–21. These additional meetings are:

- Part II of the fourth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, tentatively scheduled to take place from 25 to 29 April 2022.
- Meeting of the Tripartite Working Group on options to ensure decent work in supply chains, tentatively scheduled for January–February 2022.
- Tripartite Meeting of Experts on decent work in the platform economy, tentatively scheduled to take place during the first half of April 2022.
- Meeting of Experts for the tripartite validation of technical guidelines on biological hazards, tentatively scheduled to take place at the end of March 2022.

Based on information provided by the ILO Office, the cost of holding the above-mentioned meetings, as indicated in document PFA/5, is US \$3,312,842.

In view of the unprecedented circumstances in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IMEC agrees that on an exceptional basis the amount of US \$3,312,842, unspent in 2020–2021, be used to finance the holding of meetings listed above in 2022 or 2023. The ILO should take into account lessons learned on teleworking measures when calculating the cost of conducting deferred meetings.

IMEC agrees with this approach on an exceptional basis and on the understanding that this decision does not create a precedent or continuing obligation for future ILO budget cycles.

With these comments, IMEC supports the decision point on PFA/5.