



TWENTIETH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

I. Obituary

Mr Heribert Maier

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 6 November near Graz in Austria, of Mr Heribert Maier, former Worker member of the Governing Body and Deputy Director-General of the ILO.
2. Mr Maier was born on 7 February 1932 in Graz in Austria, where he completed his secondary education in 1950. He graduated from the University of Vienna with a degree in business administration four years later on 16 June 1954, and a doctorate in economy on 29 March 1958. After a brief period in industry, he joined the Austrian Confederation of Trade Unions as an economist and began his long career within the trade union movement.
3. In 1958 he joined the Economic and Social Department of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in Brussels. In January 1963, he moved to the ICFTU's Geneva office where one of his principal responsibilities was to prepare the meetings of the ILO Governing Body. Thus were formed his first ties with the Governing Body, of which he was to become one of the most respected Worker members. In February 1968, he returned to the ICFTU's headquarters in Brussels, prior to being appointed the Confederation's Assistant General Secretary in January 1972. In 1973 he was elected Secretary-General of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees, which he held for 16 years until May 1989. Thanks to his open and engaging personality, he was able to imbue the Federation with the strength of his commitments, thereby contributing to the internationalization of its structure and activities on every continent. During those years Mr Maier also distinguished himself by his exemplary participation in the work of the decision-making bodies of the ILO. In 1976 he became a member of the Governing Body of the ILO, where he served as Worker member until March 1989 and, from 1982 onwards, as the Worker spokesperson in its Committee on Freedom of Association. Between 1977 and 1988, as technical adviser or Workers' delegate within the Austrian delegation, he played an active role in each session of the International Labour Conference. It was in this capacity that he was elected Worker Vice-Chairperson of the Conference in June 1987.
4. On 1 June 1989, Mr Maier was appointed Deputy Director-General for the General and Labour Relations Sector, which at the time comprised the International Labour Standards Department, the Industrial Relations and Labour Administration Department and the

Sectoral Activities Department. In fulfilling these very senior responsibilities, which he did until 1996, he was noted for his exceptional commitment to the ILO's objectives, and especially to its standard-setting activities. After he relinquished his professional obligations in 1996, the Government of his country conferred on him the exceptional distinction of the *Grand Decoration of Honour in Silver with Star* for services rendered to the Austrian nation. Till his last day, true to his convictions, he continued to serve the causes that were dear to his heart and to make an inestimable contribution to a committee of experts of Education International.

5. All those who have had the privilege of working with Mr Maier on the Governing Body or the Conference, or to have known him at the ILO or in the national or international trade union organizations on which he left his stamp, will remember this profoundly generous person with gratitude and emotion, for the social justice in which he believed and for his determination to contribute, both at the ILO and in the trade union movement, to the advent of an international world of work that is more just, more decent and more human.
6. *The Governing Body may wish to invite the Director-General to transmit its condolences to Mr Heribert Maier's family, to the International Trade Union Confederation and to UNI Global Union.*