

**FOR DECISION**

## NINETEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Director-General*****Addendum*****Obituary****Mr Madia Diop**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 11 November 2008, of Mr Madia Diop, a former Worker member of the Governing Body.
2. Mr Diop was born on 3 October 1928 in Senegal. In 1950, he embarked upon a long trade union career by joining the French CGT. An accountant by training, he took part in the 1952 general strike that led to the adoption of an Overseas Labour Code which, for the first time, gave protection to workers in the French colonies. In 1956, he was one of the founding members of the Food Industries' Workers' Trade Union, and in 1957 he joined the Executive Committee of the General Union of Workers of Black Africa (UGTAN). Following the dissolution of UGTAN, he set up the Senegalese Workers' Union, later to become the Senegalese Workers' Confederation (CST), which he continued to lead from his exile in Mali between 1964 and 1966. On his return to Senegal, he was hailed as a national working class hero and devoted himself to negotiating the merger of the various trade unions into one central union, the National Union of Senegalese Workers (UNTS). In 1969, when the UNTS was dissolved, he helped to found the current National Confederation of Workers of Senegal (CNTS), and in 1978 he was elected General Secretary of the Dakar Regional Federation of CNTS Unions.
3. In 1981, as a fervent supporter of a more combative and democratic style of trade unionism, he founded *Renouveau syndical* ("Union Renewal"). During this period he also assumed the leadership of the CNTS and was elected Vice-President of the Senegalese National Assembly. His activities expanded to the international stage and he was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity, and subsequently Chairman of the ICFTU-AFRO (the African Regional Organisation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions). While in this post, he increased the number of missions to various African trade union confederations and took part in many international meetings.
4. Recognized in his country for his political and social commitment, Mr Diop also spoke up for the oppressed at international forums. As a member of the ILO Governing Body from

1984 to 1990, his speeches bore witness to his commitment to human rights and social justice. Between 1981 and 2001, he attended all the sessions of the International Labour Conference, and was the Worker Vice-Chairperson in 1996.

5. Regarded in his youth as something of an *enfant terrible*, Madia Diop will be remembered by all those who worked with him as a man of action who dedicated his life to the service of African and world trade unionism with energy and determination.
6. ***The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Mr Madia Diop and to the National Confederation of Workers of Senegal (CNTS).***

Geneva, 17 November 2008.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 6.