



Suspension of various provisions of the Standing Orders of the Conference

Introduction

1. The implementation of the proposed format of the 105th Session (30 May–10 June 2016) 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. None of the proposed suspensions are new. The suspension concerning the Report of the Director-General was previously adopted in 2014 and those relating to the Resolutions Committee in the first year of biennial financial periods (“non-budget year”) since 2006. All others were adopted in identical terms last year, some of them also in previous years.

Proposed suspensions

Report of the Director-General

3. As it has been agreed that the Director-General would henceforth present a thematic Report to each session of the Conference, including in non-budget years when the Director-General is required to report on programme implementation, it is proposed to suspend article 12(2) of the Standing Orders to the extent necessary to permit the thematic Report to be submitted under article 12 along with the Programme implementation report.

World of Work Summit

4. For the purpose of 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(3);
 - (b) the provisions regarding time limits of speeches and, to that extent, article 14(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(2); and

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- (d) the rules on moving the closure of the discussion provided in article 16.

Records of the Conference

5. 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* of 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.

Resolutions Committee

6. Following agreement at the 319th Session of the Governing Body not to reactivate the Resolutions Committee, the provisions of the Standing Orders concerning the referral to the Resolutions Committee of resolutions relating to matters not included in an item placed on the agenda would have to be suspended, as has been done since 2006 in non-budgetary years when such resolutions were receivable. It is accordingly proposed to suspend the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4 and 10 of article 17 of the Standing Orders.

Time limits for filing objections and complaints with the Credentials Committee

7. 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 105th 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. The Credentials Committee may in justified exceptional cases extend these time limits by up to 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 **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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Adoption of committee reports

- 8. It is proposed 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 the extent necessary to avoid that the committee may have to hold an additional sitting for the adoption of its report containing the proposed instrument. This permits the committee to delegate to its Officers the authority to approve the report including the proposed instrument.

Presentation of the proposed suspensions to the Conference

- 9. Under article 76 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, a suspension of a provision of the Standing Orders can only be adopted by the Conference at a sitting following that at which the proposed suspension is presented to the Conference. In order to contribute to the streamlining of the Conference and in line with the approach adopted in 2015, it is intended that the publication of the above proposed suspensions in a *Provisional Record* issued before the start of the Conference replace the formal presentation of the proposed suspensions to the opening plenary, so that, unless the Officers of the Conference decide otherwise, the Conference may approve those suspensions at its first sitting.

