



# Governing Body

347th Session, Geneva, 13–23 March 2023

Institutional Section

INS

**Date:** 20 February 2023

**Original:** English

Second item on the agenda

## Agenda of the International Labour Conference

### Arrangements for the 111th Session (2023) of the Conference

#### ▶ I. Introduction

1. As decided by the Governing Body at its 344th Session (March 2022), the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference will be held from 5 to 16 June 2023. This document contains proposals concerning the format, structure, methods and programme of work for the session.
2. The proposed arrangements follow the guidance of the Governing Body, which requested a return to full in-person participation in the Conference, while building on the experience gained from the measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. All groups have emphasized that face-to-face interaction had proved indispensable for the smooth conduct of proceedings, and for negotiating and building consensus on outcomes in the highest decision-making forum of the Organization.

#### Agenda

3. The Conference agenda includes the following three standing items:
  - I. Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General;
  - II. Draft Programme and Budget for 2024–25 and other questions;
  - III. Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.

4. In addition, the following six items have been placed on the agenda of this session of the Conference:
  - IV. Apprenticeships (standard-setting, second discussion);
  - V. A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (labour protection);
  - VI. A just transition, including consideration of industrial policies and technology, towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all (general discussion);
  - VII. Abrogation of 1 international labour Convention and withdrawal of 4 Conventions, 1 Protocol and 18 Recommendations;
  - VIII. Proposed Convention and Recommendation concerning the partial revision of 15 international labour instruments following the inclusion of a safe and healthy working environment in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work;
  - IX. Measures under article 33 of the ILO Constitution to secure compliance by the Government of Belarus with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

## ▶ II. Venue

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5. The Division of Administration of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) had previously indicated that its premises would not be available for the 111th Session of the Conference. However, in October 2022, the Office was notified that, as renovation works under the UNOG strategic heritage plan had been delayed, the 2023 session of the Conference could still be held at the Palais des Nations (but not the 2024 and 2025 sessions).
6. Therefore, the 111th Session of the Conference will be held, as customary, on two sites: the ILO headquarters and the Palais des Nations, with the proviso that the Assembly Hall at the Palais des Nations is still under renovation and UNOG is not yet able to confirm whether it will be available in June 2023. If the Assembly Hall is unavailable, the plenary sessions will be held in room XX and seating arrangements will need to be adapted accordingly.

## ▶ III. Format

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7. The 111th Session of the Conference will be conducted fully in person. The feedback received and key lessons learned from the fully virtual and the hybrid sessions of the Conference in 2021 and 2022 show that, while the sessions were successful overall, no online platform can provide participants with the same experience as in-person interaction. In accordance with the recommendation made by the Credentials Committee at the 110th Session,<sup>1</sup> Member States are expected to send complete tripartite delegations to Geneva.

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<sup>1</sup> ILC.110/Record No.2B, paras 97-98.

8. Within the scope of the Standing Orders, the following options for remote participation will be made available:
  - Plenary sittings will be streamed on the Conference website, as in the past. Delegates who are unable to make their statement in person may do so instead in a pre-recorded video.
  - In Committees, online participants may follow the proceedings remotely (passive online access) but will not be able to take the floor. There will be no remote connection for drafting groups.
9. As a result of the return to full in-person attendance and the availability of the Palais des Nations premises, no limitations on the composition of delegations (other than those provided for in the Standing Orders) will be necessary at this session. In addition, physical access to the sittings will again be provided to the press and the public, subject to any necessary security arrangements.<sup>2</sup>

## ▶ IV. Preparatory process

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### Early nomination of committee chairpersons

10. The Office has approached the three groups of constituents with a view to obtaining their nominations for Officers of the Conference and of committees by April 2023 at the latest. The early identification of suitable persons who are familiar with ILO tripartite meetings to chair Conference committees is critical for the preparatory work carried out in the months preceding each session of the Conference. The persons nominated should meet the required profile for Officers; that is, they should have technical expertise in the subject under discussion, experience in conducting tripartite negotiations and good communication and consensus-building skills.

### Preparatory tripartite consultations and briefings

11. The Office will hold consultations to prepare for the discussions in technical committees. It will organize briefing sessions for governments well in advance and will provide delegates with user-friendly materials and tutorials on Conference procedures, practices and tools prior to the session.

### Timely dissemination of pre-session information and practical arrangements

12. The convocation letter to the 111th Session was sent in January 2023. In line with previous practice, the Office will post comprehensive information on arrangements as early as possible on the Conference website. The *Conference Guide* will be published on the web after the March session of the Governing Body. It will be regularly updated in the run-up to the Conference. Printed copies will also be made available for delegates upon registration. Technical committees will each have a dedicated web page.

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<sup>2</sup> See article 2(5) of the [Standing Orders of the Conference](#).

13. The *Conference Guide* will detail all the practical arrangements delegates will need for this session of the Conference. It will include information on matters such as registration and physical access to the venues, the use of technological tools, transport and catering.

## ▶ V. Voting

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14. During the 111th Session, the following items will require a vote in plenary in order to be adopted by the Conference:
  - the draft Programme and Budget for 2024–25;
  - the abrogation of 1 international labour Convention and withdrawal of 4 Conventions, 1 Protocol and 18 Recommendations;
  - the proposed Quality Apprenticeships Recommendation;
  - the proposed Safe and Healthy Working Environment (Consequential Amendments) Convention and Recommendation.
15. The votes will be held during two plenary sittings in the second week, on Monday, 12 June and Friday, 16 June, as indicated in the tentative programme of work (see the appendix). In addition, if the Governing Body transmits a draft resolution to the Conference concerning the amendment of the final provision of Conventions to add Spanish as the third authoritative language version, the vote to adopt that resolution will have to take place before the votes concerning international labour standards. Furthermore, if a Member State in arrears submits a request to recover the right to vote, the Conference would also need to vote on it. Any such vote would need to be conducted at the end of the first week in order to enable the Member State concerned to participate in the votes on the above-mentioned items.
16. All votes in plenary will be carried out using a new electronic voting system. The Office will provide all the necessary information and guidance before and during the votes. Only participants who are physically present at the Conference and have collected their access badge will be registered as attending the Conference for the purpose of determining the quorum for votes (article 22(2) of the Standing Orders). Delegates who only make a statement in the form of a pre-recorded video in plenary without having registered in person, will be considered to have been present at the Conference only for the duration of their statement.
17. In technical committees, any voting needed will normally be carried out by a physical show of hands. In the event that a record vote is required under article 42(5) of the Standing Orders, it would be taken by roll call.

## ▶ VI. Conference plenary

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18. As usual, the Conference plenary will consist of four parts: the opening sitting; the discussions of the Reports of the Director-General, including the appendix on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories, and of the Chairperson of the Governing Body; the summit; and the closing sitting (including the adoption of committee reports).

## Opening sitting

19. The session will open on the morning of 5 June. At its opening sitting, the Conference will elect its Officers, constitute its committees and adopt its programme of work. As is customary, the Director-General will address the Conference, as will the Chairpersons of the Employers' and Workers' groups. The technical committees will start their work at 3.30 p.m. on the same day.

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

20. The discussion of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body for the period June 2022–June 2023 and of the Director-General would begin on Tuesday, 6 June and end by Tuesday, 13 June. This would allow for at least 12 sittings: 2 per day, with speeches of a maximum of five minutes.

## Summit/high-level launch

21. Arrangements for the high-level launch of the Global Coalition for Social Justice are ongoing.<sup>3</sup> It is expected to be held on Thursday, 15 June, with the possibility of commencing the day before.

## Adoption of committee reports, votes and closing ceremony

22. The adoption of the reports of the General Affairs and Finance committees is scheduled for Monday, 12 June. The adoption of the outcome of one technical committee in plenary is scheduled for Thursday, 15 June in the afternoon. Friday, 16 June, will be devoted to the adoption of the outcomes of the other two technical committees, the report of the Credentials Committee, the report of the Committee on the Application of Standards and the closing ceremony. As indicated above, the votes will take place on 12 and 16 June.

## Time allocation for adoption of committee reports

23. The recent good practice of strictly complying with the 90 minutes allocated for the adoption of the reports of the technical committees and the Committee on the Application of Standards reports will continue. The following time limits will apply for statements:
  - Committee Chairperson and Reporter: up to 15 minutes combined;
  - Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons of each committee: 10 minutes each;
  - regional groups: 5 minutes each;
  - individual delegates: 2 minutes each.

## Closing ceremony

24. The Conference will close with the speeches of the Officers of the Conference and the Director-General.

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<sup>3</sup> An update on the operationalization of the Global Coalition for Social Justice is provided in GB.347/INS/4.

## ▶ VII. Celebration of the World Day against Child Labour

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25. The World Day against Child Labour will be commemorated on Monday, 12 June. Following the reform of the Conference and the reduction in the duration of its sessions to two weeks, since 2015 this has been the only side event authorized to take place during the Conference. This arrangement has helped to avoid overlaps and disruptions in the work of the plenary and technical committees and has contributed to improved time management overall.

## ▶ VIII. Committees

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26. In accordance with established practice, the three standing items on the agenda will be dealt with as follows: item I in plenary sittings; item II by the Finance Committee; and item III by the Committee on the Application of Standards. Items IV, V and VI will each be referred to a technical committee, while items VII, VIII and IX will be referred to the General Affairs Committee.

### Standing committees

27. With respect to the **Credentials Committee**, as indicated at the 346th Session (October–November 2022) of the Governing Body, it would be advisable for the groups to nominate, at the outset, a substitute for their respective member to ensure the continuity of the Committee's work.<sup>4</sup>
28. In addition to administrative matters, the **Finance Committee** will be considering the draft Programme and Budget for 2024–25 to be adopted by the Conference. It will therefore need to hold two sittings: the first on Tuesday, 6 June, and the second on Friday, 9 June, to approve, as is customary, the US dollar/Swiss franc budgetary exchange rate for 2024–25. Its report will be presented in plenary on Monday, 12 June, followed by the record vote on the programme and budget. If the Committee receives any request to recover the right to vote from a Member State in arrears, it will need to submit a first report to the plenary on Friday, 9 June. This is to allow the Conference to vote on the request; if approved, the Member State concerned would then be able to participate in the votes scheduled on Monday, 12 June and Friday, 16 June.
29. As mentioned in paragraph 26 above, the **General Affairs Committee** will have before it the following three items:
- Abrogation of 1 international labour Convention and withdrawal of 4 Conventions, 1 Protocol and 18 Recommendations;
  - Proposed Convention and Recommendation concerning the partial revision of 15 international labour instruments following the inclusion of a safe and healthy working environment in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work;
  - Measures under article 33 of the ILO Constitution to secure compliance by the Government of Belarus with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

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<sup>4</sup> GB.346/INS/3/4, para. 21.

30. If the Governing Body decides to transmit to the Conference, for possible adoption, the draft resolution concerning the final provisions of international labour Conventions,<sup>5</sup> that resolution would also be referred to the General Affairs Committee. The Committee will hold one sitting in the afternoon of Monday, 5 June, and, if necessary, could reconvene for one or more additional sittings on Tuesday, 6 June. Its report will be submitted to the Conference during the same sitting as the Finance Committee, in the morning of Monday 12 June.
31. The **Committee on the Application of Standards** is expected to return to its typical programme of work of three daily sittings starting on Monday, 5 June, immediately after the opening sitting of the Conference. The Committee is expected to resume the practice of considering 24 cases.<sup>6</sup> Good practices arising from the arrangements implemented to address the virtual and hybrid nature of the last sessions of the Committee as well as any further improvements in the working methods of the Committee will continue to be considered during the informal tripartite consultations to be organized during the week following the 347th Session of the Governing Body.

## Technical committees

32. With the return to the usual programme of work for the session, technical committees will be able to start their sittings in the afternoon of Monday, 5 June and will be expected to complete their work on Wednesday, 14 June. This means that each technical committee will have eight and a half days at its disposal.
33. The **Standard-Setting Committee** will hold a second discussion on quality apprenticeships with a view to adopting an international labour Recommendation to be submitted to the Conference for adoption in plenary. As a proposed text is included in the report prepared by the Office for the session, all available time can be devoted to the consideration of the text through the amendments that will be proposed by committee members.
34. As illustrated in the appendix, the proposed programme of work could be as follows:
- afternoon of Monday, 5 June: submission of the first batch of amendments to the draft Recommendation, followed by the first sitting for general statements concerning the proposed text;
  - from Tuesday, 6 June to Wednesday, 14 June, two sittings a day for the submission<sup>7</sup> and consideration of amendments, and a final sitting on Wednesday, 14 June for closing remarks.
35. The Drafting Committee could start meeting on Thursday, 8 June; to the extent possible, its sittings should not end after 10 p.m.
36. The **Recurrent Discussion Committee** on labour protection and the **General Discussion Committee** on a just transition could follow the same programme as in 2022:
- two sittings of general debate in the afternoon and evening of Monday, 5 June and two or three sittings on Tuesday, 6 June;
  - the tentative conclusions drafted by the Office would be distributed to the groups during the night between Wednesday, 7 June and Thursday, 8 June;

<sup>5</sup> See GB.347/LILS/1, Appendix III.

<sup>6</sup> GB.346/INS/PV, paras 189 and 202.

<sup>7</sup> The submission of amendments will be done in several batches during two or three days in addition to Monday, 5 June.

- two days for the drafting group to prepare the draft conclusions, on Thursday, 8 June and Friday, 9 June;
  - submission of amendments to the draft conclusions on Saturday, 10 June;
  - consideration of those amendments in full committee from Monday, 12 June to Wednesday, 14 June.
- 37.** In 2022, bringing the drafting groups forward to the Thursday and the submission of amendments to the Saturday of the first week allowed the committees to devote all of their full sittings in the second week to the discussion of the draft conclusions. The other possibility would be to return to the pre-COVID-19 practice of submitting amendments on the Monday of the second week and having only two days for the consideration of the draft conclusions, in order to allow the drafting groups to have one more day to complete their work. The programme would be the same as above until Wednesday, 7 June; as of Thursday, 8 June, it would be as follows:
- three days of drafting group from Thursday, 8 June to Saturday, 10 June;
  - submission of amendments to the draft conclusions on Monday, 12 June; and
  - consideration of those amendments in full committee on Tuesday, 13 June and Wednesday, 14 June.
- 38.** The proposed programme of work in the appendix includes the first option for a plan of work for the recurrent discussion and the general discussion committees and will be adjusted on the basis of the guidance to be provided by Governing Body members during the discussion of the present document.
- 39.** The drafting groups responsible for preparing draft conclusions will be organized in accordance with the pre-COVID-19 established practice. They will be composed of eight members from each of the three groups of constituents, each accompanied by one adviser. The text of the tentative conclusions will be provided in English, French and Spanish before the drafting group begins its work and interpretation will be available in those languages during its meetings. However, drafting groups will work on the basis of the English version and only the text in that language will be displayed. The text can be displayed in three languages only when amendments are submitted and translated in advance, as is the case when the full committee considers the text.
- 40.** To make the best use of the time available, the following measures, which received positive comments during the 346th Session of the Governing Body, will continue to be implemented:
- information will be provided through documents posted on the committee web page rather than during the committee's opening sitting;
  - time limits will be applied to statements made during the general debate segment;
  - governments will be encouraged to express their positions through regional group statements.
- 41.** In line with the practice introduced in 2019, the programme of work will by default include evening sittings with a strict end time of 9.30 p.m., not only for the committees, but also for the drafting groups. Sittings ending any later than 9.30 p.m. should be exceptional and subject to the agreement of the committee concerned. In order to ensure proper catering facilities and avoid waiting periods during the half-hour break between the afternoon and evening sittings, the committees concerned should stagger the breaks between 6.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.



## ▶ IX. Outlook for the 2024 and 2025 sessions of the Conference

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42. Due to the renovation works in the Palais des Nations, the 2024 and 2025 sessions of the Conference will have to be held in a different venue in Geneva. In line with the discussion held in the Governing Body at its 335th Session (March 2019) on the arrangements for the Conference during the renovation work in the Palais des Nations,<sup>8</sup> various options have been explored. Discussions are currently ongoing with the Swiss authorities about the use of the Palexpo convention centre in Geneva, including potential cost-sharing arrangements, within a broader United Nations-based solution. Further information shall be provided to the Governing Body at its 349th Session (November 2023).

## ▶ Draft decision

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43. **The Governing Body:**

- (a) **decided that the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference would be held in person, with the option of following remotely under the conditions described in paragraph 8 of document GB.347/INS/2/2;**
- (b) **endorsed the tentative programme of work in the appendix to the document, subject to any adjustments that might be necessary until its adoption by the Conference at the opening sitting of the 111th Session; and**
- (c) **requested the Office to implement all the arrangements outlined in the document, taking into account the guidance provided.**

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<sup>8</sup> GB.335/INS/14/5 and GB.335/INS/PV, paras 570–585.



▶ Appendix

Proposed programme of work for the 111th Session of the Conference

	Mon 5		Tue 6		Wed 7		Thu 8		Fri 9		Sat 10		Mon 12		Tue 13		Wed 14		Thu 15		Fri 16		Sat 17									
	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm										
<b>Plenary sittings</b>	Opening		Discussion of the reports of the DG and GB Chairperson								Discussion of the reports of the DG and GB Chairperson				Summit *				▲	▲	▲ and Closure											
<b>Votes</b>									▲	▲			▲								▲											
<b>Credentials Committee (CVP)</b>	As required																															
<b>General Affairs Committee (CAG)</b>		▲	As required																													
<b>Finance Committee (CF)</b>			▲											▲																		
<b>Committee on the Application of Standards (CAN)</b>	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲										
<b>Standard-Setting Committee on Apprenticeships (CN)</b>		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲													
<b>Recurrent Discussion Committee on Labour Protection (CDR)</b>		▲	▲	▲				Drafting group			Amend.	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲														
<b>General Discussion Committee on a Just Transition (CDG)</b>		▲	▲	▲				Drafting group			Amend.	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲														
<b>Governing Body</b>		347 bis																				348										
<p>* Duration to be confirmed.</p> <p>▲ ▲ If there is a request to recover the right to vote, the CF will need to submit a first report on Friday 9 June so as to allow the Conference to approve the request through a vote in order to enable the Member State concerned to participate in the votes planned on Monday 12 and Friday 16.</p> <p>▲ Votes.</p> <p>▲ Adoption of Committee outcomes in plenary.</p>																																