



First sitting

Monday, 3 June 2002, 5.50 p.m.

Presidents: Mr. Funes de Rioja, Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and Mr. J.-J. Elmiger

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Original Spanish: Mr. FUNES DE RIOJA (*Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*) – It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to declare open the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference.

Article 25 of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference states in its first paragraph that the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, assisted by the other Officers of the Governing Body, shall declare the Conference open.

However, since Mr. Tou, Chairperson of the Governing Body, has not been able to come to this opening we have followed the procedure which is usual to such cases, whereby one of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Governing Body declares the Conference open.

My Vice-Chairperson colleague, Lord Brett – Chairperson of the Workers' group – with whom I discussed this matter, has been kind enough to allow me to open the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference. I would like to thank Lord Brett for thus honouring me and for the excellent cooperation which we have maintained in doing our work in the Governing Body.

I have been coming to this Conference for 27 years and, quite by accident, I have found myself assuming this role which is a matter of great satisfaction to me, I do assure you.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

Original Spanish: Mr. FUNES DE RIOJA (*Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*) – In accordance with the agenda, it is now our task to elect the President of the Conference. I call upon Mr. Eui-Yong Chung, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, to speak on behalf of the Government group and to propose the candidature for the President of the Conference.

Mr. CHUNG (*Government delegate, Republic of Korea*) – It is my great honour and privilege to nominate His Excellency, Ambassador Jean-Jacques Elmiger, Secretary of State of the Federal Department of the Economy of the Swiss Confederation, as President of the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference on behalf of the Government group.

Mr. Elmiger has extensive experience in the international policy domain in general, and in labour affairs in particular. His valuable contributions have

been felt in his work with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and most notably with the International Labour Organization (ILO). He has also been actively involved in the negotiations of the international treaties such as the European Free Trade Association. He is, in particular, a foremost expert on labour issues and has had a long and close relationship with the ILO. Prior to becoming the Chief of International Labour Affairs at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, from 1986 onwards he represented the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the International Labour Conference. He has also served as Chairperson of almost every important committee at the ILO. Most recently, Mr. Elmiger was elected Chairperson of the Governing Body and also chaired the last European Regional Meeting.

Given this background, it would be difficult to imagine a more qualified candidate for President of the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference. With his leadership and expertise I am confident that he will perform his duty and steer this Conference to a most successful outcome.

Original Spanish: Mr. FUNES DE RIOJA (*Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*) – Since we have a nomination of Ambassador Elmiger I would like to give the floor to Mr. Erik Hoff, spokesperson for the Employers' group. He will address this matter.

It seems that Mr. Hoff is not in the room at this time. I personally was in fact going to propose this nomination but I find myself doing another job. Therefore, would you consider that the Employers' group has, in fact, supported that nomination? Having said that, I would like to give the floor to the spokesperson for the Workers' group, who is also its Chairperson. Lord Brett, Workers' delegate for the United Kingdom, will now speak on behalf of the Workers' group.

Lord BRETT (*Workers' delegate, United Kingdom*) – I was actually going to offer some assistance and suggest that, on behalf of the Employers' and the Workers' groups, I could happily second the nomination. It would seem an appropriate *quid pro quo* because we have the Employer spokesperson running the Conference for the moment, so it is quite right that the Worker spokesperson should run both social partner groups. So, it is an unusual ability to support the nomination and it is unusual in more than one

way. It is the first time that I have been able to say that I consider the person being nominated a good friend. It is certainly the first time that I have been able to say that, with the abilities of all the previous candidates, I have watched the apprenticeship of the candidate we are going to elect to be our Chairperson. I can speak first-hand of his excellent chairmanship, his ability to steer what has been a very difficult Governing Body on occasions and, of course, his reward for that was to be given the task of chairing, more recently, the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which in itself has always been a very tough Commission. So we can say with absolute genuine pride and affection that we are very pleased to see him as our Chairperson. We know that he is a good friend of the ILO. We know that he is a good friend of social justice, and therefore the Workers will happily subsume the Employers within their numbers, because the Employers are Workers as well and, on behalf of both social partner groups, say that we fully support the nomination of Jean-Jacques Elmiger for Chairperson.

Original Spanish: Mr. FUNES DE RIOJA (*Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*) – I should like to thank Lord Brett for supporting this nomination on his own behalf and on behalf of the Employers. I believe that we share the values of our common friend.

The nomination of Mr. Jean-Jacques Elmiger, Secretary of State, Federal Department of the Economy of Switzerland, has been duly proposed and seconded. I consider that he is elected unanimously to preside over the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference.

I wish to congratulate him very warmly on behalf of the Employers and invite him to take the President's Chair.

(*Mr. Elmiger, Secretary of State, Federal Department of the Economy of Switzerland, is elected President of the Conference and takes the President's Chair.*)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Original French: The PRESIDENT – I am proud to have been appointed to this post. I believe that many of you already know me and know the spirit in which I have sought to serve this institution. You can rest assured that I will continue to work in that same spirit during the three weeks of our Conference.

I would like to extend my special thanks to the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the spokesperson of the Government group, who nominated me, and I would also like to thank Mrs. Noteboom, of the delegation of the Netherlands, for all the work that has been done within the Western European group. In preparing for this Conference we did a lot of work institutionally and politically with a view to this election and it became apparent that we are all able to work together extremely constructively. It is certainly in that spirit that I will be conducting the work of this Conference and I will be doing my utmost to ensure its success.

I would like once again to thank you for the trust you have shown in me and I hope that you will judge that I have been worthy of it when we come to the end of our work on 20 June 2002.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Original French: The PRESIDENT – In accordance with article 25, paragraph 2, of the Conference Standing Orders, we shall now proceed to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference. I therefore invite the Clerk of the Conference to read out the nominations made by the groups.

Original French: The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE – The nominations to the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Conference are as follows:

Government group:

Mr. Hussain, Federal Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis (*Pakistan*)

Employers' group:

Mr. Arbesser Rastburg (*Austria*)

Workers' group:

Mr. Rampak (*Malaysia*)

Original French: The PRESIDENT – If there are no objections, may I take it that the proposals are adopted?

(*The proposals are adopted.*)

NOMINATION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GROUPS

Original French: The PRESIDENT – We shall now proceed with the nomination of the Officers of the groups. I call upon the Clerk of the Conference to read out the names of those who have been elected by the various groups.

Original French: The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE – The groups have chosen their Officers as follows:

Government group:

Chairperson: Mr. Chung (*Republic of Korea*)

Employers' group:

Chairperson: Mr. Funes de Rioja (*Argentina*)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Suzuki (*Japan*)
Mr. de Arbeloa (*Venezuela*)
Mr. Lawson (*Canada*)
Mr. Hoff (*Norway*)
Mr. Diack (*Côte d'Ivoire*)

Secretary: Mr. Peñalosa (*International Organization of Employers*)

Workers' group:

Chairperson: Lord Brett (*United Kingdom*)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Schmakov (*Russian Federation*)
Ms. Anderson (*Mexico*)
Mr. Oshiomole (*Nigeria*)
Ms. Triana (*Colombia*)

Secretary: Mr. Cunniah (*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*)

The members of the Officers of the Workers' group, apart from the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons are: Mr. Zellhoefer (*United States*), Ms. Yacob (*Singapore*), Mr. Ito (*Japan*), Mr. Altigbe (*Benin*), Ms. de Vits (*Belgium*), Mr. Miranda de Oliveira (*Brazil*), Ms. Engelen-Kefer (*Germany*) and Mr. Allini (*Gabon*).

CONSTITUTION AND COMPOSITION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Original French: The PRESIDENT – The next item on our agenda is the establishment of the various committees that will consider the matters before the Conference. The Conference may wish to set up the following committees: Selection Committee, Finance Committee, Standing Orders Committee, Resolutions Committee, Committee on the Application of Standards, Committee on the Promotion of Cooperatives, Committee on Occupational Accidents and Diseases, Committee on the Informal Economy.

If there are no objections, I take it that these proposals are adopted.

(The proposals are adopted.)

COMPOSITION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Original French: The PRESIDENT – The Clerk of the Conference is going to read out the nominations that have been made by the groups for the composition of the Selection Committee.

Original French: The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE – The 28 Government members are the titular members of the Governing Body of the following countries: Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Namibia, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela.

The 14 Employer members are the following: Mr. Boisson (*France*); Mr. Dahlan (*Saudi Arabia*); Mr. Funes de Rioja (*Argentina*); Mr. Horvatic (*Croatia*); Mr. Lambert (*United Kingdom*); Mr. Lawson (*Canada*); Mr. Lima Godoy (*Brazil*); Mr. M'Kaissi (*Tunisia*); Mr. Noakes (*Australia*); Mr. Potter (*United States*); Mr. Sanszouango (*Cameroon*); Ms. Sasso-Mazzufferi (*Italy*); Mr. Suzuki (*Japan*); and Mr. Tabani (*Pakistan*).

Finally, the members of the Workers' group are as follows: Lord Brett (*United Kingdom*); Mr. Rampak (*Malaysia*); Mr. Schmakov (*Russian Federation*); Ms. Anderson (*Mexico*); Mr. Oshiomole (*Nigeria*); Ms. Triana (*Colombia*); Mr. Zellhoefer (*United States*); Ms. Yacob (*Singapore*); Mr. Attigbe (*Benin*); Mr. Ito (*Japan*); Ms. de Vits (*Belgium*); Mr. Miranda de Oliveira (*Brazil*); Ms. Engelen-Kefer (*Germany*); and Mr. Allini (*Gabon*).

Original French: The PRESIDENT – If there are no objections I take it that the membership of the Selection Committee as read out is adopted.

(The proposals are adopted.)

The nominations made by the groups for the provisional composition of the other committees, will be distributed in this room tomorrow morning.

SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Original French: The PRESIDENT – The next item concerns the suspension of certain provisions of the Standing Orders of the Conference to put into effect recommendations made by the Governing Body at its 282nd and 283rd Sessions, more specifically the time limit for speeches in plenary, the role of the Selection Committee, the modalities to be followed in discussing the Global Report and the use of an electronic voting system by the Government Electoral College. Further, the Officers of the Conference believe that while waiting for an amendment to article 9(a) of the Standing Orders to be adopted by the Conference, it would undoubtedly be useful, so far as changes to the composition of the committees are concerned, to abide by proposals from groups rather than to have changes approved every day by the Selection Committee.

In order to give effect to these measures, the President and the three Vice-Presidents of the Conference unanimously recommend, in accordance with article 76 of the Standing Orders, the following:

- (a) that the time limit for speeches in plenary on the Director-General's Report be set at five minutes and that, to that extent, the Conference suspend article 14, paragraph 6, of the Standing Orders;
- (b) that the Conference delegate to the Selection Committee – with authorization to subdelegate Officers – authority to approve non-controversial invitations, non-governmental international organizations to be represented in Conference committees, and that the Conference, to that extent, suspend article 4, paragraph 2, and article 56 of the Standing Orders;
- (c) that the Conference decide that the discussion of the Global Report should not fall under the limitation concerning the number of statements by each speaker in the plenary but that within each Government delegation, interventions be made either by the minister or by the Government delegate and that, to that extent, article 12, paragraph 3, of the Standing Orders should be suspended; and that the Conference decide that the discussion should not be governed by the provisions regarding time limits to speeches and, to that extent, suspend article 14, paragraph 6, of the Standing Orders; and that the Conference decide not to apply to the discussion of the Global Report, to the extent required, the provisions of article 14, paragraph 2, of the Standing Orders on the sequence with which the floor is given to speakers;
- (d) that the Conference decide that the Government Electoral College should be authorized to proceed to the election of members of the Govern-

ing Body for the period 2002-05 using electronic means and, to that extent, suspend article 52, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Standing Orders;

- (e) that the Conference decide that changes to the initial composition of committees should be made every day on the basis of proposals of the three groups, received by the Secretariat before 6 p.m. and, to that extent, suspend article 9(a) of the Standing Orders.

Pursuant to article 76 of the Standing Orders, these suspensions will only come into effect once they have been approved by the Conference at its next plenary session to be held tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. in this room.

(The Conference adjourned at 6.20 p.m.)

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