



Report of the Credentials Committee

First report

1. The Credentials Committee of the 93rd Session of the Conference is composed of Mr. Jules Medenou Oni, Government delegate, Benin, Chairperson; Ms. Lucia Sasso Mazzufferi, Employers' delegate, Italy; and Mr. Ulf Edström, Workers' delegate, Sweden.

Composition of the Conference

2. Since the signing of the brief report presented on behalf of the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (*Provisional Record* No. 4A), the composition of the Conference has been modified as follows.
3. Of the 178 member States of the International Labour Organization, 166 are represented at the Conference, that is, four more than were accredited at the time that the brief report was signed. These are Haiti, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Accredited delegates and advisers

4. A total of 649 delegates, including 330 Government delegates, 159 Employers' delegates and 160 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
5. A total of 2,035 advisers, including 1,038 Government advisers, 449 Employers' advisers and 548 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
6. Therefore a total of 2,684 delegates and advisers have been accredited.
7. With regard to the resolution adopted by the Conference at its 67th Session in June 1981, concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, 99 of the 649 delegates and 498 of the 2,035 advisers accredited to the Conference are women. Women delegates represent no more than 15.3 per cent of total delegates, against 15.5 per cent last year. Therefore a total of 597 women have been accredited to the Conference, which is 22.2 per cent of total delegates and advisers against 23.24 per cent last year. The Committee deeply deplores that this percentage is even less than the previous year's already low figure and represents a step backwards in the trend of a slight yearly improvement, since 2001, towards more equal representation.
8. The Committee takes note with satisfaction that an increased number of member States (87) have deposited their credentials within the time prescribed under article 26 of the

Standing Orders of the Conference. The Committee welcomes this trend and hopes that it will continue next year.

9. The Committee also urges the Governments to avail themselves of the possibility to submit their credentials online,¹ so as to expedite the accreditation process.

Registered delegates and advisers

10. The following is the current status of the registration of delegates, which is the basis for determining the quorum for voting (see attached table established Friday, 3 June 2005 at noon).
11. Currently 562 delegates, including 295 Government delegates, 133 Employers' delegates and 134 Workers' delegates are registered.
12. In addition, 1,721 advisers, including 927 Government advisers, 368 Employers' advisers and 426 Workers' advisers are registered.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

13. The Committee notes that, to date, 12 member States have not sent a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Turkmenistan). It further notes that, at the present time, the accredited delegations of five countries (Belize, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia and Uzbekistan) are exclusively governmental. Two countries (Paraguay and Tajikistan) have a Workers' delegate but no Employers' delegate, and one country (Myanmar) has an Employers' delegate but no Workers' delegate. The Committee regrets that so many delegations are either not accredited or incomplete and wishes to affirm once again the necessity for governments to comply with the requirement of article 3 of the Constitution to send a complete tripartite delegation to the Conference. The Committee recalls that, pursuant to a decision of the Governing Body, each year the Director-General requests the governments of all member States which did not send a delegation or only sent an incomplete delegation to the Conference to indicate the reasons for their failure to do so. It also recalls that the information received in reply to that request is duly forwarded by the Office to the Governing Body. The Committee would encourage those governments that have not done so to provide the relevant information.
14. The Committee also notes that the number of advisers in each group is not evenly balanced; in particular, there are fewer Employers' advisers (449) than Workers' advisers (548). It once again urges governments to pay more attention to the relative proportions of the various categories of delegation members when making nominations to the Conference, as envisaged in article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Constitution. The Committee further recalls the request contained in the resolution, adopted by the Conference at its 56th Session in 1971, concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the International Labour Organization and hopes that governments will accord equal treatment to each of the groups when appointing advisers to their country's delegation to the Conference, so as to permit them to effectively follow the work of the various committees of the Conference. The Committee recalls in this connection the

¹ The credentials online are available at <<http://ilc.ilo.org/credentials/index.asp>>.

Members' obligation under article 13, paragraph 2(a), of the Constitution, to pay the travelling and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers and trusts that this obligation will be respected for the duration of the Conference.

Quorum

15. Twenty-one advisers, who are also substitutes to delegates not registered, have been taken into account in calculating the voting strength of the Conference.
16. Seventeen member States, the same number as last year, represented at the Conference are in arrears in their financial contributions to the Organization under the terms of article 13, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and therefore may not, at present, participate in the voting in the Conference or its committees. These are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan, Togo and Uzbekistan. Since publication in the brief report (*Provisional Record* No. 4A) of the list of countries not allowed to vote, the delegations of two have been accredited. Therefore 56 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. Three delegates from countries entitled to vote (Paraguay, Myanmar and Tajikistan) are also excluded, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 2, of the ILO Constitution, because their national delegations are incomplete. According to this article "if one of the Members fails to nominate one of the non-Government delegates whom it is entitled to nominate, the other non-Government delegate shall be allowed to sit and speak at the Conference, but not to vote".
17. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 274. This number represents 584 registered delegates (see paragraph 11 above), plus 21 substitute delegates (paragraph 15 above) minus 56 registered delegates not entitled to vote (see paragraph 16 above), the total being divided by two. The Committee appeals to the delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival and to give timely notice of their departure date, in order to ensure that the quorum is as accurate as possible and that they are not counted as present when they are in fact absent from the Conference.
18. The Committee still regrets the fact that so many member States are in arrears in their payments, thereby depriving the Employers' and Workers' delegations from exercising their right to vote.

Observer, organizations and liberation movement invited

19. The Conference is also being attended by:
 - representatives of one observer delegation (the Holy See) invited by the Conference;
 - a tripartite delegation of a liberation movement (Palestine) invited in conformity with article 2, paragraph 3(k), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
 - representatives of the United Nations and some of its bodies invited by virtue of Article II, paragraph (1), concerning reciprocal representation, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, which came into effect on 14 December 1946;

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- representatives of specialized agencies and other official international organizations, invited in conformity with article 2, paragraph 3(b), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
 - representatives of non-governmental international organizations with which consultative relations have been established, invited in conformity with article 2, paragraph 3(j), of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
 - representatives of other non-governmental international organizations also invited in conformity with article 2, paragraph 3(j), of the Standing Orders of the Conference.

20. A list of these representatives is appended to the *List of Delegations* published as a supplement to the *Provisional Record* of the Conference and will be updated in the *First Revised List of Delegations* to be issued on Tuesday, 7 June 2005.

Objections, complaints and communications

21. To date, the Committee has before it several objections, complaints and communications. It has forthwith commenced their examination. The Committee believes that its work was facilitated by the fact that a substantial number of credentials had reached the Office prior to the Conference. Further, it is important that governments utilize the credentials form enclosed with the letter of convocation to the Conference, which is sent to governments every year, or the electronic version made available by the Office. This year, however, 48 per cent of member States did not use the forms. In order to comply with article 3, paragraph 5, of the Constitution, governments should provide accurate information on the employers' and workers' organizations consulted in nominating Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers, as well as on the organizations that have agreed to such nominations.
22. In order to permit it to fulfil its mandate, the Committee recalled that all governments are urged to indicate in their credentials the organizations to which each of the Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers belong, as well as their functions within those organizations. However, despite the urgent call made on behalf of the Chairperson in the brief report, seven governments (Bahamas, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Togo) have not provided the required information for all of the Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers. The Committee therefore urges these governments to complete this information as soon as possible and hopes that in future sessions of the Conference such information will be provided on time for publication in the *Provisional List of Delegations*, which in accordance with article 26bis, paragraph 1(a), of the Standing Orders,² serves as the basis for the submission of objections to credentials.
23. The Committee welcomes the new database³ on the verification of credentials and urges all interested parties to make full use of it.

² Interim provisions concerning verification of credentials adopted by the Conference at its 92nd (June 2004) Session and effective from the 93rd (June 2005) Session to the 96th (June 2007) Session of the International Labour Conference.

³ The database is available at <<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/creds/credsbrowse.home>>.

24. The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference so that it may take note of it.

Geneva, 3 June 2005.

(Signed) Mr. Jules Medenou Oni,
Chairperson.

Ms. Lucia Sasso Mazzufferi.

Mr. Ulf Edström.

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