



Report of the Credentials Committee

1. The Credentials Committee, which was appointed by the Meeting at its first sitting, met on 24, 25 and 26 April 2007 to examine, in conformity with article 9 of the Rules for Regional Meetings, the credentials of the delegates and their advisers attending the Meeting, as well as the objections to credentials, the complaints concerning the non-payment of travel and subsistence expenses of delegations, and other communications. The Committee was composed as follows:

Chairperson: Mr Adel Fadel Ahmed (Government delegate, Egypt);

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Adolphe Sagbo (Employers' delegate, Niger) and
Mr Mohamed Chendoul (Workers' delegate, Tunisia)

2. Credentials received in respect of the members of the delegations were submitted in the form of official instruments, official letters or facsimiles. Scanned copies of such documents sent by electronic mail were considered as equivalent to facsimiles.
3. The Committee drew the attention of Governments to the importance of respecting article 9, paragraph 1, of the abovementioned Rules, according to which credentials must be deposited at least 15 days before the opening of a meeting (i.e. 9 April 2007 for this Meeting). The Committee was concerned that credentials only from 21 (six more than in 2003) of the 53 members invited were received within that time limit. Furthermore, some members filed their credentials shortly or and during the Meeting; such late filing meant that 14 per cent of the delegations that had been accredited by the end of the Meeting did not appear on the *First provisional list of delegations* made available online by the Office on 19 April 2007. Since this list provides advance information that may serve as the basis for objections to the credentials of delegates or their advisers, the absence of full information before the beginning of the Meeting was a concern to the Committee.

Composition of the Meeting

4. By the time of the adoption of this report, and as reflected in the table in Annex A, out of the 53 member States invited to attend the Meeting, 42 members sent credentials in due form. The Meeting was composed of 83 Government delegates, 38 Employers' delegates and 39 Workers' delegates, i.e. 160 delegates in all. In addition, the Meeting comprised 114 Government advisers, 36 Employers' advisers and 55 Workers' advisers, amounting to a total of 205 advisers. Persons appointed as both substitute delegates and advisers have been included among the advisers. The total number of accredited delegates and advisers thus amounted to 365.
5. Regarding the number of delegates and advisers having registered, there were 67 Government delegates, 33 Employers' delegates and 34 Workers' delegates, for a total of 134 delegates. The total number of advisers amounted to 170, of whom 100 were

Government advisers, 20 Employers' advisers, and 50 Workers' advisers. Annex B to this report contains more detailed information on the number of delegates and advisers registered to the Meeting, amounting to a total of 304.

6. The Committee noted that the delegations of three member States accredited to the Meeting (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia) were exclusively governmental. In addition, the delegation of Ghana comprised the Workers' delegate, and not the Employers' delegate. The Committee details this point in paragraphs 16–23 below.
7. With regard to the resolutions concerning the participation of women in ILO meetings, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 67th and 78th Sessions (June 1981 and June 1991), the Committee noted that 22 of the 160 delegates and 43 of the 205 advisers that were accredited to the Meeting were women. Women represented no more than 17.8 per cent of total delegates and advisers. Although these numbers reflect an increase as compared to the Tenth African Regional Meeting in 2003 (15 delegates and 16 advisers), the Committee deplored the fact that this percentage remained low. The Committee noted with particular concern that 12 delegations contained no women delegates or advisers (Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia). The Committee wished to recall that the United Nations set a target of increasing the proportion of women in decision- and policy-making bodies to at least 30 per cent which was referred to by the Director-General in the letter of convocation sent to the members. The Committee called upon the constituents to strive to meet this target of representation of women in delegations to Regional Meetings.
8. Thirty-three ministers or vice-ministers of 31 member States of the region attended the Meeting.
9. Eleven member States of the region were not accredited (Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone). Moreover, five accredited member States did not register.

Representatives of official international organizations

10. Of the official international organizations invited to attend the Meeting, in accordance with the relevant agreements or decisions of the Governing Body, the following were represented:
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
 - United Nations Environment Programme
 - United Nations Children's Fund
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - United Nations Population Fund
 - United Nations Development Programme
 - World Food Programme
 - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

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- United Nations Human Settlements Programme
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - World Health Organization
 - International Telecommunications Union
 - International Monetary Fund
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 - International Organization for Migration
 - Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
 - African Union
 - African Development Bank
 - African Regional Labour Administration Centre
 - Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa
 - Economic Community of Central African States
 - Economic Community of West African States
 - Arab Labour Organization
 - Arab Centre for Labour Administration and Employment
 - Conférence interafricaine de la Prévoyance sociale

Representatives of international non-governmental organizations

- 11.** The international non-governmental organizations that were invited to participate at the Meeting, in conformity with article 1, paragraph 7, of the Rules, and were represented were:
- International Trade Union Confederation
 - World Federation of Trade Unions
 - International Organization of Employers
 - Organization of African Trade Union Unity
 - Pan-African Employers' Confederation
 - African Regional Organization of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

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- East African Trade Union Council
 - Democratic Organization of African Workers' Trade Union

Objections

12. The Committee received only one objection.

Objection concerning the nomination of the Workers' delegate of Equatorial Guinea

13. The Committee had before it an objection challenging the nomination of the Workers' delegate of Equatorial Guinea, lodged by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). In its objection, the ITUC stated that the Workers' delegate, Ms Consuelo Hangué Ndong, designated as "Jefe de Personal" of the CCEIBANK, had simply been selected by the Government, without representing any free and independent trade union and that, accordingly, her appointment was not made in conformity with the provisions of the ILO Constitution.
14. The Committee noted that the delegation of Equatorial Guinea, although accredited, had not actually registered at the Meeting. The Committee forwarded the objection to the Permanent Mission of this country in Geneva inviting the Government to comment upon the objection, but received no response. Under the circumstances, the Committee concluded that it was not in a position to pursue the matter further.

Communications

15. The Committee considered two communications regarding incomplete delegations.

Communication concerning Ghana

16. The Secretary of the Employers' group, Mr Frederick Muia, drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the Government of Ghana had not included the Employers' delegate in their delegation to the Meeting, requesting the Committee to seek reasons from the concerned Government on the non-accreditation of an Employers' delegate.
17. In response to an invitation from the Committee to comment upon the communication, the Government of Ghana expressed its regret for the inability to sponsor the Employers' delegate due to some financial constraints. The Government, however, indicated that the Employers' delegate would be fully sponsored for the forthcoming International Labour Conference in Geneva. Furthermore, the Government expressed its hope that the Meeting would advise constituents to assist whenever possible for delegates to be reimbursed at a later date.
18. The Committee took note of the comments made by the Government. It wished to recall that members that accept an invitation to attend Regional Meetings have an obligation under article 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules for Regional Meetings to nominate complete delegations that would ensure, in particular, a balanced representation of employers and workers. The Governments also had a duty to pay the travel and subsistence expenses of the Employers' and Workers' delegates in order to ensure their effective participation at the Meeting.

**Communication concerning Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,
Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia**

19. The Committee received a communication sent by the ITUC, bringing to the attention of the Committee the fact that delegations of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia had failed to accredit tripartite delegations, expressing its serious concern about such credentials, and calling upon the Committee to request further information from the Governments concerned.
20. In response to an invitation of the Committee to the Governments to provide information, if they so wished, only the Government of Somalia responded, indicating that the failure to appoint Employers' and Workers' delegates resulted from the civil war in Somalia and the absence of workers' and employers' organizations in the country. The Government indicated that it would include such delegates in future tripartite meetings as soon as it was possible to appoint them in consultation with their respective organizations. The Government also indicated that it would appreciate any assistance in reorganizing the workers' union, so that it could help in the reconstruction of the country. The Committee took note of the information communicated to it and considered that the subject of the communication did not call for any action on its part. The Committee expressed its hope that the Government would avail itself of ILO technical assistance for the purpose indicated above.
21. The Committee noted that the Government of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had not responded to its invitation to provide information concerning the communication of the ICTU.
22. The Committee further noted that the only delegate accredited by the Government of Sao Tome and Principe had not registered at the Meeting and that there were no alternative means of communication with that Government. Consequently, the invitation of the Committee to provide information concerning the communication of the ICTU could not be communicated to the Government.
23. The Committee wished to reiterate that members that accepted an invitation to attend Regional Meetings had an obligation under article 1, paragraph 1, of the Rules for Regional Meetings to nominate complete delegations that would ensure, in particular, a balanced representation of employers and workers.

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24. The Committee adopted this report unanimously. It recommended that the Meeting request the Office to annex it to the report of the Meeting and to bring it to the attention of the Governing Body, in conformity with article 9, paragraph 5, of the Rules for Regional Meetings.

Addis Ababa, 26 April 2007.

(Signed) Mr Adel Fadel Ahmed,
Chairperson.

Mr Adolphe Sagbo.

Mr Mohamed Chendoul.

Annex A

Accredited delegates and advisers (Updated as of 4 p.m. on 26 April 2007)

	Government delegates	Government advisers	Employers' delegates	Employers' advisers	Workers' delegates	Workers' advisers
Algeria	2	–	1	1	1	–
Angola	2	3	1	–	1	–
Benin	2	2	1	–	1	–
Botswana	2	4	1	–	1	–
Burkina Faso	2	7	1	–	1	–
Burundi	2	1	1	–	1	–
Cameroon	2	2	1	–	1	–
Cape Verde	–	–	–	–	–	–
Central African Republic	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chad	2	–	1	–	1	1
Comoros	–	–	–	–	–	–
Congo	2	4	1	2	1	2
Côte d'Ivoire	2	2	1	1	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2	2	1	2	1	2
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	–	–
Egypt	2	2	1	–	1	1
Equatorial Guinea	2	–	1	–	1	–
Eritrea	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ethiopia	2	12	1	23	1	29
Gabon	2	5	1	–	1	1
Gambia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ghana	2	–	–	–	1	–
Guinea	2	4	1	–	1	2
Guinea-Bissau	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kenya	2	7	1	2	1	–
Lesotho	2	2	1	–	1	–
Liberia	2	3	1	–	1	–
Liban Arab Jamahiriya	2	1	–	–	–	–
Madagascar	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malawi	2	–	1	–	1	–
Mali	2	1	1	–	1	1
Mauritania	2	4	1	–	1	–
Mauritius	2	2	1	–	1	–
Morocco	2	3	1	1	1	6
Mozambique	2	2	1	–	1	–
Namibia	2	1	1	–	1	–
Niger	2	1	1	–	1	–
Nigeria	2	8	1	2	1	4
Rwanda	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sao Tome and Principe	1	–	–	–	–	–
Senegal	2	2	1	1	1	1
Seychelles	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sierra Leone	–	–	–	–	–	–
Somalia	2	3	–	–	–	–
South Africa	2	3	1	–	1	–
Sudan	2	1	1	–	1	3
Swaziland	2	–	1	–	1	–
United Republic of Tanzania	2	7	1	1	1	–
Togo	2	3	1	–	1	–
Tunisia	2	1	1	–	1	–
Uganda	2	2	1	–	1	–
Zambia	2	3	1	–	1	–
Zimbabwe	2	4	1	–	1	1
Total	83	114	38	36	39	55

Annex B

Registered delegates and advisers (Updated as of 4 p.m. on 26 April 2007)

	Government delegates	Government advisers	Employers' delegates	Employers' advisers	Workers' delegates	Workers' advisers
Algeria	2	-	1	1	1	-
Angola	2	3	1	-	1	-
Benin	2	1	1	-	1	-
Botswana	1	3	1	-	1	-
Burkina Faso	2	7	1	-	1	-
Burundi	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cameroon	2	2	1	-	1	-
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central African Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chad	2	-	1	-	1	1
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congo	2	4	1	2	1	2
Côte d'Ivoire	1	2	-	1	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Djibouti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	2	2	1	-	1	1
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eritrea	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	2	11	1	10	1	28
Gabon	-	5	1	-	1	1
Gambia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghana	2	-	-	-	1	-
Guinea	1	3	1	-	1	2
Guinea-Bissau	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya	2	5	1	1	1	-
Lesotho	2	2	1	-	1	-
Liberia	2	2	1	-	1	-
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	1	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	2	-	1	-	1	-
Mali	1	1	1	-	1	1
Mauritania	-	3	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	2	2	1	-	1	-
Morocco	2	3	1	1	1	6
Mozambique	2	1	1	-	1	-
Namibia	2	1	1	-	1	-
Niger	2	1	1	-	1	-
Nigeria	2	8	1	2	1	2
Rwanda	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	2	2	1	1	1	1
Sevchelles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	2	2	-	-	-	-
South Africa	2	3	1	-	1	-
Sudan	2	1	1	-	-	3
Swaziland	2	-	1	-	1	-
United Republic of Tanzania	2	5	1	1	1	-
Togo	2	3	1	-	1	-
Tunisia	2	1	1	-	1	-
Uganda	2	2	1	-	1	-
Zambia	2	3	1	-	1	-
Zimbabwe	2	4	1	-	1	1
Total	67	100	33	20	34	50