



Governing Body

317th Session, Geneva, 6–28 March 2013

GB.317/INS/13/4

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 19 March 2013

Original: English

THIRTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

Fourth report: Timing of the autumn 2014 session of the Governing Body

1. At its 310th Session (March 2011), the Governing Body adopted a reform package¹ to improve its functioning which entailed new requirements concerning the timeliness of Governing Body documents.
2. According to paragraph 5.5.5 of the revised Standing Orders of the Governing Body,² the documents submitted to the Governing Body must be available electronically, in the three official languages, 15 working days (i.e. three weeks) prior to the start of the public Governing Body meetings and, in the case of the programme and budget proposals, 30 working days (i.e. six weeks).
3. The experience of the 312th Session of the Governing Body (November 2011), which was the first after the reform, demonstrated that, in light of the time constraints between the November and March sessions, the implementation of these requirements might create serious difficulties for the Office in the preparation of documents requested for the March session of the Governing Body.
4. The Screening Group therefore asked the Office to explore the possibility of rescheduling the autumn sessions of the Governing Body, either by advancing the November session to October, or by postponing the March session to April.
5. The Office conducted a survey on official meetings scheduled, respectively in April and October 2012 and 2013 within the ILO and across the United Nations (UN) system, during which more than 20 organizations were approached. On the basis of this survey, the

¹ GB.310/9/1.

² *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*, Standing Orders, Section 5 – Procedures.

Governing Body considered that postponing the March session to April would probably not be considered a good solution, given the proximity of the World Health Assembly in May and the International Labour Conference in June and decided, at its 313th Session that, as from 2013, the autumn sessions of the Governing Body would be scheduled in October. Given the dates set for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2–11 October), it was decided that the 319th Session would be held from 17 to 31 October 2013.

6. In January 2013, the Office conducted a similar survey to explore the dates that could be proposed in October 2014 to the Governing Body for its 322nd Session. Even if dates were not yet available for all meetings, the data collected so far from UN organizations based in Geneva, as reflected in the appended table, demonstrated that some major UN events, such as the Human Rights Committee or the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) were already expected to take place during the second half of October 2014. Holding the Governing Body in parallel with those major events would raise major difficulties for the Government delegations attending the Governing Body as well as for the Office, in particular with regard to the recruitment of interpreters. Advancing the Governing Body session to the first half of October 2014 would result in similar overlaps with other UN meetings, such as the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) or the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and generate other problems in terms of preparatory work planning, in particular with respect to the meetings of the Committee on Freedom of Association.
7. ***In the light of the above, the Officers of the Governing Body recommend that the autumn 2014 session (322nd Session) of the Governing Body be scheduled from 30 October to 13 November 2014.***

Appendix

Meetings of Geneva-based international organizations in October and November 2014

	Organization	Observations	Title and date
1	CD Conference on Disarmament	There are three sessions a year. None appear to be planned for October–November 2014.	None
2	ECOSOC Economic and Social Council	The Council is held in alternate years in New York and Geneva. In July 2014 it will be the turn of New York.	None
3	IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency	Major meetings take place in Vienna. Very few seminars and panel discussions are organized in Geneva.	None
4	IOM International Organization for Migration	The Standing Committee takes place over two days end October–early November. The Council takes place over four days, end November or early December.	Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance: no dates yet Council: no dates yet
5	ITU International Telecommunication Union	Plenipotentiary Conference in October. Minor meetings (working parties, 200 participants) throughout October and November.	20 October–7 November 2014 (Busan, Republic of Korea) ITU Plenipotentiary Conference – election of Secretary-General, around 1,800 participants
6	ITC International Trade Centre		No events planned yet for 2014
7	JIU Joint Inspection Unit	No major meetings.	None
8	OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		
9	UNAIDS United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	The major UNAIDS meeting (Programme Coordinating Board–PCP) takes place in June and December.	None
10	UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	The highest decision-making body of UNCTAD is the quadrennial conference (next due in 2016).	No information yet for 2014

	Organization	Observations	Title and date
11	UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	The Executive Committee usually takes place in the first week of October.	No information yet for 2014
12	UNIDIR United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	The meetings of the governance bodies take place in February (New York) and July (Geneva).	None
13	UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research	No major meeting on a regular basis.	None
14	UNRISD United Nations Research Institute for Social Development	The only regular meeting is the annual board meeting that takes place in March–April.	None
15	CEB United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination	No interpretation required for meetings (English only).	None
16	UPU Universal Postal Union		UPU Congress (28 October 2014, three weeks)
17	WMO World Meteorological Organization	The Executive Council takes place each year at the end of June. The World Meteorological Congress takes place every four years (next due in 2015).	No major meetings planned yet Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CI-MO-XVI) in St Petersburg (July or October)
18	WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization	Two weeks, starting on the last Monday of September.	General Assembly 29 September–10 October 2014
19	WHO World Health Organization	The annual session of the World Health Assembly takes place in May and the Executive Board meets in January and May.	None
20	WTO World Trade Organization		None
21	OHCHR Office of the (United Nations) High Commissioner for Human Rights	The main body (Human Rights Council) meets three times a year.	No precise information yet for 2014, but likely to be very similar to 2013 Human Rights Committee, 14 October–1 November 2013 Likely dates: last two weeks of October 2014 Various other working groups and committees meet in October and the first half of November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Social Forum, 30 September–2 October 2013 ■ Human Rights Council/Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, 30 September–4 October 2013

Organization	Observations	Title and date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 30 September–18 October 2013 ■ Meeting of States Parties to the Convention against Torture, 1 October 2013 ■ Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), pre-sessional working group, 7–11 October 2013 ■ Human Rights Committee, pre-sessional working group on communications, 7–11 October 2013 ■ Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 7–18 October 2013 ■ CEDAW, pre-sessional working group for the 58th Session, 21–25 October 2013 ■ Board of Trustees, UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, 28–31 October 2013 ■ Committee against Torture (CAT), 28 October–22 November 2013 ■ Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), 30 October–8 November 2013 ■ Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, 4–8 November 2013 ■ Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), 4–15 November 2013 ■ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 4–29 November 2013 ■ Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), 11–15 November 2013