



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Obituary

Mr Homero Luis Hernández Sánchez

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 8 April 2016, of Mr Homero Luis Hernández Sánchez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Mr Hernández Sánchez represented his Government on the Governing Body of the ILO and at the International Labour Conference.
2. Mr Hernández Sánchez, who held a BA in literature and philosophy, followed by higher diplomas in law, international studies, political science and international affairs from universities in Santo Domingo, Geneva, Santiago de Chile and New York, embarked immediately on an international career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic and within the multilateral system. Among the many responsibilities taken up by Ambassador Hernández Sánchez during his long service we can cite his role as a delegate to the Organization of American States, at its Geneva headquarters from 1967 to 1970; his period as Assistant to the UN Secretary-General in New York from 1972 to 1978; and his two terms of office as Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, from 1978 to 1982 and from 2004 to 2016. He was also a member of the United Nations Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) in New York; and from 1993 to 2002 a member of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System, based in Geneva.
3. A highly cultivated and witty man, Ambassador Hernández Sánchez was respected for his keen grasp of international affairs and sense of diplomacy. Author of the prizewinning *América Latina en busca de su identidad* (Latin America in quest of its identity), he was also a strong supporter of the ILO in its mandate to promote social justice. In 2011, he was elected Government Vice-President of the International Labour Conference. He concluded his speech to the Conference by saying that unless the ILO succeeded fully in attaining its goals then “we only need to picture, through the spectre of social injustice, hunger and poverty, and the violence they engender, our children burying their games and their dreams”. He is survived by his widow, Charlotte, a son and a daughter.

Draft decision

4. *The Governing Body invites the Director-General to convey its sincere condolences to the family of Mr Homero Luis Hernández Sánchez and to the Government of the Dominican Republic.*