



Reports on credentials

First report of the Credentials Committee

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1. The Credentials Committee of the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference is composed as follows:

Chairperson: Mr Michael Hobby (Government delegate, New Zealand)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Fernando Yllanes Martínez (Employers' substitute delegate, Mexico)

Mr Jens Erik Ohrt (Workers' delegate, Denmark)

Deposit of credentials

2. This year the Conference is for the third time taking the form of a two-week session. The deadline set for the deposit of credentials has therefore been increased, once again, to 21 days (15 May 2017) prior to the opening of the present session of the Conference, rather than the minimum 15 days as foreseen in article 26(1) of the Standing Orders of the Conference.¹ This adjustment is mainly driven by the additional time required to process the Swiss entry visas and the high-volume of credentials, thereby allowing a smoother registration of delegations and permitting the Committee to commence its work as early as possible. In this connection, the Committee notes that 112 member States had deposited their credentials with the Office by the 21 day deadline.² It notes with satisfaction that this number increased substantively (27 more) from the previous year and recalls that timely accreditation promotes transparency of the national nomination process and is essential for the employers' and workers' organizations concerned. The Committee recommends, in the context of the Standing Orders' reform presently before the Governing Body, that this deadline of 21 days be confirmed for future sessions of the Conference and calls upon all member States to abide by it.
3. The Committee considers it important too that governments utilize the *Online accreditation system*.³ This system assists in providing clear information with respect to the function of each member of the delegation, as well as the organizations consulted in the nomination process and on the payment of travel and subsistence expenses as required, respectively by, articles 3(5) and 13(2)(a) of the ILO Constitution. The system has other advantages: reducing transcription errors, allowing the Organization to use better the resources provided to the secretariat and permitting faster processing of credentials which facilitates obtaining entry visas into Switzerland as well as early registration for the Conference and in committees. The Committee observes with satisfaction that close to 100 per cent of member States have used the *Online accreditation system* to submit their credentials (97 per cent this year as compared to 90 per cent last year).
4. The Committee notes that, for the first time this year, there is immediate access to information for all constituents through a website that is regularly updated and permits the public to view the composition of Conference delegations.⁴

¹ See GB.329/WP/GBC/2; GB.329/INS/18; dec-GB.329/INS/18.

² See para. 7 of *Provisional Record* No. 5A.

³ See <http://www.ilo.org/CredentialsILC/Login.aspx>.

⁴ See <http://www.ilo.org/Delegates/Credentialslive.aspx>.

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5. The Committee notes that in a few cases member States have not clearly identified, in their credentials, to which organizations delegates and advisers belong. In order to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate and in accordance with article 3(8) of the ILO Constitution, all governments are required to communicate the names of the delegates and advisers of the three groups as well as to correctly indicate to which organizations they belong and their functions within those organizations.
 6. It is also important that, to the extent possible, governments avoid making last minute modifications in the composition of their tripartite delegations so that correct and timely information may be made available and participants are registered without difficulty or delay.

Composition of the Conference

7. Since the signing of the brief report presented by the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (*Provisional Record* No. 5A), the composition of the Conference has been modified as follows.
8. Of the 187 member States of the International Labour Organization, 169 have been accredited to the Conference, that is, one more (Guinea-Bissau) than was accredited at the time that the brief report was established.

Accredited delegates and advisers

9. A total of 667 delegates, including 338 Government delegates, 164 Employers' delegates and 165 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.
10. A total of 2,501 advisers,⁵ including 1,164 Government advisers, 553 Employers' advisers and 784 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
11. Therefore, a total of 3,168 delegates and advisers have been accredited (see first attached table of accredited delegates and advisers established Wednesday, 7 June 2017, at 1:30 p.m.).

Registered delegates and advisers

12. The following is the current status of the registration of delegates which is the basis for determining the quorum for voting (see second attached table of registered delegates and advisers established Wednesday, 7 June 2017, 1:30 p.m.).
13. Currently, 568 delegates, including 313 Government delegates, 126 Employers' delegates and 129 Workers' delegates are registered.
14. In addition, 2,025 advisers, including 1,081 Government advisers, 379 Employers' advisers and 565 Workers' advisers are registered.

⁵ This includes advisers that are also substitute delegates.

Incomplete and non-accredited delegations

15. The Committee notes that, to date, 18 member States (one more than last year) have not accredited a delegation (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).
16. The Committee notes that four member States (Armenia, Cook Islands, Timor-Leste and Yemen) have accredited delegations that are exclusively governmental and one member State has an incomplete delegation with a Workers' delegate but no Employers' delegate (Nicaragua). As a result, the Workers' delegate from Nicaragua cannot vote in accordance with article 4(2) of the ILO Constitution and this, for the second consecutive year, which the Committee regrets.
17. The Committee expresses concern at the number of delegations that are neither accredited nor complete. In this regard, the Committee recalls that in accordance with a standing decision of the Governing Body,⁶ the Director-General periodically solicits information from the governments of the concerned member States. Further to the last report on the matter in March 2015, the Governing Body urged all member States to comply with their constitutional obligations to accredit complete tripartite delegations to the Conference to enable the Organization to fully discharge its mandate.⁷ The Committee wishes to reiterate this call and strongly urges all governments to comply with the requirement under article 3 of the ILO Constitution to send a complete tripartite delegation to the Conference. In this regard, the Committee proposes through the Conference that the Governing Body consider, in the context of its next discussion of this matter, whether any steps may be taken to achieve fuller participation; and that in the context of the reform of the Standing Orders, consideration be given as to whether the Committee should be automatically seized of cases with respect to incomplete delegations, so as to permit it to advance its work.
18. The Committee further recalls the request contained in the resolution concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the International Labour Organization, adopted by the Conference at its 56th Session (1971), and expects governments to accord equal treatment to each of the groups when appointing advisers to their national delegations to the Conference. In this connection, the Committee recalls the Members' obligation under article 13(2)(a) of the Constitution, to pay the travel and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers, and expects that this obligation will be respected for the entire duration of the Conference.
19. The Committee also notes that there are fewer accredited Employers' advisers than accredited Workers' advisers. It observes that the composition of some delegations show a serious imbalance between the number of Employers' and Workers' advisers when compared to the number of advisers appointed for the Government delegates.⁸ Where there is a serious and manifest imbalance, the Committee urges governments to make a genuine effort to reduce such imbalance in their own delegations when making nominations to the Conference, in light of article 3(1) and (2) of the Constitution.

⁶ See Annex VI, *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office* (Geneva, March 2016).

⁷ GB.323/LILS/1; dec-GB.323/LILS/1.

⁸ See para. 10 above.

Quorum

20. In accordance with article 17(3) of the Constitution and article 20(1) of the Standing Orders of the Conference, for a vote by the Conference to be valid, the number of votes cast for and against has to be at least half the number of delegates registered and entitled to vote.
21. The Committee profoundly regrets that so many member States are still in arrears in their payments, thereby depriving their Employers' and Workers' delegates of their right to vote. In this context, the Committee notes that 14 member States that have accredited a delegation to the Conference (Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) are in arrears in their financial contributions to the Organization under the terms of article 13(4) of the Constitution and therefore their delegates may not, at present, participate in the voting in the Conference or its committees. Consequently, 38 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum.
22. In determining the quorum of the Conference, 31 advisers who are also substitutes to delegates that have not registered have been taken into account.
23. At the present time the quorum required to give a vote validity is 280. This number represents 568 registered delegates (see paragraph 13 above), plus 31 substitute delegates (see paragraph 22 above) minus 39 registered delegates not entitled to vote (see paragraph 16, incomplete delegations; and paragraph 21, delegates from member States in arrears), the total being divided by two.
24. The Committee strongly appeals to the delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival and to ensure that they give formal 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. A form for this purpose is at the disposal of delegates on the Conference website.⁹

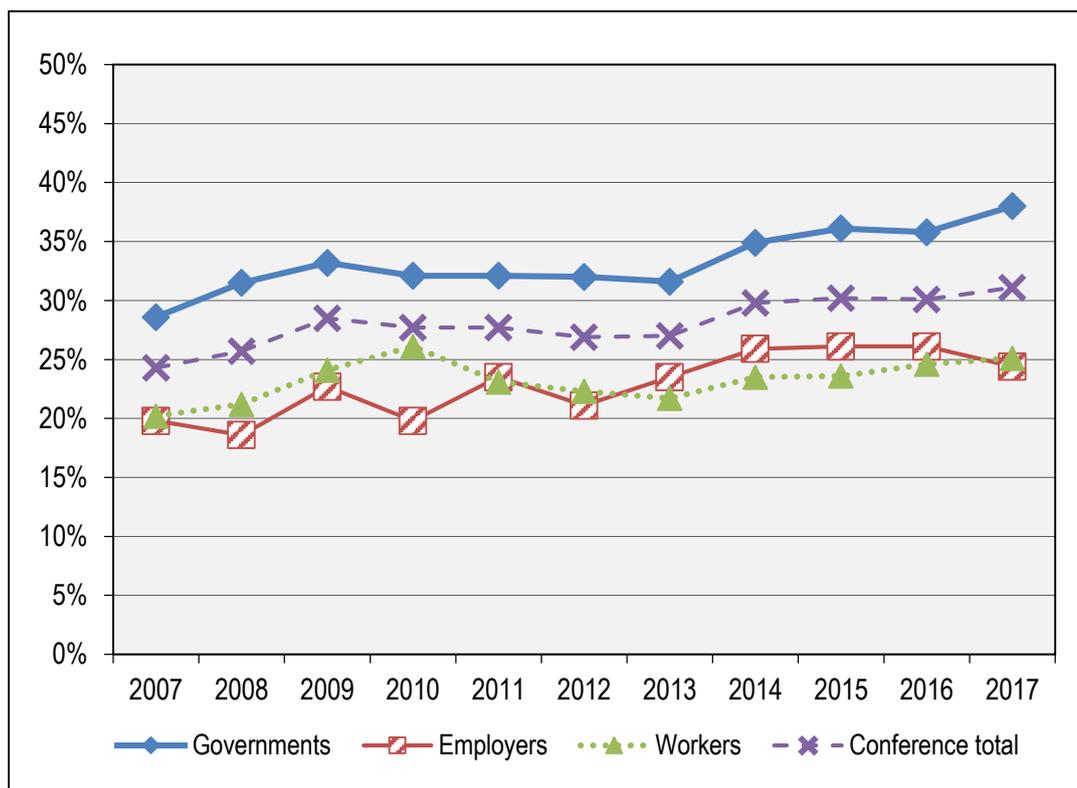
Proportion of women accredited in Conference delegations

25. As of 7 June 2017, a total of 984 female delegates and advisers have been accredited to this session of the Conference, representing 31.1 per cent of total delegates (as against 30.1 per cent in 2016 and 30.2 per cent in 2015). While the Committee notes that the proportion of women in Government delegations increased to 38 per cent (from 35.8 per cent in 2016 and 36.1 per cent in 2015) and to 25.1 per cent for the Worker delegations (from 24.6 per cent in 2016 and 23.6 per cent in 2015), it decreased to 24.4 per cent for Employer delegations (from 26.1 per cent in 2016 and 2015). In this context, the Committee recalls that a 30 per cent target of female participation in delegations was set in 1990 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution to be reached by 1995, "with a view to achieving equal representation between women and men by the year 2000".¹⁰ The trend since 2007 is reflected in figure 1 below.

⁹ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_371633.pdf.

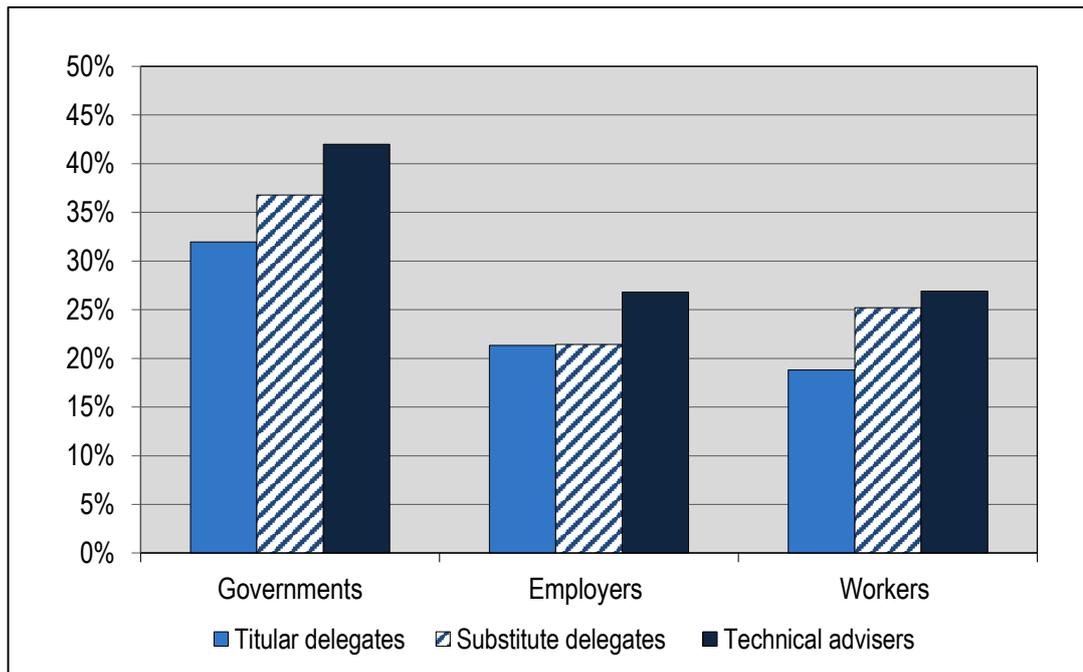
¹⁰ See International Labour Conference resolutions adopted at its 60th, 67th, 78th and 98th Sessions (June 1975, June 1981, June 1991 and June 2009) and ECOSOC Resolution 1990/15.

Figure 1. Proportion of women accredited in delegations 2007–17



- 26.** The Committee is concerned that women are still unevenly distributed by function and group. The Committee therefore considered their distribution among the various functions across the Government, Employer and Worker delegations. With respect to function, male titular delegates from across the Government, Employers’ and Workers’ groups have been accredited in disproportionate numbers.
- 27.** As of 7 June 2017, a total of 174 titular delegates were women (26.1 per cent) as compared to 493 male titular delegates (73.9 per cent). A total of 274 women (31 per cent) were accredited as substitute delegates as against 609 men (69 per cent), while a total of 536 women (33.1 per cent) were accredited as advisers as against 1,082 men (66.9 per cent). Government titular delegates were 68 per cent male. This percentage is even higher for the Employers’ and Workers’ titular delegates, as it is 78.7 and 81.2 per cent male, respectively. This uneven distribution is illustrated in figure 2 below, showing the proportion of women by group and function. Details on the percentage of female delegates and advisers by group and member State are provided in the third table attached.

Figure 2. Proportion of women by function and group



28. In conclusion, despite some progress in limited areas, the Committee observes that not all the constituents have reached 30 per cent of female participation in their delegations, particularly in leadership and decision-making positions. The Committee therefore stresses once again the importance of the objective, in particular on women in leadership positions, that the constituents of all member States reach at least the 30 per cent minimum.

Other participants in the delegations of member States

29. There are also 166 Ministers or Vice-Ministers accredited under article 2(3)(a) of the Standing Orders of the Conference, accompanied by 222 persons, and 45 representatives of states or provinces of federal States accredited under article 2(3)(d) of the Standing Orders.
30. Of the total 6,038 accredited participants, 1,244 have been accredited by member States as “other persons attending the Conference”, including 242 from the Governments, 180 from the Employers and 822 from the Workers. Of these, 700 have registered, including 208 from the Government, 76 from the Employers and 416 from the Workers.¹¹

Observers, organizations and liberation movement invited

31. The Conference is also being attended by:
- two observers’ delegations accredited to the Conference (Bhutan and the Holy See);

¹¹ The number of persons accredited under the category of “other persons attending the Conference” was 1,128 in 2016, 1,175 in 2015, 1,028 in 2014 and 972 in 2013.

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- a delegation of a liberation movement (Palestine), invited in conformity with article 2(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 Organisation, which came into effect on 14 December 1946;
 - representatives of 31 specialized agencies and other official international organizations, invited in conformity with article 2(3)(b) of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
 - representatives of six non-governmental international organizations with which consultative relations have been established, invited in conformity with article 2(3)(j) of the Standing Orders of the Conference; and
 - representatives of 67 other non-governmental international organizations also invited in conformity with article 2(3)(j) of the Standing Orders of the Conference.
32. A list of these representatives was appended to the *Provisional list of delegations* published as a supplement to the *Provisional Record* of the Conference on Monday, 5 June 2017, and will be updated in the *Revised provisional list of delegations* to be issued on Friday, 9 June 2017.

Monitoring cases, objections, complaints and communications

33. In addition to the three monitoring cases concerning the nomination of the Workers' delegations of Djibouti, Somalia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, respectively, referred to the Committee by the last session of the Conference,¹² to date, the Committee has before it several objections, complaints and communications. It has forthwith commenced their examination. The Committee believes that its work is facilitated when credentials reach the International Labour Office within the deadline set for their submission.
34. The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference so that it may take note of it.

Geneva, 7 June 2017

(Signed) Mr Michael Hobby,
Chairperson

Mr Fernando Yllanes Martínez

Mr Jens Erik Ohrt

¹² See paragraphs 13, 88 and 111, *Provisional Record* No. 6C(Rev.) and *Provisional Record* No. 20, 105th Session of the ILC, 2016.

Proportion of women accredited in Conference delegations

%

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	G	E	T	Tot		G	E	T	Tot		G	E	T	Tot		G	E	T	Tot
Afghanistan.....	12.5	0.0	50.0	18.2	Denmark.....	83.3	0.0	14.3	50.0	Liberia.....	20.0	60.0	36.4	38.1	Saudi Arabia.....	43.8	33.3	0.0	36.4
Albania.....	75.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	Djibouti.....	66.7	50.0	0.0	37.5	Libya.....	7.7	0.0	33.3	10.5	Senegal.....	29.4	0.0	27.3	26.7
Algeria.....	30.0	12.5	57.1	32.0	Dominican Republic.....	60.0	0.0	18.2	25.0	Lithuania.....	33.3	0.0	100.0	40.0	Serbia.....	0.0	50.0	50.0	30.0
Angola.....	12.5	0.0	100.0	20.0	Ecuador.....	33.3	0.0	0.0	22.2	Luxembourg.....	50.0	28.6	33.3	35.0	Seychelles.....	50.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
Argentina.....	36.4	9.1	10.0	18.8	Egypt.....	50.0	14.3	10.0	29.0	Madagascar.....	20.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	Sierra Leone.....	0.0	0.0	33.3	14.3
Armenia.....	66.7	-	-	66.7	El Salvador.....	100.0	0.0	75.0	77.8	Malawi.....	11.1	0.0	0.0	7.7	Singapore.....	61.5	0.0	40.0	40.0
Australia.....	60.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	Eritrea.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Malaysia.....	22.2	0.0	27.3	22.7	Slovakia.....	20.0	25.0	25.0	23.1
Austria.....	60.0	33.3	42.9	50.0	Estonia.....	66.7	100.0	100.0	76.9	Maldives.....	66.7	0.0	0.0	40.0	Slovenia.....	100.0	0.0	50.0	66.7
Azerbaijan.....	25.0	20.0	42.9	30.0	Ethiopia.....	25.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	Mali.....	22.7	0.0	33.3	22.6	Somalia.....	20.0	0.0	0.0	8.3
Bahamas.....	60.0	100.0	33.3	55.6	Fiji.....	50.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	Malta.....	28.6	0.0	0.0	16.7	South Africa.....	40.0	40.0	37.5	39.3
Bahrain.....	16.7	14.3	16.7	15.8	Finland.....	66.7	25.0	75.0	57.1	Mauritania.....	0.0	0.0	16.7	7.1	South Sudan.....	31.3	0.0	40.0	30.4
Bangladesh.....	14.3	18.2	14.3	15.4	France.....	53.8	50.0	50.0	52.0	Mauritius.....	16.7	0.0	0.0	11.1	Spain.....	37.5	40.0	27.3	33.3
Barbados.....	20.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	Gabon.....	16.7	0.0	0.0	8.6	Mexico.....	25.0	0.0	20.0	15.6	Sri Lanka.....	54.5	0.0	0.0	30.0
Belarus.....	45.5	0.0	33.3	34.8	Georgia.....	50.0	42.9	14.3	33.3	Republic of Moldova.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Sudan.....	33.3	0.0	28.6	29.4
Belgium.....	43.8	33.3	18.2	33.3	Germany.....	50.0	50.0	33.3	44.0	Mongolia.....	66.7	33.3	0.0	38.5	Suriname.....	50.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
Benin.....	10.0	50.0	0.0	10.5	Ghana.....	33.3	27.3	0.0	21.9	Montenegro.....	75.0	100.0	50.0	71.4	Swaziland.....	18.2	33.3	20.0	21.1
Bolivia, Plurinational State of.....	37.5	33.3	0.0	30.8	Greece.....	55.6	42.9	100.0	61.9	Morocco.....	25.0	20.0	36.4	28.1	Sweden.....	42.9	14.3	50.0	35.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	75.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	Guatemala.....	87.5	12.5	0.0	40.0	Mozambique.....	25.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	Switzerland.....	58.3	33.3	55.6	51.9
Botswana.....	33.3	100.0	45.5	42.9	Guinea.....	35.0	0.0	45.5	28.6	Myanmar.....	58.3	25.0	30.0	42.3	Syrian Arab Republic.....	50.0	0.0	0.0	12.5
Brazil.....	38.5	9.1	45.5	31.4	Guinea-Bissau.....	50.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	Namibia.....	62.5	50.0	50.0	58.3	United Republic of Tanzania.....	31.3	16.7	0.0	20.0
Brunei Darussalam.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Haiti.....	20.0	100.0	0.0	28.6	Nepal.....	22.2	0.0	9.1	12.0	Thailand.....	45.5	54.5	27.3	43.2
Bulgaria.....	66.7	20.0	0.0	41.2	Honduras.....	33.3	50.0	50.0	42.9	Netherlands.....	60.0	33.3	71.4	60.0	The former Yug. Rep. of Macedon.....	66.7	0.0	0.0	33.3
Burkina Faso.....	26.3	25.0	14.3	23.3	Hungary.....	100.0	50.0	20.0	57.1	New Zealand.....	60.0	0.0	50.0	44.4	Timor-Leste.....	33.3	-	-	33.3
Burundi.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Iceland.....	50.0	100.0	50.0	62.5	Nicaragua.....	33.3	-	0.0	25.0	Togo.....	7.7	12.5	16.7	11.1
Cambodia.....	16.7	0.0	0.0	8.3	India.....	25.0	9.1	36.4	23.8	Niger.....	28.6	36.4	9.1	25.0	The Kingdom of Tonga.....	100.0	0.0	100.0	75.0
Cameroon.....	44.4	28.6	27.3	33.3	Indonesia.....	31.8	36.4	18.2	29.5	Nigeria.....	45.0	20.0	0.0	27.5	Tunisia.....	55.6	40.0	12.5	36.4
Canada.....	70.6	40.0	83.3	67.9	Islamic Republic of Iran.....	50.0	20.0	10.0	25.0	Norway.....	85.7	40.0	85.7	73.7	Turkey.....	16.7	10.0	0.0	10.8
Cabo Verde.....	50.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	Iraq.....	16.7	0.0	0.0	3.7	Oman.....	14.3	0.0	22.2	11.1	Turkmenistan.....	40.0	100.0	0.0	42.9
Central African Republic.....	14.3	50.0	0.0	15.4	Ireland.....	37.5	75.0	50.0	50.0	Pakistan.....	28.6	0.0	0.0	22.2	Uganda.....	33.3	27.3	36.4	32.4
Chad.....	6.7	0.0	0.0	4.5	Israel.....	57.1	0.0	0.0	36.4	Panama.....	30.0	50.0	25.0	33.3	Ukraine.....	0.0	0.0	30.0	17.6
Chile.....	25.0	10.0	33.3	22.6	Italy.....	33.3	50.0	42.9	40.0	Papua New Guinea.....	0.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	United Arab Emirates.....	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
China.....	33.3	22.2	22.2	27.8	Jamaica.....	75.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	Paraguay.....	37.5	0.0	20.0	26.3	United Kingdom.....	68.4	20.0	50.0	56.3
Colombia.....	50.0	27.3	22.2	30.8	Japan.....	40.0	0.0	36.4	32.3	Peru.....	12.5	20.0	20.0	16.7	United States.....	50.0	20.0	0.0	33.3
Comoros.....	50.0	0.0	0.0	18.2	Jordan.....	11.1	0.0	0.0	5.3	Philippines.....	28.6	45.5	20.0	31.4	Uruguay.....	57.1	0.0	0.0	30.8
Congo.....	20.0	36.4	25.0	25.6	Kazakhstan.....	16.7	50.0	0.0	16.7	Poland.....	42.9	33.3	33.3	36.8	Uzbekistan.....	25.0	0.0	0.0	16.7
Cook Islands.....	100.0	-	-	100.0	Kenya.....	30.8	36.4	18.2	28.6	Portugal.....	41.7	55.6	9.1	34.4	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of.....	14.3	33.3	27.3	25.9
Costa Rica.....	100.0	66.7	0.0	63.6	Republic of Korea.....	43.8	62.5	18.2	40.0	Qatar.....	40.0	0.0	50.0	30.0	Viet Nam.....	44.4	50.0	66.7	50.0
Côte d'Ivoire.....	27.3	0.0	27.3	20.5	Kuwait.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Romania.....	50.0	20.0	11.1	29.2	Yemen.....	25.0	-	-	25.0
Croatia.....	100.0	50.0	100.0	77.8	Kyrgyzstan.....	66.7	0.0	0.0	40.0	Russian Federation.....	41.2	33.3	25.0	35.5	Zambia.....	42.9	44.4	18.2	36.6
Cuba.....	71.4	0.0	33.3	50.0	Lao People's Democratic Rep.....	33.3	33.3	66.7	44.4	Rwanda.....	0.0	0.0	50.0	16.7	Zimbabwe.....	40.0	25.0	16.7	30.0
Cyprus.....	75.0	20.0	12.5	29.4	Latvia.....	80.0	0.0	50.0	62.5	Samoa.....	50.0	0.0	100.0	50.0					
Czech Republic.....	37.5	100.0	40.0	52.9	Lebanon.....	37.5	33.3	0.0	21.4	San Marino.....	33.3	50.0	0.0	30.0					
Democratic Republic of the Cong	23.8	12.5	11.1	18.4	Lesotho.....	50.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	Sao Tome and Principe.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
																G	E	T	Tot
																38.0%	24.4%	25.1%	31.1%