



Governing Body

348th Session, Geneva, 17 June 2023

Institutional Section

INS

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Fifth item on the agenda

Report of the Director-General

Obituary

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 11 May 2023, of Mr Alberto Echavarría, Employer member of the Governing Body.
2. Mr Echavarría, a Colombian national, was a lawyer and finance specialist. For more than 30 years, he was the Vice-President of Legal Affairs of the National Employers' Association of Colombia (ANDI). He also worked as an independent professional and within various enterprises in the Colombian financial sector. Mr Echavarría taught at various universities, spoke at conferences nationally and internationally, and authored numerous articles on legal matters for specialized journals in Colombia.
3. On the stage of the world of work, for decades Mr Echavarría held the most important roles to which an employers' representative can aspire. He was a substitute and deputy Employer member of the ILO Governing Body between 1999 and 2014 and a titular member from 2014 until his death. He was also a member of the Committee on Freedom of Association from 2008, serving as the Employer Vice-Chairperson from 2017 until his death. He was an active member of the Committee on the Application of Standards for several years. In addition, at the 105th Session (2016) of the International Labour Conference, he was the Employer Vice-President of the Conference. He also joined the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group as of its establishment in 2015, and held the critical role of spokesperson for the Employers' group and Employer Vice-Chairperson at its first two meetings, in 2016. He participated dynamically in the five subsequent meetings, from 2017 to 2022. A fervent advocate for those he represented, Mr Echavarría contributed to the development of the ILO's standard-setting policy and to ensuring that the ILO has an up-to-date and relevant body of standards. In addition, Mr Echavarría was a spokesperson for the International Organisation of Employers and served on the Management Board of the Global Apprenticeship Network. He also served

on the board of public entities and private companies in Colombia, and was a member of the Appeals Chamber of the Disciplinary Tribunal of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

4. Those who had the privilege of working with Mr Echavarría will remember him with great affection and respect, as a colleague who inspired trust and tranquillity. He had a remarkable ability to analyse complex situations and propose solutions that would benefit all actors in the world of work. One of his greatest virtues was his ability to assess the context and promote nations' values beyond any other interests. He shared his knowledge freely and maintained the quality of his work by keeping himself informed and undertaking continuous professional development. He always considered social dialogue to be much more than mere rhetoric, viewing it instead as a genuine means of strengthening national democracies. He will be greatly missed by the international community and will undoubtedly continue to inspire all those who knew him and who were fortunate enough to work with him.

▶ Draft decision

5. **The Governing Body paid tribute to the memory of Mr Alberto Echavarría and requested the Director-General to convey its condolences to Mr Echavarría's family and to the International Organisation of Employers.**