



FOR DECISION

TWENTIETH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Officers of the
Governing Body**

**Invitation of an intergovernmental
organization**

1. By a note verbale dated 23 July 2008, the Permanent Mission of Argentina communicated to the Office a letter from Mr Jorge Taiana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, requesting that MERCOSUR be allowed to participate in forthcoming sessions of the ILO Governing Body.
2. MERCOSUR (the Common Market of the Southern Cone) is the economic community of the countries of South America. It was established on 26 March 1991 with the signing of the Treaty of Asunción by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It subsequently became a genuine international organization by virtue of the 1994 Protocol of Ouro Preto, article 34 of which stipulates that MERCOSUR has legal personality of international law.
3. The purpose of MERCOSUR is to liberalize trade and to ensure the free movement of goods and people.
4. ***Consequently, the Officers of the Governing Body recommend to the Governing Body that it invite MERCOSUR to attend its 303rd and 304th Sessions.***

Geneva, 13 November 2008.

Point for decision: Paragraph 4.