



Governing Body

316th Session, Geneva, 1–16 November 2012

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Institutional Section

INS

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FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Officers of the Governing Body

Closing date of the International Labour Conference

1. Since June 2007, when the format resulting from the latest reform of the International Labour Conference was implemented, the opening day of the Conference session has been scheduled on either the first Wednesday of the month of June, or the Wednesday of the week before (last week of May), with the constituents holding their preliminary group meetings on the day before the opening plenary sitting. The format and the duration (15 working days including two Saturdays) have remained the same over the last five years, with a clear division between the technical work of the committees (the first ten days), and the plenary activities (the last five or ten days).
2. Even though the dates initially adopted by the Governing Body for the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference were similar in terms of duration (30 May–15 June), the Officers of the Governing Body decided in April 2012 to propose that the closing day of the Conference be one half-day earlier than previously announced, so that the Conference would end on Thursday, 14 June 2012. This proposal was then confirmed by the Conference Selection Committee.
3. Based on the experience of June 2012, the Officers of the Governing Body could envisage proposing that the duration of the Conference session be reduced by one half-day as from the 102nd Session (June 2013), by scheduling the closing ceremony on the evening of the third Thursday of the session. Independent of the savings incurred both for member States' delegations and for the Office (for example, reduction of costs of related meeting services and rental of UN premises), this option could be beneficial to the planning of the post-Conference Governing Body session. The entire Friday morning would then be available for the preparatory group meetings and the plenary sitting of the Governing Body, resulting in an earlier finish to proceedings, i.e. around 1 p.m., which would enable Governing Body members to make travel plans for the afternoon.

Draft decision

4. *In the light of the above considerations, the Officers of the Governing Body recommend that, as from the next session of the International Labour Conference in June 2013, the closing ceremony be scheduled on the evening of the third Thursday of the session.*