



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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FOURTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Addendum

Obituaries

Mr Tom Diju Owuor

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 24 October 2012, of Mr Tom Diju Owuor, Employer member of the Governing Body, former Vice-President for Africa of the International Organisation of Employers and founding member of the Pan-African Employers' Confederation.
2. Mr Owuor, originally from Kenya, completed his postgraduate studies in the United States. He received a Master of Science degree from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY, United States), focusing on organizational behaviour and comparative labour and labour relations. After graduating, he returned to Kenya to become a labour officer in the Ministry for Labour. He then joined the private sector, working at Uplands Bacon Factory as a personnel manager. From 1969 to 1972, he was spokesperson for the joint industrial council of the oil industry in Kenya. He joined the Federation of Kenya Employers in 1972, first as Chief Executive Officer, and then as Executive Director. During his tenure with the Federation, which spanned several decades until his retirement in 2004, he gained recognition and respect in the Kenyan industrial relations community.
3. Joining the ILO as one of the first Employer representatives from the newly independent sub-Saharan African countries in 1978, Mr Owuor dedicated himself to the work of the Organization until his retirement in 2002. He was a strong advocate of several key issues, including the ILO code of practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, which he said had placed the Organization at the centre of the war against this pandemic. Regarding the Decent Work Agenda, Mr Owuor felt it was important to address the social upheavals caused by the globalization process in developing countries. He strongly believed that one of the most important aims of this Agenda should be to help the poor gain access to “decent incomes, decent clean drinking water, decent food, decent housing in a peaceful and secure environment, decent education and training for their children, decent medical care, and a decent retirement”.

4. Mr Owuor was an influential and charismatic member of the Governing Body, contributing greatly to the Organization's achievements during the many years that he spent at the ILO. He provided a lasting legacy of his work in the African region by establishing employers' organizations and building their capacities, notably by training and mentoring many chief executives of these organizations, vital to their becoming leaders at the national level. Mr Owuor was active at the ILO until the last session of the International Labour Conference which he attended in 2001. He was a man of consensus who firmly believed in the values of tripartism and social dialogue. His profound sense of fairness will be greatly missed by all three groups of the Governing Body.

Draft decision

5. ***The Governing Body invites the Director-General to convey its condolences to the Federation of Kenya Employers and to the family of Mr Tom Diju Owuor.***

Ms Anna Da Conceição Pedro Garcia

6. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 26 June 2012, of Ms Anna Da Conceição Pedro Garcia, General Secretary of the Sindicato Nacional da Industria dos Material de Constracao Madeira e Afins (SNIMCMA), former General Secretary of the General Centre of Independent and Free Unions of Angola (CGSILA) and Workers' delegate of Angola.
7. Born on 30 November 1957, Ms Pedro Garcia fought for trade unions on many different fronts. She was not only dedicated to this cause within Angola but also throughout Africa. On the global scale, she battled for workers and women's rights. Ambet Yuson, the General Secretary of Building and Wood Workers's International, said that Ms Pedro Garcia "inspired many women in her work as General Secretary in Angola and was the only woman to occupy this highest office in her time, as a visionary who founded SNIMCMA, a trade union for workers in building materials and woods and SCIGICILA, an independent national centre". She fought for the freedom of Angola as a member of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola Labour Party, which led the country towards peace and freedom.
8. From 2005 to 2008, Ms Pedro Garcia was a Worker member of the Governing Body and delegate to the International Labour Conference. She will be remembered as a woman of great bravery, whose life was dedicated to the betterment of the social conditions of her fellow workers.

Draft decision

9. ***The Governing Body invites the Director-General to convey its condolences to SNIMCMA and to the family of Ms Da Conceição Pedro Garcia.***