



## Governing Body

328th Session, Geneva, 27 October–10 November 2016

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Institutional Section

INS

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### SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## Report of the Director-General

### *Addendum*

### Obituary

#### Mr Leonid Aleksevitch Kostine

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 24 October 2016, of Mr Leonid Aleksevitch Kostine, Government representative of the USSR on the Governing Body and delegate to the International Labour Conference.
2. Mr Kostine studied social economics in the aftermath of the Second World War in Moscow. His doctoral thesis was the first scientific research in that field in the USSR. As a lecturer at the Social Economics Department at the N.M. Shvernik Higher Trade Union School, Leonid Kostine devoted his energy to training trade union activists and leaders, to developing new curricula and the first textbooks in his field of study. In 1953, he was appointed First Vice-Rector of the N.M. Shvernik School. In 1964, he was elected Dean of the Department of Social Economics at the Faculty of Economics of the M.V. Lomonosov State University, Moscow. He became Government representative of his country on the Governing Body of the ILO in 1977, and from that year until 1988 he also led the Soviet Union delegations to the International Labour Conference. From 1991 to 2006, Mr Kostine continued his academic activity as Professor of Social Economics at the Academy of Labour and Social Relations, authoring numerous publications which inspired generations of students, trade unionists and specialists in the field.
3. Both in the Governing Body and in the Conference, Mr Kostine displayed a mastery of his subject and of the documents produced for the sessions. His opinions, while marked by the political context of the time, were based on a strong desire to advance social justice for working women and men throughout the world and on support for the objectives of the ILO. Among the points that he particularly emphasized in the Governing Body and at the Conference was the prime importance of the ILO's standard-setting mandate, and the need for the Organization to provide more assistance to governments to bring their national legislation into line with ratified Conventions. He spoke often and eloquently on the necessity for international disarmament, in harmony with the USSR's policy of détente and

arms reduction. What legacy, he asked, could be more precious than peace to future generations, and how could human rights be reconciled with the threat to use means of universal destruction?

4. Mr Kostine was a widely appreciated member of the Governing Body. His departure at the close of the 240th Session (June 1988) was the occasion of warm tributes from his tripartite colleagues, all of whom greatly appreciated his courtesy, the clarity of his presentations, and his openness to join the consensus, even where opinions differed. Throughout his rich professional career, he was committed to promoting ILO values and international labour standards and was a strong advocate of the Decent Work Agenda.

***Draft decision***

5. *The Governing Body invites the Director-General to convey its condolences to the family of Mr Kostine and to the Government of the Russian Federation.*