

Provisional Record

108th Session, Geneva, June 2019

3B



Date: Wednesday, 12 June 2019

Reports on credentials

First report of the Credentials Committee

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1. The Credentials Committee of the 108th Session of the International Labour Conference is composed as follows:

Chairperson: Mr Isaiah Kirigua (Government substitute delegate, Kenya)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Fernando Yllanes Martínez (Employers' substitute delegate, Mexico)

Ms Amanda Brown (Workers' delegate, United Kingdom)

Deposit of credentials

2. The Committee notes that only 122 member States had deposited their credentials with the Office by the time limit set for their deposit (Monday, 20 May 2019).
3. The Committee observes with satisfaction that all member States but one used the *Online accreditation system*¹ to submit their credentials. The composition of Conference delegations was made available on a continuously updated and publicly accessible website.²
4. The Committee observes that only four member States have not clearly identified in their credentials, the organizations to which delegates and advisers are affiliated as well as their functions within these organizations. Such information greatly facilitates the Committee's work.
5. It is also important that, to the extent possible, governments avoid making last minute modifications in the composition of their tripartite delegations so that correct and timely information may be made available and participants are registered without difficulty or delay.

Composition of the Conference

6. Of the 187 member States of the International Labour Organization, 176 member States have been accredited to the Conference.
7. Since the signing of the brief report presented by the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (*Provisional Record* No. 3A), two additional Members have accredited their delegations (Armenia and Vanuatu).

Accredited delegates and advisers

8. A total of 698 delegates, including 351 Government delegates, 173 Employers' delegates and 174 Workers' delegates, have been accredited.

¹ See <http://www.ilo.org/CredentialsILC/Login.aspx>.

² See <http://www.ilo.org/Delegates/Credentialslive.aspx>.

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9. A total of 2,611 advisers,³ including 1,272 Government advisers, 582 Employers' advisers and 757 Workers' advisers, have been accredited.
 10. Therefore, a total of 3,309 delegates and advisers have been accredited (see first attached table of accredited delegates and advisers established Tuesday, 11 June 2019, at 10 a.m.).

Registered delegates and advisers

11. The following is the current status of registered delegates and advisers which is the basis for determining the quorum for voting (see second attached table of registered delegates and advisers established Tuesday, 11 June 2019 at 10 a.m.).
12. Currently, 583 delegates, including 322 Government delegates, 123 Employers' delegates and 138 Workers' delegates are registered.
13. In addition, 2,131 advisers,³ including 1,186 Government advisers, 389 Employers' advisers and 556 Workers' advisers are registered.

Incomplete delegations and non-represented member States

14. The Committee notes that 11 member States (20 in 2018 and 18 in 2017) have not accredited a delegation (Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Dominica, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Palau, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tajikistan and Tuvalu). While the Committee notes with satisfaction the decrease in the number of non-represented member States as compared to previous years, it hopes that this level of participation will endure beyond the Organization's Centenary celebration. The Committee also notes that among the non-represented member States, five (Dominica, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Solomon Islands and Tajikistan) are in arrears in their contributions to the Organization due from them for at least the preceding two full years.
15. The Committee notes with concern that two member States (Saint Lucia and Yemen) have accredited delegations that are exclusively governmental and that one member State (Rwanda) has accredited a Workers' delegate but no Employers' delegate.
16. The Committee recalls that member States are required to comply with the requirement under article 3 of the ILO Constitution to send a complete tripartite delegation to the Conference. The Committee further recalls the resolution concerning the strengthening of tripartism in the overall activities of the International Labour Organization, adopted by the Conference at its 56th Session (1971), and expects governments to accord equal treatment to each of the groups when appointing advisers to their national delegations to the Conference. In this connection, the Committee also recalls the Members' obligation under article 13(2)(a) of the Constitution, to pay the travel and subsistence expenses of their delegates and advisers, and expects that this obligation will be respected for the entire duration of the Conference.

³ This number includes advisers that are also substitute delegates.

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17. The Committee notes that there are fewer accredited Employers' advisers than accredited Workers' advisers.⁴ The Committee also observes that the composition of some delegations show a serious imbalance between the number of Employers' and Workers' advisers when compared to the number of advisers appointed for the Government delegates.⁵ Where there is a serious and manifest imbalance, the Committee urges governments to make a genuine effort to reduce such imbalance in their own delegations when making nominations to the Conference, in light of article 3(1) and (2) of the Constitution.

Quorum

18. In accordance with article 17(3) of the Constitution and article 20(1) of the Standing Orders of the Conference, for a vote by the Conference to be valid, the number of votes cast for and against has to be at least half the number of delegates registered and entitled to vote.
19. The Committee notes that 18 member States that have accredited a delegation to the Conference (Afghanistan, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, the Comoros, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Iraq, Kiribati, Libya, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia) are in arrears in their financial contributions to the Organization under the terms of article 13(4) of the Constitution and therefore their delegates may not, at present, participate in the voting in the Conference or its committees. Consequently, 50 registered delegates have not been taken into account in fixing the quorum. The Committee regrets that 10.2 per cent of the member States are still in arrears in their payments, thereby depriving their Employers' and Workers' delegates of their right to vote.
20. In determining the quorum of the Conference, 33 advisers who are also substitutes to delegates that have not registered have been taken into account.
21. At the present time the quorum required to hold a valid vote is 283. This number represents 583 registered delegates (see paragraph 12 above), plus 33 substitute delegates (see paragraph 20 above) minus 51 registered delegates not entitled to vote (see paragraphs 15 and 19 above), the total being divided by two.
22. The Committee strongly appeals to the delegates to the Conference to register in person upon their arrival⁶ and to ensure that they give formal notice of their departure date, in order to ensure that the quorum is as accurate as possible and that they are not counted as present when they are in fact absent from the Conference.

Proportion of women accredited in delegations

23. As at Tuesday, 11 June 2019, 10 a.m., a total of 1,153 women delegates and advisers have been accredited to this session of the Conference, representing 35 per cent of the total number of delegates and advisers (as compared to 32.7 per cent in 2018 and 31.1 per cent in 2017). The Committee notes that the proportion of women increased slightly in all delegations: there are 40.5 per cent of women in Government delegations (as compared to

⁴ See attached *List of accredited delegates and advisers*.

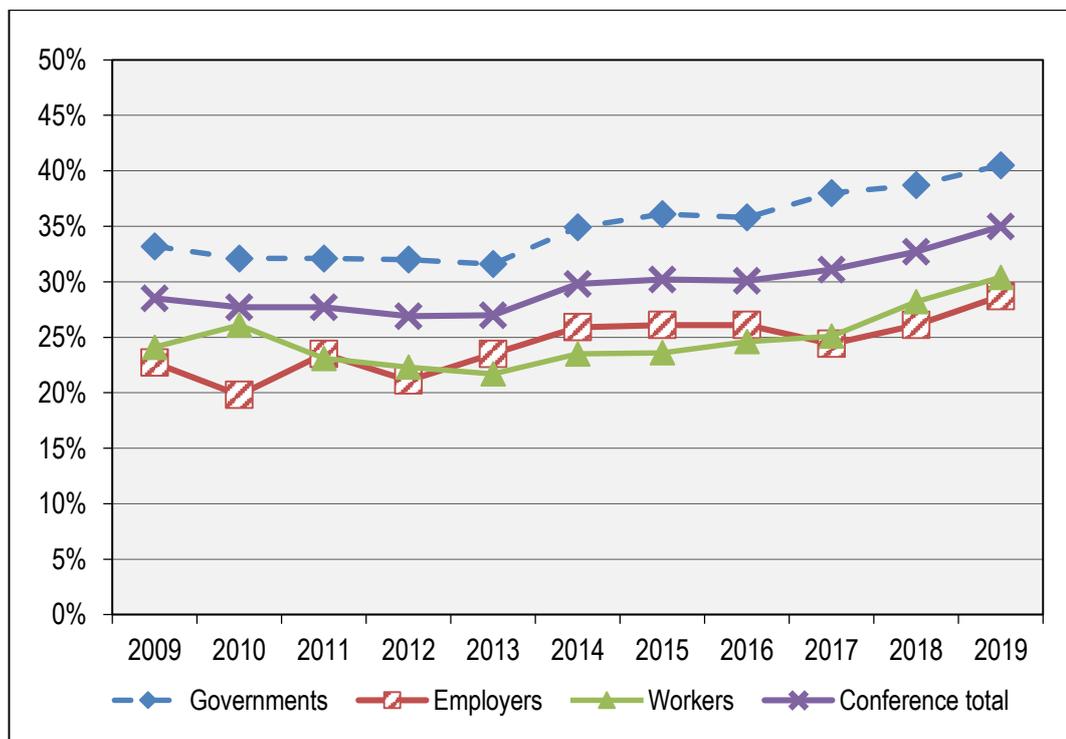
⁵ *idem*.

⁶ https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/WCMS_681636/lang--en/index.htm.

38.8 per cent in 2018 and 38 per cent in 2017), 28.7 per cent of women in the Employers’ delegations (as compared to 26 per cent in 2018 and 24.4 per cent in 2017) and 30.4 per cent of women in the Workers’ delegations (as compared to 28.2 per cent in 2018 and 25.1 per cent in 2017).

24. Taking account of the above figures, the Committee wishes to recall that at its 332nd Session (March 2018), the Governing Body: “(a) urged all groups to aspire to achieve gender parity among their accredited delegates, advisers and observers to the Conference and Regional Meetings; (b) requested the Director-General, after every Conference as well as Regional Meeting, to continue to bring the issue to the attention of Members and groups that had not reached the minimum target of 30 per cent of women’s participation with the goal of gender parity, and to periodically report to the Governing Body on obstacles encountered, as well as measures taken by tripartite constituents to achieve gender parity; (c) requested that the Report of the Director-General list delegations that meet the long-standing minimum target of 30 per cent participation; and (d) requested the Office to continue hosting workshops for all groups, including social partners and those outside Geneva, who might need assistance to reach gender parity in delegations”.⁷ The evolution of the proportion of women accredited in delegations since 2009 is reflected in figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Proportion of women accredited in delegations 2009–19

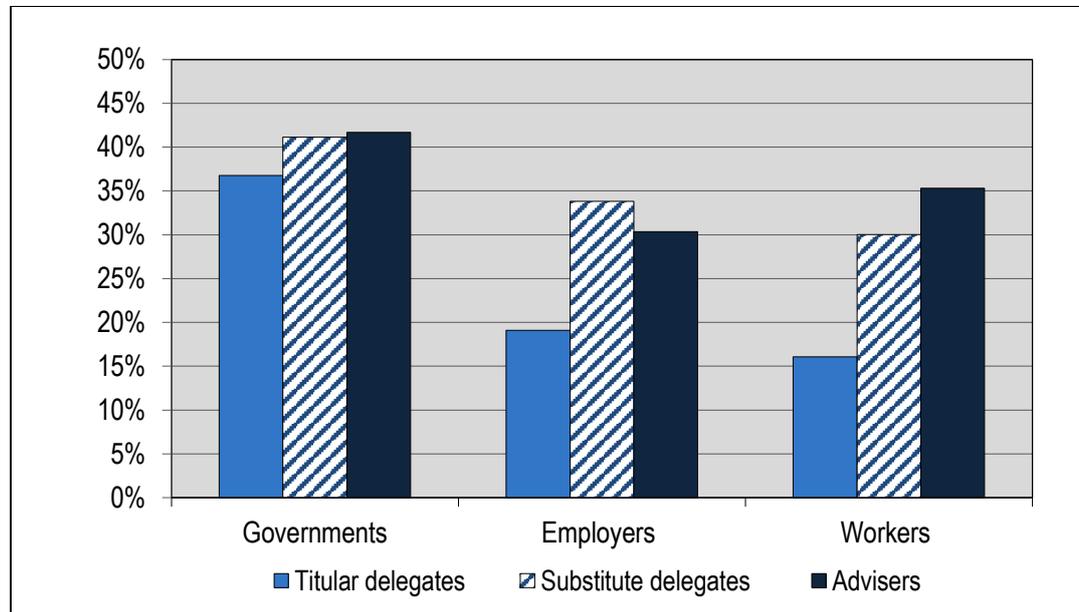


25. While the slight increase in the overall proportion of women in delegations is an encouraging development, women continue to be unevenly distributed by function and group. In particular, the Committee notes that titular delegates from across the Government, Employers’ and Workers’ groups are predominantly men. As at Tuesday 11 June 2019, 10 a.m., a total of 190 titular delegates accredited were women (27.2 per cent) as compared to 508 men titular delegates accredited (72.8 per cent). A total of 361 women (36.7 per cent) were accredited as substitute delegates as compared to 622 (63.3 per cent), while a total of 605 women (37.2 per cent) were accredited as advisers as against 1,021 men (62.8 per cent). In Government delegations, 63.3 per cent of the titular delegates were men. The percentage

⁷ GB.332/LILS/2; GB.332/LILS/PV, para. 63.

of men is even higher for the Employers' and Workers' titular delegates, as it is 80.9 and 83.9 per cent, respectively. This uneven distribution is illustrated in figure 2 below, showing the proportion of women by group and function. Details on the percentage of women delegates and advisers by group and member State are provided in the third table attached.

Figure 2. Proportion of women by function and group



26. In conclusion, the Committee observes that while all the constituents have reached 30 per cent of women participation in their delegations in the substitute delegate and adviser categories, there has not been any progress as regards titular delegates, but rather a slight decrease in all three groups (Governments from 36.9 to 36.8 per cent; Employers from 19.6 to 19.1 per cent; and Workers from 17.2 to 16.1 per cent). The Committee therefore stresses once again the importance of the objective that the constituents of all member States reach at least the 30 per cent minimum, in particular, of women in leadership positions with the goal of gender parity.

Other participants in the delegations of member States

27. There are also 165 Ministers or Vice-Ministers accredited under article 2(3)(a) of the Standing Orders of the Conference, accompanied by 307 persons and 21 representatives of states or provinces of federal States accredited under article 2(3)(d) of the Standing Orders.
28. Of the total 7,506 accredited participants, 1,893 have been accredited by member States as "other persons attending the Conference", including 455 from the Governments, 282 from the Employers and 1,156 from the Workers. Of these, 1,161 have registered, including 349 from the Governments, 150 from the Employers and 662 from the Workers.

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29. While the Committee considers that this considerable increase⁸ is likely to be due to the ILO Centenary celebration, it remains concerned about the challenges such numbers pose to the efficient functioning of the Conference.

Observers, organizations and liberation movement invited

30. The Conference is also being attended by:
- one observer delegation accredited to the Conference (the Holy See);
 - representatives of the United Nations and some of its bodies invited by virtue of Article II, paragraph 1, concerning reciprocal representation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, which came into effect on 14 December 1946, as well as representatives from specialized agencies and other official international organizations, invited in conformity with article 2(3)(b) of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
 - representatives of five non-governmental international organizations with which consultative relations have been established, invited in conformity with article 2(3)(j) of the Standing Orders of the Conference;
 - representatives of 71 other non-governmental international organizations also invited in conformity with article 2(3)(j) of the Standing Orders of the Conference; and
 - a delegation of a liberation movement (Palestine), invited in conformity with article 2(3)(k) of the Standing Orders of the Conference.
31. A list of these representatives was appended to the *Provisional list of delegations* published as a supplement to the *Provisional Record* of the Conference on 10 June 2019, and will be updated in the *Revised provisional list of delegations* to be issued on 14 June 2019.

Monitoring cases, objections, complaints and communications

32. In addition to the three cases of monitoring (concerning the nomination of the Workers' delegations of Djibouti, Mauritania and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), of which the Committee is seized in accordance with article 26 quater of the Standing Orders following decisions taken at the last session of the Conference,⁹ the Committee has before it several objections, complaints and communications. It has forthwith commenced their examination. The Committee believes that its work is facilitated when credentials reach the International Labour Office within the time limit set for their submission.

⁸ The number of accredited persons in the category "other persons attending the Conference" increased from 1,237 in 2018 and in 2017, 1,228 in 2016, 1,175 in 2015, and 1,028 in 2014.

⁹ See paras 12, 29, 82 and 130, *Provisional Record* No. 3C of the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference, 2018.

33. The Credentials Committee submits the present report to the Conference so that it may take note of its content.

Geneva, 11 June 2019

(Signed) Mr Isaiah Kirigua,
Chairperson

Mr Fernando Yllanes Martínez

Ms Amanda Brown

