

Governing Body

337th Session, Geneva, 24 October–7 November 2019

GB.337/INS/13/7

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 29 October 2019

Original: English

THIRTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

Seventh report: Arrangements for the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting

1. According to article 2 of the *Rules for Regional Meetings*, adopted by the Governing Body at its 332nd Session (March 2018) and confirmed by the 107th Session (June 2018) of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body determines the date and venue of each Regional Meeting and establishes its agenda.

Place

2. The Introductory note to the *Rules for Regional Meetings* provides that “Regional Meetings are held in the country where the relevant ILO regional office is located, unless the Governing Body accepts the offer of another member State of the region to host a Meeting”.
3. The Government of Singapore has expressed interest in hosting the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting on conditions that guarantee at least the level of protection afforded under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, 1947, including its Annex I concerning the International Labour Organization, as required under article 2(2) of the Rules. A host agreement, incorporating as appropriate the standard clauses appended to the Rules, as well as the level of in-kind and financial contribution from Singapore will be concluded in due course.

Dates and duration

4. In view of prior commitments, Singapore would not be in a position to host the next Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting before the second quarter of 2021, nor would the Office be able to organize it until after the 341st Session of the Governing Body scheduled from 11 to 25 March. The exact dates will depend on the availability of a suitable venue and the

agenda of the Singaporean Government, and the dates of ILO major meetings. More definite dates could be proposed to the Governing Body at its 338th Session (March 2020).

Agenda

5. In accordance with the recently adopted *Rules for Regional Meetings*, the Report of the Director-General is the only item on the agenda. The Governing Body identifies themes to be addressed in that Report of the Director-General and may determine a limited number of specific questions of discussion. At this stage, it is proposed that the Report assess the current status of decent work in Asia and the Pacific and the Arab States in the context of development pathways and transformative changes impacting the world of work. The progress and continuing challenges regarding the priority areas stipulated in the Bali Declaration adopted at the 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting would also be incorporated into the discussion. The identification of specific topics for future action and possible thematic discussions will be undertaken in consultation with the tripartite constituents.

Composition

6. The list of member States from the Asia and the Pacific region (which for purposes of ILO Regional Meetings includes all States covered by the Regional Office for Arab States), invited to attend the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting as full members is contained in the Appendix to document [GB.334/WP/GBC/3](#).
7. Palestine will also be invited to be represented at the Meeting by an observer delegation in accordance with article 1(11) of the *Rules for Regional Meetings*. A list of international organizations and international non-governmental organizations to be invited to the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting will be proposed to the Governing Body in March 2020.
8. Member States from other ILO regions, non-member States, and other international organizations and international non-governmental organizations interested in attending the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting as an observer should send their requests to the International Labour Office by the end of September 2020, so that the Governing Body can consider them at its 340th Session (October–November 2020).

Languages

9. In line with previous Asia and the Pacific Regional Meetings and taking into consideration the composition of the Meeting, its proposed working languages are Arabic, English and Chinese.

Draft decision

10. ***The Governing Body, on the recommendation of its Officers:***
 - (a) ***approved the proposed place, agenda, composition and languages for the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting; and***
 - (b) ***decided that the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting be held in principle in the second quarter of 2021, the exact dates to be determined at its 338th Session (March 2020).***