



108th Session of the International Labour Conference (June 2019)

General Briefing Note for Worker Delegates and Advisers

A. Date, place and agenda of the Conference

The 108th Session of the International Labour Conference will be held in Geneva and will open on Monday 10 June 2019. The session is expected to continue until Friday 21 June 2019.

The meetings of the Conference will be held in the Palais des Nations and in the International Labour Office. The Opening Sitting, in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations, will begin at **11.00 a.m.** sharp on **Monday 10 June**, to elect the Officers of the Conference and to constitute the various Committees.

The agenda of the Conference is as follows:

- I. Report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body; and Report of the Director-General: the Report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work entitled [Work for a brighter future](#);
- II. Programme and budget proposals for 2020–21 and other questions;
- III. Information and reports on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations;
- IV. ILO Centenary outcome document;
- V. Violence and harassment in the world of work (standard-setting, second discussion);
- VI. Thematic debates and events connected to the Future of Work, including various Centenary Initiatives.

Items III, IV and V will be dealt with in tripartite Committees. With the exception of the Committee on the Application of Standards, all other committees are expected to finish their work by Thursday 20 June lunch time.

ILO Practical information for delegates to the 108th Session of the International Labour Conference (2019) is available at: <https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/lang--en/index.htm>

Registration and badges upon arrival:

This year the registration office will be located in the **Prégny gate at the Palais des Nations**.

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

B. Preparatory meetings of the Workers' Group

The preparatory meeting of the Workers' Group will be held in **Room XVIII** of the Palais des Nations on **Sunday 9 June at 2.00 p.m.** The purpose of this meeting is to elect the following officers of the Workers' Group:

- Chairperson of the Workers' Group;
- Secretary of the Workers' Group;
- Vice-Chairpersons of the Workers' Group (no fixed number, but usually four);
- Workers' Vice-President of the Conference (this year a delegate from Central and Eastern Europe);
- Eight other members of the Bureau of the Workers' Group (who, together with the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Workers' Group and the Workers' Vice-President of the Conference, will be the Worker members of the Selection Committee).

In addition, the Workers' Group has to elect the Worker member of the Credentials Committee. On the same occasion, the Workers' Vice-Chairpersons of the different Committees will be elected.

The following preparatory meetings will be held at the ILO on Sunday morning **9 June**:

→ ITUC	10.00-12.30	ILO room II
→ OATUU	09.00-12.00	ILO room V
→ WFTU	10.00-12.30	ILO room IX

C. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will meet **immediately after the opening sitting of the Conference on Monday 10 June** to take decisions concerning the arrangements for the Conference.

D. Coordination of the Workers' Group

The Workers' Group meets as often as necessary, normally once every other day **from 9.00 to 10.00 a.m.** as from **Tuesday 11 June** in **Room XVIII** of the Palais des Nations. The Worker members of the different Committees also hold regular meetings to discuss their position. All Worker meetings, as well as the meetings of the Committees and the plenary sittings, are announced in the ***Daily Bulletin/Notice Board***.

E. Committee membership

The Committees dealing with the agenda items III to V are open to all Worker delegates and advisers. A Worker delegate or adviser can only be titular member of one Committee, but can at the same time be deputy member of other Committees. Registration at: https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/WCMS_681651/lang--en/index.htm. The Selection Committee, which is responsible for the programme of meetings and other organisational questions, has a fixed membership, namely 28 Government members, 14 Employer members and 14 Worker members. The Credential Committee has a membership of one worker, one government and one employer.

F. Procedures

The rules of procedure of the Conference and its Committees are comprised in the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, which may be consulted at:

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:62:0::NO:62:P62_LIST_ENTRIE_ID:3088520:NO

Given their complexity, feel free to ask the Secretariat of the Workers' Group or ACTRAV any information or explanation concerning these rules.

G. Plenary sittings in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations

Plenary sittings for the discussion of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General will be held daily from **Wednesday 12 June (afternoon) to Tuesday 18 June**. The report of the Director-General will also include an ***Appendix on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories***. The time limit for speeches in the plenary sittings is set at a maximum of **5 minutes**, and Workers' delegates are urged to speak in the plenary too (the list of speakers **closes on Thursday 13 June**). Worker delegates wishing to speak in the plenary on the reports of the Director-General and Chairperson of the Governing Body need to register in advance by email (orateurs@ilo.org). Full details at: https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/WCMS_681648/lang--en/index.htm

Thematic forums: on the occasion of the Organization's centenary, four days of thematic forums connected to the future of work will be held during the Conference, between **Thursday 13 June and Tuesday 18 June** in **Room XX** at the Palais as follows:

Thursday 13 June 2019 (10.30-12.00)	A Century of Struggle, Towards a Future Without Child Labour
Thursday 13 June 2019 (15.00-17.30)	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
Friday 14 June 2019 (10.30-12.00)	Jobs and Skills for the Future
Friday 14 June 2019 (15.30-17.00)	Securing Sustainable Transitions over the life course
Monday 17 June 2019 (10.30-12.00)	Technological Pathways for Decent Work
Tuesday 18 June 2019 (10.30-12.00)	Multilateralism for an Equitable Future of Work
Tuesday 18 June 2019 (15.30-17.00)	Business for Decent Work

For more details: <https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/thematic-forums/lang--en/index.htm>

High level visits: to mark the celebration of the Centenary of the Organization, the Plenary will sit in a high-level section to receive the visits of several heads of State and Government from **10 (afternoon) to 12 June (lunchtime) and 19 to 20 June.**

Monday 10 June (afternoon)	Presidents of Italy, Turkey, South Africa, UN General Assembly Prime Ministers of Norway, Nepal, Sweden, Estonia, Morocco
Tuesday 11 June (morning)	Presidents of Ghana, Cyprus, France Prime Ministers of the Russian Federation and German Chancellor His Majesty from the Kingdom of Eswatini
Tuesday 11 June (afternoon)	Presidents of Honduras, Malta, Peru, Madagascar, San Marino Prime Ministers of Tunisia, Slovenia, Luxembourg
Wednesday 12 June (afternoon)	President of Mali Prime Ministers of Jamaica, Burkina Faso, Serbia

The programme for 19-20 June will be published on the ILO website as soon as available.

For more details: <https://staging.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/108/plenary/high-level/lang--en/index.htm>

Adoption of the Committee outcomes

Committees will present the outcome of their deliberations to the plenary for debate and adoption throughout **Friday 21 June**, unless they can be made available earlier, as is likely to be the case with the report of the Finance Committee.

The vote on the Programme and Budget for 2020-21 will take place on Tuesday 18 June (morning).

The adoption of reports and vote on the instruments on Violence and Harassment at Work will take place on Friday 21 June (morning).

The closing ceremony of the Conference will be held on **Friday 21 June in the afternoon.**

H. Briefing notes on the different agenda items

The Secretariat has prepared briefing notes on agenda items III, IV and V. These notes are available to the Worker members of the respective Committees and are also web-posted on <http://www.ituc-csi.org/> as and when they become available in English/French/Spanish.

I. Workers' Group Secretariat of the Committees

III.	Committee on the Application of Standards	Ms Makbule Sahan
IV.	ILO Centenary outcome document	Ms Raquel Gonzalez
V.	Violence and harassment in the world of work (standard-setting)	Ms Chidi King

J. Other events during the Conference

On the occasion of the **women's strike** organized by the Swiss unions on the **14th of June** workers are invited to wear a violet cloth or scarf that day. Pins will also be distributed ahead of the event.

The ITUC will be organizing a **demonstration and rally** at **lunchtime on Monday 17 June** under the theme "*in favour of a second century for the ILO supporting progress and social justice.*"

More information on the women's strike and the ITUC demonstration will be provided to delegates at the beginning of the Conference.