



## 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (May-June 2021)

### General Briefing Note for Worker Delegates and Advisers

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#### A. Date, place and agenda of the Conference

The 109<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference will be held in Geneva in a virtual format as follows.

A **brief opening session on Thursday, 20 May 2021 at 13.00 (Geneva time)** to elect the Officers of the Conference, appoint its standing and technical committees and approve any adjustments to its Standing Orders and working methods necessary in view of the virtual format of the Conference.

The **Conference will be reconvened from 3 to 19 June 2021** to deal with all agenda items except items IV (inequalities in the world of work) and VI (skills and life-long learning). During this period, it will establish two working parties to deal with these two items. These two working parties will be held from Thursday 25 November to Friday 10 December 2021. The **closing ceremony** of the Conference will be held on **Saturday 11 December 2021**.

In order to accommodate different times zones, **Committees will be working between 13.00 and 16.00 (Geneva time) with group meetings preceding them.**

The agenda of the Conference is as follows:

- I. Reports of the Chairpersons of the Governing Body (2019-20/2020-21) and of the Director-General;
- II. Programme and budget and other questions;
- III. Information and reports on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations;
- IV. Inequalities and the world of work (*general discussion*);
- V. A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection, under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008;
- VI. Skills and lifelong learning (*general discussion*);
- VII. Abrogation of eight international labour Conventions and withdrawal of nine international labour Conventions and eleven international labour Recommendations.

**Items III and V** will be dealt with in tripartite committees.

**Items IV and VI** will be dealt with in tripartite working parties when the Conference reconvenes on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Item VII** will be dealt with in the Selection Committee.

**A tripartite committee will also be established on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June to discuss the outcome document concerning the ILO's response to the COVID-19 crisis.**

Conference practical information is available at: <https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/109/lang--en/index.htm>

The website is regularly updated. In light of the virtual nature of the Conference we invite worker delegates and advisers to regularly consult it. We also recommend that delegates and advisers download the Conference App when available on the site as it will provide daily information and updates on the Conference programme, Committees and Workers' Group meetings.

## B. Preparatory meetings of the Workers' Group

The preparatory meeting of the Workers' Group will be held on **Wednesday 19 of May from 13.00 to 16.00 (Geneva time)**. 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 Africa);
- 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 as follows:

→ OATUU	<b>Monday 17 of May</b>	<b>09.00-11.00 (Geneva time)</b>
→ WFTU	<b>Monday 17 of May</b>	<b>13.00-15.00 (Geneva time)</b>
→ ITUC	<b>Tuesday 18 of May</b>	<b>13.30-16.00 (Geneva time)</b>

**Preparatory workers' group meetings for the committees on social security, Covid-19 outcome document and application of standards will be held during the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.** Exact dates and times for these meetings will be provided to delegates and advisers who will register in the committees.

## C. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will meet on **Wednesday, 2 June** to consider the consolidated text of the amended Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, the draft resolution on the principle of equality among ILO Member States and fair representation of all regions in the ILO's tripartite governance and the proposed abrogation and withdrawal of international labour standards. **The vote on the abrogation or withdrawal of Conventions and Recommendations is scheduled for the 18 of June in the Conference plenary.**

## D. Coordination of the Workers' Group

The full Workers' Group will meet from **11.50 to 12.50 (Geneva time)** on 5, 8, 12, 17 and 19 of June.

**On June 13, the Workers' Electoral College made up of worker delegates or their substitutes will meet from 13.00 to 15.00 (Geneva time) in order to elect the members of the Governing Body for the period 2021-2024.**

The Worker members of the different Committees will also hold regular meetings to discuss their position. All Worker and Committee meetings will be announced in the Conference App and ILO website.

## E. Committee registration and membership

The Committees dealing with agenda items III to VI are open to Worker delegates and advisers. Due to the virtual format of the session and zoom-limitations, it will be necessary for accredited delegates and advisers to register as soon as possible in these committees and the Covid-19 outcome document Committee individually and by name, providing a personal email so that the Office can forward the zoom link. Registration at: [https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/109/committees/WCMS\\_789995/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/109/committees/WCMS_789995/lang--en/index.htm)

**During the Conference, information on additions or changes should reach [ACTRAV-CONF@ilo.org](mailto:ACTRAV-CONF@ilo.org) by 17:30 (Geneva time).** Modifications of these credentials for the working parties will be possible until the resumed part of the Conference in November. No committee registration will be valid until the credentials of delegations have been submitted by the Governments to the Office of the Legal Adviser of the ILO.

The Selection Committee 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](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:62:0::NO:62:P62_LIST_ENTRIE_ID:3088520:NO)

Given their complexity and the fact that they will have to be adapted to the virtual format of the Conference, feel free to ask the Secretariat of the Workers' Group or ACTRAV any information or explanation concerning these rules.

## G. Plenary sittings

The plenary debate will start on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of June** and include the opening remarks of the Director-General and the spokespersons of the groups and the presentation of the reports of the Chairpersons of the Governing Body, followed by interventions on the Report of the Director-General and Chairpersons of the Governing Body. **The plenary debate will end on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June.**

The report of the Director-General will have as a theme the ILO response to the Covid-19 pandemic and will include as an annex the draft outcome document on ILO response to the Covid-19 crisis. The report is expected to be published the week of the 17 of May.

The report of the Director-General will also include an **Appendix on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories covering the years 2020 and 2021.**

**The time limit for speeches in the plenary sitting is set at a maximum of 4 minutes.** Workers' delegates or their substitutes are urged to speak in the plenary. **The registration to speak opens on May 17 and closes on 8 June at 18.00 (Geneva time).** Speaking requests should be sent at the following e-mail address:

[plenaryspeeches@ilo.org](mailto:plenaryspeeches@ilo.org)

Statements can be delivered live or recorded. We however invite delegates to the extent possible to deliver them live. Practical information relating to speaking in plenary will also be posted on the Conference website.

The Conference will celebrate:

- The **World of Work Summit on 17-18 June** on the ILO response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- The **2021 World Day against Child Labour** will be held on **Thursday 10 June 2021** organized jointly with UNICEF, under the aegis of Alliance 8.7, to mark the ratification of Convention Nr 182, release of new global estimates and trends on child labour and show case of the "2021 Action Pledges"

The **Palestine Solidarity Event** will be held on **June 8 from 17.00 to 18.30 (Geneva time).**

**The adoption of reports and resolutions** prepared by the technical committees will take place on the last two days of the Conference:

- The adoption of the reports of *the Recurrent Discussion Committee* and *Committee on the Application of Standards* will be scheduled on **Saturday, 19 June**
- The adoption of the report on the *Covid-19 outcome document* is scheduled during the World of Work Summit on the **17 or 18 of June**

## H. Briefing notes on the different agenda items

The Secretariat has prepared briefing notes on agenda items III 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. Briefing notes covering agenda items IV and VI will be prepared when the Conference resumes in November.

## I. Workers' Group Secretariat of the Committees

III.	Committee on the Application of Standards	Mr Paapa Danquah
IV.	Inequalities and the world of work ( <i>general discussion</i> )	Ms Maite Llanos and Mr Leo Baunach
V.	Recurrent discussion on social security	Ms Evelyn Astor, Alison Tate and Mr Jeroen Beirnaert
VI.	Skills and lifelong learning ( <i>general discussion</i> )	Mr Tim Noonan and Martin Henry
	Covid-19 outcome document	Ms Raquel Gonzalez, Maite Llanos and Mr Tim Noonan

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