



27 June 2008
G-2008/32 (22.2008)

302nd SESSION OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY

The ILO Governing Body met as usual at the conclusion of the International Labour Conference. Most of its agenda was procedural, including the election of Officers of the Governing Body for the following year. Elections included the Ambassador from Poland, H.E. Mr Zdzislaw Rapacki as Chairman; Mr Daniel Funes de Rioja as employers' Vice-Chairman and Sir Roy Trotman as workers' Vice-Chairman. The committees of the Governing Body were also constituted. Attached is a list with the name of the Spokesperson and IOE staff member responsible for each committee.

The agenda also addressed matters arising from the Conference. As was mentioned in the ILC report, the problems that had occurred in the Committee on the Application of Standards and in the discussions on the Global Report were again referred to and a specific request was made to ensure future Conference procedures prevented a reoccurrence of these problems. It was also confirmed that informal consultations will be held in September with the Office and the Workers' Group on the content of the ILO's Strategic Policy Framework as well as the follow-up to the work of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity.

COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (CFA)

A total of 40 cases were examined this session: 24 from America, 4 from Africa 3 from Europe and 8 from Asia.

There were two serious cases presented by the IOE:

In the case of Venezuela 2254 the CFA once again noted the seriousness of the various allegations made by the IOE which showed a climate of intimidation towards leaders of the Venezuelan employer organization. The Committee issued strong recommendations which include:

- Urging the Government to establish a national, high-level joint committee in the country with the assistance of the ILO, to examine each and every one of the allegations and issues in this case in order to resolve problems through direct dialogue;

- Requesting the Government to effectively ensure the security of the FEDECAMARAS headquarters and its leaders and to take measures to step up investigations into the bomb attack of 28 February 2008 at the headquarters and – if this has not already been done – to report the May and November 2007 attacks on the headquarters to the competent authorities in order to establish the facts, prosecute those responsible and punish them severely thereby helping to discourage the reoccurrence of such crimes in the future; and
- Requesting the Government to specifically reply to IOE allegations concerning violations of private property relating to the confiscation or expropriation of land without fair compensation, occurring frequently in spite of rulings made by the judicial authorities regarding the restitution of lands to their owners.

The case of Iran 2567, also filed by the IOE, concerned allegations of government interference in the election of the ICEA, the ICEA's subsequent dissolution by administrative authorities and the official backing of a new and parallel employers' confederation. Strong recommendations against the Iranian Government included:

- Urging the Government to refrain from interference in the rights of employers' organizations to elect their representatives in full freedom – the obstruction of which is contrary to the principles of freedom of association;
- Refrain from showing favouritism to one employers' organization over another;
- Urging the Government to take the necessary measures to amend the existing legislation so as to ensure that employers' and workers' organizations may fully exercise their right to elect their representatives freely and without hindrance by public authorities;
- Requesting the Government to take immediate measures to amend the Iranian Labour Law thereby ensuring that the principles of freedom of association are a recognized right for all workers and employers; and
- Urging the Government to take the necessary measures to re-register the ICEA, as constituted following its General Assembly of 5 March 2007 and to ensure that it can exercise its activities without any further hindrance.

The Committee also examined the case of the United States of America 2547 concerning the definition of a “worker”. In doing so the Committee, in the opinion of employers, correctly recognized the role that the national judiciary play in determining adherence to ILO conventions. It is important that the CFA allows properly constituted judicial proceedings to run their course and to recognize that the CFA is not an appeals body for local judiciaries.

Annex: List of pending cases

List with Spokesperson and IOE staff member responsible for each Committee

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ILO GOVERNING BODY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP
For the 2008–2011 term

Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee (PFA):
Spokesperson: Mr Emmanuel Julien (France) IOE staff: Mr Eric Oechslin
Building Subcommittee:
Spokesperson: Mr Dagoberto Lima Godoy (Brazil) IOE staff: Mr Eric Oechslin
Information and Communications Technology Subcommittee of the PFA:
Spokesperson: Mrs Jacqueline Coke-Lloyd (Jamaica) IOE staff: Mr Eric Oechslin
Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA):
Spokesperson: Mr Vic van Vuuren (South Africa) IOE staff: Mrs Maria Paz Anzorreguy
Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization (WPSDG):
Spokesperson: Mr Daniel Funes de Rioja (Argentina) IOE staff: Mr Gary Rynhart
Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards (LILS):
Spokesperson: Mr Jorge de Regil (Mexico) IOE staff: Mrs Maria Paz Anzorreguy
Sub-committee on Multinational Enterprises:
Spokesperson: Mrs Renate Hornung-Draus (Germany) IOE staff: Mrs Maria Barbara Leon
Committee on Employment and Social Policy (ESP):
Spokesperson: Mrs Ronnie Goldberg (United States) IOE staff: Mr Gary Rynhart
Committee on Technical Cooperation (TC):
Spokesperson: Mr Lassina Traore (Mali) IOE staff: Mr Frederick Muia
Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues (STM):
Spokesperson: Mr Göran Trogen (Sweden) IOE staff: Mr Jean Dejardin
Board of the Institute for Labour Studies:
Spokesperson: Mr Toshio Suzuki (Japan) IOE staff: Mr Jean Dejardin
Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO:
Spokesperson: Mr Chiel Renique (Netherlands) IOE staff: Mr Frederick Muia