



TWELFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee

Addendum and Corrigendum

1. Mr Barde, speaking on behalf of the Employers' group, expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the Office organized the discussion in the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee on the documents relating to the Turin Centre. The documents were important and warranted the Committee's full attention, and the Employers hoped that the Office would take the necessary steps to ensure that they could be discussed without any pressure being placed on the Committee members or on the interpreters. In addition, the Employers deemed it desirable for the Director-General to attend the discussion, not least to show his interest in the activities of the Centre. Furthermore, the documents relating to the Centre, especially document GB.300/PFA/6/3, did not only concern the Director of the Centre and the Employers would have liked the Office to answer the questions raised.
2. Like the Workers' group, the Employers had requested follow-up on the application of the Working Party's recommendations at the November 2008 session. In the absence of a response from the Office on that particular issue, they took it that the follow-up would take place on the proposed date.
3. Mr Blondel, speaking on behalf of the Workers' group, said that he wished first of all to associate himself with the preliminary comments made by Mr Barde. The Workers would also have liked to have more time to discuss the documents concerning the Turin Centre, and, given the fact that the replies to some of their questions did not only come under the remit of the Director of the Centre, they would have also appreciated the presence of the Director-General during the discussion.

**I. Financial questions relating to the
International Institute for Labour Studies**
(Third item on the agenda)

(a) Programme and Budget for 2008–09

(b) Authorization to accept contributions and gifts

4. The Committee had before it three papers¹ concerning the International Institute for Labour Studies.
5. Concerning document GB.300/PFA/3/3, the speaker said that the point for decision should contain detailed figures, as it was the vocation of the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee to provide as much information as possible on figures.
6. Both the Workers and the Employers supported the point for decision.
7. *The Committee recommends that the Governing Body endorse the programme and approve the budget for the International Institute for Labour Studies for 2008–09 as set out in document GB.300/PFA/3/1.*

Report of the Building Subcommittee
(Seventh item on the agenda)

8. The Committee had before it a paper² containing the report of the Building Subcommittee.
9. The representative of the Government of Brazil, Mr Paixao Pardo, speaking as Chairperson of the Building Subcommittee, reminded the floor that the report had been submitted for information purposes only. The Subcommittee stressed the importance of installing lifts for persons with disabilities and also asked the Office to provide a comprehensive financial package to pay for the refurbishment of headquarters by March 2008 at the latest. The corrections to paragraph 13 provided by the Swiss Government would be included in the final version of document GB.300/PFA/7(&Corr.). He also referred to the pertinence of the comparative data provided in document GB.300/PFA/BS/3.
10. Mr Barde, speaking on behalf of the Employers' group, said that he expected the documents submitted to the committees or subcommittees to be comprehensive and detailed, as the system of short documents with further details then being provided orally by the Office was inefficient.
11. He recommended that all members should read document GB.300/PFA/BS/2, which set out options for financing the renovation of the headquarters building. The Employers were open to all the options, even though some of them, such as the sale of land, should only be considered as a last resort. They would support whichever solutions were the most economic and also the most effective. They urged the Office to submit a specific budget at the March 2008 session, as a decision by the Governing Body on the matter was already

¹ GB.300/PFA/3/1; GB.300/PFA/3/2(Rev.); GB.300/PFA/3/3.

² GB.300/PFA/7.

long overdue. In that regard, the Employers recalled the recommendation of the Building Subcommittee concerning the establishment of a reserve for the renovation at an annual rate of 1 per cent of the value of the buildings. Lastly, they considered that document GB.300/PFA/BS/3 contained some very useful information on the staff in the regions, even though it omitted to mention the number of vacant posts.

12. Mr Ahmed (Worker member and Vice-Chairperson of the Building Subcommittee) stressed the need to expedite the renovation work, including the renovation of rooms III and IV, and the replacement of the chairs in room II. He cautioned that such renovation work should be undertaken while safeguarding the safety and health of both the workers and staff. Mr Ahmed cautioned against seeking a commercial loan to finance the refurbishment of the headquarters building and hoped that the Director-General could convince the Swiss Government to provide a moratorium as well as a soft loan, as other host governments had done for UNESCO and the FAO. He hoped that the Office could benefit from a fund similar to that of the US\$1.9 billion pledged by member States to renovate the United Nations building. Mr Ahmed also pressed host countries to lower the rent of office premises.
13. Mr Blondel, speaking on behalf of the Workers' group, expressed satisfaction with the proposal for the Director-General to submit a global proposal in March 2008. The Workers did not wish such an extensive operation to go ahead without the financial guarantees being in place to ensure the completion of the project.
14. In view of the rather uncooperative attitude of the Swiss and Geneva authorities, the Workers wondered whether or not Geneva was eager to retain the international character that had made it famous, as well as all the economic advantages that it implied for the city and the canton. It would be good if the following March, the Director-General were in a position to make a coherent proposal, containing more than just simple assertions. The issue must move forward. Concerning funding, Mr Blondel said he had heard the Governments say, on the one hand, that the regular budget must bear the costs of the renovation and, on the other, that there could be no question of increasing the regular budget. The Workers were adamant that the regular budget share allocated to programme funding should not be thrown back into question, firstly because they did not want the programmes to be funded solely using extra-budgetary funds, which threatened the autonomy and independence of the Organization, and secondly because the ILO should not become a monument, whose contributors only served to pay the officials, because it had a mission to fulfil. In any event, the Workers were aware of the fact that the regular budget should be used to finance at least part of the renovation. The Workers associated themselves with the report to be submitted to the Governing Body.
15. The Committee took note of the Office paper.

Report of the Information and Communications Technology Subcommittee (Eighth item on the agenda)

16. The Committee had before it a paper³ containing the report of the Information and Communications Technology Subcommittee.
17. The representative of the Government of Australia, Mr Thom, speaking as Chairperson of the Subcommittee, explained that the Subcommittee had reviewed three papers concerning

³ GB.300/PFA/8.

an updated IT Strategy for the Office, a report on training for the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) and an update on the Electronic Document Management System. The key issue before the Subcommittee had been that of the IT Strategy and the Subcommittee was satisfied with the changes and improvements made to this by the Office. Several concerns were raised with regard to the Strategy particularly the absence of any roll-out plan for the extension of IRIS to the field and the improvements required with regard to cost information. The Subcommittee had agreed with the point for decision proposed in document GB.300/PFA/ICTS/1 but had amended this by adding the words “taking into account the discussion of the Subcommittee” at the end of the decision. Given future significant developments such as the start of the IRIS roll-out to the field, members of the Subcommittee asked the Office to provide them with an informal briefing during the March 2008 Governing Body session.

18. Mr Finlay (Employer member and Vice-Chairperson of the Subcommittee) observed that the report submitted to the Subcommittee had provided a realistic analysis and a good understanding of the challenges faced by ITCOM. He wished to commend ITCOM for their openness and their enthusiastic willingness to learn, and also for their demonstration of the new Governing Body web site, which had taken place two days earlier.
19. Mr Nakajima (Worker member and Vice-Chairperson of the Subcommittee) requested the Office to provide further information in order to improve transparency, particularly with regard to costs and expenditure relating to IT strategy and management, including upgrades. He regretted the fact that the Office had not responded precisely or clearly enough to such requests. If the Office did not provide clear cost breakdown information in the near future, the Subcommittee would not be able to assume the responsibilities established by its mandate.
20. Mr Blondel, speaking on behalf of the Workers’ group, recalled that it had been the Workers who had supported a budgetary surplus in order to meet the needs that had arisen as a result of developments in communications and technology. Although the document was very informative, he regretted the notable absence of figures. Figures were essential, in particular for the purpose of making estimates and in future avoiding situations such as the one that the Office currently found itself in, faced with the need to renovate the headquarters building. Furthermore, computer equipment quickly became obsolete and it was necessary to set up a reserve fund that would be topped up each budget period. Lastly, he supported the request of the two groups to hold an informal meeting on the issue in March 2008.
21. The Committee took note of the Office paper.

Programme and Budget for 2008–09: Technical meetings reserve

Financial arrangements relating to the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Tenth item on the agenda)

22. The Committee had before it a paper ⁴ concerning the financial arrangements of the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians.
23. Mr Blondel, speaking on behalf of the Workers' group, asked the representative of the Director-General to explain why the Committee should once again take up the issue following the first deliberations on the matter, and sought confirmation that the reduction in funds available in the reserve would not put at risk the two other meetings approved by the Committee; that proposed by ACTRAV and that proposed by ACT/EMP.
24. The Treasurer and Financial Comptroller explained that during the previous week's discussions, there had been a proposal to fund the International Conference of Labour Statisticians from the technical meetings reserve. The proposal had been made on the basis that there would be six Worker and Employer participants at the Conference. A further proposal had now been made which was to increase the number of participants from six to ten which resulted in an additional US\$68,900 of costs. He explained that all three of the meetings recommended by the Committee could be funded but that a reduced amount would be available in the reserve to fund further meetings that may be selected at the March session of the Governing Body. This proposal therefore had financial implications and had to be presented to the Committee.
25. Mr Blondel, speaking on behalf of the Workers' group, said that he now understood that the shares proposed by ACT/EMP and ACTRAV, at US\$250,000 each, were not being put into question. Efforts would simply have to be made to find new funds to carry out successfully any activities that had not yet been decided upon.
26. Mr Barde, speaking on behalf of the Employers' group, said that they had no objections and that they supported the point for decision.
27. The representative of the Government of Canada asked whether the increased participation was to be at the Conference or in the preparatory experts' meeting.
28. The Treasurer and Financial Comptroller replied that it was indeed at the Conference.
29. *Having taken note of the modified composition and its financial impact on the technical meetings reserve, the Committee confirms its previous recommendation to the Governing Body under item 10 of the agenda.*

II. Corrections

The following corrections to the reports are circulated.

⁴ GB.300/PFA/10/1.

First report: Financial questions

Paragraph 88: add to the end of the final sentence: “and standards, social dialogue and tripartism, or other key elements of the ILO’s mandate, needed to be reflected.”

Paragraph 95: add the following to the end of the paragraph: “and asked that the Governing Body be kept updated with relevant information on this point.”

Paragraph 97: in the second sentence, insert the words “made if” between the words “be” and “justified”.

Paragraph 103: remove the words “speaking on behalf of GRULAC”.

Paragraph 125: insert the following sentence at the end of the paragraph: “IMEC acknowledged the indispensability of IT to knowledge sharing, and that in this respect the knowledge sharing based strategy should drive the technology and not the other way around.”

Paragraph 153: incorporate the decision in paragraph 29 above into this paragraph.

Second report: Personnel questions

Paragraph 13: in the final sentence of the paragraph insert the words “in written form before the end of the GB session” between the words “provided” and “with”.

Paragraph 17: replace the text from the beginning of the fourth sentence to the end of the paragraph with the following: “It should be borne in mind that perhaps resources were not always appropriately allocated. As regards staff security, the document considered only two aspects: personal safety or protection with regard to accidents on official travel or caused by criminal acts, and safety at work in terms of occupational accidents. In his view, a third aspect was missing concerning security or stability in employment, which as a result of United Nations reform should have been considered in order to prevent anxiety and uncertainty. The staff were a good channel for expressing what the Organization was putting into practice, and, in that regard, deserved more consideration than had been indicated. He promised the full support of his Government.”

Paragraph 29: the final sentence should read as follows: “If the survey were not completed and approved before March next year, he proposed to postpone the decision on this issue until next year.”

Insert a new paragraph before paragraph 36 with the following wording: “The Committee had before it a paper [*add a footnote, the footnote reference being as follows: GB.300/PFA/19/3*] concerning recognition of the Tribunal’s jurisdiction by the South Centre.”

The following paragraph (formerly paragraph 36) should now read as follows: “The Employers’ and Workers’ groups supported the point for decision. The Workers’ group noted the importance of the South Centre for countries in the South.”

Geneva, 14 November 2007.

Points for decision: Paragraph 7.
Paragraph 29.