

## International NGOs at the International Labour Conference

### International Labour Conference

The ILO Constitution provides for consultative status for INGOs at the International Labour Conference (ILC). The International Labour Conference (ILC) is held every year in Geneva during the month of June.

### The main tasks of the ILC include

- Crafting and adopting international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations.
- Examining the application of Conventions and Recommendations at the national level.
- Providing guidelines and proposing resolutions for general ILO policy and future activities.
- Adopting the ILO's biennial work programme and budget, this is financed by Member States

### Which international non-governmental organizations can attend?

The ILO Constitution grants consultative status to “recognized non-governmental international organizations, including international organizations of employers, workers, agriculturists and cooperators” (Article 12, paragraph 3). International NGOs are also entitled to attend the ILC as stipulated in Article 2, paragraph 3(j) of the Conference Standing Orders. INGOs may attend the Conference in one of three capacities:

- **General Consultative Status** International NGOs with an important interest in a variety of ILO activities and a long-standing relationship with the Organization. These INGOs enjoy general consultative status at all ILO meetings and do not require invitations. Seven organizations currently enjoy such status.
- **Special List:** INGOs admitted to the ILO Special List of NGOs share the principles of the ILO Constitution and Declaration of Philadelphia, and demonstrate a converging interest in at least one of the fields of activity of the ILO. This list is comprised of organizations representing the interests of workers and employers, human rights groups and other value-based organizations. INGOs on this list are required to request an invitation to the Conference each year.
- **Ad Hoc Arrangements:** INGOs that have a particular interest in certain ILO meetings may be invited to participate on a case-by-case basis.

## How to request an invitation

Those on the Special List and those INGOs who have collaborated with the ILO or have a special interest in an ILC topic who would like to attend the conference must **submit their request in writing to the Director-General of the ILO at least one month before the opening of the session of the Governing Body preceding the session of the Conference, usually the beginning of February.**

## How to be part of the Special List

The aims of organizations requesting admission to the ILO Special List should be in harmony with the spirit, aims and principles of the ILO Constitution and the Declaration of Philadelphia. The length of existence, membership, geographical coverage of the organization, its practical achievements and the international nature of its activities constitute the main criteria for such admission. The organization must have an evident interest in at least one of the fields of activity of the ILO.

Any INGO wishing to be on the Special List is required to forward to the Director-General, in one of the working languages of the ILO:

- a copy of its statutes (in English, French or Spanish if these versions exist);
- the names and titles of its Officers
- a description of the composition and aggregate membership of national organizations affiliated to it
- a copy of its latest annual report or verifiable information about its activities
- detailed and verifiable information about its sources of financing.

## Participating in the Conference

An INGO delegation attending the Conference is permitted by the Conference Standing Orders to both address the Conference and to request and normally obtain permission to attend meetings of committees.

- **Rules for addressing the Conference:**  
An INGO with general consultative status or invited to the Conference may address the Conference by making or circulating statements. Permission must be obtained from the President of the Conference in agreement with the two Vice-Presidents.
- **Composition of committees and right to participate in their work:**  
INGOs may attend the meetings of committees and must inform the Office of their interest when requesting an invitation. They may make or circulate statements for the information of the committee to which they are registered upon matters included in its agenda, provided they obtain permission to do so from the officers of the committee.

*For more details on the NGO participation at the ILC, see the Conference Standing Orders, articles 2.3(j); 2.4; 14(10); 56(9).*

### Contacting the ILO

For further information please contact:

Tel : + 41 22 799 7604 or [exrel@ilo.org](mailto:exrel@ilo.org)

For more practical information on the ILC, please visit: [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/info/meetings/ilc\\_info.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/info/meetings/ilc_info.htm)