

Governing Body - 343rd Session, November 2021
Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Programme, Financial and Administrative Segment

Workers' Group Comments

Document for Ballot by Correspondence

GB.343/PFA/5(Rev.1)

Proposal for the funding of postponed 2020–21 meetings in the biennium 2022–23

The Workers' Group has taken note of the important information contained in this document. The Group considers it extremely important that the Office be authorized to use part of the projected underspending in 2020-21 to finance the holding in 2022-23 of the meetings listed in the appendix to the document. As the draft Conference resolution recognizes, many meetings planned in 2020-21 had to be cancelled due to the unprecedented circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is however important that they take place in the next biennium.

The Workers' Group therefore supports the point for decision in paragraph 9 and the draft Conference resolution including the exceptional derogation of article 18.2 of the Financial Regulations.

In conclusion, we also very much hope that the sanitary situation will allow all these meetings to take place in-person. If, due to the sanitary situation, meetings continue to be held virtually or in a hybrid format for some more time, greater consideration should be given to the hidden costs that workers may incur if they cannot join meetings from their office premises, nor easily join from home due to the lack of proper IT facilities. In these circumstances the Office should seek to address these constraints in the best possible way, depending on the specific situation at hand.