

**FOR DECISION**

SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General**Obituaries****Mr Antti Suviranta**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death of Mr Antti Suviranta, on 30 March 2008 in Helsinki, Finland. Mr Suviranta was a former member of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.
2. Mr Suviranta was born on 30 November 1923 in Helsinki, Finland. He attended school in Helsinki until 1941. His studies were interrupted by the Second World War, during which he served in the Finnish army from 1941 to 1944. Following his service, he studied law at the University of Helsinki, graduating in 1948 and then at Harvard Law School in the United States, graduating in 1952. He obtained a doctorate in law from the University of Helsinki in 1963.
3. In 1951, he was appointed the District Judge's Clerk and Deputy for the district of Janakkala, Finland, and from 1956 to 1959 he worked as a civil servant at the Finnish Ministry of Finance. However, for most of his career he pursued an academic path in the Faculty of Law at the University of Helsinki, first as a teaching fellow from 1958 to 1962, then as acting Professor of Labour Law from 1962 to 1976, and later as Professor of Labour Law from 1967 to 1982. During this time, he published numerous books and articles, chiefly on labour law. He took leave of absence from his academic career to take up positions as the President of the Finnish Labour Court from 1971 to 1982 and Chief Justice of the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland from 1982 until his retirement in November 1993.
4. In 1984, Mr Suviranta was appointed member of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. Through his expertise in labour law, he made an invaluable contribution and remained a member of the Committee for nine years, until 1993.
5. Mr Suviranta was a modest person who was highly regarded by his colleagues. His role in creating and developing labour legislation and the framework for labour relations in Finland in the post-war period cannot be overestimated. His meticulous work has significantly influenced the construction of the Finnish modern legal system. He obtained widespread recognition for his achievements, in particular in Sweden and Finland, and was

awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Finnish White Rose in 1987 and the Grand Cross of the Royal Swedish Order of the North Star in 1988.

6. *The Governing Body may wish to invite the Director-General to transmit its condolences to Mr Suviranta's family, and to the Government of Finland.*

Mr Henri Katalay Muleli Sangol

7. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 16 April 2008 in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, of Mr Henri Katalay Muleli Sangol, former Worker member of the Governing Body.
8. Born on 16 June 1935 in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr Katalay obtained a diploma in education science from the Collège Saint Joseph in Kinshasa in 1955. In 1979, he complemented his education with three years of study at the Institut Supérieur des Sciences du Travail (ISST).
9. Mr Katalay started his working life as a teacher at the Ecole Notre Dame du Congo, later becoming Director of the same school. In 1959, he was appointed President of the Confederation of Teachers of Congo (CEC). He was a co-founder of the Congolese Teachers' Union (UNECO). From 1967 to 1972, he was employed as an inspector of Catholic teaching institutions. In 1990, he was elected President of the National Workers' Union of Congo (UNTC), a post which he held until 2004. In parallel with his union activities, he worked as an administrator in the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) and was President of the Board of Sozabanque. He was a Member of Parliament from 2003 to 2006. During his working life he participated in and led numerous workshops and training seminars on labour issues.
10. Mr Katalay held a number of positions in professional bodies towards the end of his career. From 2000 to 2004, he was both a member of the Executive Board of the former International Confederation of Free Trade Unions–ICFTU (now the International Trade Union Confederation–ITUC) and the Vice-President of the Executive Board of the former ICFTU–African Regional Organisation (now ITUC–Africa). In 2002, he was appointed a Worker member of the Governing Body, a post which he held until 2005. Over many years, Mr Katalay contributed to improving the working conditions of the workers of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and his efforts have inspired all those who defend workers' rights, both in Africa and worldwide. He will be remembered for his historic contribution to African trade unions. As a member of the Governing Body, he contributed to the promotion of social justice throughout the world by upholding fundamental principles and rights at work.
11. ***The Governing Body may wish to invite the Director-General to transmit its condolences to the family of Mr Katalay Muleli Sangol and to the National Workers' Union of Congo (UNTC).***

Mr Ibrahim Mayaki

12. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 31 March 2008, of Mr Ibrahim Mayaki, former Worker member of the Governing Body.
13. Born on 15 February 1954 in Keita, Niger, Mr Mayaki studied at the University of Niamey in Niger and joined the Ministry of Education as a mathematics teacher in 1977.

14. From 1985 to 1995, Mr Mayaki held the post of General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers of Niger (SNEN). From 1992 to 1998, he was the General Secretary of the Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions of Niger (USTN). In 1998, he joined the ILO as a Specialist with the Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) in the Subregional Office in Abidjan.
15. Mr Mayaki was a member of the Governing Body from 1993 to 1998. Those who worked alongside him will remember his outstanding contribution as spokesperson for the Workers' group in the Committee on Technical Cooperation. As a member of the Staff Union, he chaired the second session of the Staff Union's 2007 Annual General Meeting, which was held in Geneva in October 2007. He was an elected Staff Union representative at the Addis Ababa office.
16. Mr Mayaki's trade union background was instrumental in translating the ILO's values and principles into concrete actions that have contributed to improving working and living conditions for the workers of Niger and Africa. He will be remembered for the force of his convictions and the tireless energy which he devoted to the promotion of workers' rights in Africa at the international level.
17. *The Governing Body may wish to invite the Director-General to transmit its condolences to the family of Mr Mayaki and to the Confederation of Workers' Unions of Niger (USTN).*

Geneva, 10 June 2008.

Points for decision: Paragraph 6;
Paragraph 11;
Paragraph 17.