



Governing Body

328th Session, Geneva, 27 October–10 November 2016

GB.328/WP/GBC/2

Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference

WP/GBC

Date: 17 October 2016

Original: English

SECOND ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Review of the role and functioning of the Regional Meetings

I. Background

1. At its 326th Session, the Governing Body requested the Office to prepare for the 328th Session (November 2016) a background document on the conduct of Regional Conferences (or Meetings) to enable the Working Party on the Functioning of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference to commence its review of the functioning and role of the Regional Meetings,¹ pursuant to the mandate given by the Governing Body in June 2011 to consider how the governance functions of these organs could be improved in the light of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.²

II. From Regional Conferences to Regional Meetings

2. The recognition of a governance role for the regions was included in the Constitution of the ILO in 1946 as article 38, which has remained unchanged since then. Article 38 provides:
 1. The International Labour Organization may convene such regional conferences and establish such regional agencies as may be desirable to promote the aims and purposes of the Organization.
 2. The powers, functions and procedure of regional conferences shall be governed by rules drawn up by the Governing Body and submitted to the General Conference for confirmation.
3. Regional Conferences held prior to the formal adoption of rules by the International Labour Conference in 1948 operated without standing orders or on the basis of rules adopted by each conference. The *Rules concerning the Powers, Functions and Procedure of Regional Conferences convened by the International Labour Organisation*, adopted in 1948, were

¹ GB.326/INS/13, para. 18.

² GB.311/8, para. 4.

amended several times and remained operational until 1996 when the Governing Body decided, as part of the programme and budget adjustments for 1996–97, to replace Regional Conferences by shorter Regional Meetings with a single agenda item.³ On the authority conferred by the International Labour Conference, the *Rules for Regional Meetings*, accompanied by an Introductory note, were adopted on an experimental basis by the Governing Body at its 267th Session (November 1996).⁴

4. Since then, the Regional Meetings have been considered as Regional Conferences for the purpose of article 38 of the ILO Constitution. Their conduct has been revised, formally, through amendments of the *Rules for Regional Meetings* or their Introductory note and in practice so as to refine the functioning and role of the Meetings.
5. The 1996 *Rules for Regional Meetings* were applied on an experimental basis in five Regional Meetings held from 1997 to 2001.⁵ They were drafted in order to be as simple as possible while preserving the possibility to fill any possible lacunae with a reference to the then default, and more detailed, Rules for Regional Conferences.
6. Two sets of amendments were subsequently adopted in order, inter alia, to ensure more efficient conduct of the Meetings. Based on the practical experience with the new rules drawn from five Regional Meetings, the Governing Body adopted, at its 283rd Session (March 2002),⁶ a revised version of the Rules, which was confirmed by the 90th Session (June 2002) of the Conference.⁷ Further experience gained from five subsequent Regional Meetings since 2002 allowed the Governing Body to adopt a second revised version of the *Rules for Regional Meetings* in its 301st Session (March 2008)⁸ which were confirmed by the 97th Session (June 2008) of the Conference.⁹ The Introductory note was also revised at the 303rd Session (November 2008) of the Governing Body.¹⁰
7. These amendments were warranted by the fact that ad hoc derogations from certain Rules had regularly been sought in each Regional Meeting. Several amendments were therefore suggested to further improve efficiency while enhancing the flexibility of the functioning of Regional Meetings. The objective of the reforms was to maintain simplicity and flexibility while trying at the same time to ensure that the Rules were as comprehensive as possible.¹¹

³ GB.265/8/1 and GB.265/LILS/3.

⁴ GB.267/9/1 and GB.267/LILS/1.

⁵ 12th Asian Regional Meeting (Bangkok, December 1997), 14th American Regional Meeting (Lima, August 1999), Ninth African Regional Meeting (Abidjan, December 1999), Sixth European Regional Meeting (Geneva, December 2000), and 13th Asian Regional Meeting (Bangkok, August 2001).

⁶ GB.283/10/1 and GB.283/LILS/1.

⁷ *Record of Proceedings* of the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, 2002, p. 26/3.

⁸ GB.301/11(Rev.) and GB.301/LILS/2.

⁹ *Record of Proceedings* of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference, 2008, pp. 17/21–22.

¹⁰ GB.303/12 and GB.303/LILS/2.

¹¹ GB.283/LILS/1, para. 5.

8. The appendix to this document contains the list of Regional Conferences and Meetings held since 1936.

III. Key features and recent developments

9. This section highlights the evolution of rules, general trends of practice and recurrent issues regarding the role, composition, and several aspects of the format and conduct of Regional Meetings with a view to assisting the Governing Body to identify the key areas and order of priority in which it may wish to undertake the review of the role and functioning of Regional Meetings.

Role and mandate

10. According to the Rules adopted in 1996, the Governing Body has full discretion for determining the agenda of Regional Meetings, which consists of a single item related to the ILO activities in the region concerned.¹² ILO constituents insisted at the time of the adoption of these Rules on the need to preserve regional get-together where ILO activities could be discussed at a high level in a thorough manner and provide the participants with an opportunity of communicating their expectations and concerns to the Office. The assembly and forum functions of the Regional Meetings were therefore prioritized.
11. In March 2002, a number of additional proposals related to new approaches, such as the organization of panel discussions around key topics, the possibility to better apprehend specific regional concerns or the need to ensure a consistent and more frequent follow-up to the conclusions adopted by each Regional Meeting were discussed. Unlike Regional Conferences which discussed labour and social issues in general, Regional Meetings held between 1997 and 2001 were entirely devoted to the discussion of the ILO activities and programme of work in the region.¹³ This is also reflected in the Introductory note to the *Rules for Regional Meetings* which provides that Regional Meetings “offer the opportunity for tripartite delegations to express their views on the programming and implementation of the ILO’s regional activities”.
12. In order to improve the preparation of recent Regional Meetings, consultations with the regional tripartite constituents were held to provide guidance on the contents of the Director-General’s Report; as a result discussions have been structured around the issues identified in the report, rather than on programming and implementation of ILO regional activities. Delegations have also indicated that they are interested in the opportunity to promote their policies, exchange views on current issues and identify possible solutions. This evolution is also due to the fact that programme and budget cycles are often disconnected in time and space from regional cycles and programming is made at country level (including through Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)) rather than at the regional level.

Linkages with the other ILO governance bodies

13. Recent experience demonstrates that Regional Meetings tend to receive additional mandates from the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference and that these linkages

¹² GB.267/LILS/1.

¹³ GB.283/LILS/1.

between the governance bodies should be taken into consideration in the context of the current review of the role of Regional Meetings. One example is the decision adopted by the Governing Body in March 2014 by which the Office was requested to include in the programme of the following Regional Meetings a special session on the promotion and implementation of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) at the regional level and to prepare a report for those sessions based on information provided, through a questionnaire, by the ILO constituents of the region concerned. During the 18th American Regional Meeting, held in Lima in 2014, this session was held as an information session at the margin of the official work of the meeting, whereas in Addis Ababa in 2015 it was organized as a special sitting covered by the final report and the conclusions. After the end of a full cycle of Regional Meetings, the Governing Body will be invited to assess the results of that approach.

14. Decisions adopted by the International Labour Conference have also resulted in other additional mandates such as the one included in the resolution accompanying the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), which proposes “the introduction of a new regular discussion point, as appropriate, in the agenda of the next cycles of ILO Regional Meetings and other ILO forums on action taken by the Office and ILO constituents to implement the Recommendation with a view to updating and facilitating the sharing of knowledge, information and good practices on the transition from the informal to the formal economy”.¹⁴
15. Whereas there is no explicit reference to the role of Regional Meetings in the resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work, adopted in June 2016, the addendum to the Office’s report submitted to the Conference¹⁵ makes reference to “the strengthened and more systematic implementation of the outcomes of recurrent discussions, including their mainstreaming in the work of the Governing Body and the Office, and coordination with the programme and budget, the setting of the Conference agenda and the reform of Regional Meetings”. In addition, the best use of the Regional Meetings falls under the broader request made to the ILO under Part II(A) of the Social Justice Declaration that it should make the best use of the unique advantage of its tripartite structure and its standards system.
16. Since 2015 the ratification campaign for the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, has been promoted at a regional level to reach the objective of ratification by 50 member States by 2018, and an official ceremony is organized at the opening of each Regional Meeting to promote the campaign.

Form and nature of the outcome

17. The outcome of Regional Meetings is submitted by the Office to the Governing Body at the earliest session following the Regional Meeting. The Governing Body may make observations on the results, decide on the implementation of action called for by the Meeting and request the Office to report, or take such other action as may be appropriate.
18. The decisions of Regional Meetings usually take the form of conclusions, reports, or resolutions relating to the item(s) on the agenda.¹⁶ Since the Ninth European Regional Meeting in Oslo in 2013, the outcome document adopted at the end of Regional Meetings

¹⁴ Resolution concerning efforts to facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy, International Labour Conference, 104th Session, 2015, para. 2(c).

¹⁵ ILO: Report VI – Addendum, International Labour Conference, 105th Session, 2016, Part II, B.

¹⁶ *Rules for Regional Meetings*, article 3.

has taken the form of a Declaration as follows: the Oslo Declaration: *Restoring confidence in jobs and growth* (2013), the Lima Declaration (2014), and the Addis Ababa Declaration: *Transforming Africa through Decent Work for Sustainable Development* (2015). Decisions are taken by consensus whenever practicable or, if not possible, by show of hands.¹⁷

19. At the 13th African Regional Meeting (2015) questions were raised on the content of the conclusions. Conclusions intend to capture the main findings and recommendations of the meeting as a whole. As such, they may include any points the members of the drafting committee may deem important and relevant, irrespective of the forum or type of session in which they were debated (for instance information sessions). There is nothing in the Rules to limit the discretion of the Meeting with regard to the form and content of its conclusions. However, questions have been raised as to the possibility of including in the conclusions political statements (for instance, on terrorism or on racism) unrelated to the topics discussed.

Composition

20. Under the Rules, “each Regional Meeting shall be composed of two Government delegates, one Employers’ delegate, and one Workers’ delegate for each State or territory invited by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to be represented at it”. While the term “region” is not defined in the Rules, the Introductory note provides some indications regarding the determination of the composition of Regional Meetings in practice. Subject to the discretion of the Governing Body, the composition of each Regional Meeting is in principle determined on the basis of States and territories (or States responsible for the territories) which are served by the four ILO regional offices; Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (including the States covered by the Regional Office for Arab States); Regional Office for the Americas; Regional Office for Africa; and Regional Office for Europe.
21. This arrangement was reviewed by the Governing Body at the 280th Session (March 2001) and it was agreed that the coverage of the ILO’s regional offices is the basic criterion, and also that member States would be invited as full members to one Regional Meeting only, except in the case of States responsible for the external relations of territories located in a different region. Accordingly, the Governing Body established a list of the member States and the States responsible for the external relations of non-metropolitan territories located in each region.¹⁸
22. The matter was last discussed at the 283rd Session of the Governing Body (March 2002), where it was explained that over time, four regions have been delineated for the purposes of Regional Conferences and that the main criterion traditionally used in relation to the composition of these four regions has been the geographical location of the Members concerned. This criterion implies, in principle, that a member State participates only in the meeting of the region where it is located except for those member States whose territory spreads over more than one geographical region (such as the Russian Federation and the United States), States responsible for the international relations of non-metropolitan territories located in a different region, and certain States with respect to which membership was determined according to their own preference (this is the case of former socialist

¹⁷ *Rules for Regional Meetings*, article 12, paras 3 and 4.

¹⁸ GB.280/LILS/1(Corr.), Appendix III. According to this list, the following States are included as responsible for the external relations of territories located in a different region: France and the United Kingdom in the African region; France, Netherlands and the United Kingdom in the Americas; and France and the United States in Asia and the Pacific.

republics of Central Asia following the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)).¹⁹

23. As regards the representation of non-metropolitan territories, this can be ensured either as separate tripartite delegations (one for each territory located in the region in addition to the tripartite delegation of the metropolitan State if from a different region) or through a single delegation of the metropolitan State that includes advisers from the non-metropolitan territory located in the region. The Rules also provide for the possibility of States being represented by an observer delegation at a meeting of another region upon invitation by the Governing Body.
24. The participation of States responsible for the external relations of non-metropolitan territories has been called into question on a few occasions in the past. For example, the issue has been raised in relation to Asia and Pacific meetings in 1962, 1969 and 1990, and at the 13th African Regional Meeting held in Addis Ababa in 2015, a number of governments objected to the participation of “non-African” countries as members of that region, in particular as regards States responsible for the external relations of non-metropolitan territories located in the region. Subsequently, the Africa group formally requested that the *Rules for Regional Meetings* be updated and revised as a matter of urgency.²⁰
25. Under article 1 of the Rules, the Governing Body retains discretion as to the composition of Regional Meetings and as such could consider adopting interim measures to address this issue pending the adoption of revised rules or a new set of rules for Regional Meetings that may emerge from this present review.

Participation rights

26. As regards the evolution of attendance, statistical data for the period 1997–2016 show that the number of States attending Regional Meetings has increased over the recent years in almost all the regions. The number of accredited delegates varied from 85 to 125 in the American Regional Meetings, from 138 to 193 in the African Regional Meetings, from 113 to 153 in the Asian Regional Meetings and from 159 to 182 in the European Regional Meetings. Only in the Africa and Americas regions has the number of accredited delegates steadily increased, with 193 and 125 delegates accredited to the 13th African Regional Meeting and the 18th American Regional Meeting, respectively. The number of delegates having effectively registered remained, to some extent, stable since 1997. Except for the 18th American Regional Meeting, which counted 118 registered delegates, the number of registered delegates ranged from 70 to 89 in the American Regional Meetings, from 111 to 151 in the African Regional Meetings, from 126 to 148 in the Asian Regional Meetings and from 146 to 172 in the European Regional Meetings (see the figures below which reflect the ratios between accredited versus registered delegates).

¹⁹ GB.283/LILS/1, para. 14.

²⁰ GB.326/PV, para. 41.

Figure 1. Number of States attending Regional Meetings

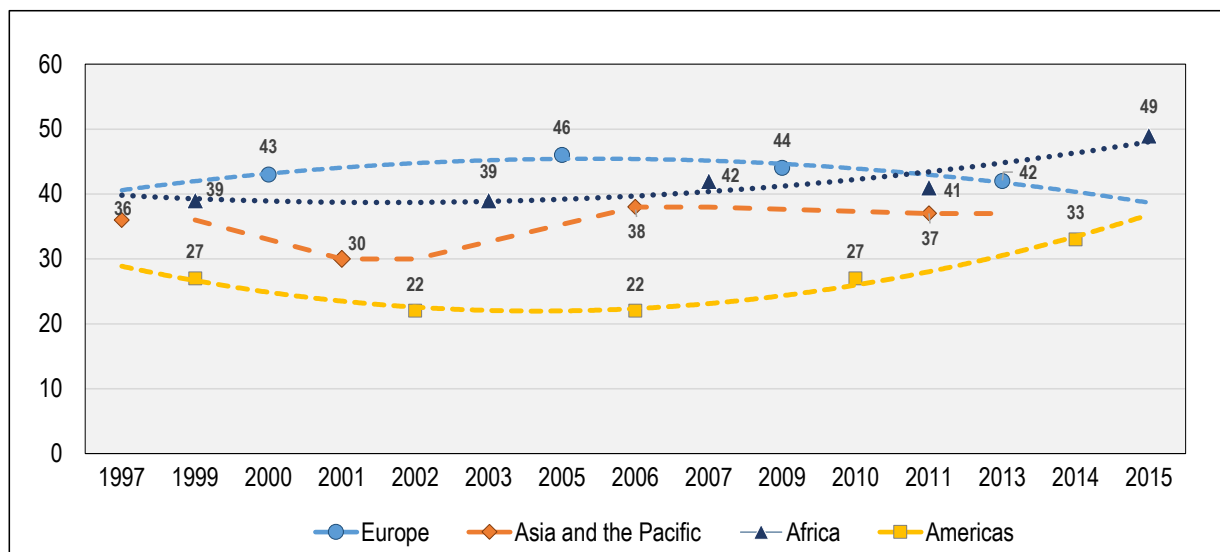


Figure 2. Accredited/registered delegates in African Regional Meetings

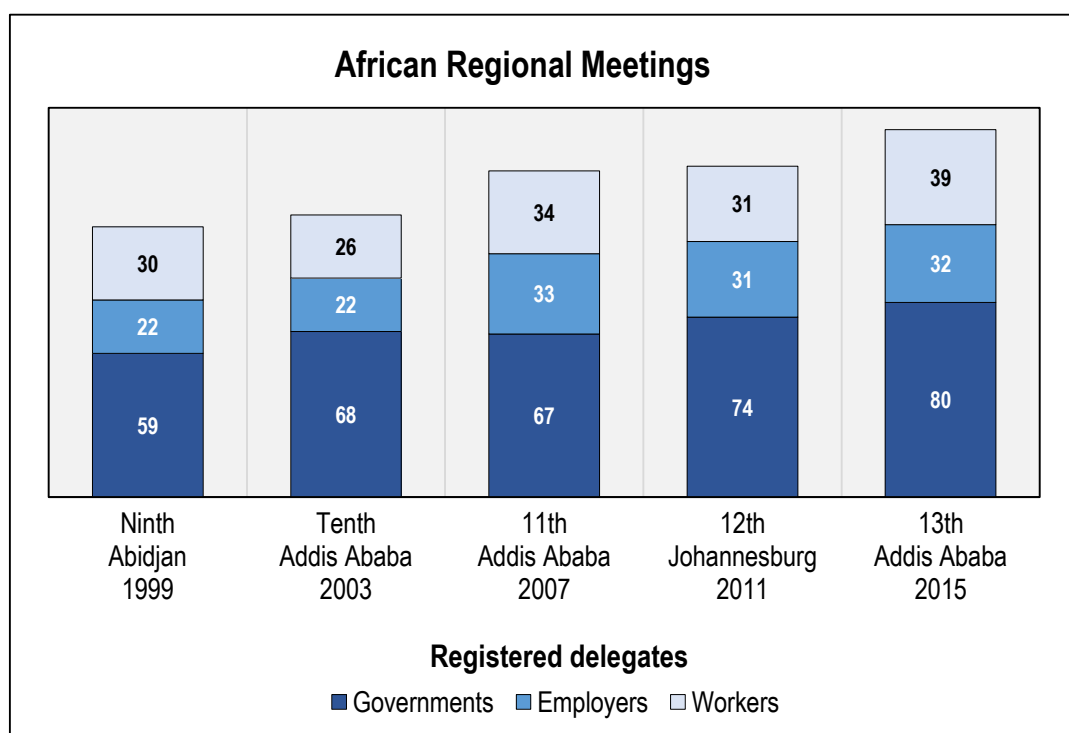


Figure 3. Accredited/registered delegates in American Regional Meetings

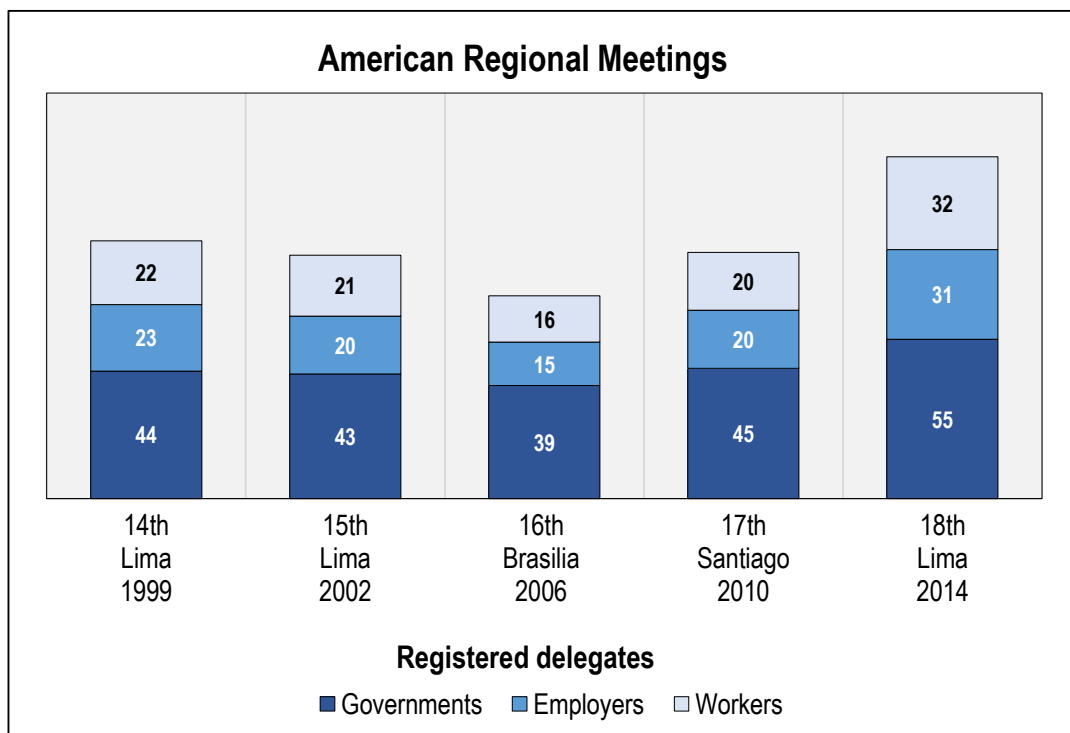


Figure 4. Accredited/registered delegates in Asia and the Pacific Regional Meetings

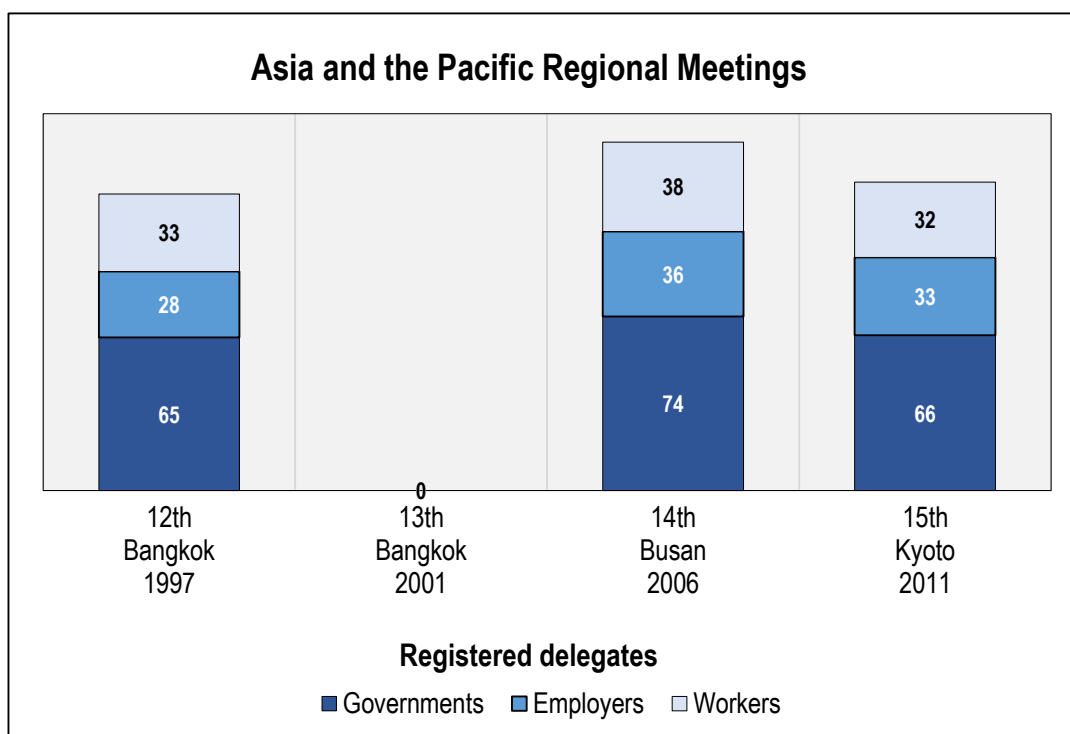
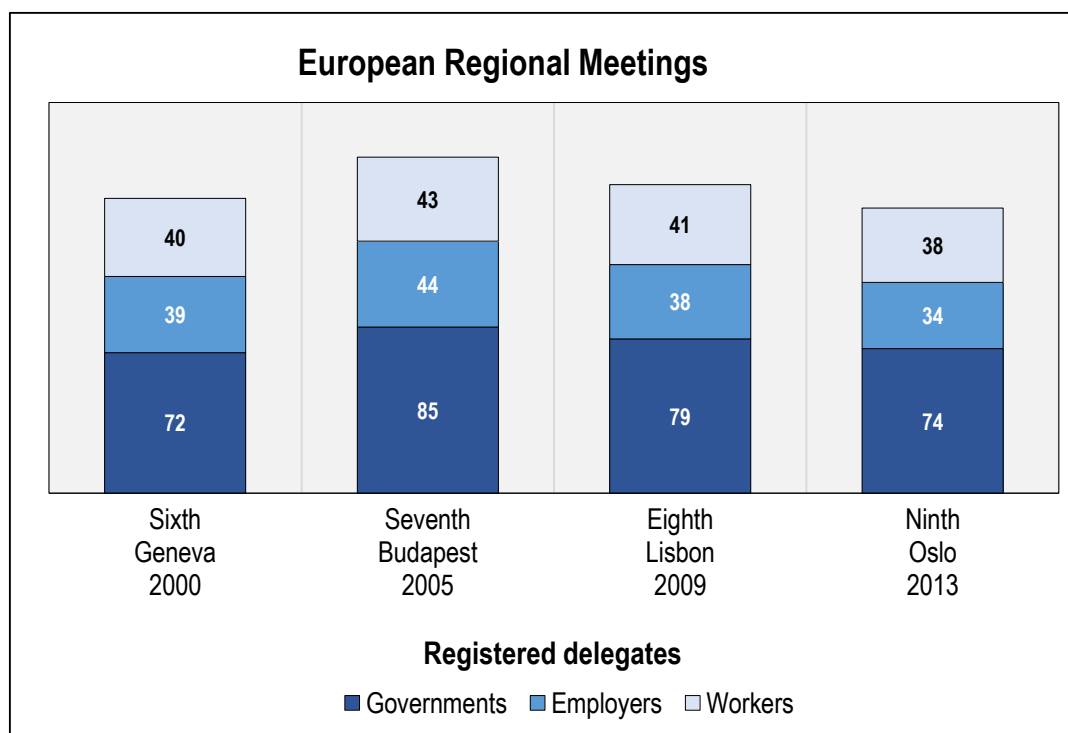
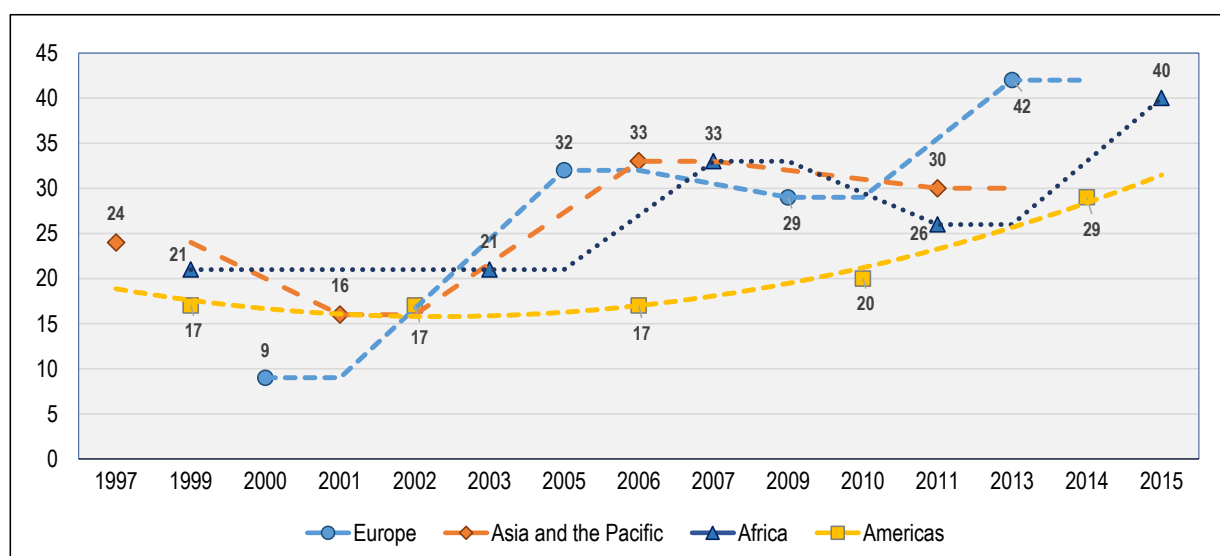


Figure 5. Accredited/registered delegates in European Regional Meetings



27. High-level attendance increased in almost all Regional Meetings during the period examined, from 9 to 42 in Europe, 21 to 40 in Africa, 17 to 29 in the Americas, and from 16 to 33 in Asia and the Pacific (see the figure below). The representation of official international organizations, universal and regional, as well as of international non-governmental organizations varied substantially. It ranged from eight to 20 in the European Regional Meetings, 13 to 20 in the Asian Regional Meetings, 14 to 35 in the African Regional Meetings and seven to 24 in the American Regional Meetings.

Figure 6. Number of Heads of State and Ministers attending Regional Meetings



28. Despite the reduced duration of Regional Meetings, the size of delegations has continued to increase. As a result, the question has arisen as to the role and speaking rights of advisers accompanying the two Government delegates and the Employers' delegate and the Workers' delegate in each tripartite delegation. Similar concerns have been raised regarding the right

of invited international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intervene more than once during the discussions, especially since those discussions are no longer structured as a continuous plenary discussion, but rather around thematic sessions. The conformity with the rules of the participation in the debates of persons not included in invited delegations (such as panellists) has also been queried on occasions. It would therefore be important to align in due course the relevant provisions in the Rules with the format retained for Regional Meetings.

Duration and frequency

- 29.** The length of Regional Meetings was a major factor in the 1996 reform. While Regional Conferences spread over two weeks, Regional Meetings were originally intended to be concluded in three days to reduce their costs. However, in 1999, it was decided to extend the duration by one day.²¹ Since then and with the exception of European Regional Meetings held in Budapest in 2005 and in Lisbon in 2009, each of a five-day duration, all other meetings lasted four days. Under the Rules, the Governing Body has authority to determine the length of each Regional Meeting.
- 30.** Regional Meetings are normally held on a rotating basis each year in one of the four regions in the following order: Asia and the Pacific (including the Arab States), the Americas, Africa and Europe. Practice has varied on a few occasions where Meetings have been organized three or five years from each other. Generally, Regional Meetings tend to take place at the end of the year.

Venue

- 31.** With a view to minimizing costs, in 1996 it was agreed that Regional Meetings should be held at the place where the relevant ILO Regional Office is located.²² This principle, reflected in the Introductory note, is without prejudice to the discretion of the Governing Body, under article 2.2 of the Rules, to decide upon the venue of a Regional Meeting, which has been exercised rather liberally since the first cycle of Regional Meetings in 1997–2000.²³
- 32.** In line with those cost considerations, in most cases where a Regional Meeting is held outside the country hosting the respective ILO Regional Office, the Government concerned has accepted to cover all or part of the supplementary costs generated by the travel and daily subsistence allowance costs of the additional staff servicing the Meeting, the rental of meeting premises or the provision of other facilities. There are, however, large variations from one region to the other, while costs can also vary depending on the format of the Meeting.

²¹ GB.274/9/1(&Corr.) and GB.274/PFA/10/3(Rev.1).

²² GB.283/LILS/1, para. 8.

²³ The first five Regional Meetings were held in the city of the corresponding Regional Office. The following Regional Meetings were held in third countries: 16th American Regional Meeting in Brasilia, 17th American Regional Meeting in Santiago, 12th African Regional Meeting in Johannesburg, 14th Asian Regional Meeting in Busan, 15th Asian Regional Meeting in Kyoto; Seventh European Regional Meetings in Budapest, Eighth European Regional Meeting in Lisbon and Ninth European Regional Meeting in Oslo.

33. To overcome this and other issues resulting from the organization of Regional Meetings in a place other than where an ILO Regional Office is located, the 2008 revision of the Rules specified that a member State which offers to host a Regional Meeting must guarantee at least the level of protection afforded under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies 1947, including its Annex I concerning the International Labour Organization. This provision was included with a view to avoiding lengthy negotiations and limiting the risk to the privileges and immunities of the Organization. However, the Office spends considerable time in negotiating each agreement for hosting a Regional Meeting. To gain efficiency and to minimize legal risks and costs, the Governing Body could consider adopting, in line with the practice of some other international organizations, a model/standard agreement for hosting Regional Meetings that could be annexed to the *Rules for Regional Meetings*, and which the Member hosting the Regional Meeting would be expected to sign upon the Governing Body's decision regarding the venue.

Credentials

34. The submission and verification of credentials has proven complex in the context of Regional Meetings. After an attempt to set the deadline for submission of credentials at 30 days before the beginning of the Meeting, the deadline has been reduced to 15 days (article 1, paragraph 3, of the Rules). A preliminary list of participants is published electronically a week before the opening of the Meeting and two additional lists are made available during the Meeting: a provisional list of credentials of delegations by the scheduled time for the opening of the Meeting, and a final list of accredited delegations on the morning of the final day of the Meeting.
35. The proper functioning of the Credentials Committee is seriously impacted by the current four-day duration of Regional Meetings, especially as regards its core mandate under article 9 of the Rules to receive and examine: (i) objections relating to the designation of the delegations in agreement with the most representative organizations of employers and workers in the State or territory concerned; and (ii) time permitting, complaints alleging the non-payment of travel and subsistence expenses of members of the tripartite delegation. The report of the Credentials Committee is not discussed by the Regional Meeting, but is brought to the attention of the Governing Body.
36. While the number of objections and complaints has been low in practice, managing the work of the Committee remains challenging because of time constraints but also limited support services. In view of current realities, consideration could be given to the review of the role and mandate of the Credentials Committee.

Current format and working methods

37. The current format of the Regional Meetings is the result of some trials and developments in the working methods introduced since the European Regional Meeting held in Oslo in 2013, namely:
- the principle of no parallel thematic sessions;
 - the number of plenary sittings dedicated to the discussion of the Report of the Director-General has been reduced in view of the number of speakers registered (two sittings or the equivalent of five hours) to give more space to interactive panels attended by high-level guests focusing on specific sections of the report or issues highly relevant for the three groups of constituents of the region;

- the clear distinction between the panel sessions covered by the report of the Meeting and any information session held outside of normal working hours (lunchtime or evening);
- a better preparation of the Meeting with the establishment of preparatory task forces;
- a focused policy- and action-oriented outcome document;
- the paper-smart policy. In that regard, the forthcoming 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting could provide an opportunity for new adjustments, such the use of the ILO mobile application introduced during the last session of the Conference and the adoption during the closing sitting only of the conclusions (or outcome document) of the Meeting. The draft report of the Meeting would be posted on the Web one week after the Meeting with a deadline for the receipt of possible corrections (in line with the current practice for draft minutes of Governing Body Sections).

IV. The way forward

38. The Working Party may wish to identify the key areas that should guide the review of the role and functioning of the Regional Meetings for further consideration by the Governing Body at its 329th Session (March 2017).

Appendix

Regional Conferences and Meetings

Regional Conferences (1936–95)

Year	Region	Number	Place and date
1936	Americas	1st	Santiago, Chile, January
1937			
1938			
1939	Americas	2nd	Havana, Cuba, November–December
1940			
1941			
1942			
1943			
1944			
1945			
1946	Americas	3rd	Mexico, April
1947	Asia	1st	New Delhi, India, October–November
1948			
1949	Americas	4th	Montevideo, Uruguay, April
1950	Asia	2nd	Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, January
1951			
1952	Americas	5th	Petropolis, Brazil, April
1953	Asia	3rd	Tokyo, Japan, September
1954			
1955	Europe	1st	Geneva, Switzerland, January–February
1956	Americas	6th	Havana, Cuba, September
1957	Asia	4th	New Delhi, India, November
1958			
1959			
1960	Africa	1st	Lagos, Nigeria, December
1961	Americas	7th	Buenos Aires, Argentina, April
1962	Asia	5th	Melbourne, Australia, November–December
1963			
1964	Africa	2nd	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November–December
1965			
1966	Americas	8th	Ottawa, Canada, September
1967			
1968	Asia	6th	Tokyo, Japan, September

Year	Region	Number	Place and date
1969	Africa	3rd	Accra, Ghana, December
1970	Americas	9th	Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, April
1971	Asia	7th	Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, December
1972			
1973	Africa	4th	Nairobi, Kenya, November–December
1974	Europe	2nd	Geneva, Switzerland, 14–23 January
1974	Americas	10th	Mexico City, Mexico, November–December
1975	Asia	8th	Colombo, Sri Lanka, October
1976			
1977	Africa	5th	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, September–October
1978			
1979	Americas	11th	Medellín, Colombia, September–October
1979	Europe	3rd	Geneva, Switzerland, 16–25 October
1980	Asia	9th	Manila, Philippines, December
1981			
1982			
1983	Africa	6th	Tunis, Tunisia, October
1984	Americas	12th	Montreal, Canada, March
1985	Asia	10th	Jakarta, Indonesia, December
1986			
1987	Europe	4th	Geneva, Switzerland, 15–22 September
1988	Africa	7th	Harare, Zimbabwe, November–December
1989			
1990			
1991	Asia	11th	Bangkok, Thailand, November
1992	Americas	13th	Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, September–October
1993			
1994	Africa	8th	Mauritius, January
1995	Europe	5th	Warsaw, Poland, 20–27 September

Regional Meetings (1996–present)

Year	Region	Number	Place and date
1996			
1997	Asia	12th	Bangkok, Thailand, 9–11 December
1998			
1999	Americas	14th	Lima, Peru, 24–27 August
1999	Africa	9th	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 8–11 December
2000	Europe	6th	Geneva, Switzerland, 12–15 December
2001	Asia	13th	Bangkok, Thailand, 28–31 August
2002	Americas	15th	Lima, Peru, 10–13 December
2003	Africa	10th	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2–5 December
2004	Europe	7th	Budapest, Hungary, 15–18 February
2006	Americas	16th	Brasilia, Brazil, 2–5 May
2006	Asia	14th	Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 August–1 September
2007	Africa	11th	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24–27 April
2008			
2009	Europe	8th	Lisbon, Portugal, 9–13 February
2010	Americas	17th	Santiago, Chile, 14–17 December
2011	Africa	12th	Johannesburg, South Africa, 11–14 October
2011	Asia	15th	Kyoto, Japan, 4–7 December
2012			
2013	Europe	9th	Oslo, Norway, 8–11 April
2014	Americas	18th	Lima, Peru, 13–16 October
2015	Africa	13th	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30 November–3 December
2016	Asia	16th	Bali, Indonesia, 6–9 December