ILO Governance
The ILO is a specialized agency of the United Nations System, but

Founded before the United Nations

with a unique tripartite structure

and a standard-setting mandate supported by a supervisory system
Main bodies

International Labour Conference

Governing Body

International Labour Office – Secretariat
ILO Governance flow

International Labour Conference

Governing Body

Director-General

Office
Other ILO bodies

Regional Meetings

Symposia, seminars, workshops and similar meetings

Tripartite meetings convened by the Governing Body

Specialized meetings
  - STC - MLC
  - Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILO Governance texts

- **ILO Constitution**
  - 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
  - 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization
  - 2019 Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work
- **Standing Orders of the Conference**
- **Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the ILO**
- **Rules for Regional Meetings**
- **Standing Orders for technical meetings and meetings of experts**
- **Financial Rules**
- **Handbook of procedures relating to international labour conventions and recommendations (ILO supervisory system)**
International Labour Conference
Conference: Who participates?

Delegation of each Member State must be tripartite
Conference: anyone else?

In addition to delegates and advisers, the following attend sessions of the Conference:

- Heads of State/Government, Ministers, Deputy Ministers
- Representatives of non-Member States
- Representatives of other international intergovernmental organizations
- Representatives of international non-governmental organizations
- Secretariat, Press
Content of Conference discussions

STANDARD AGENDA

**Standing items**

I. Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General (thematic)

II. Programme and budget proposals and other questions

III. Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations

**Technical Items placed by the Governing Body**

IV. General discussion

V. Standard-setting committee

VI. Recurrent item discussion under the 2018 ILO Social Justice Declaration
Conference: How does it work?

The Conference Plenary

Conference Committees
I. Opening Ceremony

II. Discussion of the reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General

III. World of Work Summit

IV. Adoption of committee outputs and other decisions

V. Closing ceremony
Conference Committees

**Standing committees**

- Finance Committee
- Credentials Committee
- Application of Standards
- Selection Committee

**Technical committees**

- General Discussion Committee
- Standard-setting Committee
- Recurrent Discussion Committee
Governing Body of the ILO
Governing Body: Who participates?

**COMPOSITION**

56 Regular members (28 G, 14 E, 14 W)

66 Deputy members (28 G, 19 E, 19 W)
### Regional distribution of seats
#### Government group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Regular seats</th>
<th>Deputy seats</th>
<th>Total elective seats</th>
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<td><strong>18</strong></td>
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**Total:** 56
• Functioning of the Organization
  – Election of the Director-General
  – Place and agenda of ILC
  – Place, agenda and rules for Regional Meetings and other official meetings
  – Review of reports of those regional and other meetings

• Standard related functions
  – Form of article 19 and 22 reports
  – Constitutional procedures (articles 24 & 26 of the Constitution of the ILO)

• Oversight of Office activities
  – Approval Staff Regulations
  – Direction concerning office activities
  – Control over expenditure of funds
Governing Body at work

Governing Body functions in a continuous plenary, under thematic sections and segments

• INS – Institutional Section
• POL – Policy Development Section
• LILS – Legal Issues and International Labour Standards Section
• PFA – Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
• HL – High Level Section

…. but can also appoint committees or working parties

• CFA – Committee on freedom of association
• WP/GBC – Working Party on the Functioning of the GB & ILC
• WP/SDL – Working Party on the social dimensions of globalization
Director-General of the ILO

Elected every five years by the Governing Body for up to two terms of five years each.

- 2012-2022  Mr Guy Ryder  UK
- 1999-2012  Mr Juan Somavia  Chile
- 1989-1999  Mr Michel Hansenne  Belgium
- 1974-1989  Mr Francis Blanchard  France
- 1970-1973  Mr Wilfred Jenks  UK
- 1948-1970  Mr David A. Morse  US
- 1941-1948  Mr Edward Phelan  Ireland
- 1939-1941  Mr John G. Winant  US
- 1932-1938  Mr Harold Butler  UK
- 1919-1932  Mr Albert Thomas  France
ILO Governance: The Office

DG

- DG reports
- DDG/MR Management and Reform
- DDG/P Policy
- DDG/FOP Field Operations and Partnerships
ILO Governance: The Office

Director-General’s Office (CABINET)

Independent functions:
- Treasurer
- Legal Services
- Internal Audit
- Evaluation,
- Ethics etc

DG Reports

Bureau for Employers’ activities

Bureau for Workers’ activities
ILO Governance: The Office

DDG/MR

- Communication and Public Information (DCOMM)
- Financial Management (FINANCE)
- Human Resources Development (HRD)
- Information and Technology Management (INFOTEC)
- Internal Services and Administration (INTSERV)
- Strategic Programming and Management (PROGRAM)
- Official Meetings, Documents and Relations (RELMETINGS)
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<tr>
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<th>RESEARCH</th>
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## ILO Governance: The Office

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<td>Multilateral Cooperation (MULTILATERALS)</td>
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ILO Presence

AFRICA
13 Offices
530 staff
17%

AMERICAS
8 Offices
311 staff
10%

GENEVA
Headquarters
1134 staff
37%

ARAB STATES
4 Offices
114 staff
4%

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
9 Offices
174 staff
6%

ASIA & PACIFIC
14 Offices
839 staff
27%
“The end” ......