



SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General**Addendum: Obituary – Gerd Muhr**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 25 February 2000, of Mr. Gerd Muhr, former Worker member, Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson of the Governing Body.
2. Born on 11 April 1924 in Germany, he completed his apprenticeship as a mechanic and started work in this occupation in 1946, when he also became a member of the German Metalworkers' Union (IG Metall). From 1947 he served as honorary chairperson of the Honnef/Rhine branch of the German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB). From 1949 onward he was appointed to various positions of responsibility within IG Metall, including head of the administrative office in Siegburg (1949-55), official in charge of labour and social law (as of 1955), head of the Social Policy Department (from 1956), and executive member of IG Metall's Management Board (from 1963).
3. In 1969 he was elected Vice-Chairperson of the German Confederation of Trade Unions and was confirmed in this office in 1972, 1975, 1978, 1982 and 1986.
4. Besides his responsibilities in IG Metall, Mr. Muhr served in many honorary positions, among them as honorary judge of the Federal Labour Court (from 1962), Alternate Chairperson of the Management Board of the German Pensioners' Association (1969-84), member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities (from 1970), Chairperson of that Committee (1984-86), and Alternate Chairperson of the Management Board of the Federal Labour Institute (from 1980). His country recognized the excellence of his manifold services by granting him the Distinguished Federal Service Cross with Star.
5. He was a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (1970-91), Chairperson of the Workers' group (1980-90) and was elected Chairperson of the Governing Body for the period 1990-91. This was only the second time in the history of the ILO that the members of the Governing Body had elected a Worker member as their Chairperson. Mr. Muhr conducted the work of the Governing Body with determination, authority, serenity and impartiality, which earned him the respect of all. His thought-provoking analysis, sound judgement and ability to achieve unanimity in all circumstances were also praised by all groups. Through his friendly, cooperative and open manner he

created a climate of dialogue based on trust and thus enabled the Governing Body to fulfil its tasks.

6. Besides his outstanding abilities as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Body, he will be remembered for his cordiality, courtesy and his commitment to social justice, tripartism and democracy.
7. *The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey its sympathy to the family of Mr. Muhr and to the German Confederation of Trade Unions.*

Geneva, 15 March 2000.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.