



## FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Arrangements for the Tenth African Regional Meeting**

1. According to the Rules for Regional Meetings adopted by the Governing Body at its 283rd (March 2002) Session and confirmed on the occasion of the 90th (June 2002) Session of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body determines the date and location of each Regional Meeting. The Regional Meetings are in principle to be hosted in the country where the Regional Office is located. The Tenth African Regional Meeting, to take place in 2003, was therefore initially scheduled to take place from 2 to 5 December 2003, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
2. In September 2002, an armed conflict broke out in Abidjan between government forces and rebel movements. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) declared Security Phase III in October 2002, and the ILO was obliged to transfer its non-essential staff, as well as the Subregional Office (SRO), to Dakar. Currently, only a few international staff members are in Abidjan. Peace talks and negotiations on the peaceful resolution of the conflict took place at the subregional level as well as in France in early January. UNSECOORD declared Security Phase IV between February and May 2003. A Government of National Reconciliation has been in place since April. All missions remain subject to the formal clearance of the UN Field Security Officer.
3. The circumstances prevailing in Côte d'Ivoire lead the Office to recommend that this year, on an exceptional basis, the holding of the African Regional Meeting be transferred to another location. The heavy workload and logistics (protocol, administration, finance, etc.) related to the preparation and organization of such a Regional Meeting require that an alternative location be sought. For the above logistical reasons, it appears that the alternative location should be found among the countries where the ILO has a subregional office.
4. The Office therefore proposes Addis Ababa as an alternative place to hold the Tenth African Regional Meeting: Addis Ababa houses an ILO Subregional Office, and operational communications, transport and accommodation facilities are readily available. Should the Governing Body approve this venue, the Government of Ethiopia has already assured its willingness to facilitate the preparation and organization of the Meeting.

***5. The Governing Body may wish to decide the transfer of the Tenth African Regional Meeting (2-5 December 2003) to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.***

Geneva, 6 June 2003.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 5.