



## SIXTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Director-General*****Addendum*****I. Obituary****Mr. André Muyumbu**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 2 March 2005, of Mr. André Muyumbu, former deputy Employer member of the Governing Body.
2. Born on 11 November 1937 in Mahonda, Burundi, Mr. Muyumbu completed his university studies with distinction in 1963 with a degree in commercial and consular sciences. That same year, in a spectacular entry into working life, he took up the post of Director-General of the Procurement Office of the Bank of the Kingdom of Burundi. The reputation he gained at a very early age in the banking sector soon paved the way to a place in Burundi's public administration, and, between 1964 and 1974, one responsibility led to another at the highest level of political and economic life in Burundi. Appointed Director-General of the Savings Bank of Burundi in 1964, in 1967 he began a diplomatic career during which he represented Burundi in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, as well as at the Commission of the European Communities, in Brussels. Back in Burundi, in 1969 he joined the Credit Bank of Bujumbura, of which he was to become Secretary-General in 1976, Administrator/Secretary-General in 1978 and Director-General in 1998. As part of his new career, he joined the Association of Employers of Burundi, where his charisma and his stance in favour of the humanization of labour relations were to distinguish him. He quickly became one of its key figures as First Vice-President, Co-President and later President, and he served as its spokesperson in many national forums, including the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Burundi and the National Labour Council. Between 1973 and 1974, within the Government of Burundi, he took up the eminent positions of Secretary-General responsible for the Management of the Office of the President of the Republic and for the coordination of ministerial activities, and of Minister of Information.
3. Universally admired in his country for his decisive role in the positive development of labour law in Burundi and for his significant contribution to the establishment of social and professional bodies appropriate to promoting social dialogue in enterprises, Mr. Muyumbu also commanded attention and respect in international forums as a spokesperson for employers. For 21 years – from 1972 to 1993 – he represented the Association of Employers of Burundi at the International Organisation of Employers, and, from 1972 to

1993, he attended 15 sessions of the International Labour Organization as an Employers' delegate from Burundi. In 1987, he was elected a substitute member of the Governing Body, and, in 1990, he became a deputy Employer member. During those same years (1987-93), he also sat on the African Advisory Committee as an Employer member. All those who were privileged to know him or to serve with him in those bodies will recall his keen support for social dialogue and his open, loyal and generous personality, which earned him the trust and respect of all.

4. He will also be remembered by his fellow citizens as a great patriot, a man of honour and principle who, with great compassion, was able tactfully to further, to the last, the causes that he held dear in the many charitable associations of his country.
5. *The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey his sympathy to the family of Mr. André Muyumbu and to the Association of Employers of Burundi.*

Geneva, 21 March 2005.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 5.