



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York



MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS
DES NATIONS UNIES
À NEW YORK

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly (Agenda item 173); Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly (Agenda item 174), 6th Committee, November 2021

- check against delivery -

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of Turkey, France and Germany, to respectfully ask for the deferral of both the resolution to grant observer status in the General Assembly for the International Organization of Employers and the resolution to grant observer status in the General Assembly for the International Trade Union Confederation.

In line with the position expressed by our three delegations during the last sessions of the Sixth Committee, we continue to strongly support the request for observer status for these two organizations that are very important in the unique tripartite structure of the International Labour Organization. We regret the need to again postpone this decision at a time when it is becoming increasingly critical that the work of the General Assembly benefit from inputs of diverse stakeholders, particularly social partners.

Firstly, we insist that the expertise of the International Organization of Employers and of the International Trade Union Confederation would bring significant added value to the work of the General Assembly. As observer to the General Assembly these organizations could ensure that the views of employers and workers are taken into account - particularly in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic - on important subjects such as sustainable development and the Agenda 2030, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, climate and environmental questions, gender aspects in the working sphere and work conditions in general, migration and the role of youth, to name but a few.

Secondly, both organizations are, at their level and in their capacity, already strongly engaged in supporting the aims of the United Nations in a mutually reinforcing manner. They play a crucial role within the ILO to articulate the workers' and employers interests and viewpoints they represent.

Thirdly, as the United Nations is seeking to widen partnerships and the Secretary-General in his Common Agenda report has called for a more inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism, the International Organization of Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation could be meaningful partners. The former is one of the largest networks of the private sector globally representing 50 million businesses through its business and employer organization members in 150 countries. For almost 100 years, the International Organization of Employers has been representing business in social and employment policy debates on national and international level and across the UN and other fora. Since the introduction of the draft resolution to grant observer status in 2019, IOE has further expanded its initiatives to help Member States implement the Agenda 2030 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Similarly, the International Trade Union Confederation is in a position where it can facilitate dialogue with trade unions at national, regional and international levels, which represents more than 200 million of workers. It gathers five regional organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and in the Arab world. The International Trade Union Confederation is also actively engaged in the implementation, the promotion and the monitoring of the Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals, which it contributed to set up.

For these reasons, our delegations are convinced that granting observer status to these organizations would be mutually beneficial both to them and to the United Nations.

We hear, however, the concerns that some delegations have expressed, and we are determined to pursue our exchanges with these delegations in order to find collectively, next year, a mutually acceptable solution on this important topic.

Madam Chair, in this context, we respectfully ask the Sixth Committee for a deferral of both items 173 and 174 of the agenda to the 77th session of the General Assembly.

Finally, our three delegations would like to express that they are determined to resume the debate in the 77th session. We thank both organizations and encourage them to continue their excellent work to build bridges between Governments, the United Nations and the private sector for sustainable development.

Thank you.