



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Industrial Development Board

Thirty-third session

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Number and duration of sessions

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Note by the Secretariat

Supplements the information provided in document IDB.32/9 and addresses views expressed by delegations at the thirty-second session of the Board.

1. Having considered the information provided in document IDB.32/9, delegations expressed a range of views as reflected in the summary records of the thirty-second session (IDB.32/SR.4, paras. 82-91). Based on these interventions, the Secretariat understands that Member States support efforts to introduce efficiencies and economies in the work of the policymaking organs but that serious consideration of changing the number of sessions would require more extensive review. The present document addresses the views expressed during the thirty-second session.

I. Potential savings

2. Some delegations expressed their interest in reviewing a detailed breakdown of potential savings from a reduction in the number of Board sessions. Such a breakdown is provided in the table below, based on the assumption that one four-day session would be held in non-General Conference years to replace two separate sessions of a two-day and three-day duration respectively (IDB.32/9, para. 8). It should be emphasized that these are estimates only, as more precise costs are subject to a number of variables (e.g. the availability of local interpreters versus having to cover the cost of travel and daily subsistence allowance).

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



Estimated potential savings resulting from sessional adjustment

	US\$	Comments
Interpretation	80,000	Including estimated travel costs
Documentation		Based on elimination of 80 per cent of costs for provisional agenda, annotated provisional agenda, journals, report of session, summary records and list of participants
Translation	9,400	
Printing	300	
Short-term staff	1,900	Conference officers, messengers, technicians, etc.
Overtime	1,000	
Security	800	
Total	93,400	

Note: Regular staff time not included.

II. Impact

3. The impact of holding fewer sessions can be seen in various ways, also taking into account that any session eliminated would be the first one in non-Conference years. As reflected in some interventions, the main advantage of maintaining the present approach derives from the oversight perspective of the Board. Should there be no session until late in the year, it follows that there would be a delay in the consideration by the Board of any issues that may have arisen in the early part of that year. The Secretariat has reviewed the substantive items actually considered during the first session over a number of years to assess whether a delay of several months in their examination by the Board would have had any negative consequences. This review did not indicate any obvious advantage or disadvantage that would have occurred had consideration of the item been delayed for several months until the Board could consider it later in the year. Theoretically, a situation could arise where benefits could accrue from Board consideration of an issue and action thereon early in the year. However, it is difficult to draw conclusions from actual practice.

III. Other approaches

4. One delegation noted that other approaches could yield savings, such as modifying the duration of sessions. The Secretariat would not suggest shorter sessions, owing to the difficulty already experienced in accommodating the speakers in plenary and the required informal consultation meetings in the time

available. Moreover, Board sessions are an ideal occasion for appropriate side events aimed at enhancing the Organization's profile among its stakeholders.

5. Considerable economies have already been achieved on the basis of successful efforts of Member States and the Secretariat to avoid lengthy agendas and to keep documents as concise as possible. In support of the interest of Member States to minimize documentation (and thereby translation and printing costs), the Secretariat maintains strict control over the number and length of documents issued to sessions. This practice will continue, together with the on-line availability of all official documents issued to the policymaking organs, which contributes to economies in printing costs.

IV. Action required of the Board

6. The Board may wish to take note of the information in the present document.
