RC 86-19-100-2

16 July 2018

19th American Regional Meeting (Panama City, Panama, 2-5 October 2018)

«Politesse»,

In my letter of 12 March 2018, I invited your country to be represented by a tripartite delegation at the 19th American Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which will take place in **Panama City from 2 to 5 October 2018**. It is now my pleasure to reiterate this invitation and to provide you with additional information on this important Meeting.

Four copies of the Report that I have prepared for this Meeting will be sent to you by post: two for the Government delegates, one for the Workers' delegate and one for the Employers' delegate forming your national delegation. My Report will also be published shortly on the Meeting website (www.ilo.org/19amrm). Please note that the ILO and the host Government will be following a policy of paper-smart document distribution during the Meeting. I therefore encourage the members of your delegation to bring their laptops or tablets to the Meeting in order to avoid excessive printing of documents.

The provisional programme of the Meeting, an *Information note* containing a list of hotels offering special rates for Meeting participants and the *Rules for Regional Meetings*, as revised by the Governing Body at its 332nd Session (March 2018) and confirmed by the International Labour Conference at its 107th Session (June 2018), will also be available shortly on the Meeting website. I encourage you to visit this website regularly to obtain updates as further information becomes available.

The provisional programme of the Meeting envisages a plenary discussion of my Report. During this discussion, labour ministers and Government, Employers' and Workers' delegates may take the floor to express their views on the topics addressed. Interactive sessions will also be held on other topics included in the programme that are of particular importance for the region.

You are kindly requested to submit the credentials of your country's tripartite delegation to the Office of the ILO Legal Adviser by **Tuesday**, **11 September 2018**, using the password-protected online accreditation system (www.ilo.org/19amrm, under "Online accreditation"), which your country will be able to access using the following login details:

Username: <Login> Password: <Password>

The documents mentioned in this letter are being forwarded only to the addressee of the original.

As the enclosed infographic shows, women accounted for 34.5 per cent of participants at the 18th American Regional Meeting (Lima, 13–16 October 2014). Some 69.7 per cent of delegations did not reach gender parity, while 21,2 per cent of delegations did not have any women in leadership positions and 15.2 per cent had no women at all. By comparison, women delegates from the Americas at the 107th Session (2018) of the International Labour Conference accounted for 25.4 per cent of participants. Nevertheless, some of the figures relating to the Americas at the last Conference are more encouraging. Only 7,4 per cent of delegations did not have any women in leadership positions and all delegations included at least one woman. In light of the above and in line with the new provisions of the *Rules for Regional Meetings* (Article 1, paragraph 6), I call on you to spare no effort in achieving gender parity.

Should you require any further information, please write to direccion_regional_lima@ilo.org or telephone: (+511) 615-0300.

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I very much hope that I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you to this important Meeting in Panama City.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Guy Ryder Director-General