

Summary Report of the Activities of the Committee on Accountability for 2007

The following two cases were referred to the Committee on Accountability by the Treasurer and Financial Comptroller in 2007 pursuant to Article 13.30 of the Financial Rules:

Case No. 1: In January 2007, the Committee examined a case of attempted fraud involving an official's alleged falsification and forgery of official ILO documents for personal benefit. The falsified documents were fabricated by the official in order to facilitate the granting of a personal loan to enable the official to cover customs duties incurred upon the importation of a motor vehicle.

When confronted with the documents, the official admitted committing the forgery and expressed remorse. The Committee found that the official had committed fraud, but noted that the fraud had not resulted in financial loss to the Office. Given that the official voluntarily resigned from the Office immediately prior to the issuance of the Committee's report, the Committee did not refer the matter to HRD for consideration of disciplinary sanctions. A note was, however, placed in the official's personal file.

The members of the Committee assigned to this matter were: Mr. Hernández Pulido (Chair); Mr. Chugtai (FINANCE); Ms. Beaulieu (JUR); Mr. Tabusa (HRD); and Ms. Torriente (Secretary).

Case No. 2: In May 2007, the Committee examined a case of presumed health insurance fraud involving a national expert employed on a service agreement in an external office. The health insurance provider (an outside entity) had questioned two requests for reimbursement for health care expenses submitted to it by the expert. The first claim, submitted in June 2006, had been reimbursed by the insurance provider in the amount of USD \$1,800. The second claim, submitted in December 2006, was accompanied by questionable supporting medical documentation.

The Committee sought additional information from the expert, who failed to respond. The Committee determined that it did not have sufficient information initially to enable it to take a decision regarding whether the expert's submission of the claims in question could be deemed to constitute attempted fraud. Nevertheless, given the expert's failure to respond to the Committee's requests for further information, the Committee inferred from the expert's lack of response that the medical claims were unfounded and possibly fraudulent.

Given that the project had terminated and the expert was therefore no longer employed by the Office, the Committee did not refer the matter to HRD for consideration of disciplinary measures, but recommended that a note be placed in the expert's personal file for future reference.

The members of the Committee assigned to this case were: Mr. Hernández Pulido (Chair); Mr. Chugtai (FINANCE); Ms. Beaulieu (JUR); Mr. Tabusa (HRD); and Ms. Torriente (Secretary).

