INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Governing Body
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GB.326/PFA/INF/7/2

Programme, Financial and Administrative Section **PFA**

FOR INFORMATION

Pension questions

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund

Summary: The Special Payments Fund is a financial assistance fund for former ILO staff (or surviving spouses) who are United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund beneficiaries. Assistance is based on financial need, in accordance with strict criteria that are set out in the Special Payments Fund's terms of reference approved by the Governing Body. The annual report of the Board of Trustees to the Governing Body was last considered in March 2015 (323rd Session).

Author unit: Human Resources Development Department (HRD).

Related documents: GB.323/PFA/INF/6/2; GB.244/PFA/10/8; GB.254/PFA/10/13.

1. Since its last report, which was examined by the Governing Body at its 323rd Session (March 2015), [1] the Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund has met once, on 30 March 2015.

Payments authorized for 2015 at the Board's 76th Session (March 2015)

2. The Board authorized grants amounting to a total of US$120,756, to be paid in four quarterly instalments during the year 2015. This included five grants under the amendment to the terms of reference of 1989 [2] and seven grants under the amendment to the terms of reference of 1992. [3] The average age of the recipients was 78 years. During recent years, the number of beneficiaries has remained within the range of 11–15 per year.

3. As in previous years, the Board of Trustees awarded grants according to the criteria set out in its terms of reference and gave particular attention to individual cases of hardship. To be eligible for assistance, former officials or their surviving spouses must have an annual net income of less than 70 per cent of the local G.1, step 6, salary that is paid to General Service staff in the country of residence. [4]

4. Although there are sufficient funds available for current expenditures, the balance of the Fund has been steadily declining in US dollar terms due to the fact that most of the expenditures are in Swiss francs and Euros. The US dollar equivalent of the allocation provided for in the Programme and Budget for 2014–15 was equal to US$244,200.

5. The Board of Trustees requests the Office to draw the Governing Body's attention to the fact that the Board has closely monitored the Fund's balance in recent years and has been increasingly concerned about its ability to meet future payment obligations.

Geneva, 25 February 2016

[1] GB.323/PFA/INF/6/2.

[2] GB.244/PFA/10/8 (officials who served the ILO after 1945 and fulfil certain other conditions, or their survivors).

[3] GB.254/PFA/10/13 (survivors of former ILO officials who, on retirement, converted part of their pension into a lump sum).

[4] The local annual salary for 2015 at G.1, step 6, was 61,701 Swiss francs (CHF) in Switzerland, and €28,739 in France.