

annual report

2012



International
Labour
Office

Committee on Accountability

In 2012, two new cases were referred to the Committee on Accountability by the Treasurer and Financial Comptroller (TR/CF) pursuant to Article 13.30 of the Financial Rules.

Case No.1: The Committee examined a case of suspected fraud resulting from allegations by an external whistle-blower. The Committee noted that whilst a number of allegations had been made against an official, only one was fully sustained and that was fully admitted by the Official who had reimbursed the Office in respect of the loss. The Committee concluded that the actions of the Official in failing to reimburse the Office in respect of personal telephone calls represented a blatant abuse of the trust and authority placed in her by the Office and recommended that the matter be referred for appropriate disciplinary action.

In the examination of this case the Committee also recommended that TR/CF consider the extension of financial accountability mechanisms (signature of Internal Letters of Representation and declaration of financial interest) to all staff in key administrative functions.

Case No.2: The Committee examined a case of false declaration in respect of official travel and consequent financial loss to the Office. The Committee noted that the official concerned had admitted to the falsification of travel documents and took due account of mitigating evidence. The Committee found no evidence of any intention to defraud the Office for personal gain but that the Official's action had resulted in financial loss in the form of unused airfares and overpayment of travel allowances. The Committee considered that the actions of the Official were clearly inappropriate and inconsistent with the standards of conduct expected of an international civil servant. The Committee recommended that the matter be referred for appropriate disciplinary action and that all known losses be recovered from the Official.

In the examination of this case the Committee also made the general recommendation that all staff should be reminded of the requirement to provide original documentation in support of travel claims and the importance for security purposes of strict compliance with authorized travel itineraries. Staff members responsible for the approval and processing of such claims are specifically reminded of their duty to ensure that payments are not made in respect of anything other than original documents.

The members of the Committee for 2012 were Mr Egger (Chairperson), Mr Chughtai (FINANCE), Ms Beaulieu (JUR) and Mr Llobera (HRD). Ms O'Neill (HRD) served as Secretary.

Date: November 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Philippe Egger
Chairperson
Committee on Accountability