



Committee on Accountability

In 2010, four 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.

In addition, the Committee examined a final report concerning a matter previously referred to the Committee on Accountability. Whilst the Committee had previously determined that no ILO official was responsible for losses resulting from the misappropriation of ILO funds by an external consultant, the Committee was invited to consider a further report prepared by the Office of Internal Audit and Oversight concerning the individual and collective roles and responsibilities of various ILO officials associated with the matter. The Committee recommended that the CTA at the time should not be re-employed by the ILO in the future. Local administrative and finance staff members were reminded of their duty to report any financial concern or irregularity directly to the TR/CF and their conduct in the exercise of their duties would be appropriately addressed through the performance evaluation process.

The Committee remained seized with another case referred to it in 2009 involving suspected irregularities in the handling of cash payments in respect of which further information was awaited.

Case No. 1: The Committee examined a case of suspected fraud involving non-repayment of funds advanced by the Staff Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). The Committee found insufficient evidence to conclude that the official had intended to commit fraud at the time that the advance was requested from the SHIF but that she had subsequently misused and failed to return the balance of the funds. It took note of the recovery measures that were being implemented by the Office. The Committee recommended disciplinary sanction which might include dismissal. In consequence of this case the procedures for the advance of SHIF funds for medical treatment were further tightened whilst balancing the need to ensure that necessary advances could still be provided in a timely manner.

Case No. 2: The Committee examined a case of suspected fraud in an ILO technical cooperation project. The official concerned had signed a written admission that he had interfered in transactions for the procurement of goods and services for the project and claimed to have made a small profit in so doing. It was later confirmed that no goods or services had ever been supplied and that the official had in fact absconded with the total amount of the transactions. The Committee recommended the imposition of suitable disciplinary measures. The case was closed following the abandonment of post of the official and steps were being taken to recover all losses to the extent possible from terminal payments due to the official.

Case No. 3: The Committee considered a case of suspected dishonest activity and disregard for established office procedures involving an official employed under an ILO technical cooperation project. The Committee identified a number of serious breaches of ILO Financial Rules and a failure to observe the standards of conduct required of an international civil servant. The case was closed following the recovery of all unaccounted funds and the immediate resignation of the official concerned.

Case No. 4: The Committee also examined a case of suspected fraud in relation to the supply of training in the context of activities under an ILO technical cooperation project. The Committee concluded that the official concerned had colluded to wrongfully extort payments from consultants and implementing partners who were engaged to provide training; the facts were found to be clearly documented and unequivocally fraudulent. The Committee strongly recommended the imposition of suitable disciplinary sanction and urged that efforts be made to recover all known losses to the extent possible.

The members of the Committee for 2010 were Mr Bárcia (Chairperson), Mr Chughtai (FINANCE), Ms Beaulieu (JUR) and Mr Llobera (HRD). Ms O'Neill (HRD) served as Secretary.

Date: May 2011



Paulo Bárcia
Chairperson
Committee on Accountability