

STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE FUND
Record of Decisions
of the 264th meeting of the Management Committee

Monday, 28th June 2021

at 2.30 p.m., Virtual meeting

Present:

Representing the insured persons of the ILO:

Mr. Pierre Sayour (Titular member)
Ms. Mireille Ecuivillon (Titular member)
Ms. Catherine Comte-Tiberghien (Titular member)
Ms. Lisa Morgan (Substitute member)
Ms. Azza Taalab (Substitute member)

Representing the Director-General:

Mr. Luca Bormioli (Titular member)
Mr. Tilmann Geckeler (Titular member)
Mr. Sietse Buijze (Substitute member)

Other attendees:

Mr. Florian Léger, SHIF Executive Secretary
Ms. Heather Harris, SHIF Claims Supervisor
Ms. Corinne Michoud, SHIF Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from:

Representing the insured persons of the ILO
Ms. Elisabeth Fombuena

Representing the Director-General of the ILO:

Mr. Fikri Gurzumar
Mr. Giuseppe Zefola

The meeting opens at 2.30 p.m.

Item 1: Approval of meeting agenda
SHIF/MC/21/264/AG

MC refers to document ref. SHIF/MC/20/262/AG and approves the agenda.

Item 2: Approval of the Record of Decisions of the 263rd meeting of the Management Committee
(SHIF/MC/21/RD.263)

MC refers to document ref. SHIF/MC/21/RD.263 and approves the Record of Decisions.

Item 3: Delegations of authority to the Standing Subcommittee
under Art. 4.7, paragraph 2, of the Fund's Regulations
(SHIF/MC/2021/264/3)

Pursuant to Article 4.7, paragraph 2 and Article 4.11, paragraph 1 (a) of the SHIF Regulations, the Management Committee decides to delegate to the Standing Subcommittee the authority to take decisions under the following provisions:

SHIF Regulations:

- Article 1.6, paragraph.3;
- Article 2.4, paragraph 2;
- Article 2.11;
- Article 2.12;
- Schedule of Benefits Code 4;
- Schedule of Benefits Code 5.3;
- Schedule of Benefits Code 5.4;
- Schedule of Benefits Code 5.5;

SHIF Administrative Rules:

Appendix I (Schedule of Benefits), Code 5.1, paragraph 5.

MC further decides that the delegation be valid during the whole mandate of the current Committee, i.e. until end of December 2023.

Item 4: Request for coverage in exceptional cases under Article 1.7
of the SHIF Regulations
(Special case 01/2021)

ES presents the special case. It concerns a request made by a recently retired official who had not met one of the conditions set out in Article 1.3(d) of the Fund's Regulations to remain insured with the SHIF upon his cessation of service (the five years' rule of affiliation to the SHIF immediately prior to his cessation of service). He joined the ILO on a regular budget position on 3 August 2016 and retired on 28 February 2021 as he had reached the age of 65 in February 2021 with 4 years and 7 months with the ILO and the SHIF.

Previously, he worked for 5 years at the UNDP, 15 months with the UNHR and again 16 months with the UNDP. He was also employed by the World Bank for 18 months. In total, he has 12 years and 2 months of contribution to the United-Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF).

Following the explanation provided by the ES and the unanimous decision reached by the Standing Subcommittee at its meeting held on 23 June 2021 to offer SHIF coverage to the former official, MC agrees to invoke Article 1.7 ("Coverage in exceptional cases") of the Fund's Regulations, and to enable this former official to remain insured with the SHIF under the same conditions as those applying to former officials, as per the provisions governing Article 1.3 d) ("Voluntarily insured persons") and Article 3.4 ("Assessment in respect of survivors and their automatically covered dependants"), paragraph 1(a)(ii), of the Fund's Regulations.

MC confirms the decision of the Standing Subcommittee that ASHI coverage could be exceptionally granted if the former official pays the contribution as if he was a voluntarily insured person under Article 1.3 c) of the SHIF Regulations for a period of 5 months (being the difference between the required 5 years and the actual 4 years and 7 months he contributed to the SHIF).

Item 5: Update of the SHIF WorkPlan for 2021

ES gives an update on the SHIF Workplan for 2021. The productivity of the Secretariat during the first half of 2021 has continued to be very high in terms of number of claims reimbursed and benefits paid. However, as the volume of claims, the number of requests and the number of queries that requires the approval of the SHIF Medical Adviser has reached record levels, the backlog remains important. This is despite an important volume of overtime done by SHIF staff through May 2021.

Item 6: Update from the Working Group on Governance

A representative of the Administration provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the WG since the beginning of the year. He explains that the WG compiled several proposals regarding possible amendments to the SHIF Regulations and Administrative Rules in two major areas: Benefits (Forfeiture and Suspension) and Administration (Decisions of the Management Committee, General Meeting, Dispute Settlement).

The WG aims at presenting a final report to the MC at its next sessions, including the details of the proposed procedural changes and the rationale for change. It will present the necessary amendments to the SHIF Regulations and Administrative Rules to be considered and approved by the Management Committee with a view to proposing a package of statutory changes to be implemented by 1 January 2022 after having notified all insured persons.

Item 7: Update from the Working Group on the Financial Sustainability

The Working Group has not met since the last meeting of the MC but is expected to meet in July.

Item 8: Payment received from of a healthcare provider to compensate billing errors

ES explains that an important healthcare provider from the Geneva region discovered it had a system error in the billing of some medical materials, which resulted in an overbilling in some of the hospital inpatient stays over a period of 11 years (2009 to 2019). Upon discovery of the system error, the provider contacted the SHIF to refund the overpayments. ES informs that a detailed breakdown of the overbilling is not known and that it is not possible to correct the reimbursements and that, even if it was, it would be very difficult in terms of administration to correct the reimbursements. ES also mentions that many of the SHIF insured concerned are not insured anymore with the SHIF. SHIF MC discusses how this payment should be accounted for. A representative of the participants would like the amount to be used to improve services of insured (notably in the field). Other members, while recognizing that insured may have de facto overpaid part of the bills (as not all invoices have been reimbursed at 100%), feel that this amount should not be treated any different from any other SHIF income. MC decides to continue the discussion at its next meeting. In the meantime, MC decides that the Secretariat could confirm to the provider the necessary modalities for accepting the refund and transfer the funds to the SHIF/ILO accounts in consultation with ILO treasury.

Item 9: Webinar: Your health insurance during COVID-19

ES informs the MC that a global Webinar for active and retired insured persons under the subject “Your health insurance during COVID-19” will take place on July 6th. This webinar is part of the effort of the SHIF Secretariat and the ILO to improve communication.

**Item 10: Follow up to the Internal Audit Report on the SHIF:
proposal to change SHIF Regulations regarding cash payment
(SHIF/MC/21/264/10)**

ES presents the proposal to change the SHIF Regulations regarding cash payment. This proposal follows a recommendation from the Internal Audit “Review of the Payment Process of ILO SHIF Claims and Review of Application Security of the HIIS System” undertaken by the ILO Office of Internal Audit and Oversight (IAO). The proposal is to limit cash payments made by insured members to their health care providers above a certain threshold (to be defined). Cash payment above the threshold would not be considered as an acceptable evidence for the purpose of claiming payment of benefits. MC discusses the proposal. A decision on this issue would have to be taken as part of a package comprising changes to the SHIF Regulations that will be proposed by the SHIF Working Group on Governance as well as by the SHIF Working Group on Financial Sustainability.

**Item 11: SHIF Risk register
(SHIF/MC/21/264/11)**

This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting of the SHIF MC as there was no time to discuss it.

Item 12: Any other Business

There was no any other Business discussed.

The meeting ends at 4.35 p.m.
