



Governing Body

310th Session, Geneva, March 2011

GB.310/PFA/BS/3

Building Subcommittee

PFA/BS

FOR INFORMATION

THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Other questions

Urgent repairs

Overview

Issues covered

This paper provides information on urgent repairs to the electrical infrastructure of the ILO headquarters data centre.

Policy implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Action required

None.

References to other Governing Body documents and ILO instruments

GB.303/PV and GB.303/PFA/4.

1. At its 303rd Session (November 2008), the Subcommittee endorsed the proposal, subsequently approved by the Governing Body,¹ to earmark the sum of 500,000 Swiss francs (CHF) from the Building and Accommodation Fund for the purpose of urgent repairs and maintenance of buildings owned by the ILO, and to authorize the Director-General to use those funds where needed and to report to the Building Subcommittee thereon.²
2. In February 2010, two power outages affected the Office headquarters data centre, resulting in serious inconvenience to users and damage to computer systems. The outages occurred because the electricity supply to the data centre was no longer able to meet the demand resulting from ever-increasing data processing needs in the Office. In addition, the capacity of the uninterrupted power supply (UPS) was no longer sufficient to ensure safe shutdown of equipment in response to a power outage affecting the entire data centre. Short-term measures, such as removal of old server hardware and screens, were implemented to prevent further outages but were not enough to bring consumption down to a manageable level in the longer term.
3. To prevent further outages and damage and ensure the future reliability, safety and security of the data centre, an amount of CHF445,088 has therefore been allocated for upgrading the electrical infrastructure. The allocation covers the following works: proper earthing of the racks and floor in the data centre; new cabling; replacing the circuit breakers; replacing and increasing the capacity of the UPS; and installing additional outlets. The Information Technology and Communications Bureau will use this opportunity to replace the network cables in the data centre at a cost of some CHF100,000, to be funded from its own regular budget resources.
4. During the November 2010 session of the Governing Body, the members of the Information and Communications Technology Subcommittee were informed of the need to undertake the above works. An international bidding process for the works was launched in mid-2010 and the contract awarded at the end of 2010. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the works should be completed by the end of April 2011.

Geneva, 21 January 2011

Submitted for information

¹ GB.303/PV, para. 241.

² GB.303/PFA/4.