



Governing Body

317th Session, Geneva, 6–28 March 2013

GB.317/PFA/11

Programme, Financial and Administrative Section
Personnel Segment

PFA

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ELEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Pensions questions: Report of the Board of the Special Payments Fund

Purpose of the document

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 Fund's terms of reference approved by the Governing Body. The annual report of the Board was considered in March 2012 (313th Session).

Following the resignation of one of the Board members, the Office proposes that the Governing Body appoint Ms Margaret Kearns, a retired ILO Human Resources official, to the Board of Trustees (see draft decision in paragraph 6).

Relevant strategic objective: Governance, support and management.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: Subject to the Governing Body's decision.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: None.

Author unit: Human Resources Development Department (HRD).

Related documents: GB.313/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 313th Session (March 2012),¹ the Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund has met once, on 18 April 2012.

Payments authorized for 2012 at the Board's 73rd Session (April 2012)

2. The Board authorized grants amounting to a total of US\$136,313, to be paid in four quarterly instalments during the year of 2012. This included four grants under the amendment to the terms of reference of 1989² and eight grants under the amendment to the terms of reference of 1992.³ The average age of the recipients was 77 years. More than half of the expenditures were in Swiss francs. During recent years, the number of beneficiaries has remained within the range of 11 to 15 persons.
3. As in previous years, the Board of Trustees awarded grants according to the criteria in its terms of reference and paid 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

Replacement of a member of the Board of the Special Payments Fund

4. In accordance with the terms of reference, the Governing Body appoints the three members of the Board. The members cannot be members of the Governing Body or of the staff. One of the Board members, Ms Gabriele Stoikov, has resigned after six years of service. The other two members of the Board are Ms Susan Hudson, a retired ILO Human Resources official, and Mr Thierry Montant, director of a Swiss pension fund who also serves as representative of the International Labour Conference in the ILO Staff Pension Committee. To save travel costs, the members should live in the Geneva area. The Director-General recommends that Ms Margaret Kearns be appointed to fill this vacant position, effective 1 April 2013.
5. Ms Kearns is a former ILO official with 36 years of service (between 1973 and 2009). During the early years of her career, she held administrative posts in various technical departments in Geneva. Ms Kearns spent 12 years with the Regional Office for Africa, in the Addis Ababa and Abidjan duty stations. Prior to her retirement, she managed the workers' compensation and staff insurance plans for the Human Resources Development Department in Geneva. Ms Kearns also served as a facilitator for the informal conflict resolution mechanisms of the Office. She is a national of the United Kingdom and speaks French fluently.

¹ GB.313/PFA/INF/6/2.

² GB.244/PFA/10/8.

³ GB.254/PFA/10/13.

⁴ The current value of the annual G.1/6 salary is 61,701 Swiss francs in Switzerland, and €28,893 in France.

Draft decision

- 6. *The Governing Body appoints Ms Margaret Kearns as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund, effective 1 April 2013.***