



## Governing Body

329th Session, Geneva, 9–24 March 2017

GB.329/PFA/INF/6/2

Programme, Financial and Administrative Section

PFA

## FOR INFORMATION

### Pension questions

### Report of the Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund

**Summary:** 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 Special Payments Fund's terms of reference approved by the Governing Body. The annual report of the Board of Trustees to the Governing Body was last considered in March 2016 (326th Session).

**Author unit:** Human Resources Development Department (HRD).

**Related documents:** GB.326/PFA/INF/7/2; GB.244/PFA/10/8; GB.254/PFA/10/13.



1. Since its last report, which was examined by the Governing Body at its 326th Session (March 2016),<sup>1</sup> the Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund has met once, on 7 April 2016.

## Payments authorized for 2016 at the Board's 77th Session (April 2016)

2. The Board authorized grants amounting to a total of US\$98,132, to be paid in four quarterly instalments during the year 2016. This included four grants under the amendment to the terms of reference of 1989<sup>2</sup> and five grants under the amendment to the terms of reference of 1992.<sup>3</sup> The average age of the recipients was 80 years. During recent years, the number of beneficiaries has remained within the range of 9–14 per year.
3. As in previous years, the Board of Trustees awarded grants according to the criteria set out in its terms of reference and gave 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.<sup>4</sup>
4. Although there are sufficient funds available for current expenditures, the Board has closely monitored the Fund's balance in recent years and has been increasingly concerned about its ability to meet future payment obligations in the long term. The average balance of the Fund has been declining in US dollar terms due to the fact that most of the expenditures are in Swiss francs and euros. The US dollar equivalent of the allocation provided for in the Programme and Budget for 2016–17 was equal to US\$244,200.

Board of Trustees of the Special Payments Fund

(Signed) Sue Hudson

Margaret Kearns

Thierry Montant

Geneva, 1 February 2017

<sup>1</sup> GB.326/PFA/INF/7/2.

<sup>2</sup> GB.244/PFA/10/8 (officials who served the ILO after 1945 and fulfil certain other conditions, or their survivors).

<sup>3</sup> GB.254/PFA/10/13 (survivors of former ILO officials who, on retirement, converted part of their pension into a lump sum).

<sup>4</sup> The local annual salary for 2016 at G.1, step 6, was 61,701 Swiss francs (CHF) in Switzerland, and €29,288 in France.