

## ILO'S GENERAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

The ILO has several funds from which grants or loans can be made under exceptional circumstances. These are:

- The Norma Wagstaffe Fund
  - The Social Service Fund
  - The Staff Assistance Fund of the Staff Union
  - A fund run by the "Comité du bien-être" (Staff Welfare Committee)
  - *Ex-gratia* payments
  - Special Payments Fund of the Staff Union
  - Emergency Fund of the UNJSPF\*
- This is NOT an ILO fund. The UN Secretariat provides funds and the NY pension fund award grants.

### **The Norma Wagstaffe Fund**

This fund is used to finance retiree parties or receptions. These receptions bring together about 300 retired and active ILO officials.

### **The Social Service Fund**

This fund was created to assist ILO officials and their families in situations of extreme financial difficulty and when no other solution can be found.

### **The Staff Assistance Fund of the Staff Union**

The Staff Assistance fund was established to provide financial assistance in case of need to members of the staff of the ILO and their families. The fund is largely financed by donations made by serving officials.

Assistance provided from the fund normally takes the form of interest-free loans granted to those in financial difficulties due to special circumstances. "Once-only" grants are also made. The other type of grant made from the fund is a monthly allowance to a small number of elderly retired officials who receive low pensions.

The Staff Assistance Fund is handled by a Board, the members of which are appointed by the Staff Union. The Board meets regularly to discuss complicated cases and matters of principle arising from these cases.

### **A Fond run by the "Comité du bien-être" (Staff Welfare Committee)**

#### ***Ex-gratia* Payments**

#### **Special Payments Fund (for Former ILO Officials)**

The Special Payments Fund is a unique and little-known fund for assisting ILO pensioners. The fund was created by the Governing Body at its 143<sup>rd</sup> Session in November 1959 to make periodic *ex-gratia* payments to retired officials or their spouses who suffered from unexpected financial hardship. Grants were not founded in a provision of the Staff Regulations and did not entail any contractual obligations on the part of the office.

In establishing the fund, the Governing Body decided that the fund would be administered by a Board of Trustees with a Secretariat provided by the Pensions Secretariat. The Governing Body would determine the amount of annual credit which would be allocated from the regular ILO budget to the fund.

Applications for assistance are evaluated according to strict financial criteria and requests are handled confidentially through anonymous presentations to the board. In 1997 the board awarded \$97'111.- to 14 beneficiaries.

### **Emergency Fund of the UNJSPF**

The Emergency Fund was initially established by the UN in 1973 from voluntary contributions of member organisations, staff associations and individual contributions. It was set up to alleviate the distress of recipients of small pensions. Since 1975 it has been used to provide relief to individuals facing hardship due to illness or infirmity.

During the period 1 May 1997 to 30 April 1998, \$59'772.- was provided in 32 disbursements with total expenditure from the Emergency Fund since 1975 amounting to approximately \$768'000.-.

An explanatory document is available upon request.