

annual report

2011



International
Labour
Office

Committee on Accountability

In 2011, two new cases were referred to the Committee on Accountability by the Treasurer and Financial Comptroller (TR/CF) pursuant to Article 13.30 of the Financial Rules.

Case No. 1: The Committee examined an investigation report concerning alleged fraudulent activities implicating a financial and administrative assistant, in an ILO technical cooperation project. The Committee noted that the allegations were not well substantiated and that the investigation report was inconclusive due to a lack of evidence. The Committee found no evidence of actual enrichment or fraud, nor of any motive or intent to defraud. The Committee considered that the official had failed to exercise due care in her role as Finance and Administration Assistant and that the management of the project by the Chief Technical Advisor had been weak permitting the documented irregularities to occur. Noting that the project had ended and that most of the key staff members, including the aforementioned officials, were no longer employed by the ILO, the Committee recommended that notes be placed on the personal administrative files of the two officials referencing their failure to comply with ILO rules and procedures in the exercise of their official function.

Case No. 2: The Committee examined a case of suspected financial mismanagement by the National Project Coordinator in an ILO technical cooperation project. The official concerned had left the employ of the Organization at the time of the investigation, declined to meet with the investigatory team and failed to answer written questions. The Committee upheld the allegations made against the NPC and recommended that consideration be given to the recovery, to the extent possible, of any amounts that remained unaccounted for. Internal disciplinary measures were not considered as the official was no longer employed by the ILO. The Committee also considered failings in the performance and delivery of project activities by a locally contracted NGO which also indicated financial mismanagement; the Committee recommended that no further payment be made to the NGO until such time as the matters raised in the investigation were successfully resolved and suggested specific measures be requested from the NGO to address the identified concerns.

In the context of the two cases referred in 2011, the Committee on Accountability also expressed its general concern regarding the need for greater rigour in recruitment and continued training and supervision in respect of ILO rules and procedures in the delivery of technical cooperation activities. The Committee was of the view that large-scale technical cooperation programmes should incorporate sufficient management and administrative positions to ensure efficient financial and administrative oversight in the delivery of project activities.

The members of the Committee for 2011 were Mr Barcia (Chairperson), Mr Chughtai (FINANCE), Ms Beaulieu (JUR) and Mr Llobera (HRD). Ms O'Neill (HRD) served as Secretary.

Date: March 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a vertical line and a flourish.

Paulo Barcia
Chairperson
Committee on Accountability