

Report of the International Civil Service Commission

Update on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Report by the Secretariat

1. The report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board was considered by the Sixty-second World Health Assembly in May 2009.¹ During the discussions that followed, it was mentioned that an update would have been useful on the amount of money currently available in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, which had apparently shrunk considerably. It was further suggested that an interim report based on the figures for December 2008 and the 56th session of the Pension Board could be submitted to the Executive Board at its session in January 2010.² An update on the investment situation was subsequently presented to the Pension Board at its 56th session in July 2009. The report of that session will be considered by the United Nations General Assembly, and then by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in 2010. Pending that report, a brief update is provided below on the investment situation of the Fund.

2. At its session in July 2009, the Pension Board took note that the market value of the Fund's assets had decreased from US\$ 40 600 million on 31 March 2008 to US\$ 29 000 million on 31 March 2009. By 1 July 2009, the Fund's market value had recovered to US\$ 32 600 million. The unaudited market value of the Fund's assets as at 31 October 2009 was approximately US\$ 36 200 million.

3. Given the Fund's substantial exposure to equities, the value of investments is subject to market shocks. However, in the Pension Board's view the long-term outlook remains positive, and the Board considers the long-term strategic allocation of 60% in equities, 31% in bonds, 6% in real estate and 3% in cash to be appropriate.

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¹ See document A62/37.

² See document WHA62/2009/REC/3, summary record of the second meeting of Committee B, section 4.