

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 16.3

A54/29
23 March 2001

Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

Report by the Secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. This document contains a summary of the main issues of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 2000, which was submitted to the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly.¹ Copies of the full report are available on request.

ISSUES

2. During the biennium ending 31 December 1999, the number of participants increased from 67 740 to 68 935, or by 1.8%, compared with 31 December 1997; the number of periodic benefits in award increased from 43 149 to 46 199, or by 7.1%.

3. The market value of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund amounted to US\$ 26 056 million on 31 March 2000, which represented an increase of US\$ 5886 million, or 17%, over a period of two years.

4. The total return on investment for the year ending 31 March 2000 was 18%, or a real rate of return of 13.8%. This compared to 11.3% (or a real rate of return of 9.2%) for the year ending 31 March 1999.

5. The General Assembly noted with satisfaction the improvement in the actuarial situation of the Fund, from an actuarial surplus of 0.36% of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 1997 to an actuarial surplus of 4.25% of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 1999.

6. The General Assembly noted the Board's decision (taken in accordance with Article 11(a) of the Fund's Regulations), in view of the favourable actuarial valuation, to lower the interest rate used to determine lump-sum commutations, from 6.5% to 6%, with respect to contributory service performed as from 1 January 2001.

7. The General Assembly approved a change in the pension adjustment system to reduce the threshold for the annual cost of living adjustment from 3% to 2%, effective 1 April 2001.

¹ United Nations General Assembly, Official Records, fifty-fifth session, Supplement No. 9 (A/55/9).

8. The General Assembly noted that the Board had established a working group to undertake a fundamental review of the benefit provisions of the Fund, taking into account developments in staffing and remuneration policies in the member organizations and in pension arrangements at national and international levels. The working group will make proposals to the Standing Committee of the Board in 2001 and to the Board in 2002 on the future long-term needs of the Fund and its constituent groups, for eventual submission by the Board to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.
9. The General Assembly concurred with the Transfer Agreement with WTO, approved by the Board, under Article 13 of the Regulations of the Fund, with a view to securing continuity of pension rights between the Fund and WTO.
10. The General Assembly considered the further review undertaken by the Board of issues related to the pension entitlements of spouses and former spouses, and approved amendments to the Fund's Regulations which would result in an improvement in the benefits payable to such persons.
11. The General Assembly took note of the information provided by the Government of the Russian Federation to the Board on internal solutions being prepared in order to address the concerns of Russian former participants of the Fund.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

12. The Health Assembly is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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