



## THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

### **Information Technology Systems Fund**

1. At its 289th (March 2004) Session, the Governing Body considered a status report on the IT projects funded through the Information Technology Systems Fund. This paper provides an update to that information.

### **Headquarters/field data communications improvements**

2. At its 288th Session (November 2003), the Governing Body approved a revised amount of US\$500,000 to improve the ILO's global telecommunications infrastructure. This was based on the findings of the evaluation of tender proposals and the budgetary implications of a full deployment of a global Wide Area Network (WAN) for the ILO.
3. In the first phase of this project, extensive testing was undertaken by SITA, the selected vendor, to evaluate the performance of the connectivity links between headquarters and each ILO field office. These tests were completed in July 2004 and the results identified those offices with problematic connections that would require an upgrade or other technical improvement. Testing also confirmed that connections through local Internet service providers for almost half of the 45 offices tested were currently performing satisfactorily and would not require upgrading.
4. In the second phase of the project, headquarters as well as three offices in Africa (Abidjan, Kinshasa and Algiers) will be connected to the SITA managed private network. The three field offices will thus immediately benefit from a much improved connectivity with all ILO applications at headquarters, such as Intranet and email, as well as IRIS and EDMS in the future. This configuration will effectively become the foundation of the ILO global WAN and enable the Office to gain experience with this telecommunications technology.
5. Expenditure and commitments to 30 September 2004 amount to US\$215,420.

## **Electronic document management system (EDMS)**

6. At its 286th Session (March 2003), the Governing Body approved an amount of US\$500,000 to implement an EDMS that will result in the standardization of the preparation and storage of internal ILO text documents, working papers and publications, and will facilitate their research and retrieval.
7. The Stellent software which was selected for the ILO EDMS system will also be used to manage the content of the restructured Internet and Intranet web sites. By merging the regular budget resources for the web component with the EDMS funds, both endeavours can benefit from using the same hardware and software, thus minimizing the total costs.
8. The hardware and software have been purchased and installed. A fully configured Stellent environment is now available for development, production and training. Vendor training sessions for in-house specialists have been held and a web-based training tool has been installed.
9. A prototype EDMS system is being built for a major application, the production of Governing Body and general-purpose in-house documents. Integration with other office systems, such as email, is also being investigated.
10. Expenditures and commitments to 30 September 2004 amounted to US\$217,954 and the balance is expected to cover the completion of the prototype by early 2005.

## **Electronic voting system**

11. In November 2002, the Governing Body approved an amount of US\$600,000 for the replacement of the electronic voting system and further development of information technology at the Conference.
12. The system was successfully used during voting sessions in the plenary of the June 2004 International Labour Conference. Minor issues which caused short delays have been identified and solutions developed.
13. The Electoral College module of the electronic voting system has been developed and is ready for use at the next session of the Conference. Development of functional requirements for more extensive use of this equipment at the Conference will continue with the analysis of interactive management of the Conference committee amendment process.
14. Expenditure and commitments to 30 September 2004 amounted to US\$488,840.

Geneva, 11 October 2004.

*Submitted for information.*