

STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Record of Decisions
of the 276th meeting of the Management Committee

Friday, 12th May 2023

at 9:30 a.m., Room VII (R2 South)

Present:

Representing the insured persons of the ILO:

Ms. Mireille Ecuillon (Titular member)
Mr. Pierre Sayour (Titular member)
Ms. Catherine Comte-Tiberghien (Titular member)
Ms. Azza Taalab (Substitute member)
Ms. Lisa Morgan (Substitute member)

Representing the Director-General:

Mr. Fikri Gurzumar (Titular member)
Mr. Tilmann Geckeler (Titular member)
Mr. Luca Bormioli (Titular member)
Mr. Sietse Buijze (Substitute member)
Mr. Giuseppe Zefola (Substitute member)

Other attendees:

Mr. Florian Léger, SHIF Executive Secretary
Ms. Heather Harris, SHIF Claims Supervisor
Ms. Corinne Michoud, SHIF Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from:

Representing the insured persons of the ILO:
Ms. Elisabeth Fombuena

The meeting opens at 9.35 a.m

Item 1: Approval of meeting agenda
SHIF/MC/23/276/AG

MC refers to document ref. SHIF/MC/22/276/AG and **approves the agenda.**

Item 2: Approval of the Record of Decisions of the 275th meeting of the Management Committee
(SHIF/MC/23/RD.275)

MC refers to document ref. SHIF/MC/23/RD.275 and **approves the Record of Decisions.**

Item 3: Update on the SHIF WorkPlan for 2023

ES provides the MC with an update on the SHIF WorkPlan for 2023:

- 1) The implementation of a telemedicine service is delayed due to the time it takes to prepare the Request for Proposal;
- 2) The SHIF Online App is delayed and will not be available before 2025 due to some technical decisions made by Infotec and the workload of that Department;
- 3) Turnover time remains high despite the record productivity of the SHIF Secretariat. On this specific issue, ES mentions that a question on the turnover time and access to care for staff in the field was addressed to the Director-General of the ILO at the Town-Hall meeting held on 11 May. DG took note of the issues raised. He noted that similar issues were raised with him during some of his recent visits to ILO field offices. He said that he will support the SHIF team to address these ongoing issues as soon as possible. MC will follow up on the situation and expects to get updated information. MC is ready to support the Secretariat;
- 4) The recent Internal Audit of the SHIF needs some follow-up from the SHIF Secretariat as well as from the MC;
- 5) Statistics concerning the SHIF Call Centre will be presented to the Management Committee in due course.

ES further informs the MC that he has been invited to make a presentation at a meeting organized by the Section of former officials on 25 May.

Item 4: Update on write-offs
SHIF/MC/23/276/4

ES presents document SHIF/MC/23/276/4. **SHIF MC requests additional information** to be able to authorize the SHIF to write-off 66 outstanding advances that are deemed uncollectible for an amount of slightly less than USD 75'000 (at the current exchange rates). **MC agrees that the additional information as well as the authorization can be given through email.**

Item 5: Amendments to the SHIF Regulations
SHIF/MC/23/276/5

As requested by the SHIF MC at its 275th Meeting, ES presents further proposals for amendments to the SHIF Regulations and Administrative Rules.

Regarding Code 9 (Alternative medicines), MC has in principle already agreed to increase the maximum approved expenses to US\$1,500.00 per protected person per calendar year. ES proposes to add homeopathy to the list of items reimbursed under that code. The fact that most homeopathy substances are no longer reimbursed by the French Social Security and are not reimbursed by the Swiss LaMal means that the SHIF does not reimburse them anymore and this has translated into many complaints from SHIF insured persons.

MC discusses the proposal and decides not to pursue the matter. MC suggests that ES reminds SHIF insured in a forthcoming SHIF Newsletter about the situation of homeopathy in relation to the SHIF Regulations, in particular with regard to Code 3 (Prescribed medicines), paragraph 4, of the Fund's Administrative Rules, and encourages them not to challenge the claim adjusters when they reject claims as this creates an unnecessary additional workload for the SHIF Medical Adviser.

Regarding Codes 2.5 (Stay in a nursing home) and 2.6 (Long-term nursing services at home), ES presents three additional options.

The first additional option would be to grandfather the provisions to maintain the existing level of benefits for insured members who are currently receiving benefits under Codes 2.5 and 2.6 with a view to avoid sudden and unexpected drop in coverage level for the most vulnerable insured members.

The second additional option would be to exclude from supplementary benefits Code 2.5 – but not Code 2.6 – to help maintain the persons at home at a smaller cost than in an institution.

The third additional option would be to exclude the expenditure incurred under Codes 2.5 and 2.6 for long-term care from the “approved expenses” as defined in Article 2.5 (Supplementary benefits) of the SHIF Regulations for the purpose of calculating entitlement to supplementary benefit.

MC discusses the proposal but lacks time to finalize the discussion. **MC decides to hold another SHIF MC Meeting as soon as possible with the Amendments to the SHIF Regulations as the only agenda item.**

Item 6: Financial situation of voluntarily protected dependants SHIF/MC/23/276/6

ES presents document SHIF/MC/23/276/6. For many years, a number of automatically covered dependants as well as a few members insured under Article 1.7 (Coverage in exceptional cases) have been wrongly coded in the group of voluntarily covered dependants. ES explains that for the period 2018-2022, twenty-one cases of wrong coding have been identified and the expenditure amounts to USD 1'783'980. On the other hand, the amount of contributions wrongly accounted is very small. Out of the twenty-one cases, twenty cases refer to expenditure for voluntarily covered spouses and one case refers to expenditure for a voluntarily covered child.

ES also mentions that following the increases in the contribution rates for that group in 2008/2009/2010, a surplus was generated every year from 2009 to 2019 when a sudden increase in expenditure occurred. Taking into consideration the amount of expenditure of USD 1'783'980 wrongly accounted for, the cumulative situation over the period 2008-2022 would have been a surplus of USD 2'445'388 instead of a surplus of USD 661'408. The cumulative situation over the period 2015-2022 would have been a surplus of USD 1'063'383 instead of a deficit of USD 720'597. The cumulative situation over the period 2018-2022 would have been a surplus of USD 322'174 instead of a deficit of USD 1'461'806.

The Management Committee takes note of the information and instructs the Secretariat to make the necessary adjustments in the accounts to set the record straight as from 1st January 2024 without the need to reissue the financial statements for previous years.

The Management Committee also notes that the contribution rates for voluntarily protected dependants remain within the statutory range and do not require any adjustment for 2023.

Item 7 Coverage in exceptional cases SHIF/MC/23/276/7

ES presents a request for coverage in exceptional cases under Article 1.7 of the SHIF Regulations submitted by a 65-year-old SHIF retiree for his 34-year-old son. The son has serious psychological problems and has lost health insurance coverage as he stopped paying the contributions. The parents cannot insure him anywhere as this requires his consent and signature. The parents are in contact with the local authorities to help him get back to normal life and are asking for exceptional coverage by the SHIF as they believe he will need medical help.

While expressing sympathy with this unfortunate situation, MC does not agree to make an exception as provided for in Article 1.7 (“Coverage in exceptional cases”) of the Fund’s Regulations , noting that health insurance in the country where the son lives is compulsory and that in such a case this should be deferred to the local authorities and social welfare services. MC also expresses that it also would have been necessary for the SHIF to get the consent of the son, which would have been a bar from providing the insurance coverage (had their decision been different).

Item 8 Any other Business

**Item 8.1: SHIF Financial situation as of 31.03.2023 and technical results for the period
01.01.2023-31.03.2023**

SHIF/MC/23/276/8.1

The Financial situation is not presented for lack of time.

The meeting ends at 12:05 p.m.
