



TWENTIETH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Matters relating to the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO**(b) Statute of the Tribunal**

1. The Committee will recall that, at its 288th (November 2003) Session of the Governing Body, the Office reported on continuing consultations with the Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) and the organizations which have accepted its jurisdiction, in relation to a proposal by the ILO to add a suitable provision to the Tribunal's Statute permitting staff unions and associations *locus standi* before the Tribunal in certain limited cases.¹
2. While the ILO Staff Union and staff associations of other organizations have reiterated their agreement with the amendments envisaged to the Tribunal's Statute, further consultations with the organizations have shown a degree of reluctance on the part of the majority of them, particularly the largest United Nations specialized agencies, to proceed, at least insofar as the scope and the consequences of the amendments have not been considered in greater detail.
3. Several of the organizations concerned have suggested that the consultations be extended to involve the United Nations common system as a whole, including the United Nations itself and the specialized agencies which recognize the jurisdiction of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT). However, the Office recalls that, in the 1980s, the question of harmonizing the statutes of the UNAT and ILOAT, including the issue of *locus standi* of staff unions and associations, had been examined inconclusively by United Nations and specialized agencies bodies.
4. A proposal was also made by a specialized agency to establish an open and informal working group to study the issue and examine the possible ways ahead.
5. Accordingly, the Office intends to pursue discussions during 2004 with interested parties, taking into account the divergences in approach demonstrated thus far.

Geneva, 17 February 2004.

Submitted for information.

¹ GB.288/PFA/20/2.