

Resolution on the reduction in hours of work

The Staff Union of the ILO, convened in its Annual General Meeting on 6 and 7 October 1981,

RECALLING that the weekly hours of work at Headquarters have remained unchanged since 1949 and that before then they were 38 1/2 hours,

CONSIDERING that in a growing number of countries working hours have been reduced below 40 a week in sectors such as the public service, financial institutions and offices, and that the 35-hour week is a priority goal for national and international trade union movements,

NOTING that the 35-hour week is the standard practice at the United Nations Headquarters and in certain ILO external offices and that an average working week of less than 40 hours obtains in other organisations in the United Nations system,

AWARE that negotiations are under way in other organisations,

RECALLING the principle on which the determination of conditions of employment in the international civil service is based, i.e. that such conditions should compare favourably with the best conditions prevailing in member countries,

STRESSING that the "common system" cannot be invoked when it jeopardises the rights of the staff and at the same time ignored when it results in improvements for them,

CONVINCED, moreover, that a reduction in working hours will enable all officials, men and women, to better carry out both their professional responsibilities and their family and social responsibilities, as well as their personal fulfilment, which can only benefit the Organisation,

REGRETTING that the negotiations between the Staff Union Committee and the Administration on this subject have made no progress,

INSTRUCTS the Staff Union Committee to make every effort to obtain a reduction of working hours to 35 hours a week.