



30th UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 30ème Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Draft minutes of the 1st meeting
Held on 2 March 2012 at 2 p.m. in Room 9

Present: Mounia Atiki, Malika Bahaji, Mohamed Chiraz Baly, Vladislav Chouvalov, Christian David, Mohamed Doumbouya-Fode, Didier Fortis, Jamshid Gaziyeu, Ahmed Ghailan, Zhongchao Hua, Elizabeth James, Nazir Koheele, David Koné, Lin Dan, Gloria Nwabuogu, Rajamany Ramasamy, Dominique Rames, Ian Richards, Evelina Rioukhina, Jean-Pascal Stancu, Mohssen Touihri, Sebastien Vernay, Sandrine Vilches, David Winch.

Absent: Cathy Peck Arif (with apologies).

Polling officers present: Tor Bothner, Benito Jimeno, Elsy Monsalve, Astrit Sulstarova (Chair).

The meeting started 30 minutes late pending confirmation that the recording equipment was working.

The meeting was chaired by Sulstarova, Chief Polling Officer, who welcomed everyone.

Election of the presidency

Sulstarova requested nominations for President.

Stancu nominated Richards who accepted.

David asked Sulstarova for a reply to his written question about whether all votes had been checked for eligibility and for clarifications on an apparent difference between the counter on the polling box the number of votes cast.

Jimeno replied that all votes counted had been confirmed as eligible and that upon further checking there was no mismatch between the counter on the polling box and the number of votes cast. He added that he would reply the same in writing.

Lin Dan nominated Rioukhina who accepted.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. A secret ballot took place and Council members were called to vote one at a time. The results were 14 votes for Richards, 10 votes for Rioukhina.

Richards was declared elected.

Sulstarova requested nominations for Vice President.

Richards nominated Stancu who accepted. Lin Dan nominated Ghailan who accepted.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. The results were 14 votes for Stancu, 10 votes for Ghailan.

Stancu was declared elected.

Richards as President took over the chairing of the meeting. He thanked the polling officers on behalf of the Council for their hard work. There was a round of applause. He added that this was an opportunity for all members to work together in a Council of many colours and that there would be much to do this year to defend staff interests.

Nomination of automatic Bureau seats

The President noted that any list with at least 15 percent of the vote was automatically entitled to a seat in the Bureau. He asked that the United list nominate their candidate.

Lin Dan asked that the meeting be adjourned to permit an informal consultation of Council members on the nomination and composition of the Bureau. She noted that she had sent an invitation for an open dialogue on behalf of the United Team to colleagues of all the lists before the first meeting of the Council. The attempt did not succeed. She posited that the statutes were obsolete as they had been written in 1983. The request was supported by Ghailan and David.

Chiraz Baly suggested that with all members gathered, they could hold immediate consultations and speak off the record. Lin Dan was agreeable to the proposal. However she suggested that maybe the Council could ask the Polling Board to leave the room. The President proposed a five minute break and asked for opinions from the floor.

Rames said there should be no need to adjourn the meeting at this point. Gaziyevev noted that the Council had a whole year ahead to consult and discuss and that his constituency expected of him that a bureau be in place and that the Council start working. With no other list requesting adjournment, the President decided that the meeting proceed.

Lin Dan insisted once again on consultation and that the Polling Board leave. Gaziyevev asked for a point of order and noted that the meeting was officially underway. Lin Dan interrupted to propose that the Council should not be based on a list concept but a council concept. The President noted that the proposal did not seem to be acceptable with other groups.

Lin Dan reiterated that membership of the Bureau should reflect membership of the Council. She added that as there was not a concrete agreement on this, as United had only had informal consultations with Hope, it was premature to form a Bureau. Gaziyevev stated that while appreciating the points raised, the

fact that a President and Vice-President had just been elected without meeting room consultations rendered the argument moot. He suggested consultations as the meeting proceeded.

The President repeated his request for United to nominate a candidate for the automatic Bureau seat. Ghailan pointed out that the hand of cooperation was extended and that he wished to see a Bureau reflecting the composition of the Council.

Lin Dan nominated David who accepted.

David was declared a member of the Bureau

The President asked that the Hope Team nominate their candidate. Koné nominated Chiraz Baly who accepted.

Chiraz Baly was declared a member of the Bureau

Election of remaining Bureau seats

The President noted that there were five Bureau seats remaining to be elected.

The President asked for nominations for the first Bureau seat.

Ramasamy nominated James who accepted.

Lin Dan nominated Ghailan who accepted.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. Lin Dan asked that voting be by show of hands. The President replied that the rules required elections to be by secret ballot.

The results of the vote were 14 votes for James, 10 votes for Ghailan.

James was declared elected to the Bureau.

The President asked for nominations for the second Bureau seat.

Vilches nominated Gaziyeu who accepted.

Rioukhina nominated Lin Dan who declined, saying that the results of the voting were not democratic.

Lin Dan then left the room accompanied by members of the United list (David, Hua, Rioukhina, Ghailan, Vernay, Chouvalov, Koheealee, Fortis and Bahaji).

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. The results of vote were 13 votes for Gaziyeu and one blank.

Gaziyev was declared elected to the Bureau.

The President asked for nominations for the third Bureau seat.

Rames nominated Doumbouya Fode who accepted.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. The results were 13 votes for Doumbouya Fode and one blank.

Doumbouya Fode was declared elected to the Bureau.

The President asked for nominations for the fourth Bureau seat.

Chiraz Baly nominated Rames who accepted.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. The results were 13 votes for Rames and one blank.

Rames was declared elected to the Bureau.

The President asked for nominations for the fifth and final Bureau seat.

Chiraz Baly asked whether the meeting could be adjourned to permit a member of the United list to be elected.

The President replied that the rules required all seats of the Bureau to be filled at the first meeting. This had been confirmed by a ruling of the Arbitration Commission in 2010, broadcast to all staff.

Chiraz Baly twice nominated Winch who declined citing workload. Winch however supported the seat being filled in the expectation that it would subsequently be vacated for another list.

Chiraz Baly nominated Nwabuogu who accepted, noting that while she did not wish to deny United a seat in the Bureau she was conscious of the need to ensure that all Bureau seats were filled at the first meeting. She added that she might re-evaluate her position in the future.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. The results were 13 votes for Nwabuogu and one blank.

Nwabuogu was declared elected to the Bureau.

Election of the Executive Secretary

The President noted that only Bureau members could be candidates to the post of Executive Secretary and called for nominations.

Atiki nominated Chiraz Baly who accepted.

There being no further nominations the Council proceeded to vote. The results were 13 votes for Chiraz Baly and one blank.

Chiraz Baly was declared elected as Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretary thanked the members of the Council for the trust they had placed in him and pledged to work with all members of the Council to defend the rights of staff. He called for a meeting of the Executive Bureau on Monday 5 March at 1 p.m.

The President thanked the polling officers once again to a renewed round of applause. He suggested that all those present proceed to the Press Bar for coffee.

The meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.