



32nd UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 32e Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Minutes of the 2nd meeting

held on 7 March 2014 at 1:15 p.m. in Room VIII

Council members present: Almeida Patricia, Atiki Mounia, Bulych Yaroslav, Chaoui Prisca, Chiraz Baly Mohamed, Chouvalov Vladislav, Doumbouya-Fode Mohamed, Funck Thomaz Samuel, Gaziyevev Jamshid, Ghailan Ahmed, Lin Dan, Nwabuogu Gloria, Peck Arif Cathy, Rames Dominique, Richards Ian, Rouai Slim, Stanovic Marko, Vilches Sandrine.

The meeting was opened at 1:15 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as had been proposed previous to the meeting, as reflected below.

2. Election of the Finance Commission

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Ian Richards, informed the Council that the Executive Bureau (EB) had nominated Ms. Catherine Peck Arif to take the seat for the EB in the Financial Commission (FC), as per Council regulations. The President, Mr. Jamshid Gaziyevev, then called for nominations to the remaining three seats in the FC. Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly nominated Ms. Sandrine Vilches and Mr. Marko Stanovic, who both accepted their nominations. Ms. Lin Dan nominated Mr. Yaroslav Bulych, who accepted his nomination. Seeing no other nominations and no objections to vote by acclamation, all nominees were elected members of the FC.

3. Adoption of minutes of the 1st meeting

Mr. Ahmed Ghailan requested to add in the draft minutes (1) the names of absent members, (2) to add under "Point of order and motion to adjourn" a reference to Article 7.3 of the Council's regulations which requires that "The provisional agenda for meetings (...) shall be communicated to all members of the Council not less than three days before the meeting in question", and (3) to either write down the names of all who casted a particular vote, or delete all for the sake of editorial consistency.

Regarding (1), Mr. Ghailan believed that mentioning absentees in meetings is a past practice as he recalled seeing it in past minutes, and therefore assumed a change had been introduced. His concern was supported by Ms. Lin Dan. Mr. Ian Richards recalled that during the 31st Council none of the minutes had reflected the absentees. Mr. Marko Stanovic commented that in any case, the attendance and non-attendance is reflected in full in the Council's yearly report. Mr. Gaziyevev said that whilst it can be understood that those members who are not present are to be considered absent, he is willing to put to a vote the inclusion of absentees in minutes should such a motion be raised.

Regarding (2), Mr. Gaziyevev reminded that minutes should only reflect exactly what was said at the meeting. Mr. Froylan Silveira (Assistant of the Council) pointed out that, following a review of the meeting's recording, the draft minutes did reflect accurately what was quoted or not. Mr. Gaziyevev thus clarified that, as per the recording, Mr. Ghailan had not referred to any specific article in question during the meeting.

Regarding (3), Mr. Gaziyevev said that, by mentioning only those who voted in favour, it is granted that all other members present voted against, and in such a way it was avoided to extend the document unnecessarily. However, if the Council agreed, he had no objection to note all the names or remove them. Mr. Ian Richards moved to decide on removing all names from the voting procedure in the minutes: seeing 12 votes in favour, 3 express abstentions, and 3 uncast votes, the motion was carried.

Ms. Dominique Rames asked to include in the minutes under "Any other business" a reference should be made to which rule in the statute any decision refers to. Mr. Gaziyevev reminded, however, that minutes would only reflect exactly what was said, including the mentioning (or not) of a particular regulation.

The President considered no objections to be raised. The minutes were adopted with one single modification which removed all names from the voting procedure in the minutes.

4. Report of the Finance Commission (FC)

Ms. Sandrine Vilches, as Treasurer of the previous Finance Commission, informed the Council that all payments have been honoured and currently the Commission is liaising with the auditors for the 31st Council's

accounts. Ms. Vilches commented that not much has happened since the last Council meeting; all payments have been made and the Commission is awaiting the final report from the Auditors. Ms. Lin Dan asked for more detailed information in order to have a more profound discussion. Mr. Gaziyeu reminded that the FC's report covered only matters since the previous Council meeting, which was why Ms. Vilches report was very brief. Mr. Stanovic, as a member of the Finance Commission, confirmed Ms. Vilches report was totally correct.

5. Report of the Executive Bureau (EB)

Mr. Richards commended Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly for his work as former Executive Secretary. He explained that since the previous EB meeting Ms. Catherine Peck Arif was re-elected by the EB as Deputy Executive Secretary and that the EB met with the Director-General (DG) to discuss variety of issues. Mr. Gaziyeu mentioned that there is an overall impression that the DG has shown commitment to work with the Council on various issues. Mr. Richards also informed that a meeting was held with the OHCHR Working Group on the use of mercenaries by the UN.

Ms. Lin Dan reiterated her demand to inform all Council members on the content of outreach communications in advance, given that messages are broadcasted in the Council's name and so should be shared amongst members before sending them out. Ms. Dominique Rames raised a point of order, as the issue of communications and outreach was set to be discussed under "any other business". Ms. Lin Dan expressed her opinion that nonetheless, this issue relates to the report of the EB. Ms. Rames asked the Executive Secretary to distribute the approved minutes of the EB to Council members for their information, which was noted by Mr. Richards.

6. Delegation to CCISUA General Assembly

Mr. Richards briefed the Council on the functions and composition of CCISUA. He mentioned that the Council normally votes on the number of participants of its delegation to CCISUA's General Assembly, mandating the EB to decide on the particular nominations. Whilst last year the Council's delegation was exceptionally large (6 members) as the Council hosted it, he explained that traditionally the Council's delegation is composed of 4 or 5 members, and also that for the next CCISUA 29th GA (during the week of 7th April) the agenda is yet to be received. Mr. Richards proposed the Council to vote on a 5-member delegation. Mr. Gaziyeu reminded that the Council pays its contribution to CCISUA to ensure that it is represented as part of a Federation before Management. Ms. Dominique Rames asked when would the agenda and documents be received, to which Mr. Baly, in his position as General Secretary of CCISUA, pointed out that they are still being drafted.

Ms. Lin Dan suggested that Mr. Ahmed Ghailan be part of the delegation taking into account his participation in last year's CCISUA GA, including his work as rapporteur of the meeting. Mr. Marko Stanovic mentioned that New Wood list would be happy to join the delegation. Mr. Baly noted that to decide who will be part of the delegation, it should be looked at what can each person individually contribute.

Mr. Gaziyeu said that since Mr. Baly should attend the meeting as he is currently CCISUA's General Secretary and therefore he proposed the Council to vote on a delegation of 4 members plus Mr. Baly. Mr. Vladislav Chouvalov counter-proposed to have a delegation composed of Mr. Baly plus Mr. Ghailan, Mr. Stanovic, and two more nominated by the EB. Mr. Gaziyeu said the actual nominations should be decided later by the EB and now the decision was simply the number of participants. Ms. Dominique Rames wished to see the supporting papers for this meeting, which Mr. Richards agreed to provide once available.

Seeing no objections, the Council agreed on a CCISUA 29th GA delegation of 4 members plus Mr. Baly.

7. G1-G4 selection review group

Mr. Richards informed that this item was discussed at the EB. Mr. Richards stated that the idea had been developed and negotiated during the SMCC meeting in Nairobi in 2009. He explained to the Council the nature and scope of this review group, including its temporary nature, which is pending the establishment of the permanent Central Review body, once New York had put in place the necessary legislation.

Ms. Rames recalled that she was the initiator of the G1-G4 selection review group and spoke briefly about its history and evolution. She said she would gladly accept the EB-endorsed nomination. Ms. Lin Dan noted the importance of promoting transparency of the review group and could we start to draft some Terms of Procedure to circulate in the Council. Mr. Richards said the Terms of Reference have already been prepared and signed by the Director General. He also pointed out that the members of this group will eventually draft their own rules of procedure.

As Management had asked the Council to nominate members for this group, who will receive the appropriate training, the EB presented the following six nominations which were approved by the Council:

Ms. Dominique Rames, Ms. Elizabeth James, Ms. Mounia Atiki, Mr. Ahmed Ghailan, Ms. Prisca Chaoui, and Ms. Catherine Peck Arif.

8. Financing next stage of Crèche project

Ms. Peck Arif briefed the Council on the current stage of the project. She presented three different basic proposals, each from different companies – all of which have already built several crèches, from France and from Switzerland, one of which had considerable experience in constructing in Geneva. She explained that before proceeding any further the Council must obtain detailed construction plans and budgets for each proposal to be able to make a proper selection as currently the budgets based on cost per square, and now it was important that detailed budgets were established, to ensure that the project was watertight. For this purpose, the Council is requested to approve an expenditure of maximum CHF 20'000 for the purpose of obtaining such detailed plans and budgets. She explained that according to the current schedule and if the expenditure is approved now, digging for construction could begin in September 2014, with opening the crèche's doors in early 2015. Ms. Peck Arif clarified that by not approving the expenditure at the present moment it would not allow digging to begin before Winter, with the consequence of delaying the opening of crèche for several months. As for construction finances, Ms. Peck Arif noted that it is estimated that the Council will be able to put forth approximately 50% of the total budget, with various possibilities of financing the difference such as: taking a loan, investment from outside company, or participation from another international staff association in Geneva etc. She clarified that the crèche would be run as a concession and that any loss would be for the concessionaire and not the Council, and the Council would be receiving a rent which would serve as additional income for it.

Mr. Richards mentioned that this whole item had already been discussed at the EB. He put forward to the Council the unanimous EB recommendation to support the next stage of the crèche project (detailed plans and budgets) with the approval of an expenditure of maximum CHF 20'000 for that purpose. It was clarified by Mr. Peck Arif and Mr. Gaziyeu that the particulars of the building can only be discussed after receipt of the detailed plans and budgets. (Ms. Mounia Atiki left the meeting at this time).

Mr. Ahmed Ghailan thanked Ms. Peck Arif for her presentation, and raised the following points: (1) rights to the land, (2) liabilities (best and worst case scenarios), and (3) asked for the process of selection of companies, wishing that before taking decisions concerning money the Council is informed in advance of its meetings. Ms. Peck Arif pointed out these issues had already been discussed at the EB, that she had already provided answers, and wondered why it was being raised again. Ms. Lin Dan suggested to clarify the legal status of the Council to do business with outside companies before moving into detailed business plans, for which a legal opinion could be sought. Mr. Baly however raised a point of order arguing that the legal status of the Council is not the issue at hand, and that we should stick to the Agenda. Mr. Richards recalled that UNOG's legal adviser had said in the past that the Council is free to enter and set up a concession contract for the crèche and UNOG will help us with setting up all the paperwork, he also reiterated that as Ms. Peck Arif had already stated it will be the concessionaire that will be assuming all the liabilities and the not the Council for the running of the crèche. Mr. Slim Rouai said that following two-years work on this project, he supports that the Council now votes to move to the next stage. Mr. Ghailan took for the floor, stating that he was here as a staff representative to monitor the work of the Council from A to Z and asked the President to make respect reign in this room. Mr. Gaziyeu replied that is exactly what he was trying to do and asked the Council to try just to focus on the tasks in question. Ms. Rames said that she had discussed the project in detail with Ms. Peck Arif and it received her full and utmost support.

Following a vote of 13 in favour, 3 abstentions and 0 against, the Council approved an expenditure of maximum CHF 20'000 to obtain detailed plans and budgets for the crèche project.

(Ms. Prisca Chaoui, Ms. Dominique Rames and Ms. Lin Dan leave the meeting at this time).

9. Extraordinary General Assembly

Seeing no objections, the Council agreed to schedule an Extraordinary General Assembly of staff on 1 April 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

10. SCC web maintenance - posting with the SCC authorization and respect for confidentiality

No proposal was made.

11. Any other business

- The Council agreed to schedule its 3rd meeting on 28 March 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 3:15 p.m.