



33nd UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 33^e Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Minutes of the 3rd meeting

held on 23 April 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room V

Council members present: APOSTOLOV Mario, BALY Mohamed Chiraz, CHANTREL Dominique, CHAOUI Prisca, DOUMBOUYA-FODE Mohamed, FUNCK-THOMAZ Samuel, GAZIYEV Jamshid, KALOTAY Kalman, NWABUOGU Gloria, PECK ARIF Catherine, RICHARDS Ian, STANOVIC Marko, TOUIHRI Mohssen.

Council members absent: ALMARIO Francis, ASFAW Tensai, ATIKI Mounia, EL GARAH Samira, JAMES Elizabeth, KELLY Paul, KONE David, NOBLAT-PIANTA Virginie, POPA Gabriela, ROUAI Slim, SHAMSIE Syed, VILCHES Sandrine.

The meeting started at 1:15 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2nd meeting

Following a brief discussion on the draft minutes, they were adopted without changes as reflected in the Council's records.

3. Report of the Executive Bureau

The Executive Secretary (IR) briefed the Council on the work of the EB since the previous Council meeting, mainly on the Pension Fund and the GS Salary Survey, followed by a brief exchange of ideas. Further details can be found in the minutes of the EB.

4. Collection for Ebola victims in Sierra Leone

The President (PC) informed the plenary that certain staff had done a collection in favour of the victims of Ebola in Sierra Leone and approached the Council with a proposal to match the collected funds. It was clarified that this was not a collection directly sponsored by the Council, as originally when the idea was brought forth no volunteers were found, however staff in their own capacity did organize said collection. The collected funds amount to CHF 2'180. In support of the efforts of the staff represented by the Council, the President and ES recommended that the Council matches the collected amount, which was approved by the Council plenary, leaving to the Finance Commission to determine how and to which legitimate beneficiary transfer the funds.

5. Breast feeding room

PC informed the plenary that certain staff had approached the Council pointing out the deteriorated state of the breast feeding room (PN-036). The idea brought forth to the Council was to approve an allocation of funds to renovate the furniture of the room, for which a quote was obtained from Ikea for a proper sofa and cushions and a wall painting. The Council thus approved an allocation of CHF 900 for said purchase, with the idea of informing all staff that the furnishings of the room were renovated with the sponsoring of the Council.

6. PSI affiliation

IR briefed the Council on "Public Services International" (PSI), a global federation of unions of the public sector. Recognizing that the Council's scope of maneuver is mainly limited to the UN, he pointed out that by affiliating to PSI the Council could benefit from its broader network and support vis-à-vis Member States. PSI has already helped the Council in several issues, including gaining

back negotiating rights when they had been taken away by UN Management in 2013, therefore it would be profitable for the Council to formalize its relation with PSI. Through PSI the Council would be able to take its complaints to other bodies outside the UN like the ILO. Affiliation to PSI costs EUR 1 per represented staff member of the joining union (there are between 3000-3500 staff represented by the Council).

A brief discussion followed. It was clarified that the Council as a constituted staff union in the UN has the legal status to join PSI. As a matter of fact the ILO Staff Union is already affiliated to PSI. The Council approved the affiliation to PSI as per the terms described.

7. Update on the composition of the G1-G4 review group

PC informed the Council that as per its new composition, two new members have integrated into the G1-G4 Review Group: Mr. Dominique Chantrel and Ms. Stephanie Monge, and Ms. Catherine Peck Arif has withdrawn. The composition of the group is therefore as follows: (1) Dominique Chantrel; (2) Stephanie Monge; (3) Sandrine Vilches; (4) Elizabeth James; (5) Mounia Atiki; (6) Prisca Chaoui.

8. Staff-Management Committee

IR briefed the Council on the recent SMC meetings held in Bonn, which he attended with JG representing Geneva to discuss Secretariat-wide issues. Key points mentioned were: shared services (UMOJA, centralization of services, etc.), GS external hiring freeze, travel policy, whistleblower policy, flexible office space, Central Review Bodies (release times), long-service recognition for staff, medico-legal investigations of deaths of staff on duty, medical insurance, recognition of education degrees, and harassment procedures.

9. Compensation review

IR briefed the Council on the issues involved in the current compensation review of the ICSC, mainly retirement age, salary scales and grants. A discussion followed.

10. Swiss nationality

The Council discussed the recent exchange of communications with the Acting Director-General on the issue of a letter sent by the Swiss Mission denouncing interference in host country affairs because of a townhall where the Council informed staff about the recent changes to the Swiss Nationality Law. The Council unanimously denied any interference in host country affairs and ratified the solely informative nature of said townhall.

11. Celebration of the 70th UN anniversary

PC informed the Council of the idea to organize a celebration of the 70th UN anniversary exclusively for staff, with "diversity" as the proposed theme, possibly in the park and with the participation of the clubs. The Council agreed to start contacts and discussions with Administration on the subject.

12. Any other business

No other business was brought up to the floor.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.