



34th UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 34^e Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Minutes of the 2nd meeting

held on 14 April 2016 at 1:15 p.m. in Room VIII

Council members present: ALMARIO Francis, APOSTOLOV Mario, BALY Mohamed Chiraz, BENAYED Slim, CHANTREL Dominique, CHAOUI Prisca, FUNCK THOMAZ Samuel, GAZIYEV Jamshid, KALOTAY Kalman, KELLY Paul, NWABUOGU Gloria, PECK ARIF Catherine, RICHARDS Ian, STANOVIC Marko, VESTERMAN Claire,

Council members absent: DOS SANTOS José, EL GARAH Samira, JAMES Elizabeth, JORDAN Sarah, MELLET Johnny, POPA Gabriela, ROUAI Slim, SHAMSIE Syed, TOUIHRI Mohssen, VILCHES Sandrine.

The meeting began at 1:25 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

A brief discussion was held on whether an item should be added to the agenda under which to hold a discussion of the 2014-2015 audit report. It was pointed out that there is no statutory requirement for the Council to hold such discussion at its plenary meeting. Suggestions were raised to ask the new FC, once constituted, to review the audit report and brief the EB on the implementation of recommendations. The Council congratulated the auditors for their work. Finally, the Council decided to adopt the agenda without changes, as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 1st Council meeting

The minutes of the 1st Council meeting were adopted without changes, as reflected in the Council's records.

3. Election of three members to the Finance Commission

FC Seat N° 1: Mr. Francis Almario was elected without opposition as member of the FC having been nominated by Mr. Gazyev.

FC Seat N° 2: Ms. Sandrine Vilches was elected without opposition as member of the FC having been nominated by Mr. Richards.

FC Seat N° 3: Mr. Samuel Funck-Thomaz was elected without opposition as member of the FC having been nominated by Ms. Chaoui.

It was recalled that on 22 March 2016 the EB had appointed **Ms. Prisca Chaoui (FC Seat N° 4)** as member of the FC, as per the Regulations.

4. Election of auditors

As per Annex I, Article 6 (2) of the Regulations, Ms. Chaoui informed the Council that she received 4 candidatures for the 5 available auditor positions, who were elected as auditors without opposition:

Mr. Philip Thomas
Mr. Ronald Quero
Ms. Ivana Milicevic
Mr. Yaroslav Bulych

5. Report of the outgoing Finance Commission

Given that the outgoing Treasurer was not able to attend the meeting, Mr. Stanovic as member of the outgoing FC reported to the Council that: although said Commission did not carry out many official meetings it worked well; the Commission looked after all payments made; the Commission had miscellaneous discussions regarding purchases; whilst it met on several occasions with the auditors during preparations of the audit report, the Commission did not meet to discuss the audit report once submitted by the auditors. Mr. Stanovic also informed the 2014-2015 audit report is good.

6. Report of the Executive Bureau

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Richards, briefed the Council on the work carried out by the Executive Bureau since the beginning of the 34th Council, in the following areas/items: recent improvements in the UN Special magazine under its new leadership; financial difficulties at UNRISD; Mr. Richards' mission to New York during March (participation at GA 5th Committee and ICSC 82nd session); contractual issues (National Officers); downsizing issues; issues on implementation of SHP; staff representation at the SPA Committee; upcoming SMC in Vienna (20-26 April 2016); feedback on recent Long service awards ceremony.

7. Adoption of the work programme of the 34th Staff Coordinating Council

The Council plenary held a comprehensive discussion of the draft work programme and its substantive issues, where several ideas were shared and suggested modifications debated. The Council adopted its work programme with amendments as agreed during the discussion, and so filed with the Council secretariat.

8. Long service awards ceremony

Mr. Richards briefed the Council on the recently held Long service awards ceremony which awarded silver and golden medals to staff who achieved 25+ and 30+ years of the service in the Organization, respectively. He informed that very positive feedback has been received from many staff members.

The Council noted that it had approved via email an expenditure of up to CHF 3'000 for refreshments following this ceremony, and up to CHF 5'709 for the purchase of the medals.

9. G1-G4 Review Group membership

The Council reviewed the membership of the G1-G4 Review Group, which was decided as follows:

Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly
Ms. Sandrine Vilches
Mr. Dominique Chantrel
Ms. Catherine Peck Arif
Ms. Prisca Chaoui
Ms. Elizabeth James
Ms. Claire Vesterman

10. Staff representative to the Special Post Allowance (SPA) Committee

Mr. Richards put forward to the Council the EB's proposal to nominate Mr. Marko Stanovic as staff representative to the SPA Committee, with Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly as his alternate. The Council agreed to nominate Mr. Marko Stanovic as staff representative to the SPA Committee.

11. Contribution to the Genèveroule initiative

Mr. Richards informed the Council that a request was received from UNOG Administration to support financially the Genèveroule initiative, by which the City of Geneva makes available the free rental of bicycles at Place des Nations during the summer period. The CHF 6'000 cost to the Organization is to be borne by UNOG Administration, the MEC and the Council in equal parts of CHF 2'000.

Mr. Richards recalled the great success this initiative had in 2015 and the positive feedback received from staff in that regard.

Following a brief discussion, the Council approved the abovementioned expenditure of CHF 2'000 with the condition that the logo of the Council be inserted into the information materials of the initiative.

12. Organization of Extraordinary Assembly

As per Annex I, Article 6 (1) of the Regulations, the Council decided to convene an Extraordinary Assembly of the staff with a single agenda item on the election of polling officers. The date shall be determined by the EB.

13. Children's party

Ms. Chaoui informed the Council that, as per availability of space, the Children's Spring party was set for 11 May 2016, and that two different quotes were received, one for CHF 36'390 and another for CHF 32'149. Given the budgetary approval of the Council of up to CHF 35'000, the lowest quote was accepted. She also informed that Security will bill the Council for the additional guards it will employ in the vigilance of the party (estimated at approx. CHF 900), and another small expenditure is expected to offer lunch to the helpers during the party. Ms. Chaoui assured the Council that all Children's party expenses are expected to remain within the budgetary approval of CHF 35'000. A brief discussion followed on whether to keep the Children's party in Spring or move it to December.

The Council plenary was asked to vote on confirming the date of this Children's party on 11 May 2016 and maintain the expenditure approval at CHF 35'000. With 12 votes in favour and 3 abstentions, the Council agreed on 11 May 2016 as the date for the Children's party and maintaining the current budgetary allocation.

14. Any other business

- Mr. Kalotay inquired about the new UN Special Editor-in-Chief and whether he was chosen through a regular screening process. Mr. Richards confirmed Mr. Mejia was selected following a regular screening process in conjunction with WHO Staff Association, and reiterated that improvements are visible in the first issue of the magazine under his leadership (April 2016).
- Ms. Chaoui informed the Council that a letter will soon be sent to staff representatives in joint bodies to ensure they are aware of their role as staff representatives.

The meeting closed at 3:10 p.m.