

Languages Service Sectoral Assembly (LSSA)
Minutes of the first meeting of the 2018/2019 Bureau¹

Held on Thursday, 7 June 2018, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., room E-6123.

Attendees: Wreda Amziani (ATS), Edith Bourion (FTPU), Olga Campos (STS), Jamila Chedad (ATPU), Jianjun Chen (CTS), Pauline Escalante (ETPU), Melanie Guedenet (ETS), Hassan Harrafa (ATS), Yustiniya Khokhlova (RTS), Tatiana Lazdin (RU), Olivier Meyer (President), Bruno Nissou (FTS), Olga Ovchinnikova (RTPU), Francisco Rovira (STS), Luz María Urquiza (STPU), Anni Vi Tirol (ETPU), Xiaoqing Yang (CTPU) and Yenlin Zhang (CTS).

Main topics discussed:

- Appointment of Vice-Presidents and volunteers to draft the minutes of the meetings
- Communication and cooperation
- *Strategic Vision 2018* (Under-Secretary General)
- Fixed-term contracts
- Discrepancies in special assignments and self-revision policies
- Strategic Heritage Plan
- Representation of staff of sections not present in the Bureau

Decisions taken:

1. *Appointment of Vice-Presidents and volunteers:* **Wreda Amziani** and **Bruno Nissou** were elected Vice-presidents of the LSSA. **Olga Campos**, **Jamila Chedad**, **Bruno Nissou** and **Melanie Guedenet** volunteered to take notes and draft the minutes of the meetings.
2. *Communication and cooperation:* An internal group will be created by **Yustiniya Khokhlova** in Yammer to ease communication among the members of the Bureau and to explore the possibility of creating a bigger group open to all LS staff in the future. We will keep encouraging our colleagues to submit contributions to *UN Special* or make suggestions to increase awareness of our work. In the current context, we believe it is essential to coordinate our actions with staff representatives in New York and other duty stations.
3. *Strategic Vision 2018:* The **President** will meet as soon as possible with **Bruno Nissou**, **Tatiana Lazdin** and **Pauline Escalante** to gather questions raised during the cascade dialogues held within our Sections and draft a document to be sent to the management with our main concerns and suggestions.
4. *Fixed-term contracts:* Staff are concerned about the future of fixed-term contracts (multi-year) in an annual budget scenario. The **President** will discuss the question with the Staff Coordinating Council.
5. *Discrepancies in special assignments and self-revision policies:* The LSSA bureau noted that each section implements a different policy in terms of self-revision standards for P3 staff. There were also discrepancies in time granted as special assignment for staff taking written tests or being interviewed for internal job promotions. The **President** will discuss these issues with Michelle Keating and in the next SMRG meeting.
6. *Strategic Heritage Plan:* Assurances were repeated in the last meeting of the Staff Coordinating Council that LS would not be moved to the new building and would not be affected by the hot-desking/open-space policy. The **President** will raise the issue in the next SMRG meeting.
7. *Representation of staff of units not present in the Bureau:* The **President** will send an email to those sections who are not present in the Bureau (Editing Section and staff working directly for the Chief of Service) encouraging them to contact the LSSA Bureau to raise any questions they might be concerned about.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, the opinions reflected herein represent staff suggestions and views collected by their representatives and are aimed at promoting communication between management and staff. In order to avoid misunderstandings, any comments or requests for corrections to the minutes should be submitted to the President of the LSSA only, for inclusion in the minutes of the following meeting.