



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

### Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

held on 3 March 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room IX

**Council members present:** Almeida Patricia, Atiki Mounia, Chaoui Prisca, Baly Mohamed Chiraz, Chouvalov Vladislav, Doumbouya-Fode Mohamed, Funck Thomaz Samuel, Gaziyev Jamshid, Ghailan Ahmed, James Elizabeth, Kelly Paul, Koheeeallee Nazir, Lin Dan, Nwabuogu Gloria, Peck Arif Cathy, Rames Dominique, Richards Ian, Rouai Slim, Stanovic Marko, Vilches Sandrine.

*The meeting was opened at 2:05 p.m.*

The Chairman of the Polling Board, Mr. Astrit Sulstarova, presided and opened the meeting. He called out the names of those who were elected members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> UNOG Staff Coordinating Council. Those members who were present are indicated above. Due note was taken of the excused absence of elected members Mr. Yaroslav Bulych, Mr. David Koné, Mr. Mohssen Touihri and Ms. Evelina Rioukhina. Due note was taken of the resignation of Mr. Zhongchao Hua as elected member, who is replaced by Mr. Didier Fortis according to the order of precedence of List A (United Team) members.

#### *Point of order and motion to adjourn*

Mr. Ahmed Ghailan raised a point of order concerning the convening of the meeting notified officially via broadcast on 27 February 2014 along with the results of the Council's elections, which he argued was procedurally flawed as it did not respect the mandatory 3-day notice period for Council meetings. Mr. Ghailan thus moved to adjourn the meeting to allow time for a new notification to be sent with at least 3-days' notice. Following Mr. Ghailan's motion, a discussion took place among the Council members present including the President of the Polling Board.

Mr. Sulstarova pointed out that the date and time of this Council meeting had already been agreed to jointly by all lists when they met with the polling officers on 7 February 2014 whilst the lots were being drawn on the alphabet to be used by each list. This was again conveyed and confirmed to the members of the three lists during the counting of the ballots on 25 February 2014. He also pointed out that never before in the previous five years had he seen a separate notification being sent to convene the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Council, and that the role of the President of the Polling Officer, as per Council Statutes, is only to preside the such 1<sup>st</sup> meeting until the moment the President is elected therein.

Mr. Ghailan expressed his view that the verbal convening does not absolve the requirement of convening a Council meeting with at least 3-day notice and that it does not constitute a notification. Ms. Dominique Rames agreed with Mr. Ghailan and expressed her opinion that a formal and separate invitation and agenda should have been provided.

Mr. Jamshid Gaziyev recalled Article 7, para. 1 of the Council's regulations which governs the convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting, which states "that the Council should hold its first meeting within five days of the publication of the results of the elections". He added that the presence of twenty Council members suggested that all Council members had been notified. He also pointed out that the verbal confirmation had achieved the goal of notifying Council members and that it would have been not advisable to proceed with adjourning the meeting when all Council members who were able to come have joined the meeting. Mr. Baly and Mr. Richards expressed their support to this view. Mr. Ghailan reiterated his view that the 3-day notice should be respected for all Council meetings, arguing that according to the pertinent rules, for every meeting of the Council, either first, or last, or middle, there should be an agenda and notification sent with such notice. Mr. Ghailan, thus, did not agree to consider Article 7, para. 1 of the Council's Statutes as an exception to the normally established notification period of 3 days established in the same Article 7.

Mr. Sulstarova called for a vote on Mr. Ghailan's motion to adjourn the meeting until a formal notification is sent with at least 3-day notice. Following 4 votes in favour of the motion and 16 votes against, the motion was not carried.

## 1. Election of the President and Vice-President

- Mr. Ian Richards nominated Mr. Jamshid Gaziyeu as President of the Council. As no other nomination was presented nor opposition to a vote by acclamation, **Mr. Jamshid Gaziyeu was elected President of the Council.**
- Mr. Samuel Funck Thomaz nominated Ms. Elizabeth James as Vice-president of the Council. As no other nomination was presented nor opposition to a vote by acclamation, **Ms. Elizabeth James was elected Vice-president of the Council.**

The newly elected President and Vice-president presided the rest of the meeting.

## 2. Election of the Executive Bureau (EB) members

- *First seat:* List A (United Team) was given the floor to nominate one candidate for an automatic seat in the EB; Ms. Lin Dan nominated Mr. Ahmed Ghailan for this first seat, which Mr. Ghailan accepted. **Mr. Ahmed Ghailan was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**
- *Second seat:* List B (Hope Team) was given the floor to nominate one candidate for an automatic seat in the EB; Ms. Mounia Atiki nominated Mr. Ian Richards for this second seat, which Mr. Richards accepted. **Mr. Ian Richards was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**
- *Third seat:* Ms. Patricia Almeida nominated Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly for a seat in the EB, which Mr. Baly accepted. Mr. Ahmed Ghailan nominated Ms. Dominique Rames for a seat in the EB, which Ms. Rames accepted, but before a voting was held she declined the nomination. No other Council member was nominated for this seat nor opposition to a vote by acclamation. **Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**
- *Fourth seat:* Ms. Prisca Chaoui nominated Mr. Mohamed Doumbouya-Fode for a seat in the EB, which Mr. Doumbouya-Fode accepted. No other Council member was nominated for this seat nor opposition to a vote by acclamation. **Mr. Mohamed Doumbouya-Fode was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**
- *Fifth seat:* Ms. Sandrine Vilches nominated Ms. Gloria Nwabuogu for a seat in the EB, which Ms. Nwabuogu accepted. No other Council member was nominated for this seat nor opposition to a vote by acclamation. **Ms. Gloria Nwabuogu was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**
- *Sixth seat:* Ms. Sandrine Vilches nominated Ms. Catherine Peck Arif for a seat in the EB, which Ms. Peck Arif accepted. No other Council member was nominated for this seat nor opposition to a vote by acclamation. **Ms. Catherine Peck Arif was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**
- *Seventh seat:* Mr. Paul Kelly nominated Mr. Slim Rouai for a seat in the EB, which Mr. Rouai accepted. No other Council member was nominated for this seat nor opposition to a vote by acclamation. **Mr. Slim Rouai was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**

## 3. Election of the Executive Secretary

Ms. Sandrine Vilches nominated Mr. Ian Richards as Executive Secretary. No other Council member was nominated nor opposition to a vote by acclamation. **Mr. Ian Richards was elected Executive Secretary.**

## 4. Any other business

Ms. Dominique Rames, making reference to Council rules of procedure, advocated for the usage of the two official languages of the Council (English and French) during meetings and in documents produced and adopted by the Council. She asked the President to alternate between French and English while presiding the meetings or otherwise procure interpretation, considering fair to use French as it is the Geneva language, along with English. Ms. Rames also asked that before issuing any broadcasts, all Council members are informed and agree with it in advance. Mr. Jamshid Gaziyeu replied that meetings will always be bilingual, with every Council member having the right to speak in the official Secretariat working language of their choosing, but that the possibility of having interpretation during meetings would depend on the availability of such services as provided by the Administration.

*The meeting was closed at 2:45 p.m.*