



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

Minutes of the 3rd meeting

held on 28 March 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room XI

Council members present: Almeida Patricia, Chaoui Prisca, Chouvalov Vladislav, Doumbouya-Fode Mohamed, Funck Thomaz Samuel, Gaziyevev Jamshid, Ghailan Ahmed, James Elizabeth, Kelly Paul, Lin Dan, Peck Arif Cathy, Rames Dominique, Richards Ian, Rioukhina Evelina, Rouai Slim, Stanovic Marko, Vilches Sandrine.

Council members excused or absent: Atiki Mounia, Bulych Yaroslav, Chiraz Baly Mohamed, Fortis Didier, Kohealtee Nazir, Koné David, Nwabuogu Gloria, Touihri Mohssen.

The meeting opened at 1:05 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of minutes of the 2nd meeting

Ms. Dominique Rames asked to include under point (7) *G1-G4 selection review group* of the minutes a reference to the fact that she had said she was the initiator of such group. It was so included in the minutes as reflected in the Council's records. (Mr. Slim Rouai and Mr. Marko Stanovic joined the meeting at this point).

The President of the Council, Mr. Jamshid Gaziyevev recalled that minutes should reflect only what was said in a summarized, non-verbatim way, and that no absentees have been reflected in the minutes since April 2012 (30th Council). A discussion took place on proposed changes to the minutes sent previously via email by Mr. Ahmed Ghailan.

Following a proposal from Mr. Gaziyevev, the Council agreed by consensus to adopt a brief type of minutes, mainly reflecting decisions, and reflect absentees.

3. Report of the Executive Bureau (EB)

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Ian Richards, briefed the Council on the different activities carried by the Executive Bureau since the previous Council meeting, as reflected in Executive Bureau minutes. Such activities are related to, among others: Extraordinary Assembly, continuing appointments, SMC issues, CCISUA General Assembly, surveys, "Appendix B", clubs, UN Special, dues-paying members, budget, etc.

(Mr. Ahmed Ghailan and Mr. Vladislav Chouvalov joined the meeting at this point, during Mr. Richards presentation.)

A discussion followed on a variety of particulars related to the EB activities, mainly focused on (1) the upcoming Children's party, where the need for a legal disclaimer was debated; and (2) CCISUA General Assembly, where it was pointed out that CCISUA was yet to provide an agenda and related documents, and the composition of the Council's delegation.

4. 2014-2015 Work programme of the Council

Following the suggestions of Ms. Lin Dan, two modifications were introduced to the presented Work programme, as reflected in the Council's records. Ms. Prisca Chaoui volunteered to help with the translation into French. Thus, the Council adopted its 2014-2015 Work programme.

5. 2014-2015 Budget of the Council

Mr. Richards briefed the Council on the proposed draft 2014-2015 budget. Council members raised points on several budget lines to clarify their purpose and amounts. Following the discussion, a vote was carried on the

draft budget which resulted in 12 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions. Thus, the Council adopted its 2014-2015 budget.

6. The roll-out of continuing appointments

Ms. Dominique Rames recalled the adopted Work Programme, under the *Support Staff Welfare* title: the issue of continuing appointments. Mr. Richards clarified that several staff had raised concerns on this issue, in particular as to differences of interpretation amongst the various departments. Mr. Gaziyeu noted that this point of discussion will be brought up at the upcoming Extraordinary Assembly, and will mainly focused on eligibility as it appears to be the main concern of staff.

7. New tax requirements for staff residing in France

A discussion was held on various particulars regarding current taxation issues affecting UN staff who live in France. Several Council members suggested to request clarification from the UBS and MEC on this issue. Mr. Richards stated that it was the responsibility of the Council to inform staff but warned against the Council giving tax advice to staff. He added that he had already contacted some tax advisor and was looking into the possibility of them making presentations.

(Ms. Prisca Chaoui and Ms. Evelina Rioukhina left the meeting at this point).

8. SCC's homepage maintenance

Ms. Rames enquired how the Council website is updated, and Ms. Lin Dan asked who is ultimately accountable for the website. It was clarified that the Council as a whole is ultimately responsible; that the Executive Secretary is principally in charge of the content, with the President overseeing certain items, and the assistant required to upload the information. It was made clear that all suggestions in the updating of the website are welcome.

9. Request for supporting Filipino Choir Ensemble's event on 30/04/2014

The Council discussed the proposal to approve an expenditure of CHF 540 to provide lunch to the Filipino Universities Choir who will be kindly presenting a musical event for staff on 30 April 2014. Mr. Raymund Flores was given the floor in representation of the Filipino community in the Palais, who thanked the Council for its efforts and all staff for their generosity during the recent collection in favour of typhoon Haiyan victims. The Council unanimously approved this expenditure.

Any other business

- Ms. Lin Dan expressed her concern that the room reserved for the upcoming Extraordinary Assembly would be too small and not enough to have quorum, and that the list of candidates for auditors and polling officers has not been sent out. It was clarified that according to Article 6 of Annex I Electoral Regulations of the Council Statutes, this Extraordinary Assembly does not require quorum. It was also clarified that, as per the same Article, the candidates for polling officers will be presented at the meeting and nominations taken for the auditors. It was noted further that the agenda of the Extraordinary Assembly will include an item on issues affecting the working conditions of staff to motivate more of them to attend.
- Mr. Gaziyeu informed the Council of the schedule for the next Council meeting, which in principle will be held on Thursday 24 April 2014 at 1:00 pm in Room VII.

The meeting was closed at 2:10 p.m.