



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

Minutes of the 4th meeting

held on 24 April 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room VII

Council members present: Almeida Patricia, Asfaw Tensai, Chiraz Baly Mohamed , Doumbouya-Fode Mohamed, Fortis Didier, Funck Thomaz Samuel, Gaziyevev Jamshid, James Elizabeth, Kelly Paul, Koné David, Nwabuogu Gloria, Peck Arif Catherine, Rames Dominique, Richards Ian, Rioukhina Evelina, Rouai Slim, Stanovic Marko.

Council members excused or absent: Atiki Mounia, Bulych Yaroslav, Chaoui Prisca, Chouvalov Vladislav, Ghailan Ahmed , Kohealtee Nazir, Lin Dan, Vilches Sandrine.

The meeting opened at 1:10 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes to the order of the agenda, as reflected below.

The President Mr. Gaziyevev, in his opening remarks informed the Council that Mr. Mohssen Touihri has sent his resignation from the Council due to work load commitments. As per the established rules, he welcomed Mr. Tensai Asfaw as the new member of the Council.

2. Adoption of minutes of the 3rd meeting

The minutes were adopted for the 3rd meeting.

3. Report of the Executive Bureau (EB)

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Ian Richards, briefed the Council on the different activities carried out by the Executive Bureau since the previous Council meeting. These items included: the GS salary compensation review, the mandatory age of separation, the workplace survey, results of the survey on additional services at the Palais des Nations and security aligning to 9 hours of presence. He mentioned that the leadership of the Council had met with the Acting Director-General and had discussed several items, including the DG's project to promote Geneva as an international diplomatic capital and an attractive duty station. He also summarized, in brief, the events that had taken place during the CCISUA meeting, including the resolution presented by Mr. Rouai on the GS salary Survey, election of Mr. Richards as President of CCISUA and the election of Ms. Peck Arif to the CCIUSA Financial Commission.

Mr. Richards mentioned that many staff representatives had attended the GFTU training programme in the UK. It is hoped that the Council could bring a GFTU trainer to Geneva so that other Council members could also benefit from the training.

Mr. Richards informed the Council that the ZEBRA printer for printing the Council membership cards was broken. A new printer has been quoted costing between CHF 3000 and CHF 4000. Mr. Didier Fortis mentioned that Security used the same machines and he would check if there was one available. The Council approved unanimously that the Council should replace the printer and that the funds were approved, if needed.

4. Report of the Financial Commission

Ms Catherine Peck-Arif briefed the Council on the unanimous election of Ms. Sandrine Vilches as Treasurer, that the FC was extremely satisfied with the trial implementation of the accounting package CRESUS during the previous year. This system would be continued in recording the Council finances and its relevant financial statements. The FC has moved forward with the implementation of ebanking and card readers have now been received. Finally, the FC made a unanimous decision to sell the remaining UBS shares totalling approximately CHF 267,000 and that the proceeds would be used towards the financing of the crèche.

5. Council auditors

Mr. Richards mentioned that the auditor nominations were as follows: 3 current auditors who have expressed their wish to continue – Mara Cazavara, Philip Thomas, Jerome Vabres and 2 new auditors who have proposed their names, Ivana Milevic and Frank Portier. The five nominees were put to the Council and they were unanimously elected. An email will be sent to the auditors confirming them of their nominations.

6. UNCTAD's 50th anniversary

Mr. Richards briefed the Council of UNCTAD's upcoming 50th anniversary, which will be held on Friday 13th of June 2014 and will consist of various high level events. However, it was also thought that the staff should also be invited to celebrate this anniversary, and the idea has been proposed of a garden party. The Council has been approached to contribute financially to match the amount being asked of UNCTAD's P4 staff and above, up to a maximum of CHF 2500. The Council unanimously agreed on the condition that the invitation was extended to all UNOG staff. A broadcast will be sent out from the Council with further details.

7. International Jazz day

The music club has submitted a late request for assistance with financing towards this event for CHF 3100. It was unanimously agreed to support this cause particularly in light of the opportunities to help support the project of rebranding of UNOG. A broadcast will be sent out with more details.

8. Volunteerism Day

This event will take place on Monday, 28 April between 12 and 2pm in hall 14. The aim is to promote and encourage staff to undertake volunteer activities. The Bureau sought approval to provide refreshments for the event to encourage staff to attend. The quote provided by DSR of CHF 3828 was unanimously approved.

9. Pension Fund

Mr Richards briefed the Council on the issue of the UN pension fund, and the various discussions and meetings which have been organised. He stressed that the issue must be taken seriously, the fund must be managed by the staff and not privatised. The Council agreed to be proactive in its approach and not wait till decisions are taken.

10. Crèche Update

Ms Catherine Peck Arif updated the Council on the developments of the plans for the crèche after an informative trip to Luzern. A power point presentation was shown to the members of the Council of the 3 proposals submitted by various companies. She mentioned that a problem had been encountered since her last briefing to the Council concerning the land proposed by the Administration, which was actually not available for several years. Administration has proposed two alternatives and that one of the proposals appears to be suitable. The three companies who have submitted the propositions have not yet visited the site but have based their proposals on the information provided to them by the UNOG Building Service.

11. Any other business

- Mr Richards informed the Council of following the change in editor at the UN Special; UNOG has been looking to fill the position of Deputy Editor, and was very pleased to announce that Ms. Rioukhina had been identified as a strong candidate. The Council unanimously supported the nomination.
- Mr Slim Rouai brought up the subject of why GPAFI had lowered the ceiling for alternative medicine from CHF 2000 to CHF 1000. Ms Peck Arif answered that this was a ceiling for natural medicine, for which the GPAFI Board had unanimously decided to lower, to try to avoid increases in monthly premiums. This line was reduced as less than 800 out of the 8000 plus members had actually ever claimed anything against this item.
- Mr. Gaziyev informed the Council of the schedule for the next Council meeting, which will be held on Friday, 6 June 2014 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting was closed at 2.50 p.m.