



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

### Draft minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

held on 6 June 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room IX

**Council members present:** Almeida Patricia, Atiki Mounia, Bulych Yaroslav, Chaoui Prisca, Chiraz Baly Mohamed, Chouvalov Vladislav, Doumbouya-Fode Mohamed, Flores Raymund, Gaziyevev Jamshid, Ghailan Ahmed, James Elizabeth, Kelly Paul, Lin Dan, Nwabuogu Gloria, Peck Arif Catherine, Rames Dominique, Richards Ian, Rouai Slim, Stanovic Marko, Vilches Sandrine.

**Council members excused or absent:** Asfaw Tensai, Fortis Didier, Funck Thomaz Samuel, Kohealtee Nazir, Koné David,

*The meeting opened at 1:00 p.m.*

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

#### 2. Adoption of minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

The minutes were adopted for the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 3. Report of the Executive Bureau (EB)

IR briefed the Council on the work of the EB since the previous Council meeting, focused on the following issues: Clubs' activities, lunchtime concerts, UN Special, SHP, crèche project, UNDP staff-Admin relations, JNC, Public Services International, memorial events, SMC III, collection/fundraising, GPAFI seat in the Palais, ICSC compensation review, Central Review Bodies, continuing appointments, cases of staff, contractual issues in SDLS, UNCTAD's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A discussion took place regarding several of the issues mentioned by IR.

Regarding SMC III to be held in Valencia, Spain in June, IR informed the Council that the EB had nominated the Executive Secretary and President to attend SMC III in representation of the Council, with the travel costs to be borne by Administration. He also informed that position papers and agenda had not yet been received and will be circulated as soon as practicable. A brief discussion was held on possible topics to discuss at SMC III.

Regarding the crèche, it was clarified that the Council is currently discussing an agreement with UNOG on the land where to build it, and that it will be run under a risk-free concessionary model. MS stated he would look at the various numbers in the feasibility study and come back to the Council with an amplified study and provide his conclusions.

MS mentioned looking into the issue of tax on pensions, he agreed to prepare a draft paper, following discussions he had held during the CCISUA meeting in Rome with other Unions and submit it to the Council for their consideration.

Regarding the latest humanitarian collection for victims of natural disasters in Serbia, it was explained that staff members had approached the Council with their private initiative to raise funds, seeking logistical assistance, which was provided to them as per usual practice. Just under CHF 10'000 were collected and the Serbian community who organized the collection appointed the Serbian Red Cross as beneficiary. The Council was asked to vote on matching such funds. MS suggested to postpone the decision to match the funds until a new collection can be organized in benefit to all affected countries in the region. Following a discussion, the Council decided by acclamation to match the funds and round it up to CHF 20'000, and disburse it to the Serbian Red Cross. MS stated he will organize another collection for the whole affected region.

#### **4. Report of the Finance Commission**

The Treasurer, SV, reported that the audit report of the 2013-2014 accounts was very positive.

#### **5. Update on the money owed to the Council**

MS informed that currently efforts are being made to recover outstanding amounts owed to the Council from past personal loans and cost-sharing surveys with other staff associations. It was clarified that the total amount to be recovered adds up to nearly CHF 30'000, representing 72% of non-payment of loans/grants. It was also noted that the Council stopped several years ago the practice of granting loans/grants since the Council already supports the staff benevolent fund that primarily deals with that issue. A discussion was held on how to proceed in recovering the debts. It was agreed that MS will continue to recover outstanding funds, including through reminders and working with the Administration for that purpose. The Council wished to be appraised of progress on a regular basis.

#### **6. Progress with the UN Pension Fund**

IR briefed the Council on recent staff-management issues concerning the UNJSPF, with particular mention of a successful petition regarding delegation of authority to the CEO of the Fund. He noted that negotiations should take place in the near future. A discussion took place regarding the preparation, content and strategy of the said petition. It was noted that it was CCISUA, rather than the Council who had launched the petition.

DR suggested the creation of a retirees committee in charge of liaising directly with the UN Pension Fund and reviewing the issues that pertain to retirees. The suggestion will be referred to the EB for further study.

#### **7. Update on the G1-G4 selection review group**

CPA informed the Council that the group had met a couple of times to share their files and discuss them. She briefed on actions taken and to take regarding the group's cases. PC suggested to work and eventually adopt rules of procedure of the group.

#### **8. Efforts to increase Council's dues-paying members**

PC briefed the Council on initiatives currently being worked to offer staff as benefits of becoming dues-paying members. JG encouraged all members to send ideas by email to PC, CPA and PA.

#### **9. Information session on issues related to staff selection**

EJ informed that many staff members have approached the Council with various HR-related inquiries. She mentioned that currently discussions are being carried out with HR department to set up departmental information sessions for staff.

#### **10. Creation of a sports and socio-cultural commission**

DR suggested the creation of a sport and socio-cultural commission in order to centralize clubs' and other requests in order to increase responsiveness. IR noted that the idea merits study and that certain issues will have to be looked at closely to avoid redundancy. The EB will study the request further.

#### **11. Creation of a working group for the establishment of electronic vote**

DR suggested the establishment of an electronic vote system, and the creation of a working group to that effect. A brief discussion took place on the various benefits and challenges of such a system. LD and AG volunteered to study the issue further.

#### **12. UN Special staff representatives' corner**

DR suggested the constitution of a mini editorial group to work on a section in UN Special magazine dedicated to articles provided by UN staff reps. IR recalled that Ms. E. Rioukhina is Deputy Editor-in-Chief for UNOG and that she and the Editor in Chief handles all requests for articles. This matter was left to be revisited in the future.

**13. Any other business**

- PA informed the Council that she will no longer be able to continue being a member of the Council for personal reasons. The Council expressed its appreciation to PA for her active engagement and interest in the Council and wished her success in future. Following the order of precedence in the List under which PA was elected Council member (Hope List), she is replaced by Ms. Virginie Noblat-Pianta.
- JG informed the Council that its next meeting will be scheduled for 3 July 2014, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

*The meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.*