



33rd UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 33e Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Draft minutes of the 8th meeting

held on 27 November 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room V

Council members present: ALMARIO Francis, ASFAW Tensai, BALY Mohamed Chiraz, CHANTREL Dominique, CHAOUI Prisca, EL GARAH Samira, EZQUERRO Yenny, FUNCK-THOMAZ Samuel, JAMES Elizabeth, KELLY Paul, PECK ARIF Catherine, RICHARDS Ian, ROUAI Slim, STANOVIC Marko, VILCHES Sandrine.

Council members absent: APOSTOLOV Mario, ATIKI Mounia, GAZIYEV Jamshid, KALOTAY Kalman, KONE David, NOBLAT-PIANTA Virginie, NWABUOGU Gloria, POPA Gabriela, SHAMSIE Syed, TOUIHRI Mohssen.

The meeting opened at 1:10 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of minutes of the 7th meeting

The minutes of the 7th meeting were adopted without changes as reflected in the Council's records.

3. Election of an Executive Bureau member

CPA nominated Mr. Samuel Funck-Thomaz to occupy the seat of retired Council member Mr. Mohamed Doumbouya-Fode. SFT accepted the nomination, and seeing no opposition and no other nomination, **Mr. Samuel Funck-Thomaz was elected member of the Executive Bureau.**

4. Report of the Executive Bureau (EB)

IR briefed the Council on the different issues covered by the EB since the 7th Council meeting, including: discussions at the CCISUA midterm GA; pension fund; education grant; meeting with Interns' Association in New York; meeting UNFCU in New York; meeting with DSS in New York; retirement age; after-service health insurance. Highlighted matters related to the recent mission to New York in the context of the CCISUA midterm GA were discussed in separate items throughout the meeting.

Following a query from MS, IR clarified that the Council delegation to New York had met with the Deputy Head of the UNJSPF and pension fund matters and strategies were discussed at the CCISUA midterm GA.

5. Council budget

IR recalled why the Council had approved in March 2015 a transitional budget, to bring the budget year in line with the statutory financial year. Now the Council is faced with approving its regular budget for the financial year that runs from 1 December 2015 to 29 February 2016. IR pointed out corrections to the proposed budget, and the Council discussed different budget lines. The Council approved its 2015-2016 regular budget as reflected in the Council's records.

6. Subsidy for participants of the IAG 2015

IR briefed the Council on the request of the Sports Commission to subsidize the participation of staff members at the Inter-Agency Games (IAG) 2015. As per usual practice, the Council decided to subsidize 50% of the participation of dues-paying members to the IAG 2015.

7. Compensation review

IR briefed the Council on the proposed ICSC compensation review to professional staff, and the campaign currently undertaken by staff. He made reference to meetings held with Member States in New York in this regard. MCB enquired what are the coming strategic steps; TA pointed out that many staff have expressed their wish to get actively involved in the campaign.

IR explained the importance of closely following up the upcoming discussions and decision of the General Assembly regarding the ICSC compensation review. To that effect, following a brief discussion, the Council agreed to fund a one-person mission to New York on the eve of the GA decision, of up to a week's duration.

8. Strategic Heritage Plan

IR informed the Council on the recent discussions held in New York regarding the SHP. A discussion followed, in which it was made clear seeing previous surveys, that staff at large reject a possible conversion of office space into open space. The Council members also agreed it would be beneficial for the Council to further substantiate its position on the issue. Mr. Marko Stanovic was appointed focal point to set up a dossier on the matter.

9. OHCHR restructuring

IR briefed the Council on the current OHCHR restructuring process, pointing out identified problems and worry amongst staff. He recalled how the Council had made a proposal for the Administration not to proceed with the restructuring until staff's questions and doubts were clarified, but they decided to continue with restructuring nonetheless. IR informed on the overall situation at the moment.

10. Ordinary General Assembly

A proposal was raised to hold the Ordinary General Assembly on 29 January 2016, which should include agenda items of direct importance to staff to increase attendance, and to provide friendship refreshments after the assembly for attendees. The Council agreed to hold the OGA on 29 January 2016, and approved and expenditure of CHF 1'000 for refreshments.

The issue of translating the Council's 30-pages Annual Report from English to French was also raised, and the plenary called for volunteers to conduct the translation. Seeing no volunteers, the Council approved an expenditure of CHF 2'000 to have the report translated.

11. Swiss nationality

IR recalled the new law on Swiss nationality which is expected to enter into effect in the coming months and its effect for UN staff. A discussion took place on strategies for the way forward.

12. UN Special

IR recalled the earlier decision of the Council to professionalize the UN Special magazine and interactions with WHO to that effect. He informed the IAC would be meeting in the coming days. A discussion was held on a possible modification of the Statutes and relevant statutory grounds.

13. Staff Party

SR informed the Council the costs of the staff party are expected to remain within the approved budget; the Council's assistant can be asked to provide specific details on the budget.

14. Training on mediation

PK raised a proposal to request the Ombudsman's Office to provide the Council with training on mediation. The Council agreed.

15. Any other business

No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.