



31st UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 31e Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Minutes of the 3rd meeting
held on 19 April 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Room IX

Present: Ian Richards, Mohamed Chiraz Baly, Jamshid Gaziyeu, Catherine Peck-Arif, Mounia Atiki, Gloria Nwabuogu, Slim Rouai, Ginette Rakotobe, Dan Lin, Ahmed Ghailan, Vladislav Chouvalov, Nazir Koheeeallee, Rajamani Ramasamy, Marko Stanovic, Mohamed Doumbouya Fode, Evelina Rioukhina, Samuel Funck-Thomaz, Sandrine Vilches, Zhongchao Hua.

The meeting started at 2:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the 31st Council

The Council decided unanimously to adopt the minutes of the 2nd meeting, with the following changes:

- Ms. Evelina Rioukhina was present at the meeting and so it should be reflected.
- - Point 3 is to be read as follows:
"Four positions are to be filled, one of which is appointed by the E.B. The appointment to be made by the Bureau will take place during its next meeting. The nominations and election of the remaining three seats are as follows:
 1. Mr. Ahmed Ghailan (from List B) nominates Ms. Lin Dan for a seat in the Financial Commission.
 2. Ms. Lin Dan, in the spirit of having representation of each list in the Financial Commission, nominates Mr. Marko Stanovic (from List C) for a seat in the Financial Commission.
 3. Mr. Chiraz Baly (from List A) nominates Mr. Rajamani Ramasamy for a seat in the Financial Commission.There being no other nominations and no objections, the abovementioned candidates are unanimously elected as members of the Financial Commission."
- Point 8, first paragraph is to be read as follows:
"It was noted that the next CCISUA General Assembly, which is to be hosted by the UNOG Staff Coordinating Council, will focus on three pillars: compensation packages, legal issues and ethics. Interested Council members were encouraged to form delegations to draft and present working papers on these topics. Ms. Elizabeth James volunteered to prepare a working paper on ethics, and Mr. Jamshid Gaziyeu volunteered to cover legal issues. (...)"

3. Election of a new member to the Financial Commission

It was noted that Ms. Lin Dan had resigned from her position as member of the Financial Commission, thus requiring the election of a new member. Ms. Lin Dan nominated Mr. Zhongchao Hua as candidate, who accepted the nomination. Seeing no other nomination and no objection, Polling Officers are not required to hold a voting procedure. ***Mr. Hua is elected by acclamation.***

4. Report of the Executive Bureau

- Designation of a Financial Commission member from the Executive Bureau:
The Council was informed that according to Annex II, Article 1 of the Council's Regulations, the Executive Bureau has appointed Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly as member of the Financial Commission, and Ms. Catherine Peck Arif as his alternate.
- Preparations for the XXVIII CCISUA General Assembly (CCISUA GA):

- The Executive Secretary expressed his thanks to the Council's Assistant, Mr. Froylan Silveira, for his efforts in organizing the CCISUA GA.
- Budget: It was noted that the real costs for the hosting of the CCISUA GA were underestimated in the originally approved budget. Now that certain facts have been established (such as the exact number of participants), a proper quotation has been submitted by our service provider. The Council is therefore requested to review the respective budget line and increase the amount allocated for CCISUA GA related expenditures by CHF 10'000, for a total of up to CHF 21'000. ***This request is approved unanimously.***

The Council was informed that a deposit of EUR 21'500 had to be given to our service provider in order to secure preferential hotel rates. The balance between that deposit and the actual expenditures (which will not exceed the approved budget of CHF 21'000) shall be reimbursed to the Council.

- Working papers: Working Papers on ethics will be reviewed by the Executive Bureau once finalized by the designated focal points.
- Temporary assistance: The Council was informed that a temporary assistant (Ms. Susan Pattison) was hired for a period of three weeks to cover regular office functions while the Council's Assistant organizes and attends the CCISUA GA.
- Meeting with the UN Special Publisher:

A delegation from the Council (Mr. Mohamed Chiraz Baly and Mr. Ahmed Ghailan), jointly with a delegation from the World Health Organization Staff Council, met with the Publisher of the UN Special magazine. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a direct channel of communication between both Staff Councils and the Publisher to explore how to improve procedures and logistics between the Editor-in-Chief and the Publisher, and how to improve the magazine itself as an end product.

A discussion followed in which Mr. Ramasamy inquired about the terms and conditions of the contract with the Publisher. Mr. Ghailan pointed out it is important to establish effective communication between the Publisher and the Editor-in-Chief, and that the current momentum should be taken advantage of to make proposals on how to improve things. Ms. Lin Dan noted that the operations of UN Special should be under the leadership of the Council and its writing should reflect the view of the SCC. Mr. Stanovic suggested that the latest UN Special contribution to the Council of CHF 10'000 is rather low, and inquires about how much profit does the Publisher gets. Mr. Gaziyevev pointed out that there are statutes in place for UN Special. Ms. Evelina Rioukhina suggests that

Mr. Ahmed Ghailan be the focal point for UN Special-related matters given his background in journalism. Mr. Slim Rouai encourages a revision of the content of the magazine taking into account the work of the Council and interests of staff, and proposed to do a survey to determine precise interests of staff vis-à-vis the magazine. Mr. Ian Richards pointed out that the points raised during this discussion would be raised during the next UN Special Inter-agency Committee.

- SAFI:

The renovation of infrastructure on SAFI grounds conducted by UNOG Administration will force SAFI to close for a certain period during the month of August. Members of the Executive Bureau met with the Chief of Central Support Services where it was agreed that SAFI will not pay rent during the closure period. A meeting was also held with SAFI's General Manager, who suggested there may be areas of SAFI's operations in which more involvement from the Council is encouraged, such as improving the communication between SAFI management and staff members.

- Personal case:

A personal case of solidarity assistance was presented to the Executive Bureau. However, the Bureau's decision was not to present it before the Council until further documentation is obtained.

- Contractual regularization of assistant for UN Special:

In a previous Inter-agency Committee it was decided to regularize the contractual situation of the assistant of UN Special according to UN rules and regulations. Currently the focal point for this task, Ms. Catherine Peck Arif, is awaiting to receive the actual Terms of Reference of said assistant in order to move forward from there.

- Phone lines:

Currently the Council's offices only have phone access to landlines in Geneva. A concrete proposal is being drafted with which the Bureau will come back to the Council.

5. Additional member for the CCISUA delegation

The Executive Bureau proposed to the Council to increase to seven members the Council's delegation to the XXVIII CCISUA General Assembly, with Mr. Zhongchao Hua as the 7th member due to his contribution in the (currently under development) Working Paper on Ethics. ***The Council unanimously approves to increase the delegation to 7 members and designates Mr. Zhongchao Hua as the 7th member.***

Mr. Marko Stanovic, in the name of all members of List C (New Wood), proposed that the Council's delegation be increased to eight members. This would allow the delegation to be representative of all lists present in the Council. A discussion followed in which Mr. Baly noted that the Council's delegation to CCISUA is not intended to represent the different lists in the Council, but the staff members as a whole. Interested Council members had been encouraged to submit a project or paper, whom then may be included in the delegation. Mr. Chouvalov supported Mr. Baly's argument. Ms. Lin Dan suggested that in the future delegations for meetings should be communicated with more anticipation to have more time to prepare and volunteer. Mr. Stanovic reiterates that having list representation in the CCISUA delegation is important. ***Following a vote of 1 abstention and 14 against, it was decided not to increase the CCISUA delegation membership to eight.*** It remained at seven members.

6. Extraordinary Assembly

Given that polling officers and auditors are yet to be elected. Mr. Ahmed Ghailan proposed that the Assembly should be postponed until after the CCISUA GA to hold an Assembly in due form. Following this proposal, ***the Council unanimously decided to hold the Extraordinary Assembly of staff*** on Friday 26 April 2013.

7. GFTU Training

The Executive Bureau kindly reminds the members of the Council that a list of GFTU training courses had been already circulated and they are encouraged to contact the Bureau if interested to participate in any particular course.

8. Open Space Survey

The Executive Bureau is evaluating the possibility of circulating a survey on open office space to gather the opinion of staff on the subject. Mr. Ahmed Ghailan proposed that the survey is based on actual and determined circumstances and also translated to French. The Executive Bureau encourages Council members to submit their comments about the proposed survey by 26 April 2013.

9. Report of the Financial Commission

- All supporting documents of financial transactions have been submitted to the Auditors.
- Four months have passed this year yet no Auditor's report has been produced. The Auditor's report for the year 2012 will be needed to produce the report for the year 2013.
- New authorized signatories have been registered for the UBS accounts: Ms. Lin Dan and Mr. Marco Stanovic.
- Clubs that have requested funding have been asked to provide relevant documents in advance.
- The budget of the Staff Gala and Children's Party is requested to be prepared by mid August.

10. Any other business

Mr. Slim Rouai proposed to organize a meeting with the UN Beach Club (Club de la Plage) to present them with some proposals.

The meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.