



30th UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 30ème Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Minutes of the 6th meeting
Held on 27 September 2012 at 2 p.m. in Room 11

Present: Mohamed Chiraz Baly, Dominique Rames, Elizabeth James, Ian Richards, Jean-Pascal Stancu, Gloria Nwabuogu, Jamshid Gaziyev, David Kone, Nazir Koheeaallee, Mohamed Doumbouya-Fode, Vladislav Chouvalov, Mounia Atiki, Cathy Peck-Arif, Sandrine Vilches, Rajamani Ramasamy

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously with an item added on retirement.

2. Adoption of the minutes from the 5th meeting of the 30th Council

The minutes were adopted unanimously.

3. Report of the Executive Bureau

The Executive Secretary (ES) reported on progress on the G1-G4 Joint review group and noted that he would send a proposal out on G staff mobility. He informed the Council that the recommendation for the G5 Office Assistant to the Council had been sent to the Central Review Panel, while the recommendation for the G3 Team Assistant had been sent to UNOG HRMS.

The Bureau had met the new staff representatives to the CRP as required by the rules. The ES noted that there had been meetings with administration on a number of issues, including the need for a proper rotation system in Security.

The task force on the fitness trail had met and done a field trip to Versoix and Grand Saconnex.

It was proposed to establish a joint body on finance to oversee banks and other financial institutions at the Palais for which there is currently no staff oversight.

The report was accepted by the Council and it was agreed unanimously to establish the joint body.

The ES asked all those interested to come forward to draft the terms of reference for the joint body.

A proposal was made to review the procedures for granting funding to clubs. The administrative work of checking applications and liaising with clubs would be done by the Executive Bureau. The Bureau would also take decisions on whether a club that meets the requirements should have their application for funding granted, up to 3,000 CHF a year – above that amount, the Council would decide. The Financial Commission would have certifying authority i.e. ensuring that the finances of the club was in order. The Financial Commission would also undertake the financial transaction as stated in its rules.

After much discussion and concerns raised about the need to safeguard the financial oversight role of the Financial Commission, the proposal was carried with 14 votes for, 2 against and 4 abstentions.

4. Report of the Finance Commission

The Commission had met UBS to review current investments and find alternative strategies. Points were raised with regards to the Council audit and funding from UN Special.

A proposal was made to employ an external consultant to advise on the Council's audit procedures.

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

The President thanked the Commission for its hard work.

5. Lobbying the General Assembly

The ES informed the Council that with the General Assembly meeting in the fall, it would be necessary to lobby member states on the proposals on mobility and staff-management relations. At the same time a leadership summit was being organized of all staff unions in New York between 26 and 30 November.

It was proposed that the ES and Vice-President would attend the leadership summit. The President would meet separately with member states on mobility. Ahmed Ghailan would meet with member states on retirement issues.

The Council agreed unanimously to the proposal.

6. End of year events

The ES briefed the Council on preparations for the staff party (Friday 7 December) and for the children's party (Wednesday 12 December). Explaining the need to encourage staff contributions to the Council, including to the crèche, it was proposed that participation in the children's party should be contingent on being a dues-paying member of the Council or paying a contribution of 20 CHF, equivalent to the cost of the present.

The Council agreed unanimously to the proposal.

7. UN Day

The President briefed the Council on preparations for UN Day (24 October) that would shine the spotlight on clubs, allowing them to demonstrate their activities to staff and recruit new members. A birthday cake for the Council's 30th birthday was also envisaged as well as music.

The Council agreed unanimously to a budget of 5,000 CHF for the event.

8. Memorial

It was explained that the staff memorial would be launched on UN Day.

The Council took note.

9. Crime

The President introduced the Council to the draft paper which brought together a compilation of staff experience with regards to crime (street, violent, house) in Geneva and the surrounding region.

Members of the Council agreed this was a serious issue and noted with regret the deterioration in security in Geneva. They requested that the matter be brought to management via the Joint Negotiation Committee.

10. Retirement

The President briefed the Council on developments in this matter. The Pension Board had agreed that as of 1 January 2014, all new staff should have a retirement age of 65. This had been endorsed by the International Civil Service Commission and would be subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Separately, the ICSC had set up a working group to report back in 2014 on the possibility of current staff to have the option to retire at 65, without affecting their acquired rights to retire at 60 or 62.

11. Any other business

There was none.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.