

## Languages Service Sectoral Assembly (LSSA) (April 2018-March 2019)

### Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Bureau<sup>1, 2</sup>

Held on Thursday, 21 February 2019, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., room E-6123.

**Attendees:** Edith Bourion (FTPU), Jamila Chedad (ATPU), Jianjun Chen (CTS), Melanie Guedenet (ETS), Hassan Harrafa (ATS), Yustiniya Khokhlova (RTS), Bruno Nissou (FTS), Olga Ovchinnikova (RTPU), Francisco Rovira Faixa (STS), Olivier Meyer (President).

#### Main topics discussed:

- Dialogue on the evolution of our tools and their possible impact on our activities
  - Activities of the President since the last Bureau meeting
  - Participation of the President in Chiefs' meetings and other meetings to which he is officially invited
  - Clarifications on questions raised by the representative of ATS at the last meeting
  - Elections for the 2019-2020 LSSA term
  - Update on proposals for activities to promote our professions and on suggestions for conferences within the Languages Service
  - Reminder of the activities of the "Innov8" team
  - Update on variable height desks
  - Eco Corner
1. *Update on translation-related tools:* Ms. **Sofia Lobanova**, gText coordinator for Geneva, was invited to answer questions from the **representatives** about recent developments of translation-related tools. The following issues were discussed: possibility of organizing training workshops on post-machine editing for translators and revisers; challenges posed by post-machine editing for new translators; potential impact of increased automation on the work of language staff; negotiations with WIPO to develop a substitute to DeepL for Arabic.
  2. *Meeting with Ms. Catherine Pollard:* The **President** briefed the LSSA about his recent meeting with Ms. **Catherine Pollard**, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, during her visit to Geneva on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (See e-mails from Prisca Chaoui dated 06/02/2019 and 07/02/2019).
  3. *TPU staff:* While concerned about the possible consequences of the introduction of XML format on the job security of TPU staff, the **representative** of ATPU expressed the enthusiasm and readiness of ATPU Staff to embrace new technologies to which they can, no doubt, contribute in an effective and efficient manner. She also emphasized the importance of a more transparent decision-making process. In this connection, the **LSSA Bureau** reaffirmed the important contribution of TPU staff to the overall quality of the final document.
  4. *Time spent on LSSA-related activities:* The **representatives** reported practices across sections and units with regard to claiming SPAs for the time spent on LSSA-related activities. The **President** underlined the fundamental importance of the LSSA as a bridge of communication between the staff and the management within Languages Service.
  5. *Planning of elections for the 2019-2020 term:* As the elections for the 2019-2020 LSSA draw close (April 2019 – exact date to be specified at the next meeting of the Bureau), the **President** encouraged all interested LS staff members to consider running for the position of President or representative of their unit.
  6. *Proposals for activities to promote our professions and suggestions for LS lecture series:* The LSSA was informed that a new video entitled "A day in the Life of an Arabic Translator", currently being edited by Ms. **Yustiniya Khokhlova**, would be released soon. In addition, several suggestions for the LS lecture series had been received (for additional proposals, please contact Ms. Blandine Legardeur).
  7. *Client Support Center:* The **representatives** hailed the launch and operation of the Client Support Center as an innovative step towards simplifying and improving administrative services in the context of Umoja and Global Service Delivery Model (GSDM).
  8. *Innov8:* The **representatives** welcomed the activities of the Innov8 team (<https://conf.unog.un.org/innov8>) and stressed the importance of increased participation of LS staff. They therefore encouraged all LS staff to suggest innovative ideas to the team ([dcminnov8@un.org](mailto:dcminnov8@un.org)) or to participate in the team activities (applications to be sent to Corinne Momal-Vanian).
  9. *Desks converters:* The **President** learned that several "Varidesk" desks converters had been ordered for LS staff. The delivery date is still not known.
  10. *Eco Corner:* The **representative** of RTS invited all LS staff to visit the Eco Corner in Room 4093-1 and to join the Yammer group "EcoCorner: wasting less at LS".
  11. *SHP:* The **President** informed the LSSA that he had established direct contact with the SHP team on the occasion of the SHP Open House Day on 17 January 2019. He hopes this will be helpful to obtain up-to-date information and better defend the interests of LS staff in the ongoing project.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, the opinions reflected herein represent staff suggestions and views collected by their representatives and are aimed at promoting communication between management and staff. In order to avoid misunderstandings, any comments or requests for corrections to the minutes should be submitted to the President of the LSSA only, for inclusion in the minutes of the following meeting.

<sup>2</sup> All previous Minutes are available at: <http://www.staffcoordinatingcouncil.org/index.php/uncategorised/351-language-service-sectoral-assembly>