

Staff Coordinating Council

Languages Service Sectoral Assembly (2016-2017)

Report on the activities of the President

- 1- After my re-election as President of the Languages Service Sectoral Assembly (LSSA), I started my second mandate with the same determination to effectively address the issues that would come to my attention and to keep promoting a sense of trust within LS.
- 2- During the reporting period, I convened eight meetings of the LSSA Bureau and some other ad hoc thematic meetings, including two meetings between the Chief of the Translation and Editorial Support Section (TESS), Ms. Anne Aboh-Dauvergne, and TPU representatives to harmonize practices among TPUs in an effort to improve the working conditions of their staff.

I. Activities of the President other than those of the LSSA Bureau

Staff Relations Management Group

- 3- Apart from all the activities accounted for in the “Report on the activities of the LSSA Bureau (2016-17)”, I also attended several meetings of the Staff Relations Management Group, which was established by the Director of the Division of Conference Management (DCM) in order to address systemic issues at an early stage with the aim of avoiding more serious problems. These meetings were very fruitful, and during the course of the reporting period it became clear that the Director takes the well-being of DCM staff very seriously and tries to do everything in her power to promote it.

Follow-up on developments related to the Strategic Heritage Plan

- 4- During my time in office, I regularly followed up on the status of the Strategic Heritage Plan (SHP) in relation with DCM through the LS Chief, Ms. Michelle Keating, and the SHP focal point for DCM, Ms. Kira Kruglikova. After the last SHP-related town hall meeting convened specifically for DCM on 12 October 2016, it was announced that, at the final stage of the project, LS staff would be moving to the existing buildings (B and D) once they were refurbished. This showed that the SHP team had fully taken into consideration the views expressed in the position paper on open space circulated by the LSSA Bureau in 2015 and adopted by LS staff in that year’s Ordinary General Assembly (cf. “Potential disadvantages of open-space offices for the UNOG Languages Service in the framework of the Strategic Heritage Plan”).

Change in the reporting lines (First and Second Reporting Officer)

- 5- During a meeting of the Staff Relations Management Group, I raised the concern expressed by a large share of LS staff on the change in the reporting lines implemented

by LS Chief, and the DCM Director suggested that its actual impact on staff be assessed at the end of this ePAS cycle (2016-17).

II. Recommendation

- 6- All sections/units should be represented in the Bureau in order to: (a) have a voice in all matters of concern to LS staff, (b) have a richer exchange during Bureau meetings, where the views of all sections/units can be shared, and (c) be a solid and inclusive Bureau in order to address existing and upcoming challenges.**
-