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Geneva, 21 July 2020

Dear Secretary General,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to you on behalf of Geneva staff following the issuance of the judgement on 30 June regarding the pay cut issue. As you know, staff are in complete disarray since the issuance of the judgement.

This judgement means the end of the common system and a breach of basic labour rights, namely the right to equal pay for a work of equal value.

We believe that continuing as nothing happened is unacceptable for an organization like the UN that should lead by example. Silence from your side means acceptance of the death of the common system. As you know, Geneva staff aren't fighting for their own interest, but to prevent the consequences of such a situation for colleagues in the field who don't even have the possibility to fight for the survival of the common system.

That is why, we would like to organize a remote townhall with you so that you can address staff who don't know where we are heading as an organization. The unequal pay, the looming prospects of possible downsizing, the hiring freeze, the suspension of the continuing contract exercise, the attempts to change the contractual stability and the increased delegation of authority with no accountability framework, are all legitimate reasons for staff to be demotivated and feel concerned about their future.

I appreciate if you could let us know when you could next be available to address staff in Geneva so that we can do the necessary to arrange for the remote townhall.

I look forward to receiving your answer.

Best regards,

Prisca Chaoui
Executive Secretary

Mr Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary-General

CC: Ms Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet
Ms Tatiana Valovaya, UNOG Director-General
Ms Catherine Pollard, USG for Management Strategy, Policy, Compliance
Ms Martha Helena Lopez, ASG for Human Resources
Mr Larbi Djacta, ICSC Chairman