



## ***Resolution concerning the Future of the UNJSPF EMEA Office***

*The XXXV<sup>th</sup> CCISUA General Assembly,*

*recognizing* that pensions represent a key component of the conditions of service for staff of the United Nations common system,

*recalling* the hardship experienced by the separated staff members in 2016 after the implementation of the Integrated Pension Administration System (IPAS) owing to the occurrence of a large backlog,

*recalling also* that the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Geneva office of the United Nations Joint Pension Fund, established in 1975, provides comprehensive services to approximately 45 per cent of the overall number of participants of the Fund, particularly UN offices in Europe, Middle East and Africa, and specialized agencies, as well as to 60 percent of the overall number of beneficiaries of the Fund, and plays an important part in the business continuity and disaster recovery strategy of the Fund,

*noting* that the Administration of the Pension Fund took the decision in 2019 to remove the leadership of the EMEA office (D-1 and P-5 positions were redeployed) and have staff directly report to counterparts in New York (known as functional reporting).

*further noting* that in 2020 the Administration of the Fund is planning to close the Geneva Finance Unit, which ensures payments are made correctly and promptly to beneficiaries in the EMEA region, interacting with beneficiaries and banks in close time zones and dealing with banking complexities,

*noting* that these changes end parallel backup operations for the Fund and prevent issues in the EMEA region being resolved quickly, directly and without seeking clearance each time from New York,

*noting also* that the Geneva chapter of the Association of Former International Civil Servants and other associations of former civil servants of the United Nations system entities have requested the Administration of the Pension Fund to maintain the established structure of the Geneva EMEA office, citing the need to maintain the quality of service thanks to the ability of staff in the office to operate from the same time zone and in both English and French,

*expressing concern* that the changes in the leadership and composition of the EMEA office will have long-term negative effect on both participants and beneficiaries, as well as on all staff of the Pension Fund,



*reaffirming* the critical importance of business continuity and disaster recovery, as well of disaster preparedness, especially in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Requests* the Participant Representatives of the Fund to take the matter forward at the next Pension Board session.
2. *Urges* the Pension Board to reinstate, in the framework of the budget for 2021, the D-1 post of the head of EMEA Geneva office of the Pension Fund, which was moved temporarily in accordance with the resolution 74/263 of the General Assembly;
3. *Urges* the Pension Board to maintain the parallel nature of the operations of the Geneva office of the Pension Fund in order to ensure that participants and beneficiaries in Europe, Middle East and Africa continue to receive high-quality and expeditious service, as before, and *calls on* the Pension Board to maintain and further develop the provision of multilingual client service to the current and former members of the international civil service;

*Adopted 24 June 2020  
Virtual General Assembly*