



39th UNOG Staff Coordinating Council
39^{ème} Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Le Bureau exécutif | The Executive Bureau

Minutes of the 24th meeting

held on 7 December 2021 at 9 a.m. via MS Teams

Members of the Executive Bureau	BALI Mohamed	Present
	DUPARC Philippe	Absent
	JOHNSON Laura	Present
	MEYER Olivier	Present
	POPA Gabriela	Present
	RICHARDS Ian	Present
	SMITH Bradford	Present
President of the Council	CHAOUI Prisca	Present
Vice-president of the Council	PECK ARIF Catherine	Present

The meeting began at 9.05 a.m.

Point 1 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

Point 2 Adoption of minutes of the 23rd meeting

The minutes of the 23rd meeting were adopted without changes as recorded in the Council secretariat.

Point 3 CCISUA Mid-Term Follow-Up

The EB was further briefed on the CCISUA mid-term meeting that had taken place in New York during mid-November. Said mission was a successful opportunity to establish good rapport and continue discussions with UN senior management as well as a number of Member States' missions representing almost all geographic regions on a broad range of staff concerns many which were before the Fifth Committee. A suggestion was made to better calibrate the dates of the following mid-term meeting taking into account the dates of GA meetings.

Point 4 Next Council meeting

The EB noted the invitation to the next Council meeting had been circulated to Council members with the proposed agenda.

Point 5 Safety and Security Section

EB members were informed of new guidelines in SSS establishing certain criteria to be met for security staff to be eligible for missions, i.e. being proficient in the English language and not have used more than 20 days of sick leave before the mission. This was considered by EB members as unfair and discriminatory. It meant staff would be discriminated on requirements beyond their terms of reference (job opening against which they were recruited) and on the use of established entitlements. Furthermore, it was a health risk because staff could refuse to take sick leave (even if they had Covid-19 symptoms) just not to be excluded from eligibility for missions. The legal status of said guidelines was also put into question. Council leadership would write to SSS senior management raising these concerns.

Point 6 Languages Service

A global townhall of Languages Service staff would take place later that day as agreed to by the New York, Vienna, Nairobi and Geneva staff unions. The EB noted there was unity among duty stations to tackle the matter of increased workload on translators.

Point 7 Next CCISUA GA

To the effects of the proposal that would be submitted later that week to the Council for Geneva to host the 2022 CCISUA GA, the EB noted that a budget had to be established for hospitality and other related expenses. The GA would be tentatively held on 16 to 20 May. The EB agreed to request the Council the approval of an expenditure envelope of CHF 2,500.

Point 8 Return to office

The EB noted that UNOG removed the requirement to be physically at the office two days per week considering the Covid-19 situation in the host country. Council leadership remained in touch with other unions in Geneva and would make efforts to hold a meeting with them in January to discuss the possibility of having a unified approach to Covid-19 by all organizations/entities.

Point 9 Any other business

A complaint was received from a staff member that some participants at recent treaty body meetings sounded ill, when the general advice was for anyone with Covid-19-similar symptoms to refrain from attending meetings in person. The EB would follow-up on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.45 a.m.