



**39<sup>th</sup> UNOG Staff Coordinating Council**  
**39<sup>ème</sup> Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG**

**Le Bureau exécutif | The Executive Bureau**

**Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting**

*held on 14 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	Absent
	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 9.10 a.m.*

**Point 1 Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes as reflected below.

**Point 2 Adoption of minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted without changes as recorded in the Council secretariat.

**Point 3 Upcoming meetings**

The EB recalled two meetings pending: (1) with Michelle Keating (DCM) in January, to continue discussions on special assignments, eLuna, etc., where staff concerns would be raised; (2) introductory meeting with the newly appointed UNCTAD SG, for which a date was still to be confirmed by her office.

**Point 4 Languages Services**

The EB was informed that unions agreed to send a letter to DGACM senior management on the implementation of the workload standard for translators and revisers, summarizing staff proposals on the way forward (following the recent global townhall of LS staff), which would be sent shortly. It was noted that the “reprise” of text seemingly would be extended for another year, still on a temporary basis.

**Point 5 Security and Safety Service**

EB members recalled the issue 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 having used more than 20 days of sick leave before the mission. A message was sent to SSS senior management raising concerns about such guidelines, namely their unfairness, discriminatory nature, and health risk they pose.

A discussion ensued. Arguments were raised in favour of the validity of the requirement for certain level of English proficiency for security staff to be sent on mission in particular duty stations – particularly ones where English would be the most spoken language among meeting participants. In case of emergencies, security staff would be required to communicate in that language with a minimum of ease. The EB agreed that management should ensure there should be language courses adapted to the schedule of SSS staff who often cannot take them due to their work schedules.

Information was received that recruitment exercise of security staff were now including the requirement of taking the Global General Service Test, which seemed only to be applied in Geneva. Inquiries with HR would be made.

#### **Point 6 Joint Negotiating Committee**

The EB agreed to ask management to set a date for the next JNC. Items for discussion included: lack of career prospects for GS staff, and increased use of personal devices and equipment to perform official duties.

#### **Point 7 UNECE Location**

The EB was made aware of a complaint from two ECE staff members whereby UNECE was seemingly to be placed by SHP on a different location in building S than the one it historically had (although still in building S). Those staff members asked for the Council's assistance to hold an internal petition in that regard.

EB members discussed the request. It was noted that the Council made great efforts to help UNECE be brought back to building S (avoiding staying permanently in building H). The "historical home" claim was deemed not to be a solid one. An argument was made that the Council's focus should not be in what part of building S UNECE staff occupy (as that was for management to determine), but to ensure they had the best office space possible wherever they would be placed in that building. It was further argued that the request did not have to do with staff rights per se and that if we advocated for another move, it would result in the displacement of another department/section.

Whilst it was always possible for the staff concerned to raise an internal petition on their own (through online means available) it was the EB's view that the Council was not in a position to intervene.

#### **Point 8 Any other business**

- Review of the Regulations: the EB recalled that its review of the Regulations should be presented at the Council's January meeting.
- Audit of 2020-2021 accounts: following the approval of the Council to go for an external audit, efforts would soon be made to engage one.
- EB members were informed that SAFI was admitted by the canton of Geneva as beneficiary of Covid-19-related assistance to businesses up to an amount of 1.5 million CHF. This was noted to be very positive to ensure SAFI's continued operation throughout the difficulties of the pandemic.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9.55 a.m.*