



35th UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 35^{ème} Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Draft minutes of the 4th meeting

held on 9 May 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Room IV

Council members present: ALMARIO Francis, APOSTOLOV Mario, ASFAW Tensai, BALY Mohamed Chiraz, CHANTREL Dominique, CHAOUI Prisca, FEGLI Catherine, FUNCK Thomaz Samuel, GAZIYEV Jamshid, JAMES Elizabeth, KALOTAY Kalman, KELLY Paul, NOBLAT-PIANTA Virginie, NWABUOGU Gloria, PECK ARIF Catherine, RICHARDS Ian, STANOVIC Marko, TAPORAIE Amos, VESTERMAN Claire.

Council members absent: ALMEIDA Patricia, BEN AYED Slim, MELLET Johnny, POPA Gabriela, ROUAI Slim, TOUIHRI Mohssen.

The meeting opened at 1:30 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 2nd and 3rd meetings

The plenary discussed the content of the draft minutes and agreed on several changes. The minutes of the 2nd and 3rd meetings were thus adopted as recorded in the Council's secretariat.

3. Report of the Executive Bureau

The EB reported to the Council on its activities since the previous plenary meeting, including: postponement of the children's party to 31 May due to the weather; meeting with the Director-General; OCHA restructuring; UN Beach Club. Clarifications were requested on OCHA restructuring which led to a brief discussion.

4. Report of the Finance Commission

The FC reported that it had elected Mr. Almario as Treasurer. Also, that it had not yet received the 2015-2016 audit report from the auditors despite reminders. Ms. Chaoui recalled that so far only 2 staff had volunteered to be auditors of the 2016-2017 accounts and requested Council members to help find more volunteers. A brief discussion followed on the role of the FC in the Council's financial operations and the nature of the audit report.

5. Report on SMC outcomes

Mr. Gaziyevev briefed the Council on the novelties following the latest SMC. He pointed out that there is a new Secretary-General, new leadership in the NYSU, and new senior Management still to come in UNHQ. He pointed out that most of staff proposals were taken on board during SMC, including: GSDM, women's involvement, SHP and its decision-making process, interns, external recruitment freeze in the context of GSDM, harassment, funding of the Organisation, downsizing, and administration of justice.

A discussion followed whereby clarifications were sought by certain members regarding SMC discussions on budget cuts and GSDM. It was said that the SG is expected to prepare a proposal on GSDM, and the importance of staff to be involved in alerting the SG about issues that affect staff as they arise. It was agreed to circulate among members any Management papers that were not confidential and relevant documents, namely the final SMC report and its annexes when available.

6. Preparations for CCISUA GA

The Council recalled the CCISUA GA will take on the week of 9 June, for which a draft agenda was yet to be received, which it was said will like include items such as: mobility policy, whistleblower protection,

harassment, offshoring, pay cuts, system of categories of staff, UNJSPF issues, internal justice, safety and security.

The Council briefly discussed about the composition of the delegation. It was clarified that the EB and Council had approved the membership of the delegation who were nominated because of their particular experience with the issues that will be discussed.

7. Update on the “No 7.5% Pay Cut” campaign

The Council was briefed on actions since the Extraordinary General Assembly of 6 April 2017. Doubts about the ICSC methodology were raised. The Council referred to the strategy and actions that are being coordinated with other unions, including collective actions. It recalled the ICSC session that will take place in Vienna in July. A discussion followed on the different aspects and particularities of the ICSC’s decision and its multiple effects on staff; staff engagement on the issue; engaging with Member States; the strategic approach and actions. A suggestion was raised to create a petition calling for the defunding of the ICSC - to be discussed with other staff unions.

Mr. Asfaw and Ms. Noblat-Pianta left at this point.

8. SHP

The Council was informed that the raw data of the Gensler study was received and a meeting will be held with the SHP team on the matter. The Council noted that the works of the new building have already started and reaffirmed its commitment to ensure as much as possible that said building responds to staff needs, mainly regarding the distribution of office space. A brief discussion followed on the implications of the new building vis-à-vis pay cuts.

Ms. Fegli left at this point.

9. Peru collection

The Council was informed that the staff of the Peruvian community in the Palais had carried out a collection for the victims of the Peru floods, in which a total of CHF 20,061.70 was collected. As per its adopted guidelines on collections, the Council approved a humanitarian contribution of CHF 10,000.00 in recognition such efforts. It was noted that the beneficiary of all the funds will be the ICRC.

10. Request for legal assistance

The Council was presented with a request from seven SSS staff to cover the costs of legal assistance in a case related to recruitment, and the details were explained. Following a discussion the Council agreed to cover said legal costs up to CHF 10,000.00.

11. E-bike Day

The Council noted the e-bike day is being organised for 13 June 2017 at no cost for the Council.

12. Clubs

Mr. Taporaie raised a proposal for the Club Committee to study how to make it easier for clubs to apply for subsidies. It was agreed for the Committee to meet in that regard.

13. Any other business

Mr. Kalotay requested to put on record his position that the recent letter addressed to the New York leadership of the Department of Safety and Security cannot be considered an official position of the Council as it had not been discussed by the plenary. It was clarified that the letter was sent following a townhall with SSS staff and it reflected the collective view expressed there.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.