



32nd UNOG Staff Coordinating Council 32e Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG

Minutes of the 8th meeting

held on 27 November 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room XXVII

Council members present: ATIKI Mounia, CHAOUI Prisca, BALY Mohamed Chiraz, CHOUVALOV Vladislav, COUMBOUYA-FODE Mohamed, GAZIYEV Jamshid, JAMES Elizabeth, KONE David, KOUZMINE Serguei, PECK ARIF Catherine, RICHARDS Ian, ROUAI Slim, SKOURIKHINE Alexandre, STANOVIC Marko.

Council members excused or absent: ASFAW Tensai, BULYCH Yaroslav, FLORES Raymund, FORTIS Didier, FUNCK THOMAZ Samuel, GHAILAN Ahmed, KELLY Paul, LIN Dan, NOBLAT-PIANTA Virginie, NWABUOGU Gloria, VILCHES Sandrine.

The meeting opened at 1:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of minutes of the 7th meeting

The minutes of the 7th meeting were adopted without changes as reflected in the Council's records.

3. Report of the Executive Bureau

IR briefed the Council plenary on the work of the EB since the previous Council meeting. Such issues included externally and at the Federation level: mission to UNHQ; delivery of speech at 5th Committee and meeting with Member States; UMOJA; retirement age; salaries and remunerations; continuing appointments; Pension Fund; performance management; OSLA funding; administration of justice; whistleblower protection; other personnel issues. Also Geneva-related issues were addressed: OHCHR and WIPO personnel issues; regularization of ex-200 series personnel; consultations with the Administration on the 2015/2016 budget; asbestos issues in the E-building; UN Special – relations with the Editorial Board, publisher/advertisers; status of crèche project; UN Day. A brief discussion developed whilst the briefing took place.

4. Report of the Finance Commission

On behalf of the Treasurer, CPA informed the Council plenary that the FC had met and it confirmed the processes of bookkeeping and accounts are running smoothly. She informed that the one-year introductory test of e-Banking has shown bank charges drop from approximately CHF 4'000 to CHF 100 during the course of the present financial year, which led the FC to establish it indefinitely without prejudice of revising it in the future.

CPA recalled the substantial efforts taken to recover outstanding amounts for a total of CHF 29'296.45 from various debtors, dating back to 2008. Only one debtor has approached to Council and signed a repayment agreement of an amount of CHF 4'000. However, the FC noted that despite the efforts, it has proven impossible to locate some of the debtors, whilst in some cases there is a lack of documentary evidence to take administrative or legal action against debtors. Thus, following the FC's advice, the Executive Bureau had decided to recommend to the Council plenary the following:

(1) To write off those debts for which substantial efforts have been carried out to recover them, but for which there are no leads to locate the debtor or evidence of the debt for administrative or legal action. Two cases fall under this sanction for amounts of CHF 1'296.45 and CHF 4'000.

(2) In one particular of a debt of CHF 4'000, for the reasons discussed at the EB, to write off the debt of the concerned person under a special provision whereby the person is henceforth excluded from any kind of relation, cooperation, or support of any kind from the Council.

(3) To continue with the recovery efforts for those outstanding debts for which there is evidence of it, and/or there are leads to locate the debtors, which is case of two outstanding amounts of CHF 8'000 each.

No objections were raised at the Council plenary to the above recommendation of the Executive Bureau, it was thus decided.

5. Nomination to G1-G4 review group

Following Dominique Rames' retirement, the Council is called upon to nominate a replacement in the G1-G4 review group. CPA informed the Council that Ms. Sandrine Vilches had expressed interest in the position and that the EB had decided to recommend her accordingly. Such recommendation was made taking in to account that having had a francophone in the review group as Ms. Rames, Ms. Vilches as a francophone herself would be a suitable replacement. The Council approved by acclamation the nomination of Ms. Sandrine Vilches to the G1-G4 review group.

A brief discussion followed from which the Council agreed to invite the review group to present a report of their activities and conclusions at the next Council meeting. It was noted that the Council has brought forth to Administration the issue of establishing a UN-wide official review group for G1-G4 staff selections. Administration has replied that they are currently working on the rules and regulations to that effect.

6. Requests from Clubs for financial support

Following the review of the documentation and a discussion on its nature and work, the Council agreed to grant CHF 3'800 to the club Ex-Tempore for the printing of its publications.

Following the review of the documentation, and taking into account the precedent of previous subsidies of 50% of participation costs of Council's dues-paying members at the Inter-Agency Games (IAG), plus the broadcast sent to staff signed by the President of the Sports Commission and the Council whereby the Council agreed to subsidize a part of said participations costs, the Council agreed to subsidize the participation costs of its 17 dues-paying members who attended the 2014 IAG by 50%, for a total of CHF 5'525.

6. (bis) Memorial ceremony

IR informed the Council plenary that he has been invited in his capacity of Vice-President of SMC to attend a memorial service in New York on 8 January 2015 in honour of colleagues who have died whilst in service, and to commemorate the anniversary of the Haitian earthquake. IR noted this event can be useful for the staff to promote better safety and security in the field. To this end, the Council approved a 3-day mission for IR to attend the abovementioned event.

7. Collection from lunch time concert on 22/10/2014

EJ recalled that the collection during the lunchtime concert on 22/10/2014 raised CHF 437 and EUR 5. Following a brief discussion on the nature of the work of the beneficiary charity associations, the Council decided to match the amount collected.

At this point SK and DK left the meeting. As there ceases to be quorum, the meeting continued for information purposes only.

8. Update on Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC)

IR briefed the Council plenary on the most recent JNC, including topics discussed therein: access of non-staff to the Palais, time-sensitivity of broadcasts (Administration promised to send Council broadcasts within one business day), UNOG intranet/classified ads, working hours in Security, restructuring on the Messengers' Service, smartphones for Council members whilst on mission, billing of personal phone calls to staff. A brief discussion followed on certain issues for clarification purposes.

9. Update on Staff-Management Committee (SMC)

IR said that the SMC had held a quarterly meeting in September and pointed out there has been continuous dialogue between staff and Administration. Amongst the issues currently discussed at SMC he mentioned: performance management, SGB on harassment, UN coroner initiative.

10. CCISUA midterm update

IR commented on the recent mission to NY of MCB, EJ and IR to attend the CCISUA midterm review. He pointed out the discussions that took place on various federation issues such as the Pension Fund and mandatory age of separation, inter-federation cooperation, OSLA issues, among others, including a meeting with the SG.

11. Any other business

- Members present discussed on several issues regarding the UN medical insurance and its processes.
- The issue was raised of whether UN clubs can place the logo of a commercial sponsor next to the UN logo. To be investigated further.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.