Activities of the United Nations Staff Union
1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

April 2017

- The Staff Union was relocated to the Secretariat— as per past traditions. The Staff Union Office is now located in the Library Building on the 3rd floor, L-0300.
- Installation of the 45th Staff Council and the Chair and members to the Executive Board were elected.
- The Secretary-General expressed his support for the first all-women Staff Union Leadership that consists of Ms. Bibi Khan, President, Ms. Patricia Nemeth, 1st Vice President, Ms. Cristina Silva, 2nd Vice President.
- New Staff Representatives were trained by Mr. Hacking (Global Consulting) on the Basics of Staff Representation.
- UNSU organized Information session on Health and Life Insurance.
- United Nations Staff Relief Committee to Aid the Flood Victims of Peru was established.
- The Staff Council established working groups to:
  - Revise the Statutes and Regulations of the Staff Union to resolve instances of ambiguity and address loopholes in the current document.
  - Review curtailment of travel for staff members on G4 visas. A report is currently being prepared by the working group based on the complaints received.
- Staff-Management Committee (SMC) VI was held 26 April to 5 May in New York. The agenda included the new compensation package for P-category, Global Service Delivery Model (GSDM), UN Gender Strategy, general service prospects, whistleblower protection, pension fund backlog, and safety and security in the field. Working groups of SMC VI were established on the following.

May 2017

- Hyatt Legal Plan for UN Staff was re-negotiated, the cost reduced, and coverage expanded.
- New Staff Representatives were trained on navigating the internal justice system by various entities in the UN system (i.e. OSLA, Ombudsman, Ethics Office).
- New agreement was signed for affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). AFT will provide training for staff reps and work on organizing plans with the UNSU. In addition, it will provide political support, including through the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and Public Services International.

June 2017

- Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) General Meeting in Addis Ababa was held 5–9 June 2017. At that meeting the 1st Vice President was elected to the Bureau of CCISUA as Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy. Mr. Ken Rosario was elected as Security Advisor, and Ms. Michelle Rockcliffe as member of the Finance Committee.
Based on the recommendation of the 1st Vice President, and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders such as DM, OIOS, Ethics Office, and OLA, a new element was introduced in the ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev.1 (Protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits and investigations) that may include the transfer of the person who is allegedly engaged in retaliation as opposed to the movement of the accuser.

The 1st Vice President organized an information session in relation to the protection against retaliation.

First General Meeting approved UNSU budget for the biennium.

July 2017

- The President and the 2nd Vice President met with 23 National Staff Associations (NASA) in Entebbe, Uganda, to address concerns of local staff serving in peacekeeping missions. The meeting was held simultaneously with the meeting The 1st Vice President attended the 85th Session of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) in Vienna to address the conditions of service of the Security and Safety Service.
- The President intervened during the Secretary-General Town hall. She focused on the deficit of trust due to a lack of management accountability and ineffectiveness of the internal justice system.
- Information session on the Pension Fund was organized by UNSU in collaboration with AFT on the difference between defined contributions and defined benefits. It was moderated by the President.

August 2017

- The President participated in World Humanitarian Day to advocate for the protection of civilians, children, targets of sexual violence, humanitarian workers, health workers, and forcibly displaced peoples in conflict areas around the world. UNSU and UNICEF leadership joined the Secretary-General and USG OCHA to stand united together to bring awareness and highlight these serious important global issues.
- Carmen Artigas was retained as Legal Adviser on policy issues by the Staff Council.

September 2017

- On 8 September Staff Day was organized after a hiatus of almost 10 years. The 2nd Vice President was the focal point of the Staff Day Committee, which organized day long activities. There was a significant wonderful-turnout and participation by a wide cross section of staff, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and other senior officials in all events. Activities included sports matches on the North Lawn, a Talent Show for performers of all kinds, and a Parade of Nations Fashion Show to celebrate the diversity of the United Nations and our different cultural backgrounds. A 2017 Ford Fusion Sedan was the first prize in the Grand Raffle.
- The 2nd Information session on the Pension Fund was organized by Leadership in collaboration with AFT on the contributions and defined benefits.
- YPP Workshop was organized for Secretariat staff.
• UN Staff Relief Committee for the Victims of Flood and Landslide in Freetown, Sierra Leone was established.
• UN Staff Relief Committee for the Victims of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Antigua and Barbuda and the Commonwealth of Dominica was established.

October 2017
• The 1st Vice President organized a follow-up information session regarding protection against retaliation.
• UN Day event was organized by the President on 24 October. It was the first ever event commemorating the coming into force of the UN Charter featuring readings of the Preamble in the six official UN languages of the UN by six representatives from the Permanent Missions of Member States (China, Cuba, Haiti, Iraq, Russia, United States) which were among the first signatories to the Charter read the Preamble. Keynote speeches were made by the President of the General and the Deputy Secretary-General.
• Second YPP Workshop was organized for Secretariat staff.

November 2017
• The President participated in the Public Service International Congress in Geneva at which a resolution in support of UN staff was passed. At the same event a protest was held in front of the UN Geneva Headquarters to highlight the impact of budget reductions on staff.
• Staff representatives of the Pension Fund organized an information session in collaboration with AFT.
• Joint Negotiation Committee was established to address issues arising at UNHQ Secretariat.

January 2018
• The President spoke during the Secretary-General’s global Town Hall in January 2018, focusing on the lack of transparency and accountability across the Secretariat.
• The President presented a proposal to the Internal Justice Council to recommend standing of UN staff associations before the UN Dispute Tribunal.

February 2018
• The 1st Vice President attended the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions (ACPAQ) 40th session in New York.
• Global Day of Action was held against deteriorating conditions of service. The Staff Council organized a teach-in session after which staff protested for half an around the fountain in front of the UN Secretariat building. The President called for reform of the ICSC.
• Ad-hoc SMC on Shifting the Management Paradigm in the United Nations Ensuring a Better Future for All was held 6–8 February 2018 in New York. The following issues were addressed: overview of the management reform and its linkages with other reforms, aligning authority with responsibility – delegation of authority and accountability, Global
Service Delivery Model, outcome of the Staff Engagement Survey, sexual harassment and human resources reform.

March 2018

- The President made an intervention in support of #MeToo movement at the International Women’s Day event on 8 March 2018
- The 1st Vice President attended the 86th session of the ICSC in New York.
- The 1st Vice President successfully addressed a number of staff members’ contractual issues as well as assisted colleagues who faced challenges concerning their performance appraisals.
- Pension Fund briefing was organized by the Staff Pension Committee.