Formalization of relations between the
United Nations Staff Union and the American Federation of Teachers

The Staff Council,

Noting that the American Federation of Teachers – AFT would like to formalize its relationship with the United Nations Staff Union - UNSU;

Also noting the size, experience and respectability of the American Federation of Teachers, as well as the fact that it represents over one million workers in the host country and has a considerable international program;

Further noting the variety of services that AFT offers, including in the political, legal and communication/public relations areas;

Taking into account that it would be useful for UNSU to have a formal relationship with a sizeable and respected labor union in the host country;

The Staff Council,

Decides to authorize the President and members of the Executive Board to discuss with AFT officials ways and means to formalize the relationship between UNSU and AFT;

Also decides that the formal relationship with AFT would occur on a trial basis for one year and it is expected to contribute during that timeframe, among other issues, to the improvement of UNSU’s communications/public relations strategy; UNSU’s methodology and procedures to attract dues paying members; UNSU’s capacity to convey its points of view to host country authorities/legislators; moreover, a closer collaboration between UNSU’s Legal Adviser and AFT’s Legal Department should be established.

Finally decides that, after the one year period, the Staff Council will evaluate the usefulness of the formal relationship and then decide whether to consider an eventual long term affiliation.

Adopted YES
For 6
Against 0
Abstention 1