The meeting was quorate at 13:18 PM EDT with 22 Units present. The meeting was recorded. Staff Council Chair Mr. Sebastian Cervantes chaired the meeting and Secretary Ms. Kathryn Kuchenbrod took notes. All members of the leadership were present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The only item on the agenda for this special meeting was voting on the resolution “Evacuation and Well-being of Staff of the United Nations System from Afghanistan”.

Agenda was adopted.

1. Resolution regarding “Evacuation and Well-being of Staff of the United Nations System from Afghanistan”

Mr. Egor Ovcharenko (Unit 28) stated that the Staff Union should stand with all staff members, not only those in the Union. Mr. Ken Rosario (Unit 15) reminded that the Council should make it clear, as it has in the past, that we don’t agree with the unwritten rule of “stay and deliver”. Mr. Rosario requested the addition of the following “United Nations personnel remaining in country should be at the authorized level of programme criticality paradigm found within the Security Management System.”

Mr. Jesus Parado (Unit 32) noted that although the resolution is based on the evacuation of national staff, there exists the problem of supply lines and those who need to remain behind.

Ms. Asel Abdurakhmanova (Unit 44) requested that “well-being” be added to the title; that paragraph 4 should be modified so that it is more specific; and that language should be added in paragraph 5 regarding staff members who are working remotely. She also requested that an item be added about duty of care. Mr. Jose Sobron (Unit 4) mentioned that the security assessment should be done for every single unit.
Mr. Rosario stated that the resolution should be disseminated to the staff federations of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, as well as the press.

Mr. Aitor Arauz (President) strongly discouraged the dissemination of the resolution to the press, as there may be negative repercussions, such as the Taliban using national staff as a bargaining chip. Mr. Rosario countered that the information was already in the press. It was decided to vote on the resolution with the reference to the press remaining.

The resolution was adopted, with 19 votes FOR, 0 AGAINST and 4 abstentions.

The virtual meeting adjourned at 13:44 EDT.