

UNITED NATIONS STAFF UNION
SYNDICAT DU PERSONNEL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES**45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL****Minutes/Actes**

Meeting No: 45/71
Date: 6 December 2018
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room B
Quorum: 16/27 Units

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with 16 Units present. Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and UNSU Assistant Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 3, 6, 13, 14, 18, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the Union administrator.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. Assistant Rapporteur Kenneth Rosario (Unit 39) raised an issue concerning the murders of the 2 experts in the DRC, and suggested that Council Members read about the incident and include the matter to the next meeting's agenda.

2. Adoption of minutes

Minutes of meeting 70 were adopted.

3. Executive Board report, President's report and summary of communications

1st VP Patricia Nemeth mentioned that she had received a legal opinion from the Union's lawyer, Mr. George Irving, on Tim Kennedy's case. The 1st VP mentioned that she will provide the written summary to the Legal Committee and an answer should be sent back to Mr. Irving before the end of the year. In his response to a question about the procedure, Secretary Aitor Arauz explained that, considering the urgency of the case, a decision was made within the EB to forward the case to Mr. Irving for an initial review, and that the Legal Committee may start with the legal opinion mentioned above.

The Chair mentioned that the Secretary brought an issue to her attention on behalf of Winryck Ford (check unit) regarding the membership of the Legal Committee and whether the Council would consider expanding its membership to staff-at-large. It was agreed that the Council has the authority to extend the membership to any member of the Union at any time.

A discussion regarding the best way to communicate the Arbitration Committee's decisions took place. The Council concluded on the agreement that AC decisions should be shared by the Chair with the Council, and the matter of distribution beyond the Council may be discussed further at later meetings.

Rapporteur Camille Beydon mentioned that the EB suggested holding a General Meeting on 23 January 2019 and asked the Council to vote on that date. Eugenia Beldo (Unit 38) suggested holding the General Meeting after the Secretary General's town-hall meeting with the staff; The 1st VP explained that the suggested date will be well situated after the town-hall meeting, which usually take place in the first two weeks in January.

Camille Beydon submitted a motion:

To hold the next General Meeting on the 23rd of January 2019.

The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) recalled the HLIC request to meet with the EB and urged the EB to meet with the Committee at the earliest to listen to their concerns. Camille Beydon mentioned the issue of the MoU recently announced about abolishing the limitations of the UN Volunteers to apply for UN posts. Francois Charlier (Unit 3) mentioned that the MoU has already been signed and asked what can be done at this stage. The Secretary explained that even though the MoU has been signed and announced, yet the ST/SGB governing the conditions of the UN Volunteers is still in force, and that there is a procedure to change ST/SGBs which include consultations with the staff.

William Bly (Unit 23) submitted a motion:

To establish a Working Group on the UNV MoU.

The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously.

The Chair asked for volunteers to the working group. Two Staff Reps volunteered: Francois Charlier and William Bly. Sherif Mohamed (Unit 27) nominated Andraz Melansek (Unit 17) to be a member of the working group.

William Bly and Kenneth Rosario raised the issue of the President's attendance and asked the President to share her meetings calendar with the Council;

4. GSDM/Management Reform

Eugenia Beldo (Unit 38) mentioned a request to meet with the USG/DM to receive updates on the matter. Francisco Brito mentioned that DGACM had issues with some posts related to GSDM even though it is not yet approved. Camille Beydon mentioned that the matter has been discussed in the EB and that it was advised that management stop the practice of using preemptive measures before the fact. William Bly mentioned the issue of the DGACM/ICTS staff who are being moved to OICT. Kenneth Rosario explained what happens when posts move from one place to the other and that such decisions should be taken by the GA. Eugenia Beldo mentioned that OICT reform was adopted by the GA, and that the decision was to bring all IT staff members under the OICT umbrella. She mentioned that the issue should be studied well before any decisions can be taken. Kenneth Rosario mentioned that the GA asked for feedback from individual departments, which was never received, yet the merge is still going on. William Bly suggested that we collect the different experiences of staff as a result of the lack of IT professionals in their departments. He asked to include the OICT matter on next week's Council meeting;

5. Status of 2nd Vice President

The Chair mentioned that she has not received any information from the AC on this matter.

6. Status of Unit 10

A discussion took place regarding the status of Unit 10 after the separation of its staff representative.

Sherif Mohamed (Unit 27) submitted a motion:

To hold bi-elections to elect new staff representatives for Unit 10 only.

The motion was seconded and adopted (13 in-favor, 1 against, and 2 abstains).

7. Membership of Staff Legal Assistance Committee

Michelle Rockcliff mentioned that she has received requests from staff members to join the "Staff Legal Assistance Committee". The item was concluded on the understanding that the issue has been discussed before and reference was made to last meeting's minutes;

Reference was made to the resolution that established the Committee which includes the procedure for receiving legal assistance.

8. Status of Elections

Questions were raised about the total number of the current Polling Officers. A discussion about the apportionments has taken place, and the item concluded with the understanding that the Chair would contact the Chair of the Polling Officers for updates.

9. Reports by Units

No reports have been received.

10. AOB

Unit 25 Rep. suggested a retreat to help staff representatives focus on finalizing the amended UNSU Statute and Regulations. The item will be further discussed at the Council's next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 14:37