

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

Meeting No: 45/72
Date: 13 December 2018 (resumed on 17 December 2018)
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room C (resumed in the UNSU Conference Room)
Quorum: 11/27 Units (10/27 on the resumed session)

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with 11 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, 17, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 37. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the Union administrator.

1. Adoption of the agenda

[Before the adaption of the agenda, the Council Chair Camille McKenzie made a statement regarding agenda item 8 and the statement was therefore moved under the relevant agenda item]

The agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of minutes

Adoption of minutes of meeting 71 was deferred to the next Council meeting.

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

Rapporteur Camille Beydon updated the Council on the EB meeting with the members of the HLIC (Health and Life Insurance Committee). The final EB report on this meeting will be shared with the Council once it is finalized.

4. GSDM/Management Reform

No updates were available for further discussion at that time.

5. Status of Elections

The Chair made mention to a communication received from the Chair of the Polling Officers (PO) that was circulated to the Council members on 13 December 2018. Deputy Chair Andraž Melanšek mentioned that the final composition of the new offices emerging as a result of the ongoing reform will be available on Umoja on 1 January 2018, and accordingly these final lists will be available at that date and that PO should start working on the apportionments by this time. Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) suspected that the PO would have enough time to complete the apportionments and conduct the elections as scheduled even if they receive the final lists by the end of January 2019 as indicated in the Chair of the PO's communication referred to above. Andraž Melanšek suggested that the Council agree on a cut-off date for the final lists to be sent to the POs from OHRM and that such cut-off date be discussed with OHRM at the next Joint Negotiation Committee (JNC).

6. Status of 2nd Vice President

Treasurer Ibrahima Faye made mention to his e-mails to the Arbitration Committee (AC) dated 6 and 13 December 2018 in which he brought new developments to the attention of the Arbitration Committee. The Treasurer shared the details of these new developments with the members of the Council. Based on the new developments, members of the Council raised a number of concerns regarding the composition of the Staff Day Committee, the possible involvement of other individuals in the reported incident, as well as the possibility of other incidents that have not yet been uncovered. Ibrahim Faye confirmed the possibility of other individuals involved in the reported incident and explained that such developments - if any arise - shall be communicated to the relevant bodies as an update to the current case. Francois Charlier (Unit 3) inquired about any anticipated measures to prevent such incidents from re-occurring in the future. Ibrahima Faye mentioned the measures that have been taken by the Council so far, including the discontinuation of the practice of having separate bank accounts dedicated to the Staff Day arrangements. The agenda item was concluded on the general understanding that further preventive measures should be taken into consideration, including a comprehensive review of the different Staff Day activities, especially the "sports" activities.

7. Retreat to Finalize Statute and Regulations

Unit 25 Rep. updated the Council on the current status of the reform of the Statute and Regulations of the Staff Union. He mentioned that the new text of the Statute and Regulations should be finalized by the whole membership of the working group (the whole Council) and for that purpose he suggested 1-2 days retreat. A discussion regarding the process of adopting the new Statutes and Regulations and the Council agreed that this matter can be discussed on the margins of the same retreat. Arrangements for the retreat were discussed and it was decided that this matter can be discussed further in the Council's next meeting.

8. Status of Unit 10

Council Chair Camille McKenzie briefed the Council on the several communications she received from the former staff representative of Unit 10, and explained how the former staff rep - in one of her communications regarding her current situation - misrepresented Camille's attempts to help. The Council members discussed the matter and concluded the agenda item by pointing out the fact that the former staff representative of Unit 10 is no longer a staff member, and accordingly the Chair is not obligated to respond to any further communications in this regard.

9. Reports by Units

No reports have been made by unit Reps.

10. AOB:

Unit 25 Rep. updated the Council on the outcome of the first meeting of the Staff Legal Assistance Committee. He shared the background of the first case being considered by the Committee as well as the decision of the Committee to provide legal assistance to the staff member. He presented a draft resolution detailing the decision of the Committee and the Council decided to resume its 72nd session on Monday 17 December 2018 to further discuss the language and the fine details of the resolution. Given the financial implications of such assistance, as well as the expectancy of more cases in the future, the Council members discussed the feasibility of having some kind of a legal insurance to cover the costs of the legal assistance services it provides. It was decided to further discuss this matter in the Council's future meetings.

Francois Charlier raised a concern regarding the medical emergency evacuation and confirmed that the current health insurance coverages offered to UN staff members in NY does not provide emergency evacuations. Ibrahima Faye mentioned that this matter was indirectly brought to the attention of the HLIC and advised the Council to further discuss the matter with the members of the HLIC.

The meeting suspended at 14:45

Resumed meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with 10 Units present. Staff Council Deputy Chair Andraž Melanšek chaired the meeting and UNSU Secretary Aitor Arauz Chapman took notes. Units present were: 11, 17, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 37. 38. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the Union administrator.

10. AOB (Cont'd)

Unit 25 Rep. introduced a draft resolution submitted by the Legal Assistance Committee recommending that the Union provide financial support up to USD 20,000 for the case submitted by TK. The SLAC's recommendation was registered as SLAC/2018/1.

The Staff Council examined the resolution paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 were amended for accuracy.

Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane recalled that there was a reimbursement agreement from the previous Council which could be consulted if necessary.

The resolution was adopted unanimously with 10 votes in favour as RES/STC/45/52

The meeting adjourned at 14:00.