



**Minutes/Actes:**

Meeting No: 46/16  
Date: 12 September 2019  
Time: 13:15 - 14:30  
Venue: Conf. Room F  
Quorum: 12/19 Units

## 46<sup>th</sup> Staff Council – Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate with 12 Units present at 13:26.

Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Assistant-Secretary Ms. Sarah M'Bodji took notes. Units present were: 06, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33.

**Leadership:** Patricia Nemeth, (President), Aitor Arauz Chapman (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Francisco Brito (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President)

At the beginning of the meeting the Chair called for tensions that had occurred around Staff Day to be left behind, and asked Council members to be civil in their exchanges.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the item "Election of New Assistant Treasurer" moved up to item number 4.

### 2. Adoption of Council Minutes

The Council decided to postpone adoption of pending minutes for meetings 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, until the following week when the Council Secretary was present. The Assistant-Secretary made an apology to the Council, as the GA, SG reports, and Staff Day had taken up both Secretaries' immediate focus and attention. She agreed to consult with the Secretary regarding back notes for next week's Council meeting.

### 3. President's Report

**A. SG meeting:** The Leadership had held a meeting with the Secretary-General. There was short briefing about Staff Day by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. Then the President touched on G to P. The SG was in full agreement to push for abolishment of G to P entirely, but would settle for a pilot if that was the compromise at the GA.

The SG was asked about the status of the Downsizing policy, his response was that it would soon come back for further consultation.

The Leadership raised the risks of increased Delegation of Authority, providing the example of OCHA decentralisation. The Secretary-General insisted that DoA was critical to making the organisation more agile but was willing to address any issues that might arise. He asked the Staff Union to alert DMSPC on any worrying trends they identified in its implementation.

The President added that the Administration of Justice was also discussed, in particular staff concerns regarding the MEU. She had asked the Union to be invited as an observer on the Board of Inquiry after the Benghazi attack, in order to ensure transparency. She has asked for staff to be given a speaking slot at the Climate Action Summit. The Secretary General could not give assurances, given the long speakers' list for Member States, but he was not opposed. The Leadership also invited the SG to attend a Staff Council meeting, and would continue to liaise with the SG's planning office for after the GA.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) questioned the SG's response and stated that it was one year since we asked to meet with the SG about harassment of staff reps.

The 1<sup>st</sup> VP replied for clarity that the coming SG meeting was not framed as a meeting on rep's harassment, as that specific request was made by the 45<sup>th</sup> Staff Council.

#### **4. Election of new Assistant Treasurer**

The previous day, the Assistant-Treasurer Ms. Michelle Rockcliffe had resigned from the Executive Board via an email to the Chairperson of the Staff Council. The Council proceeded to elect a new Assistant Treasurer. A Council member nominated Mr. Yogesh Sakhardande (Unit 26). Yogesh introduced himself as a staff member working at the OUSG in DESA, with experience in programme management and as treasurer in other Staff groups. The Chairperson took a vote for the new Assistant-Treasurer. Mr. Yogesh Sakhardande was elected Assistant Treasurer with 11 votes in favour and one abstention.

#### **5. WG on Climate Action in Solidarity with Global Climate Strike**

Deputy Chair Ramona Kohrs and Rapporteur Coralie Tripier reported on the first meeting of the WG, in which it was decided to plan an action for 20 September. The Deputy Chair made a proposal for a broadcast to engage staff and suggested they may require funds to purchase ribbons, or to produce signs in solidarity with the climate strike.

She called for the Council's support, as well as for suggestions and volunteers to assist in organizing the event.

It was reported that the Statement circulated by two UN Union Federations was good and should be echoed or read at the event. It was also reported that the global Trade Union movement was also involved in climate action.

The President asked the Environment WG to meet her during the week to coordinate, and explained that she would ask Management to provide staff with guidance on how could UN staff participate in the event scheduled to take place on 23 September 2019.

The Council adopted a motion to make a statement at the event on behalf of the Union. Michelle Rockcliffe made a motion to endorse the joint statement by CCISUA and UNISERV. Both motions were passed unanimously. It was decided that the Federations statement would be the basis of the Union's statement.

## **6. EB Report**

The Assistant Treasurer Yogesh Sakhardande inquired about additional costs incurred on Staff Day in connection with a grazing station. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President verified that the money was not properly approved, and that this was a lesson learned to be added to the lessons-learned report.

## **7. Review of Staff Day**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President reported that the feedback was positive and the entire range of events during the Staff Day was very successful. Many staff commented on how much fun the day was.

A few complaints were voiced, however. It was suggested that the Staff Day Committee should record lessons learned in an internal report

The Assistant Treasurer made a statement saying that due to the lack of EB and Staff Council volunteers, and some event coordinators showing up late on the day, it should be noted that some organizers had to pull more than their fair share of the weight. He further stated that without the diligent work of Mr. Brito and Ms. M'Bodji, Staff Day would not have gone as it did.

In reply to a question from Kathryn Kuchenbrod (Unit 31), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President confirmed that 36 new members had signed up during the day.

The Assistant Treasurer highlighted the participation of missions: the Mission of India had contributed to the Yoga event, while the Missions of France and Malaysia had been actively involved in the sports events.

Michelle Rockcliffe expressed her disappointment at the lack of support for the Ball. She insisted that the music was shut down early, which established a negative precedent. She also mentioned that Staff Day Committee members had been told again that the 10 pm time mentioned was 'only on paper' and that it would have been worked out with Security that the Ball would go on after 10pm – In fact Security had confirmed to her that they had a stop time of 10:45 whereas BCSS decided to shut down at 10:00pm and pulled the plug.

The Treasurer suggested an assessment of the work done and suggested that next year the Union hire a company to do some of the heavy lifting, and so all staff including the organizers could participate and enjoy the Staff Day.

The Chairperson complimented Michelle Rockcliffe on the record sums raised through the raffle sales.

The timing of Staff Day was also discussed. Holding the event so close to the opening of the GA generated all sorts of problems. The Council would consider alternative dates earlier in the year.

## **8. Reports by Units**

Council members asked if it was normal for managers to be asking for justifications on why staff took USL. It was clarified that no justification is required.

Michelle Rockcliffe asked that since there had been a decision to have a dedicated meeting on Pension Fund matters, she asked for a decision on the date. It was decided that the next council meeting will be dedicated for the discussion on Pension.

## **9. AOB**

A Council member raised the concern that the deadline for entities to nominate a focal point for the UNDIS and Disability Strategy implementation was 15 September. The Council suggested a staff member be nominated from our entity to UNDIS. The Staff Council took note of Sarah M'Bodji's nomination but was not able to vote on it due to lack of quorum. The issue would be placed on the agenda for a vote at the next meeting.

*The meeting adjourned at 14:42*

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