



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/32
Date: 20 February 2020
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room E
Quorum: 10/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 13:30 with 09 Units present. Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 06, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 24, 26, 27, 31. All members of the leadership team were in attendance.

Before the adoption of the agenda, the Council joined the Chair Camille McKenzie in welcoming Emmanuella Rene, the Union's new staff assistant.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without a change with 11 items.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for the 31st meeting of the 46th Staff Council remain pending.

3. President's Report and Summary of Communications

The President Patricia Nemeth briefed the Council on the Leadership's VTC meeting with representatives of National Staff Associations in which issues like security, safety, evacuation; problems with Cigna medical insurance; and the cost and accessibility of banking services in the field. She finally expected a JNC meeting soon to address these concerns.

The 1st VP Aitor Arauz Chapman announced to the Council that the work on reforming the Union's Statutes and Regulations was concluded on Monday 17 February 2020. The Council welcomed the update and discussed the next steps: editing, legal counselling, and referendum.

4. Executive Board Report

No comments were raised.

5. UNSU Finances

The Treasurer Jaime Garreta informed the Council that the former treasurer of the 44th Council provided the data and information requested by the auditors regarding the unaudited period January through April 2017. He also informed the Council that he received another list of questions from the auditors related to the 2018 Staff Day accounts.

The Assistant Treasurer Yogesh Sakhardande updated the Council on the status of upgrading the Union's computers. The Council discussed the data transfer from the old to the new computers, and options to eliminate the data afterwards from the older computers.

In a related context, the Council discussed the use of shared drives, cloud, and other data storage options. **It was explained that the use of the available platforms for the day to day work of the Union was inevitable and was not supposed to pose any risks in terms of data security. However, it was emphasized that confidential data should be handled using the most secured options.**

6. Resolution on ST/AI on appointments terminations

The 1st VP suggested a few editorial changes that were endorsed by the Council.

The Council moved to vote on the draft resolution as verbally amended.

The resolution was unanimously adopted as RES STC 46-20 with 10 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

7. Resolution on Travel to HLCM

The President explained to the Council the work of the different working groups created by the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), what their focus was, and some of their expected outputs. She explained why it was important to attend the 39th meeting of the HLCM in Copenhagen, Denmark given the many controversial issues that will be discussed including the "contracts' modalities". She finally reshared her concerns about the role of the Young UN in these meetings.

The 1st VP further explained the role and mandate of the HLCM as well as its different committees on major subjects (i.e. HR and Future of Work) and how the HLCM plays an important role in the decision-making mechanism at the UN.

The attention of the Council members was brought to "new-work" space on iSeek (iseek.un.org/newwork) and similar initiatives which participated in the formulation of the many controversial proposals mentioned by the President.

Sergio Pires Vieira (Unit 24) believed that such proposals would never be supported by the Member States who usually tend to care for the interest of their nationals in the Organization. He finally questioned the seriousness of such proposals.

The Council members discussed the best practices on when and how to share such information with the staff members and seek their support. Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 06) thought that the Council needed to respond to these proposals by adopting a resolution with a strong Union position that should guide the President's possible intervention.

The 1st VP thought that the Council should wait until the President return form the meeting with a better understanding of what exactly was on stake to help the Council formulate a well-informed position.

The Council moved to vote on the draft resolution.

The resolution was unanimously adopted as RES STC 46-21 with 10 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

8. Resolution on Travel to SMC

The Council continued the conversation on the size of the UNSU delegation to the SMC.

Sergio Pires Vieira thought that a 4-person delegation was more than enough, and he did not think it was feasible to send an additional member just for training purposes and called for a team-training approach.

The Secretary Sherif Mohamed made a motion to **"approve an additional Council member to join the UNSU delegation to the IX SMC"**. The motion was seconded and **was adopted** with 9 votes in favour, 1 vote against, and no abstentions.

The Chair announced that expressions of interest were received from the Rapporteur Coralie Tripier and the Assistant Treasurer Yogesh Sakhardande. Jason Charles (Unit 13) nominated Patel Nobel (Unit 14) to join the delegation, and the nomination was seconded.

The Council moved to vote on its 5th nominee to join the UNSU delegation to the SMC using secret ballots.

The result was announced as follows: **five votes for Patel Nobel. three votes for Coralie Tripier and two votes for Yogesh Sakhardande.**

Before voting on the draft resolution, the 1st VP recommended a change to the DSA to reflect the DSA for Radisson Blu hotel (USD 268) which was recommended by management. The change to the DSA was endorsed by the Council.

The Council moved to vote on the draft resolution as amended with the addition of 1 Council member to the delegation and the change to the DSA.

The resolution was unanimously adopted as RES STC 46-22 with 9 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

9. Staff Day

The Council discussed the proposed change in the date of the Staff Day. Different options were discussed and why it was explained that September seemed to be the only viable option.

9. Reports by Units

The Assistant Secretary reported a case of abuse of authority which was brought to her attention and explained how the situation was addressed on the level of the Chief of the Unit by moving the staff who was subject to abuse to a different reporting channel. She invited the Council members to consider similar informal approaches when working on similar cases before escalating to the formal track.

The Assistant Rapporteur briefed the Council on the situation in the OPPBA area, as detailed in the EB report. On this matter, the 1st VP explained why it was important to focus on attempts by managers to impose transitional measures on the margin of GSDM without even having it approved by the Member States and asked the Council members to report such practices.

10. AOB

Nothing was reported.

The meeting adjourned at 14:50.
