



**Minutes/Actes:**

Meeting No: 46/35  
Date: 12 March 2020  
Time: 13:15 - 14:30  
Venue: Virtually (Microsoft Teams)  
Quorum: 15/17 Units

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

The meeting was quorate at 13:35 with 15 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, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33. The three members of the leadership team were in attendance.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without a change with 8 items.

### 2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 46<sup>th</sup> Staff Council were adopted.

### 3. President's Report and Summary of Communications

No President's report this week. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Francisco Britto updated the Council on a VTC meeting of the SMC working group on performance management and the progress made towards the final report of the WG.

### 4. Executive Board Report

The Deputy Chair Ramona Kohrs raised issues about enforcing telecommuting on those who are not ready for it and the need for technical support in such cases as well as the need for some guidance on the use of the different systems and applications.

The Assistant Treasurer Yogesh Sakhardande explained that Departments were allowed to use up to USD 10,000 to purchase devices for staff who wish to telecommute and haven't have the necessary tools.

## **5. UNSU Finances**

Nothing was reported.

## **6. Pension Fund**

The Pension Fund staff representative said that the stock market has crashed and will be volatile for a while therefore the value of the fund will be reduced by billions of dollars. There are additional concerns though about the way the crisis is being mishandled by the Fund's management which is believed to be leading to additional losses. The resolution passed by the Union was right on point and predicted the liquidity issues that were being experienced.

She added that a letter would be sent by the UN Participants' representative to the Secretary-General that afternoon to describe the current situation and request immediate action to save our pension fund.

The Assistant Rapporteur Shirley Abraham asked about the role of the participants' representatives on the Pension Board. The Pension Fund representative informed the Council of the membership of the participants' representatives and reminded the Council of a few of their actions regarding the pension investments.

## **7. Reports by Units**

The 1<sup>st</sup> VP Aitor Arauz Chapman informed the Council about the work which the Union was involved in over the weekend. He referred to the administrative guidelines dated 13 February 2020 and highlighted the matter of identifying the essential and non-essential staff. He finally summarized the actions taken by management and by the Union to deal with the evolving Corona Virus situation. He emphasized that business continuity plans were not completed by all managers. He also informed the Council about the the positive case of Covid-19 identified at the United Nations International School and the subsequent closure of the school. He further explained the Union's efforts towards a full telecommuting exercise in the Secretariat.

The 1<sup>st</sup> VP also listed some of the incidents reported by staff including having to deal with managers who lack necessary trust in their staff. For instance, managers called staff at their homes and asked them to describe their symptoms and to answer personal questions.

He eventually asked the staff reps to report any incidents of abuse reported to them in relation with telecommuting or regarding any other matters related to the efforts to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Council members discussed the integrity of the current business continuity plans and the need to have lists of all the essential and non-essential staff.

Lucelenia Pimentel (Unit 32) mentioned that as a member of the essential group of staff she received plans regarding all the different scenarios. She added that her office was staggering staff to reduce the number of staff on board to the minimum possible.

## **8. AOB**

The Assistant Secretary Sarah M'Bodji, the 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and Simona Chindea (Unit 24) reported issues related to the denial of requests to telecommute raised by a number of staff members in different areas.

Finally, Simona Chindea asked whether there were any special arrangements to help the family of the security officer who recently passed away. The Chair Camille McKenzie explained that special arrangements were being considered by the Service to support his family.

*The meeting adjourned at 14:35.*

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