

Languages Service Sectoral Assembly (LSSA)

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Bureau*

Held via videoconference on Thursday, 14 October 2021, from 2.30 p.m. to 4.10 p.m.

Attendees: Anna Aleksandrova (RTS), Marine Acker (FTS), Joanna Bartlett (ETS), Asma Belfalah (ATS), Jianjun Chen (CTS), Laura Johnson (President), Lyndsay Nash (ES), Verónica Sainz Goutard (STS)

- 1- Update from the President on the WG on Harmonization:
The co-chairs of this WG (Michelle Keating and Cecilia Elizalde) held a meeting with staff representatives to discuss consultations. It was agreed that the outcomes of this working group are subject to consultation under ST/SGB/274 (on staff-management consultation at departmental level), with escalation to Staff-Management Committee (SMC) if necessary.
- 2- Task Force on Reprise:
The Task Force is yet to be created. However, based on the information sessions on the workload standard earlier in 2021 and the pilot projects running in several sections, staff are very concerned that reprise calculations might be based on eLuna's percentages of recycled text. Members of the Bureau suggested that a counterinitiative be launched to undertake a fair evaluation of reprise, preferably including all duty stations. It was agreed that the President would send a call for volunteers in this regard.
- 3- Results of the staff survey on the impact of the productivity requirements:
Staff representatives will call for a global townhall meeting on the results. The Bureau will further examine possible outcomes (resolution, recommendation, etc.)
- 4- Lobbying in New York of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System (CCISUA):
The Staff Coordinating Council will be attending the mid-term meeting of CCISUA (global union federation) to be held from 16-18 November. SCC representatives will take the opportunity to lobby General Assembly delegates on various issues of interest to staff. It was agreed that examples of poor-quality translations be collected in all six UN languages, to be presented to delegates.
- 5- Recording of SPAs:
It was agreed to encourage all staff members to record all their "real" SPAs in a private file. The President will send an email to all LS staff to encourage them to keep track of their extra tasks. The relevant data will eventually be compiled and analyzed to feed in a recommendation (or resolution) to Management.
SPA-related inconsistencies between sections were highlighted.
- 6- Other issues:
The President provided clarifications on the work of the Staff-Management Committee. Members asked about the return to office and the future of terminologists.

* Unless otherwise stated, the opinions reflected herein represent staff suggestions and views collected by their representatives and are aimed at promoting communication between management and staff. In order to avoid misunderstandings, any comments or requests for corrections to the minutes should be submitted to the President of the LSSA only, for inclusion in the minutes of the following meeting.