

United Nations  Nations Unies

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

26 March 2025

Dear Ms. Meynet,

I write in response to your joint letter of 21 March 2025 addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the new UN80 Initiative. The Secretary-General has asked me to convey his sincere thanks to you for the letter.

I appreciate your ongoing engagement in the Staff Federations. Staff Federations play a critical role for the good functioning of the United Nations, and your efforts have the full support of the Secretary-General and his leadership team.

The current context presents us with many challenges, and the Secretary-General is acutely aware of the need to be vigilant of the impact of such uncertainty on our workforce. Across the United Nations system, we are being asked to work with less resources despite the increasing global challenges that demand our attention.

This is why the UN80 Initiative is important – it aims to turn the uncertainties of the current context into opportunities – opportunities to reshape how the United Nations works, so that it can become fit for purpose to meet the challenges of the future. I can assure you that the UN80 Initiative will be carried out in full transparency and in close and regular consultation with the staff and their representatives.

I know that Under-Secretary-General Catherine Pollard recently briefed you on the UN80 Initiative in her capacity as Chair of the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM). As leaders of Staff Federations, it is important that you remain apprised of and engaged on the Initiative as it evolves. Insights from the staff and their representatives will be highly valuable to this process and will be taken into account.

Ms. Nathalie Meynet
President of the Coordinating Committee
for Independent Staff Unions and
Associations (CCISUA)
Geneva

The UN80 task force will function as a management body, comprised of senior leaders from across the United Nations system, led by Under-Secretary-General Guy Ryder. As such, the task force will not include Staff Federations. However, I would like to reiterate that you will continue to be engaged in the UN80 Initiative through staff-management consultations, including the HLCM. As indicated in her meeting with you, Under-Secretary-General Pollard will ensure that, through the Staff Federations, you will remain informed and involved and will have the opportunity to make meaningful contributions as the Initiative proceeds.

Allow me to reiterate my thanks, on behalf of the Secretary-General, for your ongoing dedication as Staff Federations, and for your involvement in ensuring the success of this important initiative .

A similar response has been sent to Ms. Wadzanai Garwe, FICSA President.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Rattray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. Courtenay Rattray
Chef de Cabinet