



# **33<sup>nd</sup> UNOG Staff Coordinating Council** **33<sup>e</sup> Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG**

## **Le Bureau executive ≡ The Executive Bureau**

### **Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting**

*held on Monday 17 August 2015, at 1:00 p.m.*

Members of the Executive Bureau	BALY, Mohamed Chiraz	Present
	DOUMBOUYA-FODE, Mohamed	Present
	GAZIYEV, Jamshid	Absent
	NWABUOGU, Gloria	Present
	PECK ARIF, Catherine	Present
	RICHARDS, Ian	Present
	ALMARIO, Francis	Present
President of the Council	CHAOUI, Prisca	Present
Vice-president of the Council	STANOVIC, Marko	Present

*Beginning of the meeting at 1:10 p.m.*

#### **Item 1 Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as reflected below.

#### **Item 2 Adoption of the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings**

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings were adopted without changes as reflected in the Council's records.

#### **Item 3 Interns issues**

The EB briefly discussed the recent public issues with interns on their non-payment. IR informed the EB that the Geneva Interns Association (GIA) had approached the Council asking for moral and logistic (non-financial) support in their efforts to take their plea for paid UN internships to the appropriate bodies. IR also said that the GIA is preparing a study of overall work and living conditions of interns in Geneva-based international organizations. The EB discussed the different implications of the subject. Following deliberation, the EB agreed to provide the requested support in benefit of the image and reputation of the Organization and its staff vis-à-vis this sensible issue. MS agreed to be focal point on this matter.

#### **Item 4 OHCHR issues**

The EB held a discussion on the current evolution of the structural review taking place in OHCHR. The different comments and opinions of staff on the recent report circulated by the Council were mentioned. The discussion continued on the need for an oversight mechanism, transparency of the process and consultation.

#### **Item 5 Training**

Following a brief discussion, the EB approved the training of the Council's Assistant Mr. F. Silveira to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the Centre of Excellence in International Administrative Law, to be held on 1-2 October 2015 in London, UK. Mr. Silveira will provide a mission report upon his return.

#### **Item 6 UN Special**

IR informed the EB that, following the Council's decision to professionalize the UN Special magazine, 6 applications for the part-time position of Editor-in-Chief had been received. It was noted how difficult it has been in the past years to work in conjunction with the WHO Staff Association (WHO SA) due to

their internal issues. A discussion was held on the benefits of separating from the WHO SA and keep UN Special a strictly UN magazine, professionalizing it further and focusing it more on staff issues – taking into account that the only reason why the WHO SA and the Council currently co-own the magazine is because decades ago the WHO used to be located in the Palais. It was the overall opinion of the EB that said course would be more beneficial for the cause of safeguarding and improving staff welfare and work conditions as a primordial role of any staff association.

**Item 7 Any other business**

- IR informed the EB that the ICSC had determined a 5.6% decrease in General Service salaries (for new staff) in New York, following the recent New York local salary survey, hence the importance of the work currently performed by the Geneva Local Salary Survey Committee.
- IR also informed the EB that an opening ceremony of the pétanque pitch had taken place with the presence of the Director-General, and requested the reimbursement of CHF 37.05 for the purchase of refreshments offered at said ceremony.
- IR mentioned that a broadcast will be circulated soon on the outcome of the recent ICSC meeting in Vienna.
- FA enquired on the issue of the Swiss Naturalisation Law and asked if IR had formally responded to the letter sent by the Director-General regarding that issue. IR responded that he sent a personal email to the DG. A discussion followed on whether to reply formally to said letter, or continue with informal discussions.

*End of the meeting at 2:20 p.m.*