



43rd Staff Union Council 2025-2026

Ref. SU-43-EB-17

Executive Bureau Minutes of the 17th meeting

Held on 3 September 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
via MS Teams

Adopted on 24 September 2025

Members of the Executive Bureau:

ABDELLAOUI Naima	<i>Present</i>	LEWIS-LETTINGTON Nicole	<i>Absent</i>
BALY Chiraz	<i>Present</i>	OLINYUK Nataliya	<i>Absent</i>
DUPARC Philippe	<i>Absent</i>	THOMAS Philip	<i>Present</i>
JOHNSON Laura	<i>Present</i>		

President of the UNOG SU:

RICHARDS Ian *Absent*

Vice-President of the UNOG SU:

PUHALOVIC Janet *Present*

The meeting began at 1.30 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Adoption of the minutes

The minutes were adopted without changes.

3. Next Council meeting

It was agreed to hold the next Council meeting the following week on 10 September.

4. CCISUA delegation

Subject to approval from the Council, the CCISUA mid-term would take place in New York from 18 to 21 November. It was agreed to continue past practice of three people attending the mid-term meetings and three people for lobbying (not necessarily all the same people). This year lobbying would start during the mid-term itself.

5. JNCs/DG townhall

At the JNC held that morning, the administration explained the scenario for the DG's townhall on the budget and early separation programme, which would include representatives of other UN Geneva entities. The ES would attend and make an intervention. The administration also explained that they still had not seen exactly what was in the revised budget. They were planning for implementation of the downsizing policy as not enough people had agreed to the early separation programme.

Under AOB, the staff side had brought up the assistant's position, which UNOG would not allow to be filled. That would be brought up at the next upcoming JNC meeting along with SHP updates, an update on Appendix B and any new information on the budget. The union would also raise the issue of the free intern meals and whether it was possible to request the provider to provide an alternative such as a discount.

6. Engagement with other entities

Most entities were not ready to meet, as all were in the same position as UNOG and did not yet know the extent of the estimates. However a meeting had been scheduled with ECE. It was still unclear whether OHCHR special constraints panel would go ahead. A meeting had been held with OSE Syria staff to discuss their concerns about the move to Damascus, including security and the fact that packages were not being offered to staff who could not go, except under the early separation programme.

7. SMC updates

At the latest ad hoc SMC, the USG for safety and security had given a briefing. Staff asked about the situation in Damascus given the proposed move of OSE Syria and the possibility to see individual assessments about them, as well as the Department's incorrect use of the downsizing policy for a single unit in New York. The remainder of the meeting had been dedicated to roster management, as management would not agree to cancel or postpone roster expiry. The SMC would pursue the roster item through all possible channels and unions would encourage staff to take legal action.

8. Gaza action

CCISUA had called for a gathering in solidarity with UN staff killed in Gaza, which would take place on 18 September. It would not be possible to read out the staff names as UNRWA would need all the families' permission to do so. The Bureau approved 500 CHF for expenses related to the gathering, such as printing of posters. It was suggested to consider dramatic ideas such as a coffin draped in a UN flag. The townhall with Francesca Albanese had been rescheduled.

9. Research workstream

UNOG Staff Union and the Vienna union both represented some small research and training entities, which were concerned about the recommendations of the UN80 report on their cluster, including their potential merger with UN University. It was agreed to contact the entities and potentially organize a joint meeting with them

The meeting was adjourned at 2.30 p.m.