



30 April 2024

Dear Secretary-General,

You will be aware that the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) has decided to close large parts of the Palais due to the liquidity crisis.

This will involve staff crowding into the buildings that remain open, and which are already difficult to work in at their current occupancy rate.

Throughout the crisis, we have heard you and the Controller explain that the Member States must notice the effect of their failure to pay contributions.

In Geneva, however, this does not appear to be followed. The building closures affect only staff, who will be expected to deliver the same amount of work in worsened conditions.

Meanwhile, Member States will get the message that UNOG does not need most of its buildings and office space to operate.

We have also observed a lack of trust, as staff cannot understand how the savings from abandoning their offices can possibly outweigh the costs of disruption.

The UNOG Staff Union has already asked the Director-General to reverse her decision and we are now asking you to intervene.

We would also like to know what measures are being taken to convince Member States to agree to a solution to these repeated liquidity crises. These appear to have become more frequent since the move to annual budgets. We therefore believe a return to two-year budgets would benefit the Secretariat.

Best regards,

Laura Johnson
Executive Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Johnson".

Ian Richards
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richards".

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations