# United Nations Office at Geneva STAFF UNION



### Office des Nations Unies à Genève

#### **SYNDICAT**

## **40**<sup>th</sup> Staff Union Council 2022-2023

Minutes of the 1st meeting

held on 25 March 2022 at 2 p.m. via MS Teams Adopted on 27 April 2022.

Ref. SU-40-1

**Council members present:** Abdellaoui Naima, Assi Mohamed, Bali Mohamed, Chantrel Dominique, Chaoui Prisca, Duparc Philippe, Gaziyev Jamshid, Hermelink Ursula, Johnson Laura, La Planeta Jean-Luc, Lewis-Lettington Nicole, Martinez Alfonso Begoña, Meyer Olivier, Nwokeabia Hilary, Palairet Rowland, Peck Arif Catherine Louise, Pejchal Viera, Pioda Gerald, Richards Ian, Rueda Melendez Maria Almudena, Smith Bradford, Thomas Philip, Toualbia Radouan.

Council members absent: Fabiani Helene, Lin Dan.

The meeting began at 2:05 p.m.

Mr. Astrit Sulstarova as President of the polling officers opened the meeting. He called the names of the elected Council members, asking if they were willing to integrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Staff Union Council, to which all members present answered positively and the two absent members would send written confirmations.

Mohamed Assi congratulated all elected members and looked forward to working together constructively as a single staff union, especially to encourage more participation of staff in future elections (noting the recent turnout had been of 34%). He suggested for electoral lists to appoint candidates by mutual agreement rather than holding elections.

The Polling Board held online secret ballots for all the following elections.

#### 1. Election of the President

Jamshid Gaziyev nominated Ian Richards for President. Mohamed Assi nominated Naima Abdellaoui for President. Following the ballot, Ian Richards obtained 16 votes and Naima Abdellaoui 7 votes. Ian Richards was elected President.

#### 2. Election of the Vice-President

Catherine Peck Arif nominated Ursula Hermelink for Vice-President. Mohamed Assi nominated himself for Vice-President. Following the ballot, Ursula Hermelink obtained 16 votes and Mohamed Assi obtained 7 votes. **Ursula Hermelink was elected Vice-President**.

#### 3. Designation of one Executive Bureau member per eligible list

Naima Abdellaoui argued that the number of EB seats appointed by each list should reflect their percentage of participation in the Council based on article 9 (1) of the Regulations which established that: "The membership of the Executive Bureau shall reflect that of the Staff Union Council; the Executive Bureau shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Staff Union Council from among its members at its first meeting, in accordance with the procedures set out in the paragraphs below".

Brad Smith intervened to say this interpretation was wrong. It was important to read the whole paragraph and that under the same article 9, point (2), it was clarified that this meant that lists gaining at least 15 percent of the vote only automatically had the right to one seat in the Bureau: "Each list obtaining at least fifteen (15) per cent of the valid votes cast at the election of the Staff Union Council shall be entitled to one of the seven (7) seats on the Executive Bureau".

Mohamed Assi requested for this item to be put on hold as the matter could be subject to appeal. His proposal was not carried as the majority of Council members agreed with the interpretation that eligible lists were only allowed to designate one member each to the EB. Naima Abdellaoui requested to put on record that, were it to be considered upon an eventual appeal that lists were allowed to designate more than one member, such designations from the UNison list would be for herself and Radouan Toualbia.

<u>EB seat Nº 1:</u> Following the nomination by Nicole Lewis-Lettington from the Hope Team list, **Prisca Chaoui was designated as Executive Bureau member**.

EB seat N° 2: Following her self-nomination from the UNison list, Naima Abdellaoui was designated as Executive Bureau member.

#### 4. Election of the Executive Bureau

<u>EB seat N° 3:</u> Mohamed Bali nominated Laura Johnson. Seeing no other candidates, **Laura Johnson** was elected as member of the Executive Bureau without opposition.

<u>EB seat N° 4:</u> Begoña Martinez Alfonso nominated Philippe Duparc. Mohamed Assi nominated Rowland Palairet. Following the ballot, Philippe Duparc obtained 15 votes and Rowland Palairet 8 votes. **Philippe Duparc was elected as member of the Executive Bureau**.

<u>EB seat N° 5:</u> Nicole Lewis-Lettington nominated Mohamed Bali. Mohamed Assi nominated Radouan Toualbia. Following the ballot, Mohamed Bali obtained 16 votes and Radouan Toualbia 7 votes. **Mohamed Bali was elected as member of the Executive Bureau**.

<u>EB seat N° 6:</u> Mohamed Bali nominated Olivier Meyer. Mohamed Assi nominated Hilary Nwokeabia. Following the ballot, Olivier Meyer obtained 16 votes and Hilary Nwokeabia 7 votes. **Olivier Meyer was elected as member of the Executive Bureau**.

<u>EB seat N° 7:</u> Viera Pejchal nominated Brad Smith. Naima Abdellaoui nominated Radouan Toualbia. Following the ballot, Brad Smith obtained 14 votes and Radouan Toualbia 9 votes. **Brad Smith was elected as member of the Executive Bureau**.

#### 5. Election of the Executive Secretary

Mohamed Bali nominated Brad Smith for Executive Secretary. Naima Abdellaoui nominated herself to Executive Secretary. Following the ballot, Brad smith obtained 17 votes and Naima Abdellaoui 5 votes. 1 vote was not cast. **Brad Smith was elected Executive Secretary**.

-----

The Council expressed great thanks to the members of the Polling Board for their assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.