



41st Staff Union Council 2023-2024

Ref. SU-41-EB-2

Executive Bureau Minutes of the 2nd meeting

Held on 1 March 2023 at 9 a.m.
via MS Teams

Adopted on 9 March 2023.

Members of the Executive Bureau:

ABDELLAOUI Naima	<i>Present</i>	GONZALEZ Pablo	<i>Present</i>
BALI Mohamed	<i>Present</i>	HERMELINK Ursula	<i>Present</i>
MARTINEZ Begoña	<i>Present</i>	JOHNSON Laura	<i>Present</i>
DUPARC Philippe	<i>Absent</i>		

President of the UNOG SU:

RICHARDS Ian *Present*

Vice-President of the UNOG SU:

SMITH Bradford *Present*

The meeting began at 9:05 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 1st meeting

The minutes of the 1st meeting were adopted without changes as recorded in the Union secretariat.

3. Next Council meeting

The EB agreed to hold the next Council meeting on Monday 20 March, at 1:30 p.m.

4. Finance Commission

As per Annex II (Article 1.1) of the Regulations, the EB appointed Pablo Gonzalez Silva as member of the Finance Commission.

5. SMC delegation

The EB noted that the next SMC meeting would be held in April in Brindisi, where management covered the cost of two participants per staff union. The EB agreed to nominate Laura Johnson (E.S.) and Brad Smith (Vice-President) to attend on behalf of the Union.

6. CCISUA GA delegation

The EB noted that the next CCISUA GA would be held in May in Budapest, where travel costs were to be borne by each staff union as per CCISUA statutes. The EB agreed to nominate Laura Johnson (E.S.), Pablo Gonzalez Silva (D.E.S.), and Ian Richards (President) to attend on behalf of the Union, for which expenditure the Council had given its approval in the 2022-2023 budget.

In line with CCISUA statutes, former Union staff representative Prisca Chaoui remained in office as President of the federation until the federation would elect a new Bureau at the end of the GA. Therefore the Union would also cover the travel costs of her attendance to the GA under the same budget line.

7. UN Today

As per the TOR of UN Today, the two-year term of the Editorial Board was up for renewal. Only one change in the membership was expected. This would be presented to the Council for its consideration.

8. Staff facilities

The EB was informed that management went back on its word to find a viable solution for the continuation of the Tennis Club under a co-managed structure similar to that of UN Port. The EB agreed to formally ask the Director-General for clarifications.

EB members raised the question of how the Union could promote the improvement of facilities in general, with the view to bringing back more life to the Palais des Nations following the Covid-19 pandemic and make it a more attractive place to be in. The EB agreed to prepare a survey to gather staff feedback on their satisfaction with existing facilities and services and how they could be improved.

9. Rebuttal Panel

An EB member raised an issue about having been excluded from participating in a case of the UNOG rebuttal panel. Further concerns were raised relating to the Joint Committee on Health and Safety at the Workplace whereby no meetings were being held. The EB took note of the concerns but also of the difficulty to take action without knowing the background. The EB member would submit the background and facts in writing so the EB can study whether any actions could be taken.

10. Collection for Syria and Türkiye

The EB was informed that the collection for the relief of earthquake victims in Syria and Türkiye had so far collected over CHF 32'000. In line with adopted guidelines on collection, the Council could approve a contribution by the Union of up to CHF 10'000.

An analysis of the situation suggested that the majority of the collected funds should go to relief in Syria because Türkiye was already getting most of the international aid. A suggestion was made to split the funds giving 1/3 for relief in Türkiye and 2/3 for relief in Syria. The EB confirmed that best channels for the aid were OCHA for Syria and IFRC (in Geneva) for Türkiye. This would be raised at the next Council meeting.

EB members discussed the best way to express solidarity to UN staff members from affected countries during future humanitarian emergencies. It was noted that the response would depend on whether UNOG Staff Union represented staff working in the areas concerned, which was not the case for the current situation. The Union would certainly support staff whose managers were not appropriately sensitive to their personal circumstances for example in the granting of telecommuting away from the duty station.

11. Continuing appointments

The EB recalled that management in New York had set 10 March as a deadline for staff to review their eligibility status for continuing appointments, noting with regret that only one global broadcast (not locally in Geneva) had been sent out to that effect, possibly leaving staff unaware of necessary action on their part. The EB agreed to send out a broadcast to remind staff of this, attaching the relevant SGB that sets out eligibility conditions.

12. Any other business

- On parental leave, the button in Umoja that allowed staff to request it seemed to have disappeared, possibly related to the introduction of the new ST/AI on parental leave. This would be monitored and raised if needed. Concerning the broader issue of retroactivity, the EB noted with regret how management went back on their word and refused to apply the increased leave for parents who gave birth or adopted before 1 January 2023. The way forward should be coordinated with other unions.
- The EB expressed a vote of thanks to previous ES and DES for their work and support in the transition.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.