

SECTION DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES DU BIT  
SECTION OF FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE ILO

SYNDICAT DU PERSONNEL DE L'OIT

ILO STAFF UNION

Ferney-Voltaire, 9 June 2021

To the Director of Human Resources Development:

Dear Mr Bogui,

I am writing on behalf of the Bureau of the Section of Former Officials of the ILO, which on 1 June 2021 held an external face-to-face meeting.

During the long months of the pandemic, though functioning at a snail's pace, the Bureau of the Section still assumed its responsibilities towards retired colleagues, keeping them informed especially via our website. According to information received, the site gets a significant number of hits (300 a day on average). The demand for information and communication has remained high during the pandemic and we have responded to all individual requests. We have stayed in touch with ILO departments, including the SHIF and HRD, as well as the Staff Union Committee. Thanks to information gleaned from the intranet, we have also managed to stay abreast of developments in the ILO's activities, meetings of the Governing Body and the International Labour Conference, as well as the situation of the staff, mostly working remotely.

The onset of good weather, combined with progress in vaccinations and implementation of preventive measures, should allow a return to a more normal life. At any rate, that is the wish of the Bureau of the Section of Former Officials, which is hoping to be able to return to the ILO in order to resume its activities.

To date, we do not know what the conditions are for the return of officials to ILO premises, but we hope that as soon as that possibility arises, the Bureau of the Section will be able to benefit. Retirees should not be forgotten. Bureau members (nine people) together with all ILO retired staff will of course abide by the protocols in force within the Office.

I would now like to turn to some additional and more specific concerns and requests.

**Badges of retired staff:** To enable such a return to go ahead, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the badges of most retired staff indicate a cut-off date of 30-12-2020. Is this the effective date? If so, the badges will need to be renewed; but maybe they could simply be reactivated. We hereby request that this matter be addressed without delay by the ILO Security Unit.

**Relations with SHIF:** A number of retired staff members – though far from all – now use SHIF Online to submit their claims to the Fund. But not all retirees are able to access

the internet. That is why it is essential that the SHIF goes on keeping them informed in paper form, notably by mailing them the *SHIF Newsletter*. Apparently at present it is only being sent to those who have an email address.

**Reception for retired officials:** If the pandemic subsides and the possibilities for gatherings become clearer, we hope that a reception for retired officials at the invitation of the Director General can be held so that former staff retain their place within the broad family of officials. Older people have suffered greatly during the pandemic, often because of their isolation, lack of social ties and state of health. The reception is a friendly occasion presenting a great opportunity to reconnect with the ILO and its management and renew contacts between friends.

**Pre-retirement seminar:** Since the start of the pandemic your department has kept us informed about people retiring, so we have been able to get in touch with those concerned. We thank you for this. However, we are still concerned about the support provided to those taking retirement, because no pre-retirement seminar has been held since 2019, an event we are regularly invited to and actively involved in.

These are the items we wished to submit to you; a delegation from our Bureau is ready to meet you to discuss them in more detail.

In conclusion, I would ask you please to pass our thanks on to your staff for the good contacts we have been able to maintain with them during these long months of the pandemic.

Yours truly,

François Kientzler  
Executive Secretary  
Bureau of the Section of Former Officials of the ILO

CC: Catherine Comte-Tiberghien, Chair, Staff Union Committee  
ILO Security Unit  
Florian Léger, Executive Secretary, SHIF