



29 September 2021

Dear members, dear colleagues,

At last!

The Staff Union is happy to be back with some of our colleagues and to be able to interact with them again in a more friendly way (while respecting the 2-metre distance, of course). We have missed your expressive eyes (masks are required) and your questions.

But, while some offices, including headquarters, are fortunate enough to be able to return to a semblance of normality, the Staff Union knows that this is not the case for a good number of you and that compulsory teleworking remains the norm in many places of employment. Solidarity among all and a 360° view of the concerns of all colleagues remain a must for the Staff Union whenever the issue of COVID-19 and RTO is discussed with the Administration.

It is by referring to the latest official communications published on the subject that the Staff Union sincerely encourages you, while respecting your individual choice, firstly to be vaccinated and secondly to declare your status as requested by the Administration, since it has been assured that this data will remain confidential and only accessible by the Medical Service. The Staff Union recognizes that the ILO is behaving, on such a sensitive issue as this, with all the competence and maturity it possesses, especially in comparison with the sometimes incomprehensible or outlandish decisions taken by other organizations in the common system. "ONE UN" is certainly not for tomorrow...

These last few months have not been easy for the Committee, as it has had to be as reactive and active as possible alongside the Administration to provide all the necessary support to colleagues who in some places of employment have experienced and are still experiencing extremely difficult and even traumatic moments. The list of high-risk countries continues to grow and today we have a special thought of solidarity for our comrades in Afghanistan, Beirut, Haiti and Myanmar.

September is also the time of year for the Staff Union to inform you about its actions and the events that have marked the first part of this year 2021. It started off on a high note and has continued at the same pace:

Indeed, between the launch, on 6 September, of the elections of the members of the Committee for the year 2021-2023, the preparation of a re-design of our website, through the organization of a first virtual statutory regional meeting for our members in Europe and the Arab States, and the preparation of the next one for Asia and the Pacific at the beginning of October, without forgetting the preparation of the annual report in view of the General Assembly which will take place very soon, your elected representatives have been very busy.

In addition, of course, there have been all the joint meetings (Joint Negotiating Committee – JNC, training – JTC, recruitment – RAMC, safety and health at work – COSH, etc.) or working groups with the various bodies representing the Administration in order to make progress on the issues on which both parties are committed to reaching agreements.

Moreover, the Staff Union has decided to be a little more active in the federation to which it belongs, the Coordinating Committee of United Nations Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA). Our General Secretary, with the support of the Committee, has accepted to be part of the Executive Board of the federation. This gives us the opportunity to participate more frequently in meetings of the common system (ICSC, HLCM) in which crucial subjects for the staff are discussed (salary surveys and their methodology, parental leave, new forms of contracts, the future of work in the United Nations, the flexibilization of working hours, and many others).

There is much more information we could give you on some of the ongoing issues. That is why we invite you to read carefully our annual report, which will be published just before our General Assembly on 21 October and which gives a detailed report on all our activities and challenges.

And while we are waiting to see many of you at this next annual meeting on 21 October (virtually or in person), we wish you good luck for the last quarter of the year.

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