



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX
FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES DE EX-FUNCIONARIOS INTERNACIONALES

Report of the FAFICS Bureau meeting

UNOV – Vienna 14 July 2019

Present: Pierre Adama Traoré, Ibrahim Ari Toubou, Jerry Barton, Marco Breschi, Katia Chestopalov, Adriana Gomez, Georges Kutukdjian, Abu Khaled Masood Ahmed, Wolfgang Milzow, Warren Sach, Linda Saputelli, Pierre Sayour, Junko Sato, Gerhard Schramek, Mohammed Sebti.

Apologies: Mario La Fuente, Carlos Santos Tejada, Marashetty Seenappa.

Invited: Alan Prien
Peter Lillie

Agenda – Annex I

Agenda item 1: Introduction – FAFICS’s President

1. FAFICS President Marco Breschi welcomed the participants to the Bureau meeting and gave the floor to ARICSA President Jerry Barton. He seconded the welcome to participants and said that ARICSA was happy to host both the Bureau meeting and the 48th Council. The President thanked him for his efforts.

Agenda item 2: 48th Council (Proposal for the Council: opening of the session, Presiding Officer, Rapporteur, etc.)

2. The President proposed the appointment of A. Prien as Presiding Officer and P. Lillie, Rapporteur, for the 48th FAFICS Council.
3. The Bureau members approved the proposal and thanked them for accepting their tasks.
4. The President informed the Bureau that UNFCU was about to make a donation of USD 10,000 to the Federation. In light of that, the Bureau approved a slight modification of the Council Work Programme to allow a UNFCU representative to address the participants.

Agenda item 3: 48th Council – item 9 – Revision of the Rules of Procedure – Adoption of the Terms of reference of the Working Group

5. The President informed the Bureau that Ms. Judith Luraschi had decided not to be part of the Working Group. The composition of the group was updated as follows: Jerry Barton (Convenor), Katia Chestopalov, Adriana Gomez, Linda Saputelli and Gerhard Schramek.
6. Bureau members requested the WG in their discussions to take into account the various documents presented by AAFI-AFICS at the Council and at previous Councils.
7. The terms of reference of the Working Group were approved by the Bureau (Annex II).

Agenda item 4: 48th Council – item 5 – Pension issues, and item 11 – Appointment of FAFICS representatives on the Pension Board and other bodies in 2020.

8. G. Schramek and W. Sach are the FAFICS members of the Pension Board’s Working Group on Governance. The President thanked them for their substantive contribution to the recommendations coming out of the **Pension Board Governance Working Group**¹. Bureau members agreed that the document was excellent reflecting general consensus, but also compromise.
9. The Bureau decided to recommend to the Council to support the recommendations to the PB with a preference on the size and composition of the Pension Board for option 1 of the three options presented.
10. M. Breschi and W. Sach are members of the **Succession Planning Committee**, formed by the Pension Board last year to advise on appointments of the Fund’s senior staff. The President gave a brief account on the work of the Committee explaining the difficulty of the task further to the decision of the UNGA to split functions between the CEO/Pension Benefits Administrator of the Benefit and the PB Secretary. The President informed the Bureau that the final candidates would present themselves to the PB in Nairobi.
11. M. Breschi and M. Seenappa are members of the PB **Budget Working Group**. The President drew the attention of the Bureau to two main issues that would be discussed: the large increase of staff requested by the RSG for the Office of the Investment Management (OIM) and the reorganization of the Geneva office of the Fund. FAFICS representatives would consider the proposals and act in the best interests of FAFICS.
12. The President reminded that there would be a discussion at the Council on the appointment of **PB representatives** nominated by the President. The President stated the time was not appropriate for a change in the selection procedures as matters under discussion last year were continuing and there was need for continuity. He had full confidence in the present team which worked well together and wished to continue working them. He recognized the need for eventual change and rejuvenation, but recommended that the existing team not be changed for 2020. The Bureau supported the recommendation.

Agenda item 5: 48th Council – item 12 – Contribution to and Cooperation with the work of the UN. Catering for and serving the aged/seniors citizens of the world. Bureau draft CRP for adoption.

¹ Document No. Council 48/2019/D.5a.2 - Pension issues 5 (a) Report of the Pension Board GWG

13. After a debate, the Bureau decided to issue a draft CRP (annex III) on the matter. The CRP strongly supported the ageing agenda, but did not consider it realistic or necessary to request Member States to establish a new specialized agency for the aged. It also agreed that, the Secretary would present a short document written by M. Suess (AFICS-Israel) who could not attend the Council.²

Agenda item 6: 48th Council – Logistical matters

14. Jerry Barton outlined to Bureau members the social events that had been arranged by ARICSA for the coming days.
15. Bureau members thanked ARICSA for the excellent arrangements and looked forward to participating in those events.

Agenda item 7: Other Business

16. **Location of the next Council meeting.** The Bureau decided to maintain the principle of holding the Council meeting at the same location where the PB meets. The need to hold the Council in another location away from the Pension Baord this year had significant financial consequences. It also agreed that for 2020 , the two Standing Committee meetings would meet on a day prior to the formal opening of the Council.
17. The President would write to John Kakonge, President of **AFICS-Kenya**, to express the Federations’s regret that in view of the low response of associations (16) able to attend the Council in Nairobi rendering it non quorate, the Council had to be moved to another location this year. He would also thank him for the offer to host the 2020 Council and inform him of the decision to hold the Council where the PB meets.
18. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Council the reappointment of **two Special Advisors**, Linda Saputelli for the GA resolution follow-up, and Adama Pierre Traoré for membership matters.
19. After discussing various options and the attached considerations, the Bureau agreed to recommend a contribution **increase to USD 1.75** per member without earmarking use for the increased funding.
20. For the next Bureau meeting (January/February 2020), the Secretary will prepare a document on **membership matters**, in particular unpaid dues with a view to defining a policy to help small associations meet their obligations to FAFICS.
21. The meeting was adjourned.

² Council 48/2019/D.12 - Contribution to and Cooperation with the work of the UN, Catering for and serving the aged/seniors citizens of the world - Document presented by IAFICS Israel.



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX
FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES DE EX-FUNCIONARIOS INTERNACIONALES

14.07.2019

FAFICS Bureau

**Vienna
14 July 2019**

Agenda

1. Introduction – FAFICS’s President
2. 48th Council (Proposal for the Council: opening of the session, presiding officer, rapporteur, etc.)
3. 48th Council – item 9 – Revision of the Rules of Procedure – Adoption of the Terms of reference of the Working Group
4. 48th Council – item 5 – Pension issues, and item 11 – Appointment of FAFICS representatives on the Pension Board and other bodies in 2020.
5. 48th Council – item 12 – Contribution to and Cooperation with the work of the UN. Catering for and serving the aged/seniors citizens of the world. Bureau draft CRP for adoption.
6. 48th Council – Logistic matters
7. Other business

FAFICS WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE TERMS OF REFERENCE

23 April 2019

Overview

Background

At its 47th meeting in Rome in 2018, the FAFICS Council had before it a FAFICS Bureau document proposing some changes to the FAFICS Rules of Procedure. It also had two additional documents on the same topic, developed by AAFI-AFICS Geneva and AFICS Argentina. Not being in a position to harmonize the suggestions, the 47th Council *requested the FAFICS Bureau to establish a working group with the mandate to examine the proposals already made, solicit further proposals and advice from all FAFICS member associations, and to harmonize and consolidate all proposals received into a single proposal that would be submitted to the Bureau and ultimately presented for consideration at the 48th Council session in 2019*³.

At its meeting immediately following the 47th Council meeting, the FAFICS Bureau established this Working Group. At its meeting in January 2019, the Bureau reviewed the creation of the Working Group, but stated that *in view of the recent developments with the UNGA and the pressing issues at stake, Bureau members agreed that this matter was not a priority and may evolve pending Board and UNGA decisions. However, it was recommended that the working group should start work on its terms of reference to be completed by the time the Bureau meets again*⁴.

The Bureau also established the members of the working group, namely Jerry Barton, Katia Chestopalov, Adriana Gomez, Judith Isabel Luraschi, and Linda Saputelli. The Bureau nominated Jerry Barton as convener for that working group. The FAFICS President is, of course, an ex officio member of the Working Group⁵.

Purpose

The Working Group (WG) is to present a harmonized, consolidated proposal to the FAFICS Bureau for changes to the FAFICS Rules of Procedure, with the general purpose of improving the efficiency and impact of FAFICS activities⁶. Given the recent discussions and General Assembly resolution concerning retirees, the WG should also emphasize increased transparency and clear processes for Council activities.

Scope

1. The WG was established by the Bureau and will report back to the Bureau.
2. The basis document is the current FAFICS Rules of Procedure from 2008, including the attachment on *Procedure for the appointment of FAFICS representatives to the Pension Board* that went into effect in 2014.

³ Paragraph 60 of the report of the 47th Council meeting

⁴ Paragraph 14 of the report of the Bureau Meeting 28-30 January 2019.

⁵ Judith Isabel Luraschi had to decline the invitation due to personal reasons.

⁶ Paragraph 58 of the report of the 47th Council meeting.

3. The WG will not review the FAFICS Statutes, nor will it review the Section 2 of the Rules of Procedure dealing with Membership.
4. The WG will review the documents presented at the 47th Council session and will solicit additional input from all FAFICS member organizations.
5. The WG will consider the impact of possible changes to retiree representation that may be proposed or approved by the UNJSPF Pension Board or the UN General Assembly in 2019.

High-Level Requirements

The proposed changes must be justified as either

- Increasing efficiency
- Enhancing the impact of FAFICS activities
- Improving transparency and due process for elections and appointments

Meetings and Resources

No physical meetings are foreseen. Work will be conducted via email. No resources are foreseen. Should a virtual face-to-face discussion be necessary, it will be conducted via a media such as Skype or similar, as agreed with the WG members.

Deliverable

The deliverable will be a Bureau document with the proposed changes and justifications.

Timeline

The Terms of Reference shall be agreed by the WG before the Bureau meeting in July 2019. The final document is to be presented to the Bureau at its meeting in early 2020. After the document is approved by the Bureau (including any changes approved by the Bureau), the Bureau will make a submission of the document to the 2020 Council meeting, at which time the work of the WG will be deemed finished.

**Contribution to and Cooperation with the work of the UN,
catering for and serving the aged/seniors citizens of the world**

26 June 2019

PROPOSALS FOR A New UN AGENCY on AGEING

BACKGROUND: COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

2013: A proposal was made by AFICS-Mauritius: "Creation, within FAFICS, of a caucus". It proposed that, "...the caucus would comprise a consultative group of past directors of United Nations agencies who would focus initially on ageing. That initial step could be followed by the creation of a programme and, at a later stage, an agency that would cater for the needs of older persons". The Council discussed the proposal in depth (paras. 42-49 of the Council's report), but did not support the creation of an agency. It concluded as follows:

"Council took note of the documents and agreed that work should continue on exploring the potential for a caucus. The President (Eggleston) and Bureau were requested to draft guidelines on the further steps to be taken and the issue would be taken up at the Council session in 2014."

2014: AFICS-Mauritius presented another document: "Towards the creation of a United Nations Ageing Agency". Following discussion (paras. 79-83 of the Council's report), the following conclusion was reached:

"The Presiding Officer in her summary noted that everybody had a view on the topic. The idea of an agency should be held in abeyance, but further work should proceed on the role that member associations and the Federation could play. Council took note of the document presented under the agenda item. Michael Atchia was tasked with coordinating and presenting the background information essential to the further development of the idea."

2015: There was no follow-up on the ageing topic by AFICS-Mauritius. Michael Atchia made a proposal for the publication of memoirs of former United Nations staff members.

2016: AFICS-Mauritius proposed that a provision be made in the Bureau for an editor and a public relations officer. The Council decided that the proposal would first be taken up by the Bureau itself.

2017: The Council had an extensive discussion (paras. 112-129 of the Council's report) primarily on the basis of a document prepared by AAFI-AFICS Geneva, but also took into account the content of two others prepared by AFICS-Australia and AFICS-New Zealand. The conclusions in the Council's report were as follows:

"124. ...Upon conclusion of the extended discussion, Council noted with appreciation the extensive activities that member associations had undertaken in order to help their constituents."

125. Council adopted a number of recommendations at three distinct levels."

126. At the level of the Pension Board, FAFICS should reaffirm that ageing was a priority concern to which all agencies and organisations, participants and Member States should devote particular attention. Furthermore, long-term care should be re-introduced as a crucially important factor in the deliberations of the HLCM/FB Network Working Group on ASHI.

127. At the level of the Federation, a focal point for ageing should be established. It was agreed that the focal point be located in AAFI-AFICS in Geneva.

128. Furthermore, the Federation should continue its close cooperation with the Fund secretariat and reaffirm its focus on the needs of ageing beneficiaries as a major activity.

129. At the level of the individual member associations, the associations should go beyond advocacy and enter into more active cooperation with national and international bodies on issues that would safeguard the interests of their members in a broader context and contribute to their welfare.”

2018: Council discussed three reports on ageing, a note by AAFI-AFICS Geneva, a note by AFICS-Mauritius, and in session a note by IAFICS-Israel. AAFI-AFICS Geneva reported that they are the FAFICS Focal Point for Ageing, are working on meaningful roles and welcomed suggestions. AFICS-Mauritius again presented a proposal to support the future creation of a UN body on Ageing and requested that FAFICS keep this item on its agenda, since the issues are becoming more significant and the aged have a role to play. During discussion, it was pointed out by IAFICS-Israel that the World Health Organization has a major role to handle ageing issues in the UN system of organizations, and that specific items and concerns could be passed to them. The Council concluded:

“While there was general agreement that Ageing should be kept on the FAFICS agenda, support was not expressed for further discussion of the possible future creation of a separate UN body on Ageing in view of the many separate parts of the UN system already involved in advancing the ageing agenda” (para. 107 of the Council’s report).

2019: AFICS-Mauritius and AFICS-Kenya submitted a document to the 48th Council proposing “*the creation of a new UN specialized agency or fund or programme with a specific mission to cater for the needs and role of older persons*”.

CONSIDERATION

It is recalled that the United Nations, WHO, ILO and many other international organizations have been dealing with the issue of ageing on various levels for many years. In 2002, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was adopted and became the catalyst for a number of subsequent General Assembly resolutions which raised awareness of the importance of age related issues. The United Nations established a focal point on ageing in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and under its auspices an Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons was established in 2010. Furthermore, in 2014, the Human Rights Council appointed an independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. NGO Committees on Ageing were also established in Geneva, New York and Vienna.

On the UN level the Secretary-General reports regularly to the General Assembly on follow-up activities on the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the General Assembly regularly issues resolutions on that subject (see attached the latest resolution, 72/144). Within the UN system the International Year of Older Persons was celebrated in 2009 and the UN observes an annual International Day of Older Persons and a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, to cite only a few examples of the many policies and programmes already in place.

AGEING AND FAFICS

Given the importance of ageing issues for UN retirees and beneficiaries, the Bureau is of the view that FAFICS member associations should continue to actively cooperate with national governmental bodies, NGOs and other local bodies on ageing matters. On the international level, FAFICS representatives will continue to support and attend relevant meetings of international organizations (for example, those of UN DESA, including the Open-ended Working Group on ageing, the UN Committee on Human Rights, WHO General Assembly, etc.) with ageing items on their agenda. FAFICS member associations will continue to report on their age-related activities to the focal point in AAFI-AFICS. Geneva. Paragraphs 50-54 of the latest General Assembly Resolution on ageing, 72/144 of 17 January 2018, pay tribute to the Open-Ended Working Group on ageing and the positive input of both Member States and individual UN organizations. In this connection, the Bureau draws attention to the annual reports prepared by FAFICS representatives to the Open-Ended Working Group since its conception.

CONCLUSION

In light of the considerable work already being carried out on the ageing agenda throughout the UN system and bearing in mind that resolution 72/144 assigns the goal of promoting the ageing agenda primarily to the Open-ended Working Group on ageing, the Bureau considers, in line with past Council decisions, that there is no need for the creation of a separate new UN specialized agency on ageing. The Bureau further considers that since the AFICS-Mauritius/AFICS Kenya proposal calls for “*the creation of a new UN specialized agency or fund or programme* [bolding added] *with a specific mission to cater for the needs and role of older persons*”, that such programmes already exist in a number of agencies. There is thus no need for a separate agency. The Bureau continues to welcome further reporting by its focal point on activities which further the ageing agenda.