



FAFICS MATTERS

FAFICS Bureau meets in Geneva

November 4 to 6 2013

In a change from the previous patterns of holding Bureau meetings in January or February each year, the Bureau met from 4 to 6 November in Geneva. This allows for issues raised in the Council to be acted upon earlier and a plan of action for adopted for each member of the Bureau for the coming year.

The full report of the Bureau has been circulated to all Associations.



December 2013

Another year is almost ended. For FAFICS, I think it was a good year. The “groundswell” from the July Council Session was most positive; the Pension Board went well with FAFICS benefiting from further financial support for its delegation (see August FM); the November Bureau meeting was most active, it gave us the opportunity to reframe our programme on ageing and to begin to develop a series of projects designed to increase membership both in terms of the locations at which there are Associations and of the numbers of members participating in those Associations.

The Report of the Bureau which has been circulated to all Associations.

News on After-service health insurance liabilities has just arrived from the UN General Assembly. This is reported on in the pages which follow.

And so we look forward to the New Year and to our Forty-third Council session from 7 to 9 July in Rome.

And for that New Year, may we send warmest and best wishes to all our members everywhere.

After Service Health Care and Long Term Care

FAFICS has been following very carefully the progress of the discussions in the United Nations General Assembly on After Service health insurance liabilities. In November, the Bureau reviewed the matter and concluded:

“The focus of the Bureau’s discussion was on the Report of the UN Secretary General on Managing after-service health insurance liabilities. In this connection, the Bureau was seized of the status of the discussions taking place - in real time with the Bureau session – in the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. The discussion was clearly evolving very fast and it was difficult for the Bureau to take a position.

The Bureau, therefore, requested Linda Saputelli to continue to monitor very closely the evolution of the matter in the UN General Assembly and to advise if any action were to be contemplated on the part of FAFICS.”

The General Assembly discussions continued until after Christmas and resolutions on this and all other administrative matters were only adopted by the Fifth Committee on 27th December. (Ed. note: It is most unusual for the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly to meet in the period between Christmas and the New Year.)

We have been able to obtain copies of the resolution on “Managing after-service health insurance liabilities in English and in French (we shall distribute the text in Spanish when it is available). These text are attached in their entirety in the pages that follow.

The suggestion that the administration of the health insurances be taken over by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund is radical. There has been a suggestion that further work on the matter be carried out by Organisations in the Chief Executives Board. We shall let you know what happens.

In a separate resolution on the United Nations Common System - the Report of the International Civil Service Commission - the General Assembly also referred to the issue of after service health insurance. The Press Release on the subject states that the “General Assembly expressed its deep concern about the long-term sustainability of after-service health insurance within the United Nations system and invited the Commission (ICSC) to review, in the framework of its annual report, the apportionment of health insurance premiums between United Nations entities and participation in both United States and non-United States plans”

(The texts of the resolution follow - we apologise for some shading that appears to have entered in to the re-printed materials.)



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session

Fifth Committee

Agenda item 133

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Committee following informal consultations

Managing after-service health insurance liabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [58/249](#) A of 23 December 2003, section III of its resolution [60/255](#) of 8 May 2006, its resolutions [61/264](#) of 4 April 2007 and [64/241](#) and [64/245](#) of 24 December 2009, and section IV of its resolution [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on managing after-service health insurance liabilities¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹
2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to examine the option of broadening the mandate of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, based on input from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, to include the cost-effective, efficient and sustainable administration of after-service health insurance benefits, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of this option, including its financial and legal implications, without prejudice to the outcome of the examination, and to report thereon at its seventieth session;
4. *Underlines* that the request in paragraph 3 above does not prevent the Secretary-General from considering other options;

¹ A/68/353.

² A/68/550.



5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a survey of current health-care plans for active and retired staff within the United Nations system, to explore all options to increase efficiency and contain costs and to report thereon at its seventieth session.



Assemblée générale

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9 décembre 2013
Français
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Soixante-huitième session
Cinquième Commission
Point 133 de l'ordre du jour
**Budget-programme de l'exercice
biennal 2012-2013**

**Projet de résolution déposé par le Président de la Commission
à la suite de consultations**

Gestion des charges à payer au titre de l'assurance maladie après la cessation de service

L'Assemblée générale,

Rappelant sa résolution [58/249](#) A du 23 décembre 2003, la section III de sa résolution [60/255](#) du 8 mai 2006, ses résolutions [61/264](#) du 4 avril 2007 et [64/241](#) et [64/245](#) du 24 décembre 2009, et la section IV de sa résolution [65/259](#) du 24 décembre 2010,

Ayant examiné le rapport du Secrétaire général sur la gestion des charges à payer au titre de l'assurance maladie après la cessation de service¹ et le rapport correspondant du Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires²,

1. *Prend note* du rapport du Secrétaire général¹;
2. *Souscrit* aux observations et recommandations que le Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives et budgétaires a formulées dans son rapport², sous réserve des dispositions de la présente résolution;
3. *Rappelle* le paragraphe 13 du rapport du Comité consultatif et prie le Secrétaire général d'examiner la possibilité d'élargir le mandat de la Caisse commune des pensions du personnel des Nations Unies, compte tenu de l'avis du Comité mixte de la Caisse, en vue d'y inclure l'administration économique, rationnelle et durable des prestations liées à l'assurance maladie, en prenant en considération les avantages et inconvénients de cette option, y compris ses incidences financières et juridiques, sans préjudice du résultat de l'étude, et de lui faire rapport à sa soixante-dixième session;

¹ [A/68/353](#).

² [A/68/550](#).



4. *Souligne* que la demande formulée au paragraphe 3 ci-dessus ne doit pas empêcher le Secrétaire général d'examiner d'autres options;

5. *Prie* le Secrétaire général de réaliser une étude des régimes d'assurance maladie actuellement proposés au personnel actif et aux retraités des organismes des Nations Unies, de chercher tous les moyens de gagner en efficacité et de maîtriser les coûts, et de lui faire rapport à sa soixante-dixième session.



To all those in the FAFICS family,
the President and Bureau members
extend their warmest and best
wishes for the New Year
2014

Calendar

7- 9 July 2014

FAFICS Council, FAO,
Rome

10 - 18 July 2014

United Nations Joint
Staff Pension Fund,
FAO, Rome

HELP NEEDED

The editor of FAFICS Matters would be very grateful for any assistance that might be afforded to him in the production of FAFICS Matters. Please contact him directly (roger.eggleston@gmail.com) Thank you.