



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

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

30 August 2017

I should like to bring to your attention a recent decision taken by the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) at its July 2017 Council. As you know, FAFICS plays a key advocacy role on the two matters of paramount concern to retirees, pension and health insurance matters.

I am writing today regarding the participation of retirees in the health insurance committees of their former organizations. More specifically, organizations of the United Nations common system lack a consistent policy with respect to the representation and voting rights of retirees on their internal health insurance committees. Whereas in some organizations retirees are duly represented as full members, such as in UNESCO and ILO, in many organizations retiree participation, if any, is limited to that of observer. This is the case with respect to the United Nations Health and Life Insurance Committee (HLIC) in New York where this matter, listed as an agenda item under “governance”, has been pending for some time now. This not only undermines the status of retirees who have a vested interest in the content and conduct of their own health insurance plans, but also deprives them of the right to contribute fully to the work and decision-making of these committees.

FAFICS considers that with respect to the above, United Nations organizations continue to have a duty to their former staff for the following reasons: retired staff pay contributions to their health insurance plans as do active staff; retired staff constitute a sizeable proportion of the populations insured under their plans (in Geneva, for example, retirees represent more than 25% of the insured population of UNSMIS); retired staff have their own particular needs, in many cases different and separate from those of active staff. For these reasons and more, it is imperative for retirees to be fully represented in the relevant executive/management committees of their former organizations.

As United Nations Secretary-General and Chair of the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), FAFICS requests that you establish/activate mechanisms to provide for the full representation of retirees on the Executive/Management Committees of health insurance plans in the United Nations, noting that FAFICS participates in the Pension Board as representatives, not observers.

FAFICS thanks you in advance for your cooperation in this matter which is so critical to the interests and well-being of United Nations retirees.

Yours sincerely,

[signed] Linda Saputelli
President

CC. Chef de Cabinet