

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

Associazione dei Pensionati della FAO e di altre Organizzazioni delle Nazioni Unite



Newsbrief 106 September 2018

FFOA hosts 47th FAFICS Council in Rome (20-25 July 2018)

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As is customary, the annual Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) Council took place immediately before the annual UN Joint Staff Pension Board session. This year, the seat was FAO headquarters. FFOA was privileged to organize and manage the logistics, as the host of this important event. Our thanks go to FFOA's Office Assistants, the FFOA President, several FFOA Executive Committee members and Ms Maureen Kato, a volunteer from FFOA's membership, for their hard work over and above working hours. Our Association took care of room arrangements and other logistics, and funded and organized a number of entertainment activities inside and outside of FAO premises. The Council praised FFOA for a job well done.

For the first time, the Council elected an FFOA member as the new FAFICS President, namely our General Secretary Marco Breschi. The FFOA Executive Committee wishes him the best for his future important tasks.



Marco Breschi, former FFOA General Secretary and newly elected FAFICS President with Kamila Guseynova, FAO Social Security Services.

Photo credits:
FFOA Executive Committee member
A. Van Arkadie



A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

As you will notice from the enclosed list of candidates for this year's elections, my name is not on it. After six years as your President, and previously three years as Vice-President, it is time to pass the baton to another who will be chosen from amongst those whom, in your wisdom, you will elect to the Executive Committee for the next three years. From the list, I can see that there will be a good cadre of well-qualified persons from FAO, WFP, IFAD and ICCROM to carry on the important work of our Association over the next three years.

The enclosed document FFOA/ELECTION/2018/03 summarizes the profiles of the candidates standing for election. Instructions on how to vote electronically are given on pages 6-7. For those of you who are (still) not electronically connected, a paper ballot is enclosed in this edition.

**SO! DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE!
KEEP FFOA STRONG!**

My second theme is that we have finally managed to start the resurrection of the Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Care (JAC/MC) after a hiatus of more than two years. As you will remember, the contract with the claims processor, Allianz Worldwide Care, was extended without our participation nor consultation for 2018-19. Thus, it is already time to begin the preparations for the next tendering/procurement process. Ironically, the

premiums for staff and retirees/beneficiaries from WFP and IFAD are known and have been in effect from early in the year, but premiums for FAO staff and increases in premiums for former FAO staff have still not been implemented. We have no idea when the general increases will start, as FAO tries to transfer more of its proportion to the beneficiaries. We have complained bitterly on many occasions to little avail.

On a brighter note, you will be pleased to read the section showing that our Pension Fund is in excellent actuarial shape, one of the most reassuring situations of any major pension scheme in the world, notwithstanding our evermore increasing longevity. Our eldest FFOA member will turn 105 this year, so enjoy all that our lives offer.

Finally, two tributes: I would like to hereby thank Annemarie Waeschle, who is returning to her home country, for all of her hard work as the Newsbrief Coordinator. Last, but not least, we should all be proud that our former General Secretary, Marco Breschi, has just been elected as the President of FAFICS, the first FFOA member to be so honoured. All good luck to him in his important role representing more than 75,000 UN pensioners/beneficiaries around the world.

**Alan Prien
President**

Newsbrief 106 September 2018

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The Council thanked Linda Saputelli for her four years as President, awarding her the status of President emeritus and designating her as a Special Advisor to the FAFICS Bureau for 2019. The Council elected Pierre Sayour, AAFI-AFUS France, as the new FAFICS Secretary, replacing Jay Sundaresan who had served for eight years. The Council also thanked him for his service and awarded him the status of Secretary emeritus. Furthermore, the Council elected seven new Vice-Presidents and appointed the existing officers of the Standing Committees for another two-year term. Wolfgang Milzow will continue as Treasurer.

Two new associations joined FAFICS, namely Mauritania and Madagascar, bringing the total members to 63.

Considering ongoing issues related to the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit of the governance of the Pension Board (the Council rejected the recommendations that proposed direct election of retiree representatives to the Pension Board), the Council agreed that the present representatives of FAFICS to the Pension Board should continue for another year. Similarly, the Council rejected the recommendations calling for more frequent meetings of the Pension Fund's Standing Committee.

The Council drafted a strong communique that regrets the audit report's error-ridden status and lack of dialogue in the audit process and rejects the recommendations that interfere in the internal procedures of FAFICS and exceed the OIOS mandate.

Regarding health coverage, the Council opposed a recommendation in the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) Finance and Budget Network Working Group on After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) to increase the minimum eligibility requirement to qualify for After-Service Health Insurance to 15 years and presented its own recommendation, based on reduction factors for staff who retire early.

PENSION MATTERS ⁽¹⁾

(Responsible: M. Breschi, A. Prien, A. Fusco Femiano)

FAO hosts UN Joint Staff Pension Board annual meeting in Rome

The 65th session of the UN Joint Staff Pension Board (the Board) was hosted by FAO in Rome from 26 July to 3 August, immediately preceded by the 47th four-day FAFICS Council. Intensive

(1) Information disclosed in this section is based on material prepared by FAFICS and the Pension Fund.



Executive Committee members at the recent FAFICS Council (from right to left) Ed Seidler, Mohamed Saleheen, Jamie Wickens, and Marco Breschi.

debates went on for almost three weeks, resulting in important decisions to benefit UN pensioners.

After extensive review and debate, the Board was confident that the Fund is actuarially and financially sound.

As at 31 December 2017, investments of the Fund managed by the Office of Investment Management were valued at USD 64.1 billion (2016: USD 54.4 billion). Thanks to very positive market trends, the Fund achieved a nominal investment return of 18.6 percent, outperforming the Board's 18.1 percent policy benchmark. Real investment returns meet or exceed the long-term real rate of return of 3.5 percent actuarially-required to ensure the Fund's long-term solvency. As required by the General Assembly, the principles of the Fund's investment management strategy continue to be safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility.

The actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2017 indicated a small actuarial deficit of 0.05 percent of pensionable remuneration. This is the second consecutive actuarial valuation (on 31 December 2015 there was a 0.16 percent surplus) in which the Fund remains very close to actuarial balance. The Assets and Liabilities Monitoring Committee confirmed that the Fund continues to be well-funded. As often is the case, past positive performance will not necessarily continue in the future and further exceptional growth is unlikely to continue.

It is now the sixth year in which the Fund has presented annual financial statements under globally-recognized International Public Sector Accounting Standards allowing the UN Board of Auditors to express a clean audit opinion on these financial statements.

The Board noted that the new Integrated Pension Administrative System (IPAS) is now operating satisfactorily and that backlogs are virtually eliminated. There remains room for improvement and the Board was informed of the corrective measures and new developments undertaken by the Fund's management.

The Board considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Service (OIOS) on the governance structure of the Pension Board

as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/262. The report was presented by OIOS via videoconference. Several Board members expressed their disappointment that OIOS did not come in person to the Board session to present their report and to answer questions.

Many Board members criticized the manner in which the audit was carried out. They raised questions regarding the basis for selecting interviewees, and about who had received the audit questionnaires. Questions were also raised as to the timing of the report and on the non-inclusion of the auditee's comments in the final audit report as required by internal audit standards.

The FAFICS President made a statement, referring to the Federation's comments on the draft audit report that were not reflected in the final report. He also stated that FAFICS considered the report biased, unprofessional and not in line with international audit standards.

Representatives of the Governing Bodies asked the auditor whether he was satisfied that OIOS had done a professional job. The auditor responded that they were proud of their audit report.

The United Nations Standard Product and Services Classification (UNSPC) Participants' Representatives stated that in their view the OIOS report was well planned, properly conducted and meeting professional standards based on verified facts. They congratulated OIOS for the report.

This was not shared by the Board that felt that OIOS had not followed accepted standards of the professional practice of internal auditing, nor the Internal Audit Charter of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF). It decided to submit the OIOS report to the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) of the UN for consideration.

The UNSPC Participants' Representatives – four out of 33 Members - recorded their satisfaction with the audit and their disagreement with referring this matter to the IAAC.

Although many Board members were of the view that OIOS had not entertained a proper dialogue with the auditee, the Board decided to

consider the report and to present the Board's response to the OIOS report for inclusion in the final audit report and the Board's report to the General Assembly. To this end, the Board established a small working group (including the three constituencies and FAFICS) to prepare the Board's response on the 13 recommendations contained in the OIOS governance audit.

The working group recommended an introductory statement on the process and the quality of the OIOS governance audit report and proposed responses to each of the OIOS recommendations. After considering the working group's proposed response, the Board endorsed the text with some amendments. It will be submitted to OIOS and will be part of the Board's sessional report to the General Assembly.

The OIOS recommendation that the Board should determine the number of seats to be allotted to retiree representatives and facilitate their direct election as full Board members with voting rights was discussed in the working group. The FAFICS representatives rejected this recommendation. After discussion the FAFICS position was supported by members of the three constituent groups. The Group recommended and the Board approved the rejection of this recommendation. The Board did not accept the recommendation because it would undermine the tripartite nature of the Board and because retirees are unaffiliated with member organizations. The UNSPC Participants' Representatives did not agree with the decision to reject this OIOS recommendation.

The issue of direct election of retiree representatives on the Pension Board was taken up by the Board towards the end of the session. In its note, the Federation strongly objected to both the OIOS recommendations pertaining to FAFICS and the content of the UNSPC Participants' Representatives document on elections of retiree representatives.

In the ensuing discussion, FAFICS representatives stated that FAFICS is an independent body with its own statutes, rules of procedure and is an established NGO in consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Consequently, it is not within the authority of the Pension Board nor the General Assembly to establish requirements for the election of retiree representatives. The election process for its representatives is the sole prerogative of FAFICS.

The position of FAFICS was supported in the Board. It was stated that FAFICS is a separate legal entity and it was not for the Board to interfere in the affairs of an independent organization. Furthermore, the status of FAFICS as the sole representative of retirees and beneficiaries in the Board has been established in Rule A.9e of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

The Board concluded that since it had previously rejected the OIOS recommendation for direct election of retiree representatives, the issue was moot. It decided not to pursue the matter further.

Medical Insurance

(Responsible: E. Seidler, A. Prien, M. Breschi)

Allianz Worldwide Care has informed FFOA that they secured the following agreements for discounts with pharmacies in Rome:

- Pharmacy Santa Sabina, viale Aventino 68 (near FAO), telephone 06 5743623, offers a 17 percent discount. They have their own computer app that will go live sometime this October, and they will provide home delivery for a charge of only five euros.
- Pharmacy VIII Colle, Dott.ssa Antonella Izzo (open until 20.00), via Paolo di Dono 35 (across from IFAD), telephone 06 5030678, offers a 13 percent discount.
- Pharmacy Martino (a new addition to the network), via Giulio Aristide Sartorio 34, telephone 06 126207 (open until 21.00) offers a 20 percent discount and will provide free home delivery.

FFOA takes this opportunity to remind members that the more we use these services, the better the cost containment that will benefit all of us.

News from the UN Organizations

WFP

“Saving lives, changing lives” is WFP’s new motto.

As of June 2018, WFP has 16,000 employees. Among the many issues raised by the Executive Director at the June 2018 annual Executive Board Session, he announced the following with respect to employees: Medical coverage has been improved, extending maternity benefits to consultants; WFP is investing USD 8.0 million in staff wellness throughout the system; WFP will be the UN leader to showcase that WFP is a zero tolerance organization not just in written policy, but also by management practices, including an additional USD 3.9 million over the next three years for more personnel to investigate concerns, complaints or harassment of any nature. The Executive Director also said that WFP delivers food as well as values and respect; that starts at the top. He mentioned that gender parity is being prioritized (again) and this time he wants parity to be achieved.

The Board at its last session in June this year was also informed about steps that WFP has taken to raise the mandatory age of separation of WFP staff members. The Executive Director has asked FAO to request the Finance Committee and the Council, during the June 2018 meeting, to amend the FAO Staff Regulations and Rules applicable to WFP staff members to raise the mandatory age of separation for WFP staff to 65. In the interim, the Executive Director invited staff members turning 62 from 1 January 2018 to apply for waivers of the current mandatory age of separation, indicating favourable consideration of those applications. Up to 4 May 2018, waivers to the current mandatory age of separation had been granted to 24 staff members.

Many WFP staff mourned the passing of Kofi Annan on 18 August 2018. He was a great believer in and supporter of WFP’s mission, a great peacemaker, and an ally in the fight against hunger.

News from the Executive Committee

Changes in the membership of the Executive Committee

Following the resignation of our General Secretary, Marco Breschi, who became the President of FAFICS, co-opted Executive Committee member Sabatino (Dino) Salvi became an elected Committee member until the end of this year, considering the number of votes he got during the 2015-2018 elections.

Executive Committee 2019-2021 Elections, November 2018

As indicated in Newsbriefs 104 and 105 of this year, the three-year term of the present Executive Committee will end in December. The following 17 FFOA members are standing for election as members of the Executive Committee 2019-2021: Mariam Ahmed (FAO), Jean Philippe Decraene (FAO), Marius De Gaay Fortman (WFP), Maria Augusta Di Giacomo (FAO), Annibale Fusco Femiano (FAO), Mario Mareri (FAO), Gianni Monciotti (FAO), Bruno Pisani (ICCROM), Giuliano Pucci (FAO), Mohamed Saleheen (WFP), Sabatino (Dino) Salvi (FAO), Edward (Ed) Seidler (FAO), Georgia Shaver (WFP), Joan Smidt (FAO), Fessehaie (Sino) Tesfamariam (IFAD), Alex. Van Arkadie (FAO), and Angelika Wolf (FAO).

FFOA Members with an e-mail address shall vote electronically after receiving in early November 2018 an e-mail message (from the electronic voting system) announcing the opening of the elections, with information about how to cast a vote by clicking on the internet link provided. The link will lead to the ballot page with the list of candidates; members will be requested to place an X against not more than 11 names. When completed, one must click the DONE box at the bottom of the ballot page. The deadline for voting electronically is **Monday, 30 November 2018**. However, please don’t delay your response until the last moment! Vote as soon as you receive the e-mail message from the electronic voting system. A strong FFOA is more essential than ever for responding and defending the interests of UN pensioners.

FFOA members not voting electronically, but in hard copy, receive along with this Newsbrief, the list of candidates with their respective profiles (document FFOA/ELECTION/2018/03), and the ballot. The ballot should be returned to FFOA (FFOA, Room E-005, FAO, viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy) in the enclosed envelope, duly sealed. It should arrive not later than Monday, 30 November 2018. You can also hand-carry the envelope to FFOA and drop it in the election box in the FFOA office (open 09.30 to 13.00, Monday through Friday).

An appeal from the President about controlling FFOA expenses

FFOA Newsbriefs have always reflected our concerns to be careful with members' money. To do so, on earlier occasions we have appealed to readers to make the switch from paper to electronic distribution. The response was heartening. In recent years, costs have risen even higher to distribute printed copies. An average paper copy costs a lot to print and almost 2 euros to mail. It cost almost 1,180 euros to mail the hard copies of Newsbrief 105.

Electronic transmission costs only the sweat and tears of the Coordinator, writers and editorial staff. Seriously, electronic transmission saves your FFOA money. As much as we understand the appeal of the printed word, we are hoping that more of our members will make the electronic choice. Those who do will gain the benefits of color photographs, the ability to enlarge the print size according to need, and instant access to other websites hyperlinked to articles. If you are ready to make the switch from paper to email delivery, please send us your email address, or that of a relative or friend who will receive it for you.

End of year party and closure of the FFOA office

The end-of-year party will take place this year on 12 December. Details will follow. Please also note that the office will be closed from 22 December 2018 through 4 January 2019.

News from the FFOA Sub-Committees

Membership

(Responsible: M. De Gaay Fortman, M. Breschi, R. Fenix, G. Monciotti, M. Saleheen)

Over the last months, the Membership Sub-Committee continued to review procedures and policies with a view to achieving a more stable membership. Members who, after joining FFOA and paying the dues for the first one or two years and then “forgetting” to renew, have a negative impact on the growth of our Association. Any member who fails to pay for two consecutive years (although reminders are sent) is suspended. Every year, 45 to 75 members are suspended, between 100 and 120 new retirees join the Association, and - on average - some 40 members pass away. The result is an annual growth of minus 5 to plus 5 percent.

We felt that a revised policy regarding life membership could help to solve this problem. Life membership is a possibility when joining FFOA. At present, only 10 to 15 percent of new members choose this option, while about 10 years ago, the number was considerably higher. Approximately 30 percent of the current membership are life members. The number of members who must be reminded every year to pay their dues is considerably higher than the 45 to 75 members who are being suspended, so it would be better to convert annual membership into life membership. We assume that many in-arrears members would convert their annual membership into life membership if given this opportunity. When we contacted some members-in-arrears personally, often we were told, that they had not been aware that they were in arrears, and secondly, they had found it difficult to come to the office to pay their dues.

In order to address this issue, the Membership Subcommittee submitted a proposal to the Executive Committee to extend the period, that members could become life member as follows:

“Members, during the first ten years of their membership, could convert their annual membership by just paying for the missing years up to 15 years as is present policy. Thereafter they could still convert their annual membership into life membership, but the total years paid for should always be more than 15 years. Thus, to get life membership from the 11th year up (until the 15th year and beyond), it would imply the payment of additional five years in all cases, as a penalty for the late decision.” At its meeting of 19 June 2018, the Executive Committee adopted this proposal.

We encourage all annual members, who see this as an opportunity to avoid the hassle of paying their dues every year, to take this chance to become a life member, thus also giving FFOA a more stable membership.

Marius de Gaay Fortman, Convenor

Social Support and Recreational Activities

(Responsible: J. Smidt, G. Monciotti, A. Van Arkadie, A. Fusco Femiano)

Previous activities

July 2018	Ventotene and Ponza Big Tour in Norway La “Casa sull’albero” in Arlena di Castro and percorso sensoriale tra campi di lavanda, aromatiche e frutti antichi
August 2018	Mini crociera to Giannutri and Isola del Giglio Mini crociera sul Lago di Bolsena e bagni alle isole Martana e Bisentina Gita all’ Isola di Procida Various 3-day trips to Ponza (repeated in September)
September 2018	Mini crociera a Porto Ercole and Isola del Giglio Prague (4 days) Uzbekistan (10 days)
October 2018	Budapest (4 days)

Upcoming Activities

December 2018	Ferrara and Modena Greece
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Monthly Coffee Mornings

(Responsible: A. Van Arkadie)

The FFOA Coffee Morning in July was well attended by 34 participants. As many as forty retirees, including eight members of the FFOA Executive Committee, were present at the Coffee Morning on 12 September.

FFOA Vice-President Georgia Shaver welcomed invitees and introduced Ms Akiko Ikeda, the newly appointed Senior Human Resources Officer at FAO Social Security. Ms Ikeda briefly explained her role and her plans to ensure increased dialogue and transparency, including through the reconvened JAC/MC. Much to the satisfaction of FFOA and its membership, she also confirmed that FAO Social Security, in terms of medical coverage and pensions, would remain in Rome to serve the Rome-based agencies (RBAs). Social Security seems ready to reconsider issues related to the Allianz-proposed suspense of assistance, formerly granted for mentally disabled dependents. That statement gives new hope to members confronting this very difficult situation.

Ms Valeria Cara, the Rome-based Allianz representative, together with representatives of Pharmacy San Saba, explained the new arrangements regarding the use of a new computer app for ordering medication and home delivery, to be introduced sometime in October this year.

FFOA Emergency Fund

Should you need temporary urgent support in view of a difficult situation, please contact the Chairperson of the FFOA Emergency Fund, Ms Joan Smidt (joan_smidt@libero.it).

Your Good Health

The “Real” Old Age and the Transition between the Third and Fourth Ages

The paper focuses on the relation between chronological age and health. It is understood that health decline is an indicator of the transition into the “fourth” age. At present,

the definition of the “fourth” age is unclear. Some authors consider the “fourth” age as a synonym of the oldest-old, and they define these individuals, based on their chronological age, mostly between 75 and 80 years.

From the perspective of social gerontology, however, such a view is insufficient. Fourth-agers might be characterized especially by self-neglect and ability to care and to make decisions about themselves. The SHARE data analysis for the Czech Republic, for instance, confirmed the connection between health decline, frailty, and chronological age, but it is not easy to define the exact boundary of the fourth age. Ageing is undoubtedly very individual. The frequently used boundary of 75 years seems to be unsuitable since frailty and general health decline occur more after the age of 80 in men and women. Although the quality of life of older adults apparently declines with age, the decline is more affected by health status than chronological age.

Health and quality of life are significantly influenced by the cultural and the economic capital of older adults. Older adults with basic education and low income are more at risk of poorer health and lower quality of life. There are also significant gender differences. Women are more fragile, the analysis of the impact of income and education showed; however, the relationship of gender, health and quality of life is much more complicated. To reach a higher quality of life, women benefit from higher income more than men. Higher education, however, brings greater benefit to men. Generally, structural factors seem to intervene in health and quality of life significantly.

Extracted from: Office for Population Studies, Faculty of Social Studies, MU, Brno and arranged by Sabatino Salvi (FFOA)

News from the Membership

Musing

In Newsbrief 105, there was room for just one of the two episodes sent by Executive Committee member Mohamed Saleheen under the caption Exquisite Gastronomy. Here is the second episode.

The Signature Delicacy

This was at an official dinner in a prestigious restaurant where I happened to be the guest of honor. Amid exchanges of greetings and decorum, the evening began pleasantly with all kinds of drinks and appetizers. Soon nicely decorated food dishes started flowing from all directions. As we began to eat, the Chef came with a beautiful white oval ceramic dish with something maroon-ish and shiny in it, and placed it in front of me. From the corner of my eyes, I took an unassuming cursory glance at it without interrupting our conversation. The lady on my left was watching me very carefully throughout. As soon as I finished my remarks on how to foster regional youth talents, she softly uttered: “Esteemed Mister, there is no pork served here, we know you don’t eat that. This is our signature delicacy - fresh dog meat, you must try it. “Having had dogs as pets all my life, I tried politely to dodge the offer by saying: “Please go ahead, there is so much food on the table, I am enjoying myself.” When she insisted again, a stern look from across the table with a slight tilt of the head quieted her and relieved my invisible stress! My anxiety was put to sleep with perhaps one too many bottoms-up of Chamisul Soju in a branded glass. Nevertheless, it was a lovely evening! Guess how many millions of this faithful friend of humans land up on the table each year - 25 million worldwide, according to 2014 estimates. The notorious Yulin festival is famous for canine meat. It’s time for a compassionate movement to ban the endless slaughtering of man’s best friend.

New Members

A hearty welcome to our Members who have recently joined the FFOA:

Batello, Ms Caterina
 Bauer, Ms Birgitta
 Caronti, Ms Teresa
 Commiso, Ms Angela
 Cooney, Ms Barbara
 Cowan, Ms Sharon Lee
 De Franchis, Ms Elfride
 De Marco, Mr Bruno Rinaldo



Establishment of a Membership Defence Fund (MDF-FFOA)

1. Purpose

The FFOA Executive Committee has decided to create a fund to be established through voluntary contributions from its membership. As UN agencies endeavour to reduce costs, the possibilities of their infringing on the acquired rights of staff and former staff members is a real possibility. Retired staff could especially be targeted in cost cutting exercises. Potential issues that might affect members in the future could be the adequacy of Social Security provisions (health, life insurance) by their former employing Agencies.

In order for FFOA to be in a position to obtain professional legal advice on matters materially affecting its membership, the FFOA seeks to establish a Membership Defence Fund (MDF) to provide the necessary resources to access specialist professional services when required. The Funds would be used:

- To obtain legal opinions and advice on specific issues and
- To advise on appropriate courses of action such as legal appeals through various bodies e.g. ILO Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) and possibly the FAO Appeals Committee.

The FFOA would also consider joining cases with FICSA or the FAO/WFP/IFAD staff bodies which seek to challenge adverse developments/administrative decisions that affect or might affect FFOA members.

The MDF would not be used to finance individual, personal cases per se but only those cases/issues that have a direct bearing on the FFOA membership as a whole (Class actions).

2. Funding

It is proposed that funding of the MDF would be on a voluntary basis with variable contributions (suggested to be from Euro/USD 50 -200) depending on what members are able to contribute. The Funds would be accounted for separately within the FFOA accounts.

3. Fund utilization

The FFOA Executive Committee would agree by majority vote on what cases/issues would receive funding under the MDF and agree on the amounts to be provided and for what purpose, taking account of the funds available.

4. Payment possibilities – Indicate Purpose (MDF – FFOA)

- Bank transfer to the account of the FFOA with the Banca Intesa at FAO HQ No. 732637/01/37 (Euro): CAB: 03356, ABI: 03069, BIC: BCITITMM700 IBAN: IT50T0306903356007326370137.
- Transfer from UNFCU account to the FFOA UNFCU USD account No. 10-17710700001.
- In cash or by cheque in the name of “FFOA” at the FFOA office.



About FFOA

Since 1971, FFOA works to advance the interests of pensioners from UN organizations based in Italy, regardless of where they spend their retirement. With a growing global membership number of more than 2,300 pensioners from FAO, IFAD, WFP, ICCROM, etc. from all staff categories, FFOA is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Representation

FFOA officially represents retiree interests in formal relations with management of FAO, IFAD and WFP. We have a place at the table in all retiree-relevant discussions. FFOA is also active in the Federation of Former International Civil Servants, which joins 63 associations like ours to represent pensioners at the UN system level.

Support

FFOA works to improve retirement benefits – particularly pensions and medical insurance – and to protect the interests of the membership as a whole. We also respond to individual requests from members for assistance, guidance or referral on issues associated with retirement and ageing in general (all services are provided by members on a voluntary basis). Members are informed on developments in areas of concern by our quarterly Newsbrief, a website and direct contact via mail (including e-mail).

Camaraderie

FFOA promotes contact and social and intellectual exchange among its members, through a web-based discussion forum, and a wide range of cultural and social activities. Colleagues and friends in Rome area gather at FAO on the first Wednesday of each month for “Coffee Morning” – drop in if you’re in the neighbourhood!

Helping those in need

Being a pensioner can be difficult and lonely. Volunteers from FFOA are available to support members in distress over the phone, or to organize home visits. FFOA also offers small no-interest loans (maximum 1,500 Euro) to meet short-term emergency requirements.

Service

Even after a career of service, UN pensioners remain interested in and committed to development issues, and continue to support the objectives of their former employer. FFOA attends key meetings and events at Rome headquarters, shares updates with members on key activities and achievement in the UN system, and provides direct support as well.

Keep up with FFOA and retiree colleagues

Stay informed on the latest developments on important issues for retirees via the FFOA website: www.ffoa-web.org. Register on the website to ensure you always receive the latest information, and stay in touch with distant friends and former colleagues.

Join FFOA!

Adding your voice helps make the Association stronger and more impactful. Annual FFOA membership is 25 Euro, and a life membership is 375 Euro. There is a one-time registration fee of 10 Euro. Follow the link to download a membership application: www.ffoa-web.org/eligibility-for-membership, write to ffoa.fao.org, or phone the FFOA offices at (+39) 06-5705 5623/5705 6016.