



1 November 2020

STATEMENT

Tribute to 75 years of International Civil Service

Council 49/2020/D.1

I. Context

The United Nations and many of its specialized agencies are celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2020.

This important milestone will coincide in 2020 with the 40th anniversary of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS).

Also, 2019 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), the 70th anniversary of the establishment of a United Nations administrative justice system (with the creation of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT) by UN General Assembly Resolution 351A(IV) of 24 November 1949, later reformed in 2009 with a new two tier system) and the 45th anniversary of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) (established pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 3357 of 18 December 1974), whereas 2021 will be the 75th anniversary year of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization (ILOAT) which hear cases from serving and former international civil servants of more than 50 UN agencies and international organizations recognizing its jurisdiction.

Last, but not least, 2020 will also mark the centenary of the creation of the League of Nations, which was founded on 10 January 1920 and led to the establishment of the first international civil service dedicated to the promotion of peace, mutual understanding among nations and the welfare of humankind at a global level.

At its 48th session in Vienne (15-17 July 2019), the FAFICS Council agreed to: *seize this opportunity to pay tribute to all international civil servants of the United Nations system (past, present and future) who have dedicated their lives over the past 75 years to enhance, support and uphold the noble ideals of the UN and the universal values that stands for. Such recognition would deservedly highlight their contribution throughout the world to promote peace, mutual understanding among nations and the welfare of humankind in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as their commitment to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity during their years of service* (Report of the 48 FAFICS Council, paragraph 178).

The Council accepted the offer of AFUS/France to draft such a Tribute in this spirit for the review of FAFICS Members. The statement approved by the Council (“Tribute to 75 years of International Civil Service”): *would be addressed to the UN Secretary-General and members of the CEB, and FAFICS President could read it out at the [2020] General Assembly session celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Organization* (Report of the 48 FAFICS Council, paragraph 180).

II. Purpose

Considering all these landmark anniversaries, and particularly those that have occurred in the year 2020, the FAFICS wishes to seize this opportunity to solemnly pay tribute to all the International Civil Servants of the entire United Nations system and its affiliated institutions, who have dedicated their lives over the past 75 years and are dedicating their lives to enhance, promote and uphold the noble ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

On this occasion, this Tribute is rendered to all past and present generations of international civil servants who were and are still in the service of the UN system with the same shared sense of duty and commitment to its universal values.

III. Tribute

The Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS),

- a) Considering that the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2020,
- b) Considering also that the United Nations and many of its specialized agencies and institutions are celebrating their 75th anniversary similarly in 2020,
- c) Recalling that a first true international civil service was established following the creation of the League of Nations a century ago,
- d) Noting that the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization (ILOAT), the United Nations Administrative Justice system (UNAT), the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) were established respectively 75, 70 and 45 years ago,
- e) Recognizing the paramount role played by the international civil servants of the UN system since 1945 in defending, upholding and implementing the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,
- f) Appreciating their invaluable contribution in promoting peace, mutual understanding and international cooperation throughout the world and mindful of the need to preserve their institutional memory,
- g) Acknowledging their unswerving commitment over these years to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in the discharge of their responsibilities as international officials responsible only to the UN Organization and its specialized agencies,
- h) Commending their active participation in the delivery and execution of programmes of the UN system for the betterment of humanity in all parts of the world,
- i) Remembering also those who lost their lives in the line of duty and in the service of the noble goals of the United Nations,
- j) Emphasizing that the UN and its specialized agencies embody the highest aspirations of the peoples of the world, that the international civil service bears responsibility for translating these ideals into reality and that international civil servants have a special calling to serve the ideals of peace, respect for fundamental rights, economic and social progress, and international cooperation,

Hereby,

1. Pays tribute to the international civil servants who have dedicated their lives over the past 75 years and are doing so in serving the UN system with competence, integrity, impartiality and independence;

2. Praises their loyalty, dedication, commitment and professionalism in the discharge of their duties around the world;
3. Recognizes that the international community must guarantee the security and safety of the international civil servants serving around the world, especially in hardship duty stations;
4. Expresses its gratitude for all their achievements in the delivery of UN mandates, programmes and activities, thereby proving the relevance of the UN system in a globalized world;
5. Reaffirms its belief that true international cooperation among nations can only be reached with a strong and dedicated international civil service;
6. Reaffirms also its full adherence to the highest Standards of Conduct for the UN international civil service which are integrity, loyalty, independence, impartiality, tolerance and respect for diversity, since the international civil service can be exemplary for a just and peaceful world;
7. Stresses the need to further ensure that all the UN membership is fairly represented in the UN common system staff in order to attain its highest universal character;
8. Supports the enhancement of gender equality in strengthening the international civil service;
9. Calls for the proclamation of an International Civil Servants Day by the General Assembly of the United Nations to be celebrated each year throughout the UN system on 11 April;
10. Requests the President of FAFICS to bring this Declaration to the attention of the UN Secretary-General inviting him to share it with the heads of UN specialized agencies and institutions in the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB);
11. Recommends that this Tribute to international civil servants be read out by the President of FAFICS in the General Assembly of the United Nations following its 75th anniversary.

Adopted by the 49th FAFICS Council on 9 December 2020