

## New Wood newsflash 1/2019

### Our impact on the Coordinating Council work programme for 2019

The work programme of the Coordinating Council was prepared by the Executive Bureau as a compromise reflecting the power relations in its membership (one **New Wood** representative among the five). Nevertheless, important points of our electoral programme made their way into the Council programme, adopted at the Council plenary on 13 March 2019.

To advance on priority areas for **New Wood** that have not been accepted by the Council majority, we will use Article 2 of the Regulations on the Representation of the Staff of the United Nations at Geneva, according to which “The provisions of these Regulations shall be without prejudice to the right of trade-union organizations and other groups to enter into direct contact with the Administration and with other authorized agents of the employers and to present their views to them”. Or, as one Council member told us about our wish to campaign for the non-taxation of pensions in Switzerland: “You can still work on the Swiss front”. We will do that.

Of the 18 points raised in our programme, one (representing staff in Swiss fora) is not applicable to the Council as it is only **New Wood** that can do it. Of the remaining points, 6 were fully accepted as part of the Council programme, 6 were mostly or partly accepted, and 5 were precluded. Below is the summary of what we have achieved and on what we should progress on our own:

<b>New Wood programme</b>	<b>Included in the Council work programme?</b>
Turning the General Assembly resolution of 1947 on trade union rights and collective bargaining into reality	Partly, under changing ISCS and SMC working methods
Representing effectively staff interests at Swiss and Geneva trade union fora thanks to the presence of <b>New Wood</b> in their representative bodies	Question not applicable; we will do it as CGAS and USS member
Reinforcing checks on the recruitment process to reduce favouritism and proposing equitable rules on promotions based on meritocracy, using the performance appraisal system	Yes
Corrective measure to improve the user-friendliness of Umoja	Not
Exploring solutions for subsidizing child care under five	Not; we should do it under article 2 of Regulations as a priority
Improving administrative support in case of long-term illness and organizing better return to work	Yes
Fairer and more equitable travel rules, applicable to all staff	Yes
Starting a debate on an unemployment fund, based on ILO international standards	Yes; we should take the lead

<b>New Wood programme</b>	<b>Included in the Council work programme?</b>
Transforming UNOG into a no-fear zone by establishing effective protection mechanisms against retaliation, abuse of power, harassment and impunity	Yes
Sparing no effort to make UNOG a no-cut zone by continued fight against pay cuts, downsizing and relocation	Yes
Protecting the quality of workspace at the SHP; respecting international and Swiss standards of workspace; re-considering superfluous and costly move of staff	Mostly
Campaigning for the duty-free status of SAFI following the example of Vienna and against the high costs of its transfer during SHP-related renovation	Not
Launching an inter-organizational action for the non-taxation of pensions in Switzerland, based on the HQ Agreement and ILO Administrative Tribunal jurisprudence	Not; we should do it under article 2 of Regulations as a priority
Adopt a balanced budget, with priority given to staff protection expenses	Mostly
Organize a more pleasant, less expensive Staff Gala	Mentioned in general terms
Re-establish the Children's Christmas Party in December 2019	Mentioned in general terms
Grant more differentiated and more flexible club subsidies	Mentioned in general terms
Re-establish a UN Special magazine really written by all staff, for all staff and covering the priority topics of all staff, protected from politicization, in accordance with the Statutes; respect principles of deontology and voluntary work	Not

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**New Wood Staff Union of the United Nations**

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