

# Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

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



**Newsbrief 104**  
**March 2018**

## 48th FFOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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The 48th session of the FFOA General Assembly will open at 9:45 on Wednesday, 30 May in the Green Room of FAO.

Our main annual gathering, open to all members, will be an opportunity to inform yourselves about all of the key issues affecting our lives as pensioners and beneficiaries. Please mark this date in your calendars and come with your friends to listen to, *inter alia*:

- Paul Dooley, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pension Fund, and his colleague, Alan Blythe, Head of the Geneva office, which handles the vast majority of FFOA members;
- Sudhir Rajkumar, just appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as his Representative (RSG) for Investments of the Pension Fund, which, incidentally, has had a fantastic return on investments for 2017: Come to hear details. Mr Rajkumar brings to his position more than 28 years of broad-based global investment experience with formulation and implementation of investment policies, along with practical experience with global bond markets, private equity and project finance transactions, and cooperate finance and privatization advisory engagements;
- Anissa Maaref-Wilson, the Head of the Dublin office for Allianz Worldwide Care (AWC), which services our medical insur-



Audience, General Assembly hosted by IFAD in May 2017.

## A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

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The major problems we have been having with our medical insurance are covered elsewhere in this Newsbrief by our lead representative, Ed Seidler, so will not be dwelt upon here, except to say that FFOA sent out at the beginning of February 2018 FLASH 16 concerning Allianz's increased premium rates. For those who have not given us an email contact, a copy of the FLASH is enclosed with this Newsbrief.

We continue our fight to resuscitate the Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage (JAC/MC).

For those of you living in Italy and receiving pensions in euros, we believe that – thanks to research done by former FFOA colleagues – the two percent trigger has been reached to effect an increase on 1 April. We have requested FAO Social Security to inform the Pension Fund of the details. This would be the first cost-of-living (COL) increase in several years. For those of you on the dollar track and/or living in other countries, the Pension Fund will normally inform

you in April if triggers occur elsewhere.

Finally, do take a look at the details for the elections coming up at the end of the year, and run yourself, or nominate someone who you think would do a good job.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the General Assembly.

**Alan Prien**  
**President**

### Newsbrief 104

March 2018

Newsbrief, the FFOA official quarterly edition, is produced in English and Italian and is distributed free to all members, electronically to those who have internet access, and in print to those who do not. Newsbrief (current and back issues) is also available on the FFOA website: [www.ffoa-web.org](http://www.ffoa-web.org). Suggestions or contributions from members are welcome.

Editor: **P. Nelson**  
Newsbrief coordinator: **A. Waeschle**  
Designer: **O. Bolbol**

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**FFOA, c/o FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma, Italy**  
**Internet:** [www.ffoa-web.org](http://www.ffoa-web.org) **Tel.** (+39) 06-5705 5623/5705 6016

**Room:** E-005  
**Email:** [ffoa@fao.org](mailto:ffoa@fao.org)

(continued from page 1)

ance protection; and Representatives of our parent Organizations and their Staff Association representatives.

We also make lunch arrangements for those of you who wish to participate. In the afternoon, we shall have a follow-up to last year's session on fiscal issues, including a question and answer period.

The proposed agenda and documents for the Assembly accompany this issue of the Newsbrief. Please don't forget to bring your FFOA membership card and your pensioner's building pass.

## Pension Matters

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

### New Representative of the Secretary-General

After a period of administrative difficulties for the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and its beneficiaries, the new year started under the best auspices, as the new Representative of the Secretary-General (RSG) for Investments, Mr Sudhir Rajkumar took office on 1 January 2018. On page 12 we include a reprint from the Secretary-General's Announcement of 19 October 2017 summarizing his profile and work experience. Early in February, the President of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), Ms Linda Saputelli, and Vice-President Mr Warren Sach met with the new RSG and were impressed by his open manner and reassurance of his desire to continue an active and fruitful dialogue with FAFICS and the entire community of retirees that it represents. As a keynote of his statement, the RSG recognized the importance of meeting the long-term objective of a 3.5 percent real return on investments, as part of an overall aim towards ever improving investment performance. Many FFOA members will recall when Mr Rajkumar was an esteemed member of the FAO Investment Committee along with representatives from prestigious national banks

and financial institutions from around the world, that led FAO to investment success. He was also on the Investment Committee of the United Nations Office for Project Services and served as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for Pension Management. We trust his leadership will be instrumental in improving investment performance at the UNJSPF.

We shall be honored by Mr Rajkumar's presence at our forthcoming General Assembly and look forward to hear directly from him about how he plans to lead the Investment Management Division (IMD).

### Pension Fund Positive Trend Continues

We reported last year that as of 10 February 2017 the UNJSPF was valued at an all time high of 56.1 billion US dollars. We are now pleased to report that as of the same date this year the Fund's value has reached the astonishing level of 63.4 billion US dollars.

While this favorable trend is no doubt a reflection of positive market performance, we trust that the Fund enjoys wise and prudent investment policies and solid procedures and practices - key factors for its success. We are also convinced that the new RSG will continue to support good performance while seeking long-term stability and durable financial health.

Positive developments are registered as well on the "spending side" of the Fund that is the payment of pensions and other benefits to Fund beneficiaries. As reported previously, delays in releasing new pensions are now almost completely eliminated, while payments to existing beneficiaries were uninterrupted. Despite success on both fronts of the Fund's operations (investments and disbursements), there continue to be undue criticisms and false accusations that threaten the good reputation of the Fund, particularly from sources based in New York. FFOA, in full consultation with FAFICS, will remain vigilant and continue to reject unjustified accusations.

### FAFICS Council and Pension Board

The Pension Board will take place in Rome this

year on FAO premises from the end of July until early August, immediately preceded by the FAFICS Council. FFOA is honored to host the Council and preparatory work is already underway. We will keep members informed of progress.

### **Cost of Living**

FFOA monitors on an ongoing basis the movements of the cost of living indexes in Italy and in the United States of America. As soon as data is available from the Italian “Istituto di Statistica” (ISTAT), we liaise with the FAO Social Security office for confirmation on action being taken by the Fund to reflect any applicable increase in pension payments, in euro or in dollar pensions. We expect that, thanks to the combined effect of current and previous years’ movements, there will be an upward cost of living adjustment of over two percent for euro pensions. Members will be informed in due course.

### **Certificates of Entitlement**

Annual Certificates of Entitlement (CEs) are due to be released in April 2018 to retirees. We wish to remind members of the importance of this key process by which each year we are requested to return the signed certificate to the Pension Fund to ensure continuation of benefits. For any question you may have, please contact the FFOA office in Rome, the FAO Social Security office, or the Pension Fund directly.

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## **Medical Insurance**

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

### **Extension of contract with Allianz Worldwide Care**

The three Rome-based agencies have agreed to extend the contract with Allianz Worldwide Care (AWC) for the administration of the BMIP and MMBP medical plans of the three agencies for two years (2018 and 2019). Advice of the new medical premiums for the three agencies was sent out by FFOA to its members in FLASH 16 dated 9 February 2018. Premiums of WFP and IFAD staff and retirees that are based on a flat premium have been increased by some 4.4 percent per

year (as opposed to 7.5 percent) due to the use of accumulated profit sharing funds by these Agencies to reduce premium increases. Caps on premiums for staff and retirees are retained at five percent and four percent respectively.

### **Revised premiums**

FAO has continued to level premiums on a percentage basis of net salary for serving staff and full pensions for retirees. The percentages for 2018 and 2019 have increased significantly as FAO has continued its endeavors to reduce staff costs and has shifted more of its social security/welfare obligations onto staff and retirees. Whilst retirees’ premiums are capped at four percent of full pension, the former cap on staff of five percent has been removed so a staff member (P and G) with three dependents is now to pay premiums of 5.5 percent of net salary plus post adjustment (P) or net salary (G). There is now an increasing disparity between premium payments for FAO staff and retirees and staff and retirees of WFP and IFAD that are covered by the same plans.

MMBP premiums are a flat amount depending on family size; they are fully paid by participants in FAO and WFP, and shared equally by IFAD and its staff and retirees. They have also been increased for staff and retirees at the three Agencies by the same amount.

Premiums under the Group Life and Accident Plan (GLADI), likewise under AWC, have also changed for 2018 and 2019, but in this case, premium costs have been lowered.

FFOA has continued to express its serious concern to FAO and to the other Rome-based Agencies, at the non-convening of the Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage (JAC/MC), which has failed to meet for two years due to refusal by FAO (the host Agency) to call a meeting.

### **How to contact Allianz Worldwide Care at FAO**

Please note that Lisa and Valeria of the AWC team are available in FAO, Room D-305, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 12:30. Furthermore, one of the two can be reached by phone every morning at +39-06-57056593. You

can also contact the team by e-mail at: [RBA.help@allianzworldwidecare.com](mailto:RBA.help@allianzworldwidecare.com).

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## News from the UN Organizations

### IFAD

The Forty-first session of the IFAD Governing Council was held on 13 and 14 February 2018. The keynote address was given by Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Negotiations are ongoing with respect to the next Replenishment, but the United States of America has yet to make a pledge.

### WFP

WFP said farewell and thank you to Mr Ramiro Lopes da Silva, Assistant Executive Director, who retired at the end of 2017 after 32 years with the Programme. The tribute video was posted on the WFP People Facebook page on 21 December 2017. FFOA welcomes Ramiro to enjoy his retirement!

The new Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services, is Ms Valerie Guarnieri, former Regional Director for East and Central Africa. Joining her and returning to WFP is Mr Amer Daoudi who is the Senior Director of Operations.

The Executive Director wants WFP to be a leader on the issue of zero tolerance for harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority, so he has announced that the policy is being updated to bolster WFP's zero tolerance stance to better protect victims as well as find and punish those who are guilty of misconduct in this area. Being afraid to speak up, to file a complaint about misconduct for fear that the job will be threatened or careers derailed is an unacceptable atmosphere that very much bothers the Executive Director. The only people "who should be afraid about our policies in this area should be those who commit these acts" (ED's email to all Staff, 24 January 2018: "New Actions to Combat Sexual Harassment").

The ED intends to spend time during 2018 talking with and listening to women at all levels of WFP about these issues. Priority will also be given to the recruitment of more women and to promoting more women into leadership positions. He expects managers to actively address gender parity in their offices.

Finally, the new 2018 Management Plan has begun and "through investments and reprioritizations", WFP will continue to improve its food assistance operations through: "the progressive implementation of country strategic plans and transformed financial and corporate results frameworks; enhancement of its capabilities with respect to cash-based transfer; and improvement of organizational risk management. Together, these initiatives will boost WFP's contributions to Sustainable Development Goal 2, on zero hunger, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole." (WFP Management Plan 2018-2020, WFP/EB/2017/5-A/Rev.1 Executive Summary)

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## News from the Staff Associations

(Responsible: A. Van Arkadie)

### WFP-PSA

With regard to the implementation of the Mandatory Age of Separation (MAS at 65 as of 1 January 2018), the WFP-PSA referred to "... the unfortunate deviance from the United Nations common system seriously jeopardizing the reputation, spirit and culture of WFP." It affirmed support to WFP-PSA members who wish to appeal for an extension of their service, while regretfully noting that, seemingly, the only organizations that have not yet agreed to implement the United Nations General Assembly decision of December 2017 are FAO, IFAD and WFP in Rome, as well as WHO, ICAO and UNAIDS.

### AP-in-FAO

Following the recent AP-in-FAO 2018 General Assembly (which Messrs Prien, Seidler and Van Arkadie attended on behalf of the FFOA

Executive Committee), the following activities were endorsed as priority areas for 2018: continued professional advice and legal assistance to members; collaboration with FFOA, IFAD, UGSS and WFP-PSA to monitor the implementation of the new contract with Allianz - pending definition of Staff Representative Bodies' representation in the Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage (JAC/MC); and discussing related issues within the Staff Management Committee and Council (SMCC). Furthermore, AP-in-FAO will continue to: dialogue with FAO and other UN entities as appropriate, in consultation with FICSA, to advocate implementation of the increase of MAS to 65 years of age for staff recruited before 1 January 2014, taking into account their acquired rights; monitor implementation of the new conditions of employment adopted by the United Nations General Assembly after a comprehensive review carried out by the ICSC with respect to remuneration, education grant, rental subsidy, etc., and continue to provide analysis and advice to FICSA to prevent erosion of the compensation package, primarily through Standing Committee I; promote appropriate mobility practices, reinforcing the goals of the Organization while taking into consideration the professional goals and expectations of staff and their family-related requirements, while encouraging FAO to conduct a comprehensive review of the mobility exercise and analyze lessons learned; advocate and propose improvements in United Nations promotion policies and practices; and finally, study the pros and cons of opening membership to FAO's growing number of consultants.

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## **News from the Executive Committee**

### **Convening of the 2018 General Assembly**

All members are cordially invited to attend the 48th General Assembly on 30 May 2018, starting at 9:45 in the Green Room at FAO. All documents including the agenda are enclosed with this Newsbrief.

Mark this day in your agenda, tell your friends, and do participate to hear the latest news on relevant issues pertaining to pensions and medical care, to approve our activity report and the budget, and of course, to spend time with your ex-colleagues.

In addition to presentations by the Executive Heads (or their representatives) of the three Rome-based organizations, as well as by the staff representatives and FAO Social Security, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Pension Fund and the new Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Investments have, as already mentioned earlier in this Newsbrief, agreed to address the audience and to answer questions.

In the afternoon, a follow up to last year is planned - an informal discussion regarding fiscal matters. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

### **FFOA Election of the Executive Committee to be held in 2018**

The three-year term of the present Executive Committee will end in December, and a new one - composed of 11 members - must be elected for the period 2019-2021 (the attachment "ELECTION 2019-2021/01" describes the process). As we will again hold electronic voting, please ensure that you provide to the FFOA ([fao@fao.org](mailto:fao@fao.org)) your correct e-mail address (if you have not already done so).

Please do think seriously about standing for election this year. A strong Executive Committee with members from all Rome-based agencies - FAO, IFAD, ICCROM, and WFP - is needed to help advance the interests of pensioners from the Rome-based agencies, and to give effective support to the President as he or she carries out his or her duties. Fresh ideas and approaches are welcome. Your opinion/opinions can make a difference!

The qualifications of the FFOA members who are considering standing for election as members of the forthcoming Executive Committee are set out in the attached nomination form (ELECTION/2019-2021/02) to be submitted in a sealed envelope to the FFOA offices not later than 4 September 2018 (the form

is also available on the FFOA website under the GA documents page).

## News from the FFOA Sub-Committees

### Finance

(Responsible: G. Monciotti, B. Pisani, G. Pucci, A. Prien, A. Fusco-Femiano, M. De Gaay Fortman, P. Pace)

Please refer to Newsbrief 103, in which we described a possible alternative way to keep FFOA's savings stable in view of low bank interest rates. The worldwide cooperative and social investor – Oikocredit ([www.oikocredit.org](http://www.oikocredit.org)) has been identified as one possibility, but there are other worthy options. Oikocredit promotes sustainable development by providing loans, capital and capacity-building support to microfinance institutions, cooperatives and fair-trade organizations, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and renewable energy projects in developing countries. Prior to taking a decision on this kind of use of FFOA savings, however, we wanted to know from you - our Members - if you would be in favour of using part of the Association's savings to support this noble objective, while at the same time maintaining the value of the Association's capital. To date we have received only one reaction in writing. We would appreciate if more members could convey their views about this initiative before we pursue this matter further.

Please send your comments to Marius de Gaay Fortman, Membership Committee, at: [mdegaayfortman@gmail.com](mailto:mdegaayfortman@gmail.com), cc: [ffoa@fao.org](mailto:ffoa@fao.org).

### Membership

(Responsible; M. de Gaay Fortman, M. Breschi, R. Fenix, G. Monciotti, M. Saleheen, G. Shaver)

As in the past, statistical data on the FFOA membership has been prepared for the Statement of Work for 2017 for the forthcoming General Assembly. For the first time in six years, there was a small decline in membership of less than one percent. Less new members have registered;

the number of suspended members and deceased members was higher, partly compensated by the number of reinstated members (these members had been in arrears and were suspended but joined again by paying the fee of 75 euros for three years). The growth of the Association since 2011 has been nine percent. The number of members who are living in Italy increased last year by three percent, and since 2011 by 25 percent. Most of FFOA's members still come from FAO (up to 75 percent); however, over the last years there has been an increasing number from WFP and IFAD, as well as from other UN agencies. Sixty-three percent of all UN pensioners living in Italy have joined FFOA.

Our request to register members' names and addresses on the FFOA website to facilitate contact among members has been fruitful. The number of registered members increased by 10-20 percent per year; at the end of 2017, 773 members had registered, representing about one third of FFOA's membership. There is still a long way to go, but the trend is upward. Why not follow this positive trend if you have not already done so, and register yourself? It is just a matter of accessing the FFOA web site ([www.ffoa-web.org/](http://www.ffoa-web.org/)) and registering oneself online. We look forward to your registration, so that we have at least half of the membership registered by the end of 2018!

## Social Support and Recreational Activities

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

### Previous Activities

Since Newsbrief 103 of November 2017, the following activities were enjoyed by some of our Members:

November and December 2017

Passeggiate Romane L'Ara Pacis  
I Fori di Cesare e Traiano  
La Basilica dei Santissimi  
Quattro Coronati  
I Mercatini del Natale Tirolese ad Arezzo

Mercatini di Natale: Montepulciano,  
 Gemma del Rinascimento e Villaggio  
 di Natale  
 Assisi e la Spiritualità del Natale  
 Concert by Maestro Camerini  
 Musical in English Pygmalion  
 January 2018 Luminarie a Gaeta Napoli:  
 Il Museo Archeologico e Simboli;  
 I Segreti del Cristo Velato  
 Domenica sulla neve con la  
 Transiberiana d'Italia  
 Carnevale a Viareggio  
 Concert by Maestro Camerini  
 Theater in English "The Rivals"  
 February 2018 Napoli: le sue Meraviglie  
 Montefiascone e Marta  
 Ferrara e Carnevale di Cento  
 Sulle Orme di Lucio Munazio Planco e  
 l'Area Protetta di Monte Orlando  
 (Gaeta)  
 Roma: Visita al Quirinale  
 Trentino  
 Concert by Maestro Camerini  
 March 2018 Transiberiana d'Italia: Sulmona Castel  
 di Sangro (RIMANE)  
 Malta, l'Isola dei Cavalieri  
 Pompei  
 Weekend in Val d'Orcia  
 Vicenza, Lago di Garda e Bassano  
 del Grappa  
 Concert by Maestro Camerini

### Upcoming activities

April 2018 Salonicco: Sulle Tracce di Alessandro  
 Magno  
 Sardegna del Sud: Cagliari, Isola di  
 Sant'Antioco, Visita Saline, Nora, etc.  
 May 2018 Praga: Le sue Meraviglie  
 Sicilia Occidentale: Palermo, Segesta,  
 Erice, Scopello,  
 Trapani, Favignana e Levanzo, Parco  
 archeologico di Selinunte,  
 Agrigento, Cefalù, Solunto  
 Gran Tour della Sicilia: Catania,  
 Taormina, Siracusa, Noto, Ragusa,  
 Ragusa, Modica, Agrigento, Selinunte,  
 Mozia, Erice, Segesta, Palermo,  
 Monreale, Cefalù

Friuli: Scorci nascosti del Nord Est,  
 Aquileia, Grado, Trieste,  
 Udine  
 June 2018 Scozia tra Castelli e Giardini  
 July 2018 Norvegia : Oslo, Bergen, Alesund,  
 Tromso, le Isole Lofoten

### Monthly Coffee Mornings

Thirty-seven members attended the February  
 Coffee Morning, along with four Executive  
 Committee members, and Guest Invitee, Ms  
 Elsje Osselaer from Allianz Worldwide Care.  
 Mr. Prien shared the good news on stability  
 and growth in 2017 of the pension investments.  
 Referring to FFOA FLASH 16 concerning  
 Allianz's increased premium rates (January  
 2018), he noted the differing increases among the  
 three Rome-based Organizations; the reasons  
 will need to be examined. One participant felt  
 that Member countries should be informed of the  
 regretful status resulting from FAO's unilateral  
 decision on medical insurance for retired as well  
 as active staff.

Some participants referred to problems  
 from being obliged to communicate on repeated  
 queries related to a single reimbursement of  
 medical expenses with more than one person  
 on Allianz On-Line Services.

In answer to general queries, Ms Osselaer  
 stressed that nothing had changed under the  
 extended contract, e.g. regarding the limits for  
 physiotherapy treatment, dental and optical  
 expenses. She agreed to inform Allianz of the  
 members' dissatisfaction regarding submission  
 of "unavailable data or certification" for doctors'  
 fees and hospital costs incurred by patients. Ms  
 Osselaer explained the "partial reimbursement  
 of travel for medical services, if found  
 comparatively lesser and customary than in the  
 patient's country of residence". Participants  
 thereafter repeated some of the problems raised  
 last year about the format of Claim Forms, and  
 especially the non-inclusion of a line thereon  
 indicating "balance available".

The Allianz Representative reported that  
 the Pharmacy (opposite FAO) may soon make  
 available an App to facilitate on-line requests  
 for home deliveries to FFOA members ordering

medicines supported by related prescriptions, at a discount of approximately 17 percent.

### **FFOA Emergency Fund**

Should you be in need of temporary urgent help, please contact the Chairperson of the Fund, Ms Joan Smidt ([mailto:joan\\_smidt@libero.it](mailto:joan_smidt@libero.it)).

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## **Your Good Health**

### **Prepare Yourself for Retirement**

Below are some tips for our members who will retire in a couple of months:

Plan what you are going to do with your time.

When you've been working very hard, and you've been working long hours, you tend not to have had time for hobbies. Start thinking about a hobby or interest that you would like to pursue. Find friends, because your social circle gets smaller when you leave work. You can join a club or an evening class, or simply invite a neighbour for coffee.

Be positive and go out and do things. There are so many free things to do around you.

When you become a retiree, you can feel like you lose your identity, but you still have a contribution to make to life as an older person.

Don't be negative; look for the positive things in life. Meditate, if you like, and every night before going to bed try to think of 10 good things that have happened to you.

Try to grasp technology. It's not easy, but technology can really allow you to do a lot of things. For example, it allows you to keep in touch with family all over the world and learn so many different things.

(Extracted and arranged from AGE/UK by Sabatino Salvi)

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## **News from the Membership**

Here is the second of three brief memorable episodes from the working days of our Executive Committee member, Mohamed Saleheen:

### **Communication with the pilot**

In a far-east Asian country, I had the privilege to be invited on a field trip with some senior

members of the cabinet to a few provinces. We flew on an executive jet aircraft with seasoned pilots in the cockpit. The first two days went very well. On the third morning, we took off early and on nearing our destination after almost three hours, the pilot came to the cabin, saluted the team leader and said: "Excellency, visibility is very poor due to haze, shall we return back?" The mission leader raised his right thumb and said: "Go". The next thing we felt was turbulence and the plane landed through the thick haze on the ground. The team leader turned to me laughing and said: "See, how good we are in communication. I told him to go back, and he lands with 50 meters visibility." Hesitatingly, I asked: "Shall we stay here until the haze clears?" He said: "It is up to the pilot."

### **New Members**

A hearty welcome to our new FFOA members:

Ambrosiano, Ms Luciana  
 Acqua, Ms Ariane  
 Agbedjro, Mr Pierre  
 Ajkabache, Mr Dyaa  
 Amadeo, Mr Igino  
 Banzi, Mr Andrea  
 Bilugaglia, Mr Luigi  
 Blasi, Ms Maria Pia  
 Bruno, Ms Annamaria  
 Caffin, Ms Jane  
 Carta, Ms Laura  
 Cosenza, Mr Luigi  
 De Giovanni, Ms Maura  
 Delecroix, Ms Nicole  
 De Maio, Ms Fernanda  
 Di Santo, Ms Paola  
 Fanton Emprin Gilardini, Ms Iosette  
 Garnero, Ms Marguerite  
 Geronzi, Mr Ermanno  
 Herbinger, Mr Wolfgang  
 Iaquone, Ms Elisabetta  
 Lartigue, Ms Pascale  
 Laub, Ms Regina  
 Mancini, Mr Sergio  
 Michela, Ms Margherita  
 Milesi, Ms Carla  
 Ognibene, Ms Patrizia  
 Pacifico, Mr Antonio

Pattumelli, Ms Maria Grazia  
 Prior, Ms Ellen Bain  
 Rea, Mr Roberto  
 Soave, Mr Agostino  
 Stauffer, Mr Anton  
 Thapa, Mr Ganesh  
 Urban, Mr Klaus  
 Vancliffe, Ms Suzanne  
 Wang, Mr Huanfang

**All retirees ought to join the Association  
 to support its work representing the  
 pensioners and for their own interest, and  
 should encourage their ex-colleagues to join!**

## IN MEMORIAM

Hauck, Ms Helga  
 30 May 2017  
 Kleutghen, Ms Paula Joanna  
 25 October 2017  
 Ryhanen, Mr Pentti  
 10 November 2017  
 Preston, Ms Eileen  
 12 November 2017  
 Picci, Mr Antonio  
 15 November 2017  
 Henning, Ms Hildegard  
 21 November 2017  
 Fedrigo, Ms Suzanne  
 01 January 2018  
 Martella, Ms Maria Bianca  
 08 January 2018

· Mari Di Giorgio, Ms Vittoria  
 · 18 January 2018  
 · Sissoko, Mr Moriba  
 · 23 January 2018  
 · Faloci, Mr Michele  
 · 04 February 2018  
 · Fava, Mr Adriano  
 · 07 February 2018  
 · Gamlath, Mr Dharmasena  
 · 09 February 2018  
 · Rogani, Mr Giancarlo  
 · 19 February 2018  
 · Herzog, Mr Rico Herfried  
 · 21 September 2015  
 · Palminteri, Mr Ettore  
 · 19 November 2015

**On behalf of all the members of the FFOA, we express heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the above-mentioned members.**

## Sergio Apollonio

22 January 2018

Sergio Apollonio, the first Director of IFAD's Information and Communication Division has died at age 88. He was the eldest FFOA member from IFAD.

Sergio joined the United Nations in the mid 1950s and was assigned to Somalia, Senegal, Algeria and Congo. He joined IFAD at its inception in 1978 and remained Director until his retirement in 1989. A colleague recalls: "I worked with him for almost ten years, and I appreciated him during that time. He was a great catalyst for IFAD's issues, and he was able to attract the media to our small organization. I would like to mention some examples of his abilities. He was able to take the best from his few staff and create team spirit, and utilize what was happening in the world, e.g. the the Italian Radical Party initiative (1981-1983) for an increase in the Italian cooperation budget, and also Bob Geldof's project (1984-1985) to help populations affected by famine."

Despite the limited technological resources of the 1980s, he understood the potential of the visual message and was able to provide high visibility for IFAD through international press, radio and TV networks,

publications and events. His motto was: "We must sow as much as possible to inform and communicate to make IFAD known and help the poor."

He was a tireless worker and kept himself informed about everything by reading and listening in Italian, English, French and Spanish.

A few years after his retirement, I read his name in a newspaper as he was one of the promoters for the closure of the Malagrotta landfill. I contacted him and since then he always kept me updated on his battle. Sergio had the reputation of being a demanding and sometimes rude director, and I remember that when he lost his patience, his thundering voice generated fear. But I also remember his generosity, intellectual honesty, his vigorous handshake, his thick glasses through which he was able to find errors in few seconds, his laugh.

I feel sure that he will also read this short article, and so I take this opportunity to say: "Thank you, Director, your team will not forget you."

(contributed by Laura Masetti, Stefano Ventimiglia, and edited by John McGhie).

## **Secretary-General Appoints Sudhir Rajkumar of India as His Representative for United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund Asset Investments**



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced today the appointment of Sudhir Rajkumar of India as Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. He will succeed Carol Boykin of the United States to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for her commitment and dedicated service to the Organization.

Mr. Rajkumar brings to the position more than 28 years of broad-based global investment experience, covering formulation and implementation of investment policies, and hands-on experience with global bond markets, private equity and project finance transactions, and corporate finance and privatization advisory engagements.

He is currently head of the global pension advisory programme at the World Bank Treasury, a role in which he has provided advisory services to the National Pension Fund of the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Finance of Brunei Darussalam, South Africa's Government Employees Pension Fund, KWAP — Malaysia's second largest pension fund and the Nazarbayev University Endowment in Kazakhstan — in addition to other public investment institutions globally. He also currently serves as a member on the External Advisory Committee on Investments of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Investment Committee of the United Nations Office for Project Services and as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for Pension Management.

Mr. Rajkumar began his career at the World Bank in Eastern Africa Operations as a Young Professional in 1988. Since then, he has worked in various regions and capacities with the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC), including as Principal Investment Officer. Prior to this, he served in managerial positions with the Shriram Group in New Delhi and Kota, India.

Mr. Rajkumar holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago, a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Delhi. He is co-editor and an author of the book *Governance and Investment of Public Pension Assets: Practitioners' Perspectives* published by the World Bank.