

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

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



Newsbrief 114
June 2021

A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

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I hope this Newsbrief finds you and your families well. FFOA has been active in recent months, supporting members registering for Covid-19 vaccinations and has been actively engaging with FAO, WFP and IFAD to ensure that UN retirees and their dependents can access vaccinations. Members have been advised on how to make bookings directly with their "Codice Fiscale" and many have followed this advice and successfully made bookings and received their vaccination. Two calls for vaccination under the UN vaccination programme in Italy, managed by FAO and the RBA Crisis Management Team (CMT) have included UN retirees and dependents and registration was co-ordinated by FFOA at the request of FAO.

Information on vaccination programmes outside Italy have also been provided to members; the UNJSPF has been involved in facilitating retiree registration under national/UN vaccination programmes.

The issue of how to obtain official vaccination certificates/Green passes in Italy after people have been vaccinated without a local health card (Tessera Sanitaria), has been brought to the attention of the RBAs and specifically FAO as the designated Agency in Italy for security. Hopefully a mechanism will be in place by the time you read this.

Your Executive Committee has continued to work remotely and the office has been open (virtually) to answer member enquiries and issue Information Notes and Flashes. We continue to monitor all issues that affect our members (medical insurance, pensions etc) and continue to keep our members updated on developments.

Summer is with us in the Northern Hemisphere and we hope that the pandemic will continue to wain and freedom to socialise and travel will gradually be restored. In the South we hope your autumn/winter will not be too hard. We wish you and your families good health and good times as normalcy gradually returns and the pandemic is 'defeated'.

Edward Seidler
President

News from the Executive Committee

Georgia Shaver

The Executive Committee has been in regular contact with the administrations of the Rome-based Agencies with respect to COVID-19 restrictions, access to HQ, access to the FFOA office, COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Vaccination discussions with the RBAs have been on-going over these past months with a focus on finding solutions to facilitate appointments for those members not included in the National Health Service (NHS). FFOA informed members about sign-up options not involving online access and as the roll-out proceeded, many members were successful in getting an appointment. For those not, they were able to be vaccinated through the Government/RBA organized vaccination scheme along with employees and dependents who could not access the National Health Service. FFOA was critical in providing retiree information to the RBAs for this purpose. FFOA continues to work with the RBAs on accessing the electronic vaccination certificate for those not in the NHS.

Access to the three agencies is still restricted but on request FFOA was able to send a few people to access files and data. Our monthly EC meetings continue virtually and over the past months we have had several ad hoc urgent meetings to discuss matters such as vaccinations.

News from FFOA Advisory Committees

Medical Insurance

Edward Seidler

FFOA has been monitoring the performance of the Medical Insurer, Cigna, and has addressed issues raised by members on the level and speed of servicing and coverage issues. Meetings have been held with FAO, WFP and IFAD social

security units handling and overseeing the medical insurance contracts and issues related to unnecessary bureaucracy, delayed issuance of Guarantees of Payment, slow response or inadequate response to participant enquiries have been raised. A satisfaction survey on Cigna performance is in the process of being finalised and will be sent to all members who are encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire.

Members enjoy a comprehensive medical coverage at reasonable premiums (as they are subsidised by the RBAs) but cost containment is always at the forefront; use of in network facilities and doctors is encouraged. Medical insurance coverage is worldwide and as such one does not need medical travel insurance.

Pension Matters

Alan Prien

The Pension Board (PB) is undergoing a review of its governance matters.

Firstly, the size of the PB is under review. A Working Group is considering reducing the size from 33 to 24 members, supposedly for more efficiency. This would mean that the number of FAO/WFP members would change from 3 to 2.

Secondly, there is consideration of splitting the normally annual session into 3: virtual sessions in February and April, and an in-person meeting in July (when feasible). The representation of the pensioners will probably be unchanged.

The decisions should be taken in July, and then be subject to review by the General Assembly in the fall.

Another matter of interest is the ongoing invitations to beneficiaries to sign up for electronic registration of their annual Certificates of Entitlement, which would cut down on the huge paper processing for the Fund's Secretariat (which adds to administrative costs.) The sign-up process is a bit cumbersome, but encouraged.

Overall, the Fund continues to be in good financial and actuarial shape.

Social Support and Recreational Activities

Joan Smidt, Marius de Gaay Fortman, Bruno Pisani, Mohamed Saleheen, Sabatino Salvi, Alex Van Arkadie

Upcoming Recreational Activities

July, August and September:

3 days trip to Ponza, Palmarola and Zannone proposed by Infoacanto

August and September:

Tour of Georgia proposed by Palomba Travel

October:

Western Sicily Tour proposed by Curiosando nel mondo

Social Support

Over the past few months, we were able to resolve certain personal problems involving some of our members, including funeral arrangements, together with the assistance of the Bank at FAO and other institutions.

In this connection we wish to stress the importance to plan ahead, have your papers in order and, if necessary, prepare a will. This is particularly important for people without relatives in Rome.

FFOA Emergency Fund

We have received a very generous donation from one of our members. Donations enable us to assist our members who are in need.

Membership Advisory Committee (MAC)

Marius de Gaay Fortman (convenor), Alessandro Bertini, Roberta Fenix, Gianni Monciotti, Pino Pace, Georgia Shaver, Angelika Wolf

We were pleasantly surprised last month, when a life member sent the FFOA Treasurer a cheque for €375 and included a message stating that he had completed 15 years as a life member of our Association, for which he had paid €375 and that he felt he had to pay again for life membership,

a kind of second life membership. The fee for life membership is based on an average duration of membership of 15 years, but covers the cost of membership for the entire lifetime. There is no need for any additional contribution, but all are free to support our Association with a voluntary contribution towards our Emergency Fund or our Legal Defence Fund. The voluntary contribution of our fellow member provoked a discussion in our Executive Committee meeting on life membership and its implications. Normally life membership is chosen upon enrolment. It reflects loyalty to the Association.

Three years ago, the conditions for life membership were expanded by allowing members to take out life membership at any time by requesting the payment of the difference between the years paid and the 15 years' annual fee, as long as one had not completed ten years. After ten years the minimum to be paid is always € 125. A number of members took this new option last year. During the above-mentioned meeting the issue of 'life membership' was further discussed, as the Executive Committee members all felt that the presence of life members is beneficial to our Association. During the exchange of views, a suggestion was made to grant life membership to the surviving spouse or surviving dependant of a life member without any additional cost. The Membership Advisory Committee was assigned the task of submitting a proposal to that effect. At the June meeting of the Executive Committee this proposal from the MAC was submitted and eventually adopted.

Arguments in favour of this proposal are that the relationship of the surviving spouse with the Pension Fund continues after the demise of the member as the surviving spouse receives a reduced pension benefit. Moreover, the statutes state that upon the demise of the member, the surviving spouse may become a member. Granting of life membership to the surviving spouse of a life member may also be considered a reward for his/her loyalty and support to the Association. It is also a sign of our continuing relation with the deceased and his family and if 'life membership' is automatically offered to the surviving spouse of a life member it could

be an incentive for new members to take out 'life membership' as FFOA will take care of the interests of the surviving spouse, i.e., a kind of life insurance. This option will be available with immediate effect, but not retroactively. Surviving spouses of life members can enrol upon submitting an application form. You are all very welcome.

Renew Your Annual Membership

Renew your Annual Membership by paying €25 in the following ways:

- By bank transfer to the account of FFOA with Banca Intesa San Paolo at the FAO headquarters, IBAN: IT50 T030 6903 3560 0732 637 0137 (BIC: BCITITMM700)
- By bank transfer from your UNFCU account to the UNFCU account of FFOA N0. 10-17710700001
Routing Number 226078609

Ms Daniela PARIS
Mr Thomas PRICE
Ms Marina RAIS
Ms Rosina SALERNO
Mr Rami SARAVANAMUTTU
Ms Linda SAROUCOS
Ms Silvana SCALZO
Mr Beat SCHULER
Mr Akmet Hakan TONGUL
Ms Florence VERVIAL
Ms Annie VILCOCQ
Ms Jamie WATTS

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

The Secretariat

On behalf of all the members of the FFOA, we express heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of all those members who have left us.

New Members

The Secretariat

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

Ms Ines BENINI
Mr Walter BONDI
Ms Nina BRANDSTRUP
Ms Sylvie CONRAD
Ms Elisabetta CONTI
Ms Laura D'AGOSTINI
Ms Gabrielle DUFFY
Mr Louis GAGNON
Ms Gordana JERGER
Ms Bianca LATTUADA
Ms Silvia LUISI
Ms Anna Teresa MAJKOWSKI
Ms Priya Elizabeth MAKKANDAY
Mr Ajay MAKKANDAY
Ms Erminia MALAVASI
Ms Linda MANDOLINI
Ms Geneviève MERCEUR
Mr Andrea MUGNANO

Mr John CADDY	13/05/2021
Ms Jacqueline CHATELANAT	03/05/2021
Mr Silvano Vittorio COLLORIDI	11/04/2021
Ms Lidia D'ALESSIO ARRIGONI	14/05/2021
Mr Francis MIFSUD	26/03/2021
Mr Muhammad NASIM	02/05/2021
Ms Ernesta NOCCHI MAGGIO	08/05/2021
Mr Romano PANTANALI	18/05/2021
Mr Franco PONTECORVI	08/02/2020
Mr Romain RICARD	25/06/2021
Ms Iolanda VIRGILI	21/03/2019

OBITUARY – Julien Périssé

1936-2020

Julien Périssé passed away in December. Originally a pharmacist, after a field experience in Africa, he became a world-renowned nutritionist of whom the FAO could be proud. He liked scientific research and human contact. His great modesty made him reluctant to lead others and when he was appointed deputy

director of the Nutrition Division - his work had largely contributed to his prestige - he tried to turn down his promotion in order to leave, he said, the “position to... young people”. He had received the prestigious award of the French Nutrition Foundation (now the French Institute for Nutrition). He was a good, generous man, full of Gascon humour and flair. He had an incredible ability to take an interest in young people, and young people loved to listen to him.

Dominique Alhéritière

News from UN Organizations

FAO

Edward Seidler

FAO has maintained its global operations taking account of the needs to guarantee staff health and welfare and this has meant operations being undertaken virtually in many cases. FAO meetings (Council and Committees) have been held virtually with success. The FAO Conference was held in Rome from 14 to 18 June virtually and Bill Gates delivered the customary McDougall Memorial Lecture via video message. The Conference appointed Mr Hans Hoogeveen as new Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for 2021-2023 as the current Chair, Mr. Khalid Mehboob, will retire after two terms as Chairperson.

FAO has spearheaded the Covid-19 response in Italy and has organised the vaccination of over 2000 staff, dependents and retirees over the past 3 months; 67% of the Headquarters workforce have received at least their first vaccine. FAO has organised vaccination programmes in conjunction with the UN in 54 countries as of June 10th and will shortly open up vaccination registration in a further 14 countries.

WFP

Georgia Shaver

Restricted access to WFP HQ continues as the Lazio Region, where Rome is located, moves into differing levels of accessibility due to

COVID-19 (though the situation is improving). The vaccination roll-out proceeds. WFP HQ received a one-time emergency supply of doses to vaccinate Rome-based frontline, essential staff. Employees, their dependents and retirees who wanted a vaccination but could not access the National Health Service were offered vaccinations in May through a separate agreement with the Ministry of Health. For field-based UN staff, vaccines are becoming available through the UN supply chain; 41 countries are ready to receive and administer out of the 52 countries who have requested support. Vaccines have either been donated or purchased.

WFP is doing everything possible to contain the impact on WFP's employees due to the recent deterioration in the pandemic situation in India and Nepal. The FFOA was invited along with representatives of UGSS and PSA to attend a briefing session by the WFP Health Insurance Unit (Staff Wellness Division) on the 2020 performance of the Health Insurance plans and CIGNA.

The WFP Health Insurance Board will be officially established in the coming months. The next Strategic Plan 2022-2026 will be presented to the Executive Board in November 2021. WFP won the prestigious Franz Edelman Award for Achievement in Advanced Analytics, Operations Research and Management Services, the world's biggest competition for advanced analytics and optimization. For this award WFP showcased the work of the cross-functional analytical group, led by the Supply Chain Planning Unit, during the COVID response. If you are interested in learning more there is a very good You Tube video entitled "2021 Edelman Winner: UN World Food Programme".

FAFICS

Marco Breschi

In the first six months of this year, FAFICS participated actively in the work of the various committees and working groups of the Pension Board. A crucial area of work for FAFICS continues to be the Governance Working Group, appointed by the Pension Board to address all matters of governance. We are pleased to report

that considerable progress is underway and there is now hope that the Pension Board in July will be able to reach consensus for recommendations to the General Assembly on a number of matters, most notably its reduced size and revised composition.

The new proposal will foresee a reduced size of the Board while maintaining a reasonable number of members (the exact number is still under review and confidential at this stage) and ensuring an equitable and fair representation of all its constituencies - Member Nations, Executive Heads and Participants - as well as the modalities for their participation in the sessions of the Board, including the role of the representatives of retirees. FAFICS hopes to retain a sizeable number of representatives, compared to the original proposals made by the independent consultant and some UN participants, i.e., only one FAFICS Representative. Indeed, we expect to largely preserve our delegation.

The Pension Board will continue to meet each year in one major July session in person (when this will be possible again) and in addition there will be two interim sessions in the first semester of each year, as online meetings. This will improve productivity while keeping costs under control.

In order to ensure continuity and effectiveness of its action, the President of FAFICS, in consultation with its Bureau and Council has decided to retain in full the current delegation to the Pension Board for July 2021.

FAFICS is now partnering with the UN and the Pension Fund in a COVID vaccination campaign to reach out to retirees living in areas where access to vaccines is more difficult than in other parts of the world where government plans are available and accessible. FAFICS is liaising with AFICS country offices for effective coordination with the Fund. FFOA will be involved and kept informed on progress.

Your Good Health

Sabatino Salvi



COVID-19 Vaccines

Equitable access to safe and effective vaccines is critical to ending the COVID-19 pandemic, so it is very encouraging to see so many vaccines being developed. WHO is working tirelessly with partners to develop, manufacture and deploy safe and effective vaccines.

Safe and effective vaccines are a game-changing tool, but for the foreseeable future we must continue wearing masks, cleaning our hands, ensuring good ventilation indoors, physically distancing and avoiding crowds.

Being vaccinated does not mean that we can throw caution to the wind and put ourselves and others at risk, particularly because research is still ongoing into how much vaccines protect not only against disease but also against infection and transmission.

But it is not vaccines that will stop the pandemic, it's vaccination. We must ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines, and ensure that every country receives them and can distribute them to protect their people, starting with the most vulnerable.

(Some tips extracted and adapted from WHO article)

News from the Membership

Trekking and Laughter Yoga

Gianna Paganelli



I had read about laughter yoga and when I saw it combined with an urban trek, I signed up right away. We walked in the nature of the urban park of Pineto in Rome and every now and then we stopped for a break of joy and well-being, guided by an instructor, to rediscover the therapeutic value of laughter; especially after these months spent in lockdown.

A group of 10 people who did not know each other interacted, did the exercises, clapped their hands rhythmically, saying "ho-ho, ha, ha, ha". The first exercise was that of breathing with the diaphragm: inhale by inflating the belly, hold and exhale with a good laugh. We did the experiment of laughing with all the vowels: in the end our cheeks were sore. Seeing is believing! We stimulated laughter only by looking into our eyes, realizing that the person really is there and that he/she welcomes the invitation to look and laugh: a magical moment! There have been moments of improvisation such as gibberish talking, a nonsense speaking using sounds similar to words, but which have no real meaning. She suggested we use this technique when we are fighting to release anger but at the same time avoid hurting with words. We imagined and played a situation and a role to go beyond our mentality. We laughed a lot!

At the end of the walk (18 km) we agreed that laughter yoga can be a great way to let loose, have fun and learn the joy of laughing again, even for no reason.

We should practice the laughter techniques at least 10-15 minutes a day to have positive chemical effects. At home, look in the mirror and welcome yourself. When you look in the mirror, there is always something to laugh about.

What is laughter yoga

In 1995 Dr Madan Kataria, Indian doctor from Mumbai, decided to practically apply the different scientific theories that described the benefits of laughter on the health of the mind and body. The discipline of Dr. Kataria blends together the breathing technique of Pranayama (branch of classical yoga) with induced laughter. A series of specific movement and breathing exercises are performed to laugh for no reason.

Laughter acts on the immune system, fortifying it, and stimulates the abdominal muscles, as well as the diaphragm, promoting the production of feel-good hormones such as serotonin, as well as endorphins. If we are more relaxed, naturally our mind is also relaxed and the effects on mood are immediate, helping to improve the quality of life and better manage difficulties.

Laughter Is the Best Medicine

(Collected pieces for you)

Mohamed Saleheen



1. The Barber...

A man was getting a haircut prior to a trip to Rome. He mentioned the trip to the barber who responded, "Rome...?? why would anyone want

to go there...?? It's crowded and dirty and full of Italians... you're crazy to go to Rome. So, how are you getting there...??"

"We're taking United," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"United Airlines...?? " exclaimed the barber. "That's a terrible airline... their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome...??"

"We'll be at the downtown International Marriott."

"That dump! That's the worst hotel in the city. The rooms are small, the service is surly and they're overpriced. So, whatcha doing when you get there...??"

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and we hope to see the Pope."

"That's rich," laughed the barber. "You and a million other people trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant. Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it."

A month later, the man again came in for his regular haircut. The barber asked him about his trip to Rome.

"It was wonderful," explained the man, "not only were we on time in one of United's brand-new planes, but it was overbooked and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a beautiful 28-year-old stewardess who waited on me hand and foot. And the hotel... it was great! They'd just finished a \$25 million remodelling job and now it's the finest hotel in the city. They, too, were overbooked, so they apologized and gave us the presidential suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the barber, "I know you didn't get to see the pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, for as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder and explained that the pope likes to personally meet some of the visitors, and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the pope would personally greet me. Sure enough, five minutes later the pope walked through the door and shook my hand! I knelt down as he spoke a few words to me."

"Really...??" asked the Barber. "What'd he say...??"

He said, * "Where'd you get the shitty haircut from...??"*

2. Why All Pilots Go to Heaven?

A Priest dies and is waiting in line at heaven's gate.

Ahead of him is a guy, fashionably dressed, in dark Ray Ban sun glasses, a crazy looking shirt, leather jacket and jeans. Arrogance and carefree attitude personified!

God to the guy: Who are you?

Guy: I am a pilot. Flew all my life. Now you take care of me buddy...

God: Welcome. Take this gold robe and enter the kingdom of heaven.

God to the Priest: Who are you?

Priest: Sir, I am a priest and spent 40yrs preaching God and good things to people.

God: Take this cotton robe and enter heaven.

Priest: God, how come that this rash, arrogant pilot gets a gold robe and I who spent all my life preaching good get just a cotton one.

God: Results, my son, results. While you preached, people slept, but when he flew his plane, people really prayed...

"Its Performance, not Position that Counts !!"

3. Morning Chuckle...

Leaving the Store, I couldn't find my Keys. They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen.

As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then, I made the most difficult call of all to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."

There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!"
Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me."
He retorted, "I will; just as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your damn car!"
Welcome to the golden years...

Hahaha!

4. It's a Masterpiece Joke, Must Read

A Bengali, a Punjabi, a Gujarati and a *Hardcore Leftist Keralite* were reluctant to take the Covid-19 vaccine.

The Doctor called them in one by one.

He told the Bengali, "You must take your vaccine."

The Bengali said "No."

The Doctor said, "Every cultured and civilised man takes the vaccine."

The Bengali took his vaccine.

Then the Punjabi came in.

The Doctor said, "Here is your vaccine."

Punjabi said "No."

The Doctor said, "Your neighbours have all taken the vaccine."

So the Punjabi took the vaccine.

Then the Gujarati came in.

The Doctor said, "Take your vaccine."

Gujarati said "No."

And the Doctor said: "it's an order from Prime Minister Modi."

The Gujarati took his vaccine.

Finally the Keralite came in.

The Doctor said "Take your vaccine."

Keralite said, "No."

The Doctor said, "Every cultured and civilised man takes the vaccine."

The Keralite said, "Go away, I will never take the vaccine."

The Doctor then said,

"All your neighbours have taken it."

The Keralite replied, "I don't care."

The Doctor, now desperate, said,

"It's an order from Prime Minister Modi."

The Keralite replied, "I don't care."

Finally the Doctor asked,

"Which state are you from?"

The Keralite said, "I am from Kerala."

The Doctor said, "Oh sorry, you are not *entitled* to have the vaccine."

The Keralite said, "What!!? Who are you to tell me that I cannot have the vaccine? How dare you deny me my fundamental rights! Give me the vaccine or I will protest outside your clinic!"

The doctor gladly gave him the vaccine and the Mallu proudly took it and said to his comrades, "I fought and got the vaccination!"

Incredible!



Tell Us of Your Summer Vacation



We've fantasized about trips a lot over the past year. With vaccines arriving all over the world, we want to catch up on something we gave up during the lockdown era: the summer vacation. Do you have plan to travel this summer?

Please share your personal experience.
Everyone would love it. You may write in English or Italian, addressed to FFOA, attention: Newsbrief Coordinator, Gianna Paganelli.

Summer Closure of the FFOA Office

The Secretariat

The FFOA office will be closed from 2nd August to 3rd September for the usual summer holiday. It will reopen on 6th September. Please note that messages will not be read on a regular basis during this time and responses may be delayed!



Newsbrief 114

June 2021

Newsbrief, the FFOA official edition, is produced in English and Italian three times a year and is distributed 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. Suggestions or contributions from members are welcome. The cost of printing Newsbrief, as well as other FFOA documents is borne by the WFP. Costs associated with documentation for the General Assembly are borne by IFAD. FFOA is grateful for these contributions.

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About FFOA

Since 1971, FFOA has worked to advance the interests of pensioners from United Nations Agencies based in Italy, regardless of where they spend their retirement. FFOA is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome and has a growing global membership numbering more than 2,300 pensioners from FAO, IFAD, WFP, ICCROM, etc. from all staff categories.

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 Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), 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 of developments in areas of concern by our Newsbrief, by our website and direct contact by post (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 the 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 achievements 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; a life membership is 375 Euro. There is 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 desk at (+39) 06-5705 5623 / 5705 6016.

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.