



COMMUNICATION 15/19

FICSA STATEMENT TO THE PENSION UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND BOARD ON 25 JULY 2019

To: Chairs, Member Associations/Unions
Members of the Executive Committee
Chairs, Members with Associate Status
Chairs, Associations with Consultative Status
Presidents, Federations with Observer Status
Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees

Geneva, 31 July 2019

From: Evelyn Kortum, General Secretary

Reference is made to FICSA Circular 1316 which contains the FICSA statement as delivered to the Pension Board on 25 July 2019. As the FICSA secretariat has been informed that several colleagues may have misunderstood what the Pension Fund management meant by a “satellite office” we would like to provide further information related thereto.

First and foremost, prior to the Pension Board and during her visit to many duty stations, the Acting CEO assured everyone that the Geneva office will not be downsized. This is backed by document R.18 referred to in the statement which explicitly explains *“under the new functional reporting arrangement, the Geneva Office will maintain its significant benefits processing capabilities it currently has. It will also continue, through its substantial physical presence, to address the Fund’s clients.”* In fact, it is simply that functional management and reporting will be implemented in line with the recommendations which emanated from the whole office review. In addition, the budget estimates for 2020 do not indicate any reduction in the number of positions in Geneva.

Until now, the Geneva office has operated in parallel to, and nearly independently from, the New York office which is the headquarters of the Fund. The whole office review study found that the interactions and interdependencies between the New York and Geneva Offices are unclear in terms of functional responsibilities and functional reporting lines. As a result, global coordination at the operational level within the Fund is limited. It was also reported that there is a need to balance the workloads between the two Offices to enhance the overall output and service provided by the Fund.

While stressing the importance of the Geneva Office, it was found that the relations between the Geneva and New York Offices could be strengthened through the recommended implementation of functional leadership which is intended to allow for both Offices to join forces and work together in a more effective and efficient manner in the processing of pension benefits.

In light of the above, and based on feedback received from other member organizations, FICSA welcomed the proposed way forward as it will further enhance the services provided by the Geneva Office while strengthening its position in the region.