



COMMUNICATIONS

ICSC COMPREHENSIVE COST-OF-LIVING SURVEYS AT THE HEADQUARTERS DUTY STATIONS

37/21**Geneva
19 July 2021**

To: FICSA Members based in Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome Vienna and Washington D.C

From: Tanya Quinn-Maguire, President

Dear Colleagues,

FICSA has been informed that the ICSC has started communicating with organizations with regard to comprehensive cost-of-living surveys at the headquarters duty stations (Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington, D.C, and New York.) in October or November 2021.

Please note: **It is our understanding that there has been no agreement to launch a cost-of-living survey in any of the concerned duty stations at this stage. Rather, the ICSC has initiated the first steps to convene a Local Survey Committee (LSC) which should include staff representation.**

The ICSC has already started to receive nominations from administrations and local staff associations of the organizations of some of the duty stations. Therefore, **FICSA strongly urges you to identify suitable nominees for the LSCs** to ensure that your membership is adequately represented in this key body.

As you are aware, the FICSA position has consistently been that the surveys should only go ahead if the current economic and social climate at the relevant duty station is conducive in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the last session of the ICSC, it was agreed that prior to launching a cost-of-living survey in any duty station, the LSC should be fully involved in assessing the feasibility of carrying out the survey based on agreed criteria related to the COVID situation.

For your information, the three staff federations [wrote to the ICSC](#) this week for clarifications. We also raised concerns about the need for training across the board and requested that the process around consultation between the LSC and the ICSC prior to the New York price survey which commenced on 1 July should be documented and shared with the other LSC in the interest of transparency. The ICSC has confirmed that the process around planning and execution of the New York price survey will be fully documented and will be discussed at the 92nd session of the Commission next month.



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We have been assured by the ICSC that their secretariat will provide the information and tools needed to promote a broad understanding of the process and to sensitize staff at large about the critical importance of their participation to the results generated by the survey. The ICSC has suggested that this can be done in focused meetings with LSC members and other stakeholders; and/or town hall meetings with staff at large, at which they will have the opportunity to ask questions on any aspect of the survey or related methodological or operational issues. The ICSC has also confirmed that training workshops can also be organized if deemed necessary by the LSCs and requested during the pre-survey consultations. FICSA will liaise with our sister federations in the coming weeks to assess how we can best support our collective membership in this regard, and we will of course keep you fully informed.

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