

Update No. 13 from the Staff Union

Dear colleagues,

The year 2020 will be remembered for sure ...

For the Staff Union it should have been a very special year, celebrating its centenary as it ought to be done, surrounded by all its members and representatives from all over the world. And although we remain hopeful of making up for it in the second half of the year, for the moment a vicious virus has decided otherwise and we must adapt.

What doesn't kill us makes us stronger and there is plenty of reason to celebrate the longevity and good health of the Union! It means, for example, being a key player in the difficult times its members are going through, providing them with individual support, and representing them collectively in the various joint committees existing in our organization in order to participate actively in the new guidelines put in place in the emergency. It means acting as a watchdog for potential deviations from these guidelines, which could be observed on a daily basis, and on the differences in the treatment of employment and working conditions despite protective and binding Staff Regulations. It also means being in permanent contact with the regions where the problems differ markedly from headquarters and where appropriate measures must constantly be taken.

In fact, it is time for the Staff Union to renew the Committee members representing the regions for the next two years. The process of regional elections started this week, and titular members and their substitutes need to be elected. If you work at headquarters and feel close to a region, or if you work in the field and want to be more involved in your region, to be more engaged with the Staff Union, to be at the heart of the action and to bring your experience and knowledge to the Staff Union, such an engagement can be a great personal experience not to be missed.

On 6 May, we invited colleagues at headquarters to make a donation to the Relief Fund bank account of the UN Staff Council. We are pleased to report that the Fund donated CHF 40,216.05, to the *Association Partage*, the main food bank in the Canton of Geneva, to benefit vulnerable migrant workers and their families who fall outside the traditional social security safety net.