

8 September 2017

**STATEMENT BY JOHN P. DIETZ, PRESIDENT OF AFICS/NY**

Mr. Secretary-General, dear colleagues,

It is a great privilege for AFICS/NY to have been asked to participate in Staff Day and most especially in this Memorial Ceremony, remembering those who have fallen defending the Charter and principles of the United Nations.

As we all know, United Nations system Personnel work and carry out the mandates entrusted to them around the world, and many staff and peacekeepers do so under extremely dangerous and challenging circumstances. Our staff are passionate about what they do, dedicated and committed to ensure that their missions are executed in the best interests of those whom they serve.

Tragically, we lose United Nations system personnel and peacekeepers every year while they carry out important life-giving and sustaining actions.

That is why today, on Staff Day and at this Memorial Ceremony, we honor those who have fallen, all of whom have sought to deliver on the promise of this great family of organizations, which strive to ensure sustainable peace and development, humanitarian support and respect for human rights, the world over.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our fallen comrades, their families and friends. These heroes and their sacrifice will never be forgotten. Let us have a moment of silence in their honour.

At this time we should also recognize the dedicated services that are being provided by the United Nations system personnel who are presently serving and those who have served in the past and are now retired, all in the pursuit of a better world.

Mr. Secretary-General, we appreciate your vigorous efforts to protect United Nations personnel serving all over the world. We know how deeply you care about this issue and that you will continue with these efforts to protect the safety and security of UN-system staff.

I thank you on behalf of all members of AFICS/NY and UN retirees all over the world.