

12 November 2018

Dear Mr. Breschi, Ms. Saputelli and Mr. Castellanos,

I am writing to you as current and former Presidents of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS). As you have already been informed by the Assistant Secretary-General of the UN Office of Human Resources Management, I shall be leaving my position in the Pension Fund effective 7 January 2019.

It was an immense privilege and great honour to have served the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, the Pension Fund, the Member Organizations and the 200,000 participants, retirees and beneficiaries over the last 13 years, most recently as Secretary/CEO and formerly, as Deputy-Secretary/Deputy-CEO of the Fund.

It has also been deeply and personally rewarding to have overseen the modernization of the Fund's operations and integrated IT system. Replacing the fragmented and vulnerable piecemeal programmes with modern equipment and an integrated system was a particular challenge, but it has been successfully up and running for several years now and presently allows the Fund to process 93% of cases in under 30 days with a median processing time of 8 days. Similarly satisfying has been bearing witness to the reversing of the downward actuarial trend to near long-term equilibrium, moving from cash accounting to IPSAS, with consecutive clean audit opinions and, despite resource constraints, replacing our client-service paradigm and creating a new office in Nairobi, Kenya.

Most of all, I am grateful to the managers and staff of the Fund who have made this possible through their extraordinary dedication and professionalism. Their contribution, individual and collective, to the success of these reforms has been exemplary, even in the face of unwarranted criticism and attacks from largely misinformed individuals. Going forward, greater collaboration on the part of certain organizations—the realization that we are all in this together—would help greatly to make the separation of staff smoother, more seamless and without undue delays. As it is, the Fund continues to be criticized for delays that are not of its own making. I am also most grateful to my Board colleagues who, in addition to their “day jobs”, have so ably guided and supported our work. Lastly, and very importantly, I am appreciative to our talented and selfless AFICS and FAFICS officers, retirees who work closely with the Fund in the different regions of the world, helping us to better service our participants and beneficiaries.

The Fund now faces new challenges, but I am confident that the Board will find and elect a new CEO and new Deputy-CEO who will continue to protect, modernize and make the Fund ever stronger and more efficient.

In closing, I would like to wish you all well for the future. Please kindly convey my message to the FAFICS officers and the AFICS Presidents.

Yours sincerely,

Sergio B. Arvizú

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