

Statement of AFICS/NY President
Wreath Laying on UN Staff Day
6 September 2019

Staff Day is a special, well-established tradition for the staff of the United Nations and AFICS/NY is once again very pleased to be able to participate. It is very appropriate that on Staff Day we remember and pay homage to those UN staff members, civilians, police and military personnel who had made the ultimate sacrifice and died while working to achieve the goals and aims of the Organization.

As we all know, serving the United Nations is a vocation, committed to the vision of maintaining peace and security, addressing economic and social issues and responding to humanitarian crises that may occur anywhere in the world. The international civil service is unique in its diversity and vital for performing successfully the key international role that the United Nations plays in so many areas. It is therefore highly deserved to have a day during which the dedication, commitment and professionalism of all international civil servants are duly recognized and celebrated.

As President of the Association of Former International Civil Servants in New York (AFICS/NY), I assure you that, although retirement has changed our official status in the UN, we retirees remain an integral part of the United Nations community in every sense - fully committed to its principles and goals, and available to assist whenever possible.

So let us celebrate this day, both serving and former UN staff members, as each of us has fulfilled, and continues to fulfill, an essential role in delivering on the promise of the United Nations to the peoples of the world.

John P. Dietz, President
AFICS/NY