UNITED NATIONS MUSIC CLUB 13th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 11 May 2016  *Draft report & annexed documents Revised 15 June*

**Report on activities in 2015 (May 2015- April 2016)**

* *The Draft Minutes will be made available after the GA for members reviewing and comments and submitted for final adoption at the 2017 Annual Meeting*
* *The documents annexed to the Minutes are uploaded on the website.*

Present at the meeting: Total 30

*(in alphabetical order, last name, first name) – Sections: C= Choir, J = Jazz, M= Classical, R= Rock )*

**Present:** Ameti, Mimi – J; Austes, Pal Forr, J,: Bowers, Wade, J; Braun, Marina, C,; Bokonon-Ganta , Gildas, C; Dzubynska, Nadiya – C; Gibson, Michael, R; Gonzales -Martin, Fernando, C; Habermann, Sigrun, Observer; R; Kaminker, Karin –R; Kaufmann, Andrea, C; Miyagaishima, Kazuaki, C; Lacheure, Sophie, C; La Marca, Mssimiliano, J; Loizides, Ursula, C; Piguet, Patrice - J; ; Ruedin, Manfred – C; Sibien, Raiana, J;, Sunderland, David – C; Tanner, Edith, C; Therekova, Elena, J/Support; Tempowski, Joanne -C; J: Weiler, Janet, C;

**Excused**: Lorang, Isabelle – C, M; Wiener, Michael, M - Wasambla, Gladys - J; Woodall, John – C; Durston, Elisabeth, C; Mamangun, Nel - R; Paolo Rosa, J;

**Quorum analysis:**

Paid up members at time of beginning the Assembly: 45,

Total present: 23, being 21 paid up members, 1 Observer, 1 payment pending.

With **23, the quorum is reached** (refer to Statutes, article 4, para 7: 1/3 of active members to be present)

1. **Opening** of the meeting

The meeting started at 6.30pm with a warm welcome from the Vice-President, Kazuaki Miyagaishima

1. **Election** of the President and Secretary of the meeting

President of the meeting: Kazuaki Miyagaishima

Secretary of the meeting: Patrice Piguet

1. Adoption of the **Agenda**: The Agenda was **adopted** as proposed
2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous (12th) General Assembly. No dissenting opinions or comments were heard and the draft minutes of the **12th GA (2015) were hereby adopted.** The report could now be uploaded on the website in the public section
3. **Financial Report** of the Treasurer (Wade Bowers).

Wade expressed everyone’s view and feeling very well by thanking the Vice-President for a job very well done in the past year, before introducing his report.

The report, to be read in conjunction with the attached bank statement and Income and Expenditure statement (accessible only through password protected repository of minutes on the Club’s website) covered the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, thereby adjusting to the proposal of amendments of the statutes (item 6). Total revenues amounted to 17,080.75 CHF with expenses at 12,976 CHF. The bottom line of the Income and Expenditure statement shows a net income of 4103.85 CHF.

Salient elements were the Choirs 2400 CHF income versus 3,850 CHF expense which the treasurer explained should not be seen as a discrepancy but as a distorted view depending on the date the balance is established. For example when looked at a few months later, when fresh payment of membership fees would be visible, the balance would rapidly shift the other way. Overall, as per established principle, it is accepted that membership fees of the Choir covers their expenses at the level of fees paid to Choir director/pianist. A similar shift can sometimes occur between payment to the Percussion instructor versus contributions of percussion students, in this case 8,198 CHF versus 7,463 CHF. The Staff Council contribution of early 2015 (4,717 CHF) would likely be the last one for a long time, given the new rules dictated by the Staff Council (item 13). Other income/expenditure elements were of minor importance in the context of the overall picture but it was pleasing to see that income of 1000 CHF has been derived through performances.

The treasurer further explained that he regretted that the **audit** of the Club’s finances had not been applied before the General Assembly and that auditors had now been mandated to carry out the necessary review and provide their report to the next Committee meeting, in June. The Vice-President thanked the treasurer for his work and pointed out he was looking forward to receive the auditors review ( as per Article 6 of Statutes) .

1. **Report of the Vice-President on activities of the UN Music Club in 2015**

* The Vice-President thanked all members of the Club for being active and achieving a lot of rehearsing and performing. He thanked the Committee for its hard work and support. He encouraged all members to be supportive of the Committee and if willing, participating in its work.
* **Activities**: Reference was made to the document annexed to the Report of the General assembly detailing the **Activities of the Sections** (GA 13 Annex 5).
* The Vice-President presented the salient points of the activities:

**Common project** : On the occasion of UN 70th anniversary Open Day ceremony, the Club put three sections - Classic, Choir and Jazz – together with selected members of the Percussion class to perform a composition of Michael Wiener, based on *We the Peoples of the United Nations*. Subsequently, a project was launched to produce a studio recording of it.

The **Classical Music group** performed in UNOG library on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter and performed at several events, including during the vernissage of UNECE, on the occasion of World Humanitarian day in PAlaisWilson and during the staff party at OHCHR. The **Choir** delivered 10 performances in the Palais as well as outside, namely Fête de la Musique, charity concerts and concerts in cooperation with other choirs. The **Rock music** group continued to build its repertoire and played numerous events like Fête de la musique and regulars at the ICV Arcade in Geneva town. A total of 80 students attended the **Percussion classes**. Not all students are new, as many pursue the course and reach more advanced levels. There are four course periods per year, 9 weeks each. For some time the members of the **jazz group** functioned as one group but the situation that there were three bass players and three drummers made this impossible and an experiment with different groups is now under way. The jazz groups played about 20 events, notably the UN Bazar and the Director General’s Christmas reception. The Director General turned out to be a strong supporter of the UN Music Club.

At this moment, there were numerous comments from the floor on the question of what should be undertaken to attract new members and further publicize the Club’s activities. Along with further elements of the Vice-Presidents report these will be mentioned under items 12 and 13.

1. **Adoption of the reports of the Treasurer and the President**.

* President’s report on activities to the 12th GA: **Adopted** unanimously
* Treasurer’s Report: **Adopted** unanimously, with one **reservation** in reference to forthcoming auditor’s report.

1. Report on **equipment /Inventory list**

In the absence of Nel Mamangun (excused), the Committee member responsible for sound engineering and equipment, Patrice Piguet introduced the report. He explained that the list presented at the 2015 GA was still fully valid, as had been observed through a recent inventory, merely to be updated along with registering the new Gretch drums and a double bass pick-up. He pointed out however, that 3 microphone stands and two music stands had been damaged in transport. The bass amplifier AMPEG, reported damaged previously, had been repaired by Club member Nicolas Stauble. Hence, the planned purchase of a new one in replacement, could be cancelled.

Future recommended equipment acquisitions: 2 special microphones particularly suited for Choir voice capture, 1x replacement of Yamaha stage piano, perhaps in the course of 2016, early 2017. The present piano had now served doggedly for 5 years and transported over hundred times to numerous events where jazz, classical, choir and the rock groups have been performing. It has seen heat, storms and rain without a failure ever. But it would be safe now to have a back-up.

The Vice-President expressed thanks for the care taken to maintain the equipment and the involvement of the sound engineer in major performances. There were no questions or comments on this item.

1. Proposed **amendments to the Statutes of the Club**

The Vice-President explained his proposed amendments to the Statutes. They had been duly submitted for discussion to the Committee at its Autumn 2015 sessions and subsequently adopted for clearance to the General Assembly. The Committee unanimously endorses and recommends the adoption of the changes. Besides a few corrections of the main text, they include the following:

* In Article 3 para 4, it is now specified that the financial year goes from 1 January (instead of previously 1st November) to the 31 December (instead of previously 31 October)
* In Article 3 para 5, it is now specified that membership fees are due by 15 February (instead of April, previously)
* In Article 4 para 2, it is now indicated that the General Assembly meets between 15 February and 15 March
* In Article 5 (Committee) , new para (c), it specifies that when a member cannot attend a Committee meeting he/she can designate a suitable replacement
* In Article 7: new para (d) to the effect that the Committee approves internal rules of groups so far as compliant with the Statutes.
* A document showing the edited changes is uploaded in the minutes section.

*The revised text can be consulted as per*

http://unmusicclub.com/un/about-the-club/statutes/

There were no further questions or comments on this item. The new Statutes therefore stand as adopted on 12 May 2016

1. Election of the President of the Club

The Vice-President recalled that in 2015 it had not been possible to elect a new President, after ex-President Alex Ezana did not stand for re-election. Under the circumstances, the President now to be elected would stand for 1 year, since every second year is statutory election year). The Vice-President consulted and read out the specifications noted in the Nomenclature (available on website)

pointing out the difficulty to find a candidate to match. The Vice-President declined a call on him to stand for election, although this would appear to be fully justified after his successful one year stand as Vice-President. A suggestion from the floor pointed out that a gender balance was desirable. Ms **Elena Therekova**, from the UNOG, was eventually proposed and upon her acceptance, unanimously **elected new President of the UN Music Club in 2016.**

1. **Organizational Matters**

* The Committee had received a note from Honorary President (ex-President Alex Ezana on two subjects :
* A comment on the proposal of the Choir for internal rules whichprovided the full history and background as well as the recommendations, which could be of interest for the Choir in finalising its revised proposal. Mr Ezana’s comments are posted on the Committee page of the website.
* A request : Mr Ezena was asking that the General Assembly be notified that he was requesting to be relieved of certain tasks relating to monitoring of percussion classes which had been entrusted to him at the last General Assembly. The Committee has already replied to Mr Ezana, also to the effect that the Club would remain very open to any proposals by him.
* The Vice-President recommended that the GA be immediately followed by a **Committee** meeting to set a dynamic course. He pointed out that it was difficult for the General Assembly to provide directions given the diversity of the activities and that it was important that the groups took initiatives and work closely with the Committee. Since the reports of the Committee were now uploaded on the website (see below) every member could have access to them.
* It was also foreseen that Officers of the Music Club, along with the perspective of a new UNOG based President providing an excellent setting were to meet with the Officers of the Staff Council to identify matters of common interest and take action on them..
* A comment was made on the **membership** and the necessity to pursue dues that may not have been received by members active nevertheless. The Vice-President commented that with the new adjustment in the statutes, it would be feasible to activate the payments and apply a renewed, obviously necessary discipline.
* Regarding the forthcoming revised submission **for Internal Rules** of the Choir and/or Internal Rules for any of the groups, it was pointed out that this would now be taken up at the next Committee meeting, in the light of the modified Statutes (see item 9)
* **Website :** Patrice briefly reviewed the new developments of the website which now included password protected sections for members , like calendar to register rehearsal times, events announcements, a member listing with email contacts and posting of all documents relating to the Committee’s work, financial reports and other documents. Echoing many others of the same opinion, Patrice remarked that the Club should follow the lead demonstrated by the Choir in promoting events on social media.

1. . Programme of **activities for 2016/2017**

* The Vice-President emphasized how important it is to have a general vision of the directions that need to be taken and he looked forward to the work with the new President and the Committee towards the articulation of such directions. Certainly the activities which routinely occur on an annual basis should be pursued, such as:

The Club’s anniversary Gala – normally held in November, the special events on UN Day/ open day, Human rights day, commemorations etc. , International Jazz Day – normally held end April. Summer concerts to be presented either in the UNOG building or UN plage which could be extended to all groups to participate.

* Broadcasts will continue to be an important channel of communicating activities of the Club to staff and colleagues, as well as announcements of events on the website. One member suggested to look out for the forthcoming anniversaries which likely would be marked and for which the Club could play a role.
* Members reacted vividly with suggestions, ideas, proposals, among which the following was noted:
* Increase visibility: Social media, fliyers,
* Encourage the use of members as much as possible, to promote inside each organization, especially in the Palais, e.g. find sympathizers among staff members.
* Emphasize communication. An example was cited involving pro-active groups of people / volunteers at WHO, expressing and projecting certain ideas, ideals and setting goals to be achieved.
* One member suggested advertising, respectively supplying materials to UN SPECIAL

**13 Requesting subsidies for the Club’s activities:**

The Vice-president pointed out a problematic situation having arisen at the end of 2015 which could have a strong impact on future activities of the Club: In the past it was customary for the UN Staff Coordination Council (SC) to reward active Clubs with adequate subsidies for equipment and other means to achieve their objectives. Not only could one count on an regular annual amount but special projects like, for example, the organization of concerts, special equipment needs or recording session projects could apply for extra subsidies . Owing to the new situation created by the Staff Council’s refusal to provide funding as long as not enough UNOG members of the music club were dues paying members of the Staff Council, presented a new challenge. The Committee discussed this new situation in all its meetings and decided on two measures to start with:

1. to exonerate UNOG members that would pay their fee to the Staff Council. (in application of Article 2 of the Statutes). In doing so, it was hoping to attract specially new members that were adhering to the principle of paying membership fees to the SC.
2. Launch a recruitment drive to register new members, mainly in the UNOG. To that effect, a fliyer was being prepared and would be cleared by the time of the next Committee meeting. The recruitment of new members was every Club member’s affair, of course.

1. **/ 15. Other matters and Closing of the General Assembly**

No other matters were brought up, so the 13th General Assembly of the UN Music Club was concluded at 20h, with the understanding that the salient points would be immediately uploaded on the website and the draft minutes made available for the next Committee meeting, so that all members could immediately be informed of the election of the new President.

Minutes drafted by Patrice Piguet, in the absence of the Secretary (excused).

8 June 2016