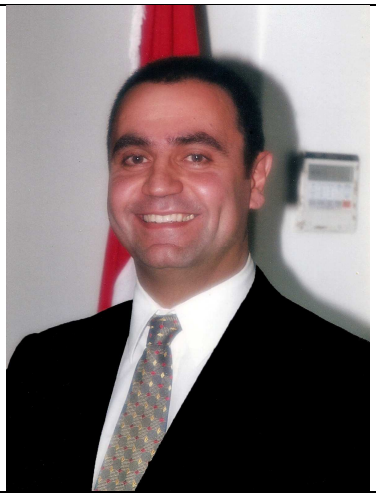
Staff Representative of the United Nations to the Staff Pension Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Nominee

Full name [please print]	**Georges Younes**	
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STATEMENT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE:

Getting accurate and reliable information about pension entitlements is a challenge for many staff serving in duty stations outside of Headquarters. Those approaching retirement or seeking information about their pension benefits don't know whom to turn to, even for the most basic enquiry.

Reading a brochure or accessing information from a Website is rarely satisfactory and lacks the human touch essential for issues related to a person's well-being. Working in the field, I'm often approached by colleagues seeking information about their pension. They do so after finding out that I had worked for the Pension Fund in New York City for 8 years and that I can translate brochures and Website information into simpler, more accessible terms.

If I'm elected to the Staff Pension Committee, I will work to ensure that:

- Staff in the field have better access to the information they need and that better communication channels with the Pension Fund are available to them;
- There is better representation in the committee for staff in the field who have been under-represented for a long time;
- Short-timers (staff members who contribute to the Pension Fund for less than 5 years), the majority of current participants in the Pension Fund, get a portion of the contributions of their organization when they separate instead of only being refunded their own contributions with interest.
- That the conditions for the restoration of prior contributory service be made more flexible than they are now. Currently the one-year limitation is too restrictive and does not take into consideration even the simplest of justifications, such as staff members not being aware of the option or simply not being able to assess its importance when - and if - it's ever explained to them.
- Last, but not least, in times of economic turmoil and after a prolonged period of low returns on investment, that the finances of the fund remain sound and that our future, as prospective retirees, remains secure.