PART 1

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

Nominee		
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STATEMENT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE:

ENGLISH

I am currently in UNIFIL/Lebanon but have full knowledge of Pension Fund Secretariat: its operations, benefits, finance and policies because I worked in the Fund for over 16 years and served in the Pension Board as alternate representative until I left the UN-Family due to job assignments. I have also worked in DESA/Japan, DKPO at headquarters and in the field and at the International Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

The United Nations common system has substantively changed since its inception in the fifties but its structure is the same and the Board needs people with the knowledge and courage to keep what is good but also bring changes. If you elect me I pledge to work in the following areas:

1. Ensure that investments are based on safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility. Prevent outsourcing and to maintain checks and balances by keeping Investments and Operations separate.
2. Ensure that accurate, prompt and cordial service to participants and retirees. This is a priority function for the Secretariat. At the same time, minimize administrative costs of the Fund so that resources can be used for the benefit of participants.
3. Propose a review of the structure of the Pension Board in order to meet the changed social requirements that emerged during the last 60 years. Currently the UN-Family has 85,000 participants out 120,000: but has only four out of 11 seats allocated to in the Board. In 2010-11 there were only three UN participant representatives in the Pension Board: such a under-representation should not happen because improper representation will not address the real need of the participants.
4. Propose a review of benefit system. About half of the benefits paid are withdrawal settlement for short-term employees who can only receive their 1/3 contribution to the Fund while none of the 2/3 contributions go to them. We must find a way to provide the young staff members with a portable pension fund by given them a portion of the employers' contributions.
5. Propose the establishment of a field oriented service structure. More than 70 percent of staff members work in the field with very limited knowledge of pension matters. The focus of Pension Fund service should shift from headquarters to the field.

None of these objectives are easy and will take time but we must start and ensure that the Pension Fund of the future will be healthy and just to all.