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:

My highest priority, as your representative to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee, would be to maintain the soundness of our plan and to safeguard the investments of the Fund. As an official of the UN Staff Union in 2007, I was active in the effort to stop the Secretary-General from outsourcing the management of the pension fund investments. We must be ever vigilant to defend our pensions from those who will attempt to erode our pension benefits. In addition, I will seek to ensure that all staff regardless of where they serve or wish to retire are treated equally. Our workforce is changing, with more staff serving in the field on short term contracts. Future staff may not spend their entire careers in one organization. We must explore the portability of our pension plan and review the regulations and methodology of how retirement benefits are determined.

I have attended meetings of the Pension Board before, most recently in 2009, as an observer for a staff federation. I am well aware of the issues and problems facing the staff who rely on their UN pension for their retirement. We must examine if our pensions are keeping up with our salaries and if the benefit will be sufficient to meet the needs of staff after they leave the Organization. Combined with the problem of currency devaluation for many staff, the net effect is a pension scheme that may need to be adjusted. At the same time, we must maintain the soundness of the Fund and stop any attempts to change the defined benefit design of our pension plan.

One of the issues that must be addressed is the day to day operations of the Fund. They must be responsive to the needs of their clients, the participants and beneficiaries in an efficient manner. The governance structure of the Board must also be examined to ensure that there is a fair representation of all members of the UN family of organizations.

My experience in staff representation activities makes me well qualified as your representative. My background includes service as Former First Vice-President of the United Nations Staff Union; current Treasurer of the Staff Emergency Fund; Member of the Health and Life Insurance Committee at UNHQ, and Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Security and Independence of the International Civil Service.

My pledge to you as your representative is to do my utmost to protect your pension so that it will be there for your retirement and to work on your behalf to seek resolution of the issues raised above.