



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF
FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
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Dear Mr. Guterres,


I should like to congratulate you on your election as Secretary-General of the United Nations. The approximately 20,000 members of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) also join me in welcoming you and offering you our strong support as you prepare to take up this most challenging position.

FAFICS was established in 1975 when it consisted of three associations of former international civil servants. It was founded to support and promote the purposes, principles, programmes and achievements of the United Nations system, and to support and assist UN retirees in maintaining the critical twin pillars of their after-service lives, pensions and health insurance. FAFICS is the official representative of pensioners and beneficiaries of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), attends the annual meetings of the UN Pension Board (UNJSPB) and participates in all of the committees and working groups established by the Pension Board. FAFICS also plays a critical role in ensuring that after-service health insurance benefits are preserved, participating in health insurance committees in the organizations of the common system and currently on the Working Group on After-Service Health Insurance established by the Finance and Budget Network of the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM FB).

Today the number of associations belonging to FAFICS stands at 59, with new associations being added every year. All regions of the world are represented in FAFICS and although Europe is particularly well-represented, Portugal is not yet a member. By next year we hope to be able to count Portugal among us. FAFICS holds an annual Council in July prior to the session of the Pension Board and it is my pleasure to extend to you an open invitation to attend it and use that platform to address our retired members worldwide.

In closing, I would like to express how gratifying it is to FAFICS that you are one of us, a member of the international civil service, with a deep understanding of what that role entails. Please accept my personal best wishes as well as those of all FAFICS members in wishing you every success in your important new function.

Sincerely yours,


Linda Saputelli
President

Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General-designate
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