



FORMER FAO AND OTHER UN STAFF ASSOCIATION FFOA

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FFOA - What it is and What it does

Basic Facts

The Former FAO and Other UN Staff Associations (FFOA) was created in 1971 by FAO retirees to represent and promote the interest of retirees and their beneficiaries. It deals with a wide range of matters of direct interest to pensioners, from UN pensions to medical insurance (BMIP/MMBP) issues, maintains relations with former employers in Rome, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) and other Staff Associations, organizes social events and helps members to keep in touch.

As January 2024 FFOA has reached the number of 2200 Members worldwide, with a large part living in and around Rome. Today FFOA has members of 105 nationalities living in 86 countries who have retired from over 25 different UN Organizations.

FFOA is recognized as the only association representing retirees from FAO, IFAD, WFP and other UN Agencies through Recognition and Cooperation Agreements.

FFOA is open to all former United Nations Staff, who are entitled to receive a pension from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund or have worked at least five years within the UN system. Staff members can already join before their retirement date as Associate Members until they retire when they can choose between an Annual or Life membership.

FFOA's office is in FAO's Headquarters in room E-005. The office is open every working day from 09:30 to 13:00. The telephone number is 0657056016/0657055623. The e-mail address is ffoa@fao.org and its Web site can be found at <http://www.ffoa-web.org>.

As a non-profit organization, FFOA is governed by its statutes, or Articles of Association. The supreme governing body is the General Assembly which meets once a year, usually at the end of May. An 11-member Executive Committee handles the day-to-day business and elaborates policy lines on subjects of major concern to the Association. The current committee is headed by a President, Edward Seidler, and two Vice-Presidents, Lubna Alaman and Giuliano Pucci. It also includes a General Secretary post presently occupied by Angelika Wolf, a Treasurer, Fessehaie Tesfamariam. The Committee is elected with a three year-mandate, the present one started on 1 January 2023.

FFOA's work is mainly financed through membership fees but the Association also receives donations and legacies from time to time. The annual membership fee is Euro 25.00. A one-time payment of Euro 375.00 will ensure life membership with no further payment.

Servicing the Membership

FFOA is deeply involved in pension matters and represents its members on the FAO/WFP and on the IFAD Staff Pension Committees and, through its membership in the FAFICS, on the UN Joint Staff Pension Board. The FFOA Executive Committee has direct contacts with the Managers of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund which allows to bring urgent cases or claims to their attention, often with quick results.

FFOA also takes part actively in the **FAO Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage (FAC/MC)**, and follows very closely issues pertaining to medical insurance, representing the interests of pensioners and dependants.

- Members are kept informed of new developments in these and many other areas through the “**NEWSBRIEF**” which is issued three times a year in English and Italian. In addition, whenever required, urgent messages on different subjects are dispatched to members who can be reached via email. Finally, a Website (www.ffoa-web.org) is maintained to disseminate general information on the Association to the internet community at large as well as to store in a digital repository, detailed information on the activities of the Association and on the institutional memory accrued by its members while still in service.

The FFOA Desk assists and advises members on many personal matters. A document entitled “Before and After a UN Pensioner dies” with practical advice is available at the FFOA office and at the Website in English and Italian. Different levels of information on the FFOA membership are also maintained in a comprehensive database which stores personal as well as financial data on memberships.

Through its **FAFICS membership**, currently headquartered in New York, FFOA is joining forces with sister associations worldwide in advancing the interest of UN System pensioners. FAFICS represents its member associations in various UN and other fora where decisions affecting pensioners are made. FFOA is a founding member of and the third largest association within FAFICS.

FFOA's leisure activities include guided visits to exhibitions, excursions or tours to interesting sites in Rome, other parts of Italy and abroad, a lunch in connection with the General Assembly, a Year-end Cocktail Party as well as Coffee Mornings held every first Wednesday of the month in the FAO premises.

FFOA assists its non-Italian members who are not citizens of an EU member country and who - upon retirement - wish to stay in Italy and therefore need a “Permesso di Soggiorno”. These members should collect a copy of the application form to request the permit to stay from an Italian Post Office which has a “Sportello Amico”. The Post Office on the ground floor of FAO Headquarters has such a “Sportello Amico”. The FFOA Office Assistants can assist with the completion of this form and the issuance of the various certificates by the member's former employing UN Organization. Details of this service and of the required documentation can be obtained from the FFOA Desk.

FFOA has arranged with FAO that Building Passes issued to pensioners by FAO, IFAD and WFP are recognized by these three Organizations.

FFOA is regularly in touch with the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) in New York. The UNFCU has an office in FAO, Ground Floor of building D.

When you are about to retire come to the FFOA Desk and join us.

January 2024