



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS  
FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX  
FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES DE EX-FUNCIONARIOS INTERNACIONALES  
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland [Secretary@fafics.org](mailto:Secretary@fafics.org) [www.fafics.org](http://www.fafics.org)  
*Celebrating 50 Years of Representing Retirees and Families in 2025*

Office of  
the  
President

Room C0249B, PO Box 100, Vienna International Centre, Vienna Austria  
[President@fafics.org](mailto:President@fafics.org)

5 September 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from Vienna as I recap the successful FAFICS Council. After review by the attending Associations and the Bureau, the complete Council Report has been posted on our website in English, French, and Spanish (see <https://fafics.org/documents/55th-session-of-the-fafics-council-14-17-july-2025-vienna/>). I will mention a few of the highlights from my view.

### 55<sup>th</sup> FAFICS Council

Our 55<sup>th</sup> Council was held in Vienna, Austria (for the tenth time). I was very pleased with the excellent preparations and support by ARICSA and the UNOV staff, and especially with the good physical and virtual participation by you – a total of 40 associations. Kudos to those of you who got up early or stayed up past midnight to attend. Many of the highlights were simply the cordial discussions among delegates and the community over dinner and during the anniversary celebrations.

The week started with two open meetings – a morning session on Pension Issues and an afternoon session on After-Service Health Insurance issues. These meetings were well attended and led to exchange of significant detailed information and clarity in the mandates for the FAFICS standing committees charged with these important topics. It also meant that the discussions in plenary were shorter and more focused. The Standing Committees on ASHIL and Communications had well developed work plans and committee members and focal points. The Standing Committees on Pension Issues and Membership had excellent work in progress with growth in the number of members ongoing. Please see the Council report for details.

The three plenary sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday handled the usual formal business of the Federation. The 2024 Financial Report and the 2026 Budget were approved. The auditors gave a clean audit report but stressed that a future with the planned income may not be sustainable. The FAFICS Bureau pledged to work on means to increase income, mainly by adding new Member Associations to the 65 Associations in the Federation and by helping Associations to add members in their areas.

We had excellent talks and question times with the two representatives of the Pension Fund: The Chief Executive of Pension Administration, Ms. Rosemarie McClean, and the Acting RSG for investments of the assets of the Fund, Mr. Toru Shindo (since the previous RSG Pedro Guazo had resigned on 15 July 2025). They reported that the Fund is secure, operating well, improving services, and gearing up for the challenges ahead.

Although no additional Associations joined the Federation at this time, two Member Associations had reinvigorated their participation: AAFNU-Mauritania and UNPAI-New Delhi were present and active. I reported on my efforts to be visible, approachable, and transparent in my actions. In addition to my President's Letters, I attended some annual meetings of Member Associations (a couple in person, others virtually) and spoke at the annual meeting of FICSA, since our cooperation had lessened since



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Covid-times. The Council noted that more could be done to ensure that there are sufficient people volunteering to be in the various FAFICS and Pension Board committees. The Bureau pledged to work on ways to convince members of Associations to volunteer, and ways to vet such volunteers, so that the President has options and sufficient information to make informed choices. At the same time, the Council approved a change to its rules so that appointments to Pension Board committees will be valid for the tenure determined by the Pension Board, instead of the two-year renewal tenures previously in the FAFICS Rules of Procedure.

Two items were raised by Member Associations in line with Council procedures. Regarding additional Pension Fund liaison offices, the Chief Executive of the Fund, Ms. Rosemarie McClean, responded that the Fund presently had other priorities and had already increased global communications means and online services. Regarding the possibility of having a 'global retiree ID' from the UN or the Pension Fund, it was seen as very challenging and untimely.

Elections of FAFICS Officials are now staggered, and there will be some elections every year. This year two Vice-Presidents (from a total of five) were to be elected, and your Associations submitted four candidates. The election procedures were carried out according to the Rules of Procedure and previous practice. Ms. Adriana Gómez Sagüéz (AFICS-Chile) and Mr. Clemens Adams (AAFI-AFICS Geneva) were elected.

The FAFICS election procedures do not impose any geographic or gender requirements on our elections. These issues need to be addressed by ensuring that Associations from around the globe nominate appropriate candidates. The Bureau has noted that more can be done to encourage nominations, and a Bureau working group has been established. Similarly, the Bureau and I have noted that FAFICS has not documented any procedures for the actual conduct of elections, especially hybrid elections.

This lack of documented procedures led to two unforeseen situations during the election. Although the election had been announced as fully electronic, four Associations asked to vote on paper. I asked the Council and the Council agreed. One Association forgot to vote by the deadline, and I agreed to allow that Association to vote.

Concerning the issue of the last re-opened ballot, the Bureau, the polling officer and I have considered the impact that invalidating the final post-deadline vote would have on the results. The Bureau has agreed to void that post-deadline vote. The voiding of that vote has no impact on the election results. Specifically, although the percentages have changed slightly, the same people have been elected.

I believe that the Bureau should propose some voting procedures for the next regular FAFICS Council. I have therefore requested the Bureau to create a Working Group for Election Administrative Procedures. The Working Group also will look at ways to encourage nominations.



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Since one of the main objectives for 2025-2026 is to increase our African membership, I have asked our former Vice-President, M. Abdou Khadre Diakhate, who is still the co-chair of the Standing Committee on Membership, to attend all Bureau meetings, under Rule 5.6 *"The vice-chairs attend Bureau meetings when the chair cannot attend, or at the discretion of the President or when the agenda relates to the subjects of the Standing Committees."* In addition to him being an active participant in our Bureau deliberations, I have asked him to be a member of the Working Group mentioned above and the Working Group on Succession Planning that was established at the Council, and the Bureau has endorsed this request and Abdou has accepted.

And finally, as usual I was unable during the Council meeting to announce the venue for the 56<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in July 2026. It has now been agreed that next year's Council meeting again will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 20 July through 24 July 2026, followed by the Pension Fund's Board meeting the following week.

#### 50th Anniversary

I thoroughly enjoyed our anniversary and thanked the organizers for their hard work. I had fun and I hope you did too. The ePublication is available on our website under <https://fafics.org/news/fafics-50/>. There are too many people to thank in this letter, but I want to thank the whole "FAFICS@50 Committee", and especially the co-chairs Jacques Daoust (CACIFS) and Aye Win (AFICS-Myanmar) and of course Delia Barcelona for their challenging and detailed preparations under time pressure. The full report of FAFICS@50 is also now on the website.

I commend you for all you do to support your members and to support the principles and programmes of the United Nations. Especially this year, we should celebrate UN Day on Friday 24 October 2025, exactly 80 years after the creation of the United Nations. I urge you also to do all you can to support staff members whose contracts are not being extended, so that they know the options that are available to them.

Collegial Regards

Jerry Barton  
FAFICS President