



Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development

RECORD

**196th Meeting of the Executive Committee
Tuesday, 30 January 2024
Hybrid (at La Pastorale and Via Zoom)**

Present:

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia
Manuela Tortora
Jean Erhardt
Cécile Molinier
Esther Guluma
Bertrand Louis
Gesche Karrenbrock

1. Adoption of the agenda:

The agenda was adopted.

2. Kofi Annan Foundation:

Following the face-to-face module in Geneva which took place from November 20th to November 25th and included a meeting between Ambassador Staehelin and the mentors, Alejandro and Mohan had a debriefing meeting with Corinne and Linda. The discussion was positive, and it was agreed that the meeting with the Ambassador had been quite useful, as it allowed both sides to get to know and appreciate each other better.

3. Greytalks

The next Greytalk on the political cartoons of the League of Nations is organized on February 1st at the conference room of the Club Suisse de la Presse at Château de Penthes. Two historians author of a book on Derso&Kelen's cartoons will come all the way from Edinburgh and will bring several copies of their book which they will dedicate and sell at a reduced price of 30 CHF in cash.

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The following Greytalk, in French, on “L’autre Genève internationale” will take place on Thursday March 21st at the Maison internationale des Associations, near Plainpalais, and will feature the author Yudit Kiss who will present two of her books (“La lessive” and “Geneva Mundi”), which highlight the contribution of foreigners to the perception and memories of international Geneva. The book “Geneva Mundi” includes maps that could be brought to the attention of the City of Geneva, which could organize walks around those monuments.

Another Greytalk will be organized in May at a date to be defined with Greycells member Gabrielle Köhler, who will talk about the work currently done by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on draft norms for business.

Another Greytalk will be organized on 6 June featuring Guy Standing, a university professor and former ILO staff who has written extensively on a minimum basic income and has just published a book on the Blue Commons.

If possible, a special Greytalk could be organized in April around ten days before the intergenerational Dialogue, to brief on the status of the negotiations on the Summit of the Future.

4. Intergenerational Dialogue 2024 on the role of International Geneva in the UN 2.0 <https://greycells.ch/dialogue-intergenerationnel-2024/>

The anonymous survey and the rules for the Youth Contest for the Greycells International Geneva Prize will be launched on 1 February, with a deadline for responses and submissions of 25 March. The survey includes 11 questions for all audiences, and several additional questions for specific audiences (diplomats and IO staff, academics, journalists and young people). **All Greycells members, as well as the members of the Steering Committee will be asked to disseminate the survey and rules for the Youth contest as widely as possible.**

In addition to Greycells partners for the Dialogue (mentioned in the website), letters have been sent, inter alia, to AFICS, Ecole internationale de Genève, Collège du Léman, Rotary international, Geneva School of Diplomacy, Center of International Environmental Law, South Centre, International Institute of Sustainable Development, Geneva Center for Security Policy, Graduate Institute, Club diplomatique and Fondation pour Genève.

One of the expected outcomes of the Dialogue is a communiqué which will be shared in several fora related to the Summit of the Future, starting with the UN Civil Society

Conference to be held in Nairobi on May 9 and 10, for which Alejandro has applied to co-chair the Conference or one of the panels.

Greycells has participated in several meetings organized in Geneva in connection with the preparation of the Summit of the Future to brief on the objectives and expected outcomes of the Dialogue. It appears that the Dialogue is the only event organized in Geneva with the objective of highlighting the specific contribution of international Geneva to the future of multilateralism. Even if issues dealt with in Geneva, such as sustainable development and human rights, feature prominently in the Zero draft of the Pact for the Future, it is important to highlight how the characteristics of international Geneva (normative work, multisectoral and multidisciplinary work, and the multi-stakeholders interface between diplomats, secretariats, civil society, and business sector) make it best equipped to deal with these issues and therefore to contribute to a successful outcome of the Summit.

5. Greycells International Geneva Prize

The prize will reward the winners in each of the two categories of the Youth Contest (written and multimedia). The EC agreed to an award of 750 CHF for each winner, to be topped up eventually if a donor is found.

6. Eduki 2024 competition on “My Future, my ideas”

Greycells has been a member of the jury who evaluate the submissions to the competition and chose the winner for the last three years. This year Manuela was supposed to represent Greycells, but she will not have the time because of the organization of the Dialogue. Gesche has kindly agreed to represent Greycells in the jury.

7. Swiss Press Club

The Club is very interested in partnering with Greycells. The first joint event will be the Greytalk on February 1st, and the second is the Dialogue, to be held at the conference room of the Club, with their technical equipment and their services for moderation. In return, the Club expects Greycells to become an institutional member for an annual fee of 750 CHF.

The EC agreed that 750 CHF was a reasonable amount for the package of services provided by the Club for the Dialogue and suggested that the fee should not be paid until after the Dialogue has been held. In addition.

8. 2024 General Assembly

The 2024 General Assembly will be held on Thursday 21 March at 4:00 pm, before the Greytalk with Yudit Kiss.

9. Annual membership fee

A reminder has been sent by Carlotta, our treasurer, reminding members of the need to pay the annual fee of 150 CHF, which can be increased by a donation.

10. Any other business

Esther introduced the idea to organize a Greycells Open Day, to which staff and retirees from UN organizations present in Geneva will be invited. The event will offer an opportunity to present Greycells and its main activities in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with a view to expanding and diversifying our membership.

A small task force comprised of Esther, Cécile, Francesca, and Mohan will organize the event, to be held either in June or in September.

11. Date of the next meeting

The upcoming meeting is scheduled for early March, with the exact date to be confirmed shortly. All members of Greyfriends will be promptly notified once the date is finalized.