

**AFICS/NY GB# 474**

**Minutes from the 474<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board**

**Friday, 19 June 2026 at 11:00 a.m.**

**UNICEF House, 4th Floor**

**Present:** Nicholas Alipui, Renu Bhatia, Gail Bindley-Taylor, Suzanne Bishopric, Marianne Brzak-Metzler, Alejandro Caruso, Mac Chiulli, Robin DellaRocca, Nancy Hurtz-Soyka, Jayant Karia, Judith Karl, Deborah Landey, Marita Legaspi, Sudershan Narula, Andrew Nye, Edward Omotoso, Regina Pawlik, Jay Pozenel, Christine Roth, Linda Saputelli, Darshak Shah, Gülden Turkoz-Cosslett, and Michael Zilberg.

**Absent with Notice:** Andres Castellanos, Furio DeTomassi, John Dietz, Pilar Fuentes Conte, Ingrid Kasper, Barbara Linardo, Richard Nottidge and Elma Witherspoon.

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**1. Agenda:**

The President declared the meeting open at 11am with the agenda presented as follows:

- Adoption of the agenda
- Election of Officers (2026-2028 Term)
- Welcome of New Board Members
- Approval of draft Minutes of GB meetings on 30 April and 26 May 2026
- President's Report
- FAFICS delegation and approval of statements to Pension Committee, ASHIL and Succession Planning Committee
- Distinguished Service Award
- Committee Reports
- Other Business

**2. Election of Officers (2026–2028 Term)**

The following officers were elected for a two-year term from June 2026:

- President: Mr. Darshak Shah
- First Vice President: Mr. Jay Pozenel
- Second Vice President: Ms. Gülden Turkoz-Cosslett
- Treasurer: Ms. Mac Chiulli
- Secretary: Ms. Marita Legaspi
- Deputy Secretary: Ms. Marianne Brzak-Metzler

The Board expressed appreciation to Ms. Nancy Hurtz-Soyka for her incredible contribution as outgoing Vice President. Many thanks as well to Ms. Pilar Fuentes Conte who resigned as Secretary due to medical-related reasons. She remains as a member of the Board.

### **3. Welcome of New Governing Board Members**

The President welcomed newly elected GB members who were in attendance, each of whom introduced themselves, with highlights of their active service, as follows:

- Ms. Renu Bhatia – 34 years of UN service in DM, UNDSS, USG and Executive Offices.
- Ms. Christine Roth – 30 years with UNDP and UNCDF, including field leadership roles.
- Ms. Marita Legaspi – HR, DM Executive Office, Umoja, IMIS, Peacekeeping, IRENA.
- Ms. Regina Pawlik – HR/Compensation, ICSC, ECLAC leadership; w/AFICS Mexico.

Two other new members could not be present: Ms. Elma Witherspoon and Ms. Ingrid Kasper.

Existing Board members introduced themselves for the benefit of the new ones. The President also introduced Mr. Velimir Kovacevic who provides valuable operational and administrative support to the AFICS/NY Office and the Board.

The Board commented on the success of the first-time held Welcome and Orientation Meeting for new GB members on 15 June. The practice should be continued.

Lastly, the Board expressed appreciation of the enormous contributions provided by the outgoing members: Nancy, Gail, Steve, and Michelle.

### **4. Approval of Draft Minutes**

The Board approved, with no further comments, the minutes of the meetings of:

- **30 April 2026 (GB 472)**
- **26 May 2026 (GB 473)**

### **5. President's Report**

- **Annual Assembly**

The President and the Board highly commended the team, especially Velimir for successfully organizing the Annual Assembly despite the challenges of relocating the AFICS office. Special thanks to Jay, Mac, Nancy and Velimir.

- **FAFICS Council Delegation – Vienna, July 2026**

The Board approved the following delegation to the FAFICS Council:

- Mr. Darshak Shah
- Mr. Jay Pozenel
- Ms. Gülden Turkoz-Cosslett (virtual)
- Ms. Deborah Landey (self-funded)
- Ms. Nancy Hurtz-Soyka (as FAFICS Vice President)

- **Office Closure**

The AFICS/NY office will be closed from **17 August to 8 September 2026**.

## **6. Pension Committee Statement (for the FAFICS Council)**

**Presented by Mr. Jay Pozenel:**

- Plan Design Working Group
  - AFICS/NY supports the participation of Ms. Katrin Bruchmann (AAFI-AFICS-Geneva) and Mr. Gerhard Schramek (ARICSA-Vienna) in the Working Group on the GA's request for a holistic review of the Pension Fund's design.
  - Emphasis on drawing expertise from AFICS associations globally.
- Pension Administration
  - The Board commended CEPA for improved processing despite a significant surge in separations cases.

- Investment Management

Issues to be raised at the Pension Board include:

- Alternative investments
  - Private debt
  - Advisor selection and evaluation
  - Performance measurement
- Proposal received that the FAFICS delegation to the Working Group on the GA's request for a holistic review of the Pension Fund's design draw down on the assets across the Federation in the area of pension expertise, in coordination with the succession planning group, to support the work of the FAFICS delegation on the Working Group.

**Decision:**

The Board approved the Pension Committee statement for submission to the FAFICS Council.

**7. After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI)****Presented by Mr. Jay Karia**

- The ASHI report is being finalized; a consultant's survey analysis has just been received.
- Increases in medical insurance premium rates (e.g. Aetna +35%, MIP +40%) have caused significant concern from all parties, including the Staff Union.

**Decision:**

A draft AFICS/NY statement will be circulated electronically for the Board's approval once the ASHI report is finalized.

**8. Succession Planning****Presented by Ms. Nancy Hurtz-Soyka**

- Framework Components
  - Key function descriptions
  - Expertise pool
  - Comparative review process
  - Learning and capacity building
  - Handover procedures
- Creation of New Standing Committee on Succession Planning in FAFICS

**Decisions:**

The Board endorsed the Succession Planning Framework. The Board approved creation of a Standing Committee on Succession Planning

**9. Distinguished Service Award**

- Based on the guidelines and criteria for the Distinguished Service Award (approved by the AFICS/NY GB on November 19, 2025), the President asked for nominations to be submitted confidentially within two weeks. To be sent to Gülden with a copy to Jay Pozenel.

## **10. Committee Reports**

### **Communications**

- June Bulletin in final editing.
- Website migration underway; member login feature in testing.

### **Events**

- Walking tour is scheduled for 25 June.

### **Membership**

- Printed directory to be produced for members without email access.

### **Health Insurance**

- Huge surge in ASHI enrollment numbers; significant increases in premium rates; need for improved communication especially with regard to the UN self-insured plan.

### **Pension Committee**

- Monthly meetings continue; new members encouraged to join.

### **Aging Smart**

- A new proposal forthcoming.

## **11. Any Other Business**

The next Board meetings will tentatively be on 5 August and then on 15 September.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **12:59 p.m.**

Members extended birthday wishes to **Mr. Ed Omotoso**.

“Happy birthday, Ed!”