



Statement at 55th AFICS/NY Annual Assembly

Darshak Shah, AFICS/NY President

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My name is Darshak Shah, President of the Association of Former Civil Servants of New York, AFICS/NY.

Let me introduce the people at the podium – to my right – NHS, 1st VP, on my left Dr. Narula – cochair of health and life insurance committee, chair of membership committee and Jay P 2nd VP.

1. Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. Good afternoon and welcome on this rainy afternoon to the 55th Annual Assembly of the Association of Former Civil Servants of New York, AFICS/NY.
2. I want to recognize the presence of Mr Fung, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly. He is representing the President of the GA. Thank you for addressing the assembly.
3. This years Assembly coincides with 80th Anniversary of the 2nd World War and the creation of the UN as well as the 50th Anniversary of FAFICS. Let me take this opportunity to welcome Mr Jerry Barton, President of FAFICS. He is attending the Assembly in person and he is one of the distinguished speakers this afternoon.
4. The UN is at point of inflexion and the world seems to be traversing through tough times. It feels not that different from the time when the 2nd World War ended and to avoid such a calamity the UN was created. This was captured well in the **statement by Dag Hammarskjöld.. "The United Nations was NOT created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell."** Hell seems to be lurking round many corners and the UN's role continues to be to save humanity from hell – as best as it can! Hence the need for UN is even greater now.
5. I wanted to thank all the members for attending the Assembly.
6. I want to thank all our distinguished presenters for making the time to present to you and answer you questions.



7. Given all the uncertainties in the world and the UN, the role of AFICS/NY as your voice is more important than ever before – nothing is a given! We continue to intervene on your behalf with UNJSPF and Health and Life insurance section on transactional matters. We communicate your concerns through careful analysis on policy issues to FAFICS and they advocate on your behalf. Hence AFICS/NY always advocates for a strong FAFICS. AFICS/NY is very lucky to have excellent capacity to do the analysis.
8. On FAFICS @ 50, I want to recall that the key role that FAFICS plays on the Pension Board, this role was not played 50 years ago. The founding fathers of FAFICS advocated for it and through their wise intervention earned it. This is a time to remember and thank the founding fathers and to thank Jerry Barton for his incredible role and wise leadership.
9. AFICS/NY works very closely the Health and Life insurance section and AFICS/NY ensures that the voice and perspective of the retirees is heard distinctly.
10. AFICS/NY has an excellent partnership with UNJSPF and intercedes on your behalf when needed with the contacts that we have and policy knowledge.
11. Kenya Airways has offered AFICS/NY members the same privilege as UN staff – 10% discount on KA flights. Anthony Brinn, Commercial Manager at KA is present here and will provide more information at the reception. A flyer will soon be posted on AFICS/NY website.
12. I remember with sadness the loss of one of our Board Members earlier this year Sandra Haji and Jenny Karia, the wife of Jay Karia who passed a few days ago. She was a distinguished UN staff. Hence Jay could not attend the Assembly. They continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.
13. Jay Pozenel the 2nd VP will be the moderator for the questions and the responses. He will ensure that they are responded to be in an efficient manner and by the right experts. Later all questions and responses will also be posted on the AFICS/NY website.
14. I will close by recalling the statement by Dag Hammarskjöld.. “The United Nations was NOT created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell.” The UN that many of you built to save humanity from hell needs our support at this difficult time.
