

INTERVIEW

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FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNION



Interview No 2



PRESIDENTE 2006-2007

Question 1

What does the ILO Staff Union, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, mean to you?

The Staff Union is part of the nature of the ILO. It was born at the same time and has become an essential element of internal labour relations. It is the expression of the Constitution itself at the internal level and represents the exercise of freedom of association "in the house of the blacksmith" without being a "stick". The union represents security, rights and defence, and its hundred years and the number of its members are proof of this.

Question 2

What motivated your commitment to run for President of the Union and what message would you like to convey to future Presidents?

After different trade union positions in previous years, the challenge of being President and somehow "rounding off" my internal trade union career, had its moment. I had to get involved and get to know the ILO from other angles. I never regretted it, it was a period of learning and knowledge... Yes, today I am a manager partly because of what I learned.

I can only transmit what is worthwhile... that is done with heart, with strength and with love... it is an honour and a privilege to be honoured.

Question 3

What have these years of Presidency; do you have any anecdotes that remain in your file?

They gave me a lot for my professional future... my greatest memory is the long meetings with HRD directors, the dialectical discussions and even the shouting... it was fun to put up with the mess and avoid being led down the "wrong" paths... manipulation is an element of negotiation.

Question 5

As a last word, what if to motivate newcomers to the ILO and especially young people to join the ILO Staff Union?

Being part of the ILO union is natural in the Organization, how can we defend its values if we do not practice them? And how can you criticize the Staff Union if you are not part of it?... you are part of the essence of the organization and you will feel more connected

Question 4

What are the two biggest challenges and successes you have faced during your term in office?

The biggest challenge was coordinating a disparate committee with divergent interests... The aftermath of the last war in Lebanon and the problems of colleagues were certainly the greatest challenge and their solution the greatest success ; because we preserved the human aspect. The challenges are daily and there is no success but work.

