

### **Why did you agree to chair this General Assembly?**

When I joined this noble institution in 1989, I never imagined that I would be asked to chair the General Assembly of the Union.

Of course, for 32 years I have been actively involved in the life of the Union, having held positions of responsibility....

So you can imagine what an honour it is for me to receive this proposal. A quick flashback went through my little head, to measure the trust placed in me by my colleagues, whom I cannot let down in any way, so I answered YES with pleasure, of course.

### **What does trade union involvement mean to you?**

As a prelude, I want to share three important messages.

The first is that we are fortunate to serve an international organisation in charge of labour in the world.

The second message is that we are fortunate to have a strong union culture (2/3 of the staff are unionised). We are the envy of the world....

Finally, we are a leading organisation within the UN common system, defending the interests and independence of the ICSC.

Therefore, trade union action comes naturally to me, through

- Representing the interests of staff
- Negotiating working conditions (wages and salaries, pensions, occupational health and safety and recruitment) within the framework of a collective agreement,
- The more than 100 years of experience of our Union, still in operation through
  - o A strong and effective contribution to collective defence
  - o A legal know-how in collective defence and individual protection.

Finally, I remain convinced that by acting together we always achieve the best results.

### **What opportunities do you see for the union in the coming year?**

Some progressive issues are already being discussed with the administration,

- the new regulation on teleworking
- Reconciliation of work and family life
- Career policy and harmonisation of contracts within the organisation.
- Staff mobility

These are all important issues on which the Union Committee is already actively working in negotiations and achieving concrete results. I wish the new team every success and encouragement.

### **What message would you like to convey to all your colleagues?**

Some simple but important values in professional life.

- Let us continue to have confidence in ourselves and in the future of the world of work.
- Let us be proud of our work, of our daily contribution to the advancement of social justice and universal social protection.
- Let us jealously guard our Community of Solidarity - THE ILO TRADE UNION, keeping in mind that by working together and pooling our cultural richness, we can collectively achieve great things for the well-being of humanity.

I sum up this interview with an African proverb: "If you want to go fast, walk alone, but if you want to go far, walk together".