

Director-General meets International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU)



On 29 June, 2016, the Director-General met with the newly elected members of the International Staff Association of UNESCO (ISAU) Executive and Collegium. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views with the newly elected members in order to enhance dialogue between the Staff Association and the Administration.

On opening the meeting, the Director-General congratulated the members on their appointment, to which the President of ISAU, Ms Kadidia Diallo expressed her appreciation and gratitude. The President of ISAU expressed the wish of the Staff Association to strengthen dialogue with the Administration to contribute to the ongoing reform as key partners in providing enhanced communication between the staff and the Administration. In doing so, the President pointed out that ISAU had already met with the Director of Human Resource Management recently.

The ISAU raised a few issues of concern, such as the well-being of staff and the need to raise the morale of staff. In this regard, the President highlighted the importance of linking the performance of staff to that of staff development, notably by providing greater impulse to staff training and the recognition of competencies by senior managers. The Staff Association also highlighted the need to reinforce the security personnel on the premises and the importance of using the two working languages of the Secretariat, English and French, in particular in Administrative Circulars and HR Policies.

The Director-General reassured ISAU that these concerns are currently being reviewed by the Administration and she informed the ISAU that these issues had been raised earlier on in the morning at the meeting of the Senior Management Team.

The Director-General welcomed ISAU's commitment to the Organization and their wish to be active partners in helping to improve working relations across the Organization, through efforts to promote and to facilitate constructive dialogue and interaction between staff and the Senior Management in matters that are highly relevant to staff well-being and career development.

In concluding, the Director-General reiterated the importance of a sustained and regular consultation so as to ensure a transparent and effective dialogue between ISAU and the Administration, highlighting that she had requested the Director of Human Resource Management to be an engaged interface and communication channel for the Association.