

PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, February 6, 2018

New Board at the United Nations Correspondents Association Vienna

The United Nations Correspondents Association Vienna (UNCAV) accredited by the UN elected a new Board during its General Assembly on Friday, February 2, 2018. UNCAV supports journalists in reporting about the UN and actively promotes the freedom of press as well as the values of the UN. President DI Abdalla Sharief underlines: “We see ourselves as an independent organization – with no obligation towards any political, religious or economic institution – that acts to promote international understanding in line with the UN and establishes a global network.”

At this year’s General Assembly President DI Abdalla Sharief was reelected for another four years – as well as Vice President Dr. Josef Siegele. Together with journalists and communication experts Mag.^a Ursula Hofmeister and Dr. Alexander M. Lille two new vice presidents are now heading the United Nations Correspondents Association Vienna’s affairs.

„The freedom of opinion and the freedom of press are precious goods. Too many countries still violate journalists’ rights. Over the last years, more than 800 journalists have been killed while practicing their profession and only a very small part of these deaths has been resolved. As part of my duties at the UNCAV, it is my personal concern to create awareness on the important role of objective journalism in the processes of democratic politics. Therefore, I see our task in being a role model to young colleagues and to show them that their work can unite people and inspire peace,” says Mag.^a Ursula Hofmeister in regard to her new position.

The big responsibility of the media and every journalist goes hand in hand with this statement. „Words often have an equally strong impact as actions – sometimes even a greater one,“ underlines Dr. Alexander M. Lille. “In the digital era, messages are spread by a simple click of a button and, in many cases, cannot be deleted anymore. Journalists have a special responsibility in this regard,” according to Lille.

“As press association, it is our task to strengthen the rights of journalists. However, we also have to remind them of their obligations. Objectivity, thorough research and committing oneself to democratic values are essential virtues in this profession,” underlines Dr. Josef Siegele in his function as one of the three UNCAV vice presidents. He adds: “We are especially pleased to welcome Mag.^a Nadja Mader, another experienced journalist, to our board. She is also a fierce promoter of these ideals.” President Sharief thanked the members who retired from the board for their work and their commitment in promoting the aims and values of the United Nations.

The UNCAV board now consists of the following members besides two independent, external auditors:

President:	DI Abdalla Sharief
1. Vice President:	Dr. Josef Siegele
2. Vice President:	Dr. Alexander M. Lille
3. Vice President:	Mag. ^a Ursula Hofmeister
Secretary General:	Hermann Kroiher
Deputy Secretary General:	Mag. Alexander Maier
Treasurer:	Theresia Gmeiner
Deputy Treasurer:	Reiter Isabella
Board Members:	Mag. ^a Nadja Mader Igor Belov

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IMAGE TEXT:

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The Board of the United Nations Correspondents Association Vienna after the General Assembly.

Image: UNCAV