

## A life choice

International organisations offer a broad range of employment opportunities that meet the most diverse professional requirements, aspirations and aptitudes: from the legal to the administrative sectors; from interpretation to translation; from human resources to logistics, finance, economics, international policy, communications, IT and statistics. In reality, almost any highly qualified professional skill can find application in an intergovernmental organisation.

Besides these opportunities for a successful professional career, working for an international organisation also offers several significant advantages, such as opportunities for both personal and professional development in a multicultural working environment, etc.

However, there are today many professions capable of offering such perspectives. Thus, if you decide to get involved in fighting against poverty, balancing trade flows or protecting human rights, this means that you are probably thinking of something more and looking for another significant benefit, that of making a contribution to righting the injustices and imbalances in the global environment.

While this is an understandable and admirable goal, nevertheless, those interested should be aware of the difficulties inherent in contemplating this type of career. Indeed, its demands are already high in terms of educational background and professional experience. In addition to these basic requirements, there are other considerations to take into account. Most of the time, working for an international organisation means living abroad, away from your family and your relatives, sometimes in low security contexts.

Being confronted with a multicultural environment might be attractive, but it might also be an obstacle when it interferes with the exercise of hierarchical power, when negotiating and in dealing with language and cultural barriers. To manage your career in this context is challenging. You should keep in mind that this type of work calls for strong commitment from people with great ability to adapt to difficult conditions, to travel frequently and to work for long hours in a highly competitive environment.

It can, of course, also be deeply satisfying when seeing the result of your work and feeling that it has been well worth the effort involved.

Finally, the clearer your objectives, the more likely you are to succeed. Why do you want to work in this field? In which organisation are you interested to work? What do you have to offer to this particular organisation? What is your motivation? What do you hope to achieve? How will you make the most of it? You will certainly need to have answered these questions yourself if you want to be in a good position to be successful in obtaining the post of your choice.