Annex – Guidelines, Article 34

List[1] of commonly accepted unions recognized for the purpose of survivor's benefits under the UNJSPF Regulations[2] (As of 12 November 2026)[3]

(A) Countries that have legalized same-sex marriage

Country	Date legalized	Decision/Requirements
Andorra	17 February 2023	-Marriage certificate issued by Andorra.
Argentina	22 July 2010	-Marriage certificate issued by Argentina.
Australia	9 December 2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Australia.
Austria	1 January 2019	-Marriage certificate issued by Austria.
Belgium	1 June 2003	-Marriage certificate issued by Belgium.
Brazil	16 May 2013	-Marriage certificate issued by Brazil.
Canada	20 July 2005	-Marriage certificate issued by Canada.
Chile	10 March 2022	-Marriage certificate issued by Chile.
Colombia	28 April 2016	-Marriage certificate issued by Colombia.
Costa Rica	26 May 2020	-Marriage certificate issued by Costa Rica

[1] This list is not exhaustive. It includes only those individual cases that the Fund has reviewed to date. The Fund makes every effort to keep the list updated.

[2] In all cases, **the union should also have been recognized by the employing organization and reported accordingly to the Fund in accordance with Administrative Rule B.3**. The only exception is with respect to the cases referred to in paragraph 9 of the Guidelines, where the employing organization has denied recognition of the spouse on the basis of its HR policy and the participant makes a direct request to the Fund. In all cases, the participant shall provide the Fund with a copy of his/her spouse's passport or other official ID that bears the owner's photograph and original signature.

[3] As the nature of a UNJSPF spousal benefit is that of a survivor's benefit, the final determination of eligibility can only be made at the time of death of the UNJSPF participant/retiree.

Denmark	12 June 2012	-Marriage certificate issued by Denmark. - Certificate of civil partnership converted into marriage (as of 12 June 2012). Ref. *Lov om ændring af lov om ægteskabs indgåelse og opløsning, lov om ægteskabets retsvirkninger og retsplejeloven og om ophævelse af lov om registreret partnerskab,* Act No. 532, 12 June 2012.
Ecuador	8 July 2019	-Marriage certificate issued by Ecuador
Estonia	1 January 2024	-Marriage certificate issued by Estonia (from 1 January 2024).
Finland	1 March 2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Finland.
France	18 May 2013	-Marriage certificate issued by France.
Germany	1 October 2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Germany.
Greece	16 February 2024	-Marriage certificate issued by Greece.
Greenland	1 April 2016	-Marriage certificate issued by Greenland.
Iceland	27 June 2010	-Marriage certificate issued by Iceland.
Ireland	16 November 2015	-Marriage certificate issued by Ireland.
Liechtenstein	1 January 2025	-Marriage certificate issued by Liechtenstein.
Luxemburg	1 January 2015	-Marriage certificate issued by Luxemburg.
Malta	1 September 2017	-Marriage certificate issued by Malta.
Mexico	26 October 2022.	-Marriage certificate issued by a State in Mexico.
Netherlands	1April 2001	-Marriage certificate or certificate of registration of marriage issued by the Netherlands.
New Zealand	19 August 2013	-Marriage certificate issued by New Zealand.
Norway	1 January 2009	-Marriage certificate issued by Norway.

Portugal	5 June 2010	-Marriage certificate or certificate of registration of marriage issued by Portugal.
Slovenia	9 July 2022	-Marriage certificate issued by Slovenia.
South Africa	30 November 2006	-Marriage certificate **OR** certificate of registration of marriage issued by South Africa.
Spain	3 July 2005	-Marriage certificate issued by Spain.
Sweden	1 May 2009	-Marriage certificate issued by Sweden **OR** Extract from the Population Register issued by the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket).
Switzerland	1 July 2022	-Marriage certificate issued by Switzerland.
Thailand	23 January 2025	-Marriage certificate issued by Thailand. Ref. *Marriage Equality Act* of Thailand.
United Kingdom	2014	-Marriage certificate issued by England and Wales (March 2014), Scotland (December 2014) and Northern Ireland (January 2020).
United States	2015	-Marriage certificate issued by a State in the US.
Uruguay	5 August 2013	-Marriage certificate issued by Uruguay.

(B) Non-traditional unions/partnerships (only those unions/partnerships that were lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of the location where the status was established, and confer similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights, are recognized for purposes of survivors' benefits under UNJSPF Regulations)

Country	Type of Union	Decision/Requirements
Argentina	Unión convivencial (opposite or same-sex union)	-Evidence of registration of the *unión convivencial* in the *Registro de las Personas* or, alternatively, judgment issued by a court of competent jurisdiction establishing the existence of the union.
Australia	De facto unión (opposite or same-sex union)	-Relationship certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the laws of Australia **OR** affidavit or statutory declaration prepared in accordance with the laws of Australia, or other proof that the de facto relationship would meet the definition and criteria under the Australian Social Security Act **AND**

		-Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by a competent authority in Australia and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
Austria	Registered partnership (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate issued by Registry Office in Austria.
Belgium	Cohabitation (opposite or same-sex union)	-Not recognized.
Bolivia	Unión libre o de hecho (cohabitation) (opposite-sex union)	-Declaration of cohabitation issued by a judicial body in Bolivia.
Brazil	União estável (stable union) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Judicial decision issued by a Brazilian court **OR** declaration before a Brazilian notary in support of the claim that the participant has maintained a *união estável* recognized under the laws of Brazil for the purpose of eligibility for benefits.
Canada	Common law marriage* (opposite or same-sex union)	-Affidavit or statutory declaration notarized by a Canadian notary in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a common law marriage recognized under the laws of Canada for the purpose of eligibility for benefits **AND** -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by a competent authority in Canada, and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
*Excludes *de facto* partnership under the laws of the province of Quebec, as such partnership does not have similar legal effects as marriage.		
Chile	Civil Union	The civil union must be entered into before a civil officer, either at the Civil Registry and Identification Service or a place selected by the parties, provided that it is within the jurisdictional territory. The document must be signed by the civil officer.
Colombia	Unión marital de hecho (stable union) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Declaration before a Colombian notary or a judge in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a civil partnership recognized under the laws of Colombia for the purpose of eligibility for benefits.
Costa Rica	Unión de hecho (opposite or same-sex union)	-Final judicial decision issued by a Family Court (*Juzgado de Familia*) formally recognizing the *unión de hecho;* ***OR*** - Certificate issued by the *Dirección General del Registro Civil de Costa Rica.*

		Ref. *Artículos 245-248 del Código de Familia, Costa Rica. Artículo 243 del Código Procesal de Familia, Costa Rica.*
Croatia	Izvanbračne zajednice (cohabitation) (opposite-sex union)	Not recognized.
Denmark	Civil partnership* (opposite or same-sex union)	*- Certificate of civil partnership, entered prior to 12 June 2012. Ref. *Lov om Registreret partnerskab,* Act No. 372, 7 June 1989.
Dominican Republic	Unión marital de hecho (opposite-sex union)	- Declaration before a Dominican Republic notary or a judge in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a civil union recognized under the laws of the Dominican Republic for the purpose of eligibility for benefits. Ref. *Constitución de la República Dominicana. Sentencia TC/0162/20, en referencia al expediente número TC-05-2019-0065,* issued by the *Tribunal Constitucional de la República Dominicana,* on 17 June 2020.
Ecuador	Unión de hecho (civil partnership) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Declaration before an Ecuadorian notary in support of the request to recognize that the participant has maintained a civil partnership recognized under the laws of Ecuador for the purpose of eligibility for benefits.
Estonia	Registered partnership (Kooseluleping)	-Not recognized
	De facto cohabitation	-Not recognized
Finland	Rekisteröity parisuhde (registered partnership) (same-sex union)	-Certificate of registration of partnership issued by Finland.
France	Pacte Civil de Solidarité (PACS) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Not recognized.
Gabon	Concubinage	-Not recognized.
Germany*	Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft (civil partnership)	-Certificate of civil partnership or registration of civil partnership issued by Germany prior to 1 October 2017.

	(same-sex union)	*Note: The Fund recognizes registered same-sex partnerships entered into under the German Civil Partnership Act (*Lebenspartnerschaftsgesetz*) prior to 1 October 2017, and for unions established on or after that date, only marriages will be recognized in accordance with the Act Introducing the Right to Marry for Persons of the Same Sex (*Eheöffnungsgesetz*). The Fund recognizes civil partnerships that have been converted into marriage in accordance with Section 20a of the German Civil Partnership Act (*Lebenspartnerschaftsgesetz*).
Greece	Civil partnership Cohabitation	-Not recognized. -Not recognized.
Guyana	Domestic Partnership (common law marriage)	-Not recognized.
Honduras	*Unión de Hecho* (opposite-sex *de facto* union)	-Certificate of the civil union issued by *Registro Nacional de las Personas de Honduras.* Ref. *Constitución de la República de Honduras. Decreto No. 76-84. Código de Familia.*
Hungary	Registered partnership (same-sex only)	-Certificate of registered partnership issued by Hungary. Same-sex marriages performed abroad recognized as equivalent to registered partnerships.
Ireland	Civil partnership (same-sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership issued by Ireland.
Israel	Yeduim Ba'zibur (common law partnership) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Cohabitation agreement confirmed by the Israeli Court (the agreement has to be subject to the laws of Israel, and cannot deprive a party to the agreement from his/her rights under the law)
Italy	Civil Union (same-sex)	- The union must be sealed with the same formalities as a marriage by the two partners in front of a registrar (Ufficiale di Stato Civile) and in the presence of two witnesses. The declaration will be made in written form and registered at the city hall.
Malta	Civil Union (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by Malta **OR** Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by a foreign country & the partnership is listed in the Schedule to the Civil Union Bill.
Mexico	Civil partnership (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate of ratification and registration of civil partnership agreement in Mexico.

	Concubinato (common law marriage) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate issued by a Mexican court confirming that the couple has been in a concubinato entered under the laws of Mexico and the Federal District (Mexico City) for at least five years.
Mozambique	União de Facto (opposite-sex union)	-*Certificação da existência da união de facto* issued by the administrative authority of the area of residence of the partners, on the basis of a joint declaration made by the partners; **AND** -*Atestado da união de facto* issued by the Civil Registry. **OR** -Judicial decision recognizing the *união de facto*. Ref. *Lei da Família (Lei n.º 22/2019), Art. 209, 210.*
Netherlands	*Geregistreerd partnerschap* (civil partnership) (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by the Netherlands.
	Samenlevingscontract (cohabitation) (opposite or same-sex union)	The Fund may recognize a *samenlevingscontract,* provided that: - the agreement is notarized; - the agreement expressly provides for partner or survivor pension rights; - the agreement establishes other reciprocal obligations similar to marriage; and - the agreement is supported by written confirmation from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that it has similar effects to marriage, including pension rights, under Dutch law.
New Zealand	Civil partnership (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate of partnership or registration of partnership issued by New Zealand.
	De facto union (opposite or same-sex union)	-Affidavit or statutory declaration prepared in accordance with the laws of New Zealand **OR** other proof that the couple has been in a de facto relationship for more than three years and demonstrates a certain degree of companionship (for example living together on a permanent basis, sharing a household and important financial and social commitments) **AND** -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of New Zealand, and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
Nicaragua	*Unión de Hecho Estable* (opposite-sex *de facto* stable union)	-Certificate of the civil union (*unión de hecho estable)* issued by *Registro del Estado Civil de las Personas de la República de Nicaragua.* Ref. *Constitución Política de la República de Nicaragua. Código Civil de la República de Nicaragua. Código de Familia de la República de Nicaragua.*

Norway	Civil partnership (opposite or same-sex union)	-Certificate of civil partnership issued by Norway.
Panama	*Unión de hecho* or *matrimonio de hecho* (opposite-sex union)	-Certificate of the civil union issued by the Civil Registry of Panama. - Judicial decision recognizing the civil union. Ref. *Constitución Política de la República de Panamá. Código Civil de la República de Panamá. Código de Familia de la República de Panamá.*
Samoa	Cohabitation, civil partnership *or de facto* union.	-Not recognized.
Sao Tome and Principe	*União de facto* (opposite-sex union)	-Certificate of the civil union (*união de facto)* issued by the Civil Registry. Ref. *Lei n.º 19/2018 Aprova o Código de Família.*
Scotland	Civil partnership (same-sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by Scotland.
Serbia	Co-habitation/common law marriage (opposite-sex union)	-Certificates of "free marital status" for both partners **AND** -Notarized statements of both partners **AND** -Notarized statements of two witnesses confirming the existence of the union.
Slovenia	Registered same-sex civil partnership	-Certificate of registration of same-sex civil partnership issued by Slovenia.
	Cohabitation (opposite-sex union)	-Declaration notarized by a Slovenian notary according to that the participant has maintained a cohabitation recognized under the laws of Slovenia for the purpose of eligibility for benefits **AND** -Certificate of joint household record issued by the Administrative Unit, Slovenia (potrdilo iz gospodinjske) **AND** -Other official document that confirms that the union was lawfully entered into and legally recognized by the competent authority of Slovenia, and confers similar legal effects as marriage, specifically including pension rights.
Spain	Pareja de hecho / unión de hecho (civil partnership)	- Documentation establishing formal registration of the *pareja de hecho* or *union de hecho* at the level of the autonomous community.
Sweden	Registrerat partnerskap	-Certificate of civil partnership or registration of partnership issued by Sweden.

	(registered partnership) (same-sex union)	
Switzerland	Eingetragene partnerschaft (in German) & Partenariat enregistré (in French) / (civil partnership under Swiss Federal law) (same-sex union) Registered partnership concluded in Switzerland or abroad before 1 July 2022	-The existing Certificate of partnership issued under Swiss Federal law or registration of partnership under Swiss Federal law before 1 July 2022 remains in force without the partners having to make a special Declaration. -Existing registered partnerships in Switzerland or abroad before 1 July 2022 may be converted into a marriage at any time by means of a joint Declaration made before the Swiss registrar. Their relationship details ("marriage" instead of "registered partnership") and marital status ("married" instead of "registered partnership") will be inscribed in the Swiss Civil Status Registry on the date of submission of the Declaration.
	Partenariat cantonal de droit genevois (civil partnership under Cantonal law) (opposite or same- sex union) Registered partnership concluded abroad after 30 June 2022	-Not recognized. -Not recognized. No possibility to convert such partnerships into a marriage in Switzerland
United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)	Civil partnership (Same or opposite sex union)	-Certified copy of an entry of civil partnership issued by the United Kingdom.
*Includes Civil partnership (same or opposite sex union) under the laws of Gibraltar.		
United States of America	Domestic Partnership	- Not recognized
Uruguay	Unión concubinaria (opposite or same-sex union)	- Judicial decision recognizing the *unión concubinaria;* **AND** - Certificate of the union issued by *Registro Nacional de Actos Personales, Sección Uniones Concubinarias del Uruguay.* Ref. *Ley No. 18246. Ley de Unión Concubinaria.*
Venezuela	*Unión estable de hecho* (opposite sex union)	- Certificate of the union issued by the *Registro Civil de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.* Ref. *Art.77. Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Ley Orgánica de Registro Civil, G.O. 39264 de 15/09/2009).*

Application of the Guidelines

1. Generally, the Fund's framework to recognize unions includes legal marriages, registered partnerships or equivalent unions entered into and legally recognized by the authorities of the country where the union has been established. The union should have similar legal effects as marriage, specifically conferring pension rights.
2. In order to recognize any union, the Fund requires documentation issued by the competent authorities in the place where the union was entered into. This should include the effective date of the union.
3. For those participants who separated before the revised guidelines came into effect on 1 September 2016, the Fund still requires that the union meets the Fund's policy in effect at the time of separation from service.
4. The UNJSPF participant should confirm his/her status to the respective employing organization at the date of their separation from service, at the latest.
5. Following the adoption of the revised Guidelines:

   a) The affidavit for US nationals is no longer recognized by the Fund as same-sex marriage is now legal in the United States;

   b) The affidavit for Australian nationals is no longer recognized by the Fund without additional supporting documentation issued by a competent local or government authority in Australia attesting to recognition of the union under the laws of Australia.

6. As the Fund is unable to cover all possible situations, cases raising specific circumstances will be dealt with individually.