

**Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services
for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011**

(A/66/286 (Part I) and Add.1)

**Statement to the Fifth Committee by the
Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services**

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Fifth Committee,

I am pleased to introduce the report on the Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.

I would like to highlight that the change management initiative within OIOS has gained momentum and that OIOS is moving purposefully into the next phase. In fact, measurable progress has already been made in two areas:

Firstly, we continue to make significant progress in reducing our vacancy rate. As at the end of August, the overall vacancy rate stood at 17 per cent, which is a marked improvement over the 23 per cent vacancy rate from August 2010. I am determined to further lower the OIOS vacancy rate and I look forward to sharing with you the progress made.

Secondly, OIOS plans to make its audit reports publicly available on its website starting from January 2012. We believe that this step is essential to ensure timely responses to address critical issues identified in oversight reports. We trust that Member States will support this initiative, which is in support of Organization-wide efforts to promote accountability and

transparency. I would like to highlight that the reports will include specific action plans, together with management's response to the reports. Also, OIOS will clearly signal the significance of audit results by assigning three ratings (satisfactory, partially satisfactory, and unsatisfactory) to overall internal audit opinions at the audit engagement level. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of reviewing all open recommendations in order to reduce them to a more manageable number. I believe that this will focus everyone involved, management and OIOS alike, on the most important areas of concern by targeting significant areas for follow-up. OIOS will escalate unaccepted, important and critical recommendations to ensure acceptance of residual risks at an appropriate management level, up to the Secretary-General for critical issues that require his attention.

I am also pleased to inform you that our reporting cycle to Member States will be streamlined. Until now, OIOS has issued its annual reports in two parts and on separate schedules, with one report dealing with peacekeeping and the other dealing with non-peacekeeping operations. Starting from next year, both reports will be coordinated for distribution on a calendar year basis, which is consistent with current practice for the Part II annual report on peacekeeping operations. I am confident that this new approach will improve the efficiency of reporting and monitoring of recommendations and of providing related accountability statistics for senior managers' compacts.

Mr. Chairman,

We have also undertaken a number of other initiatives aimed at strengthening the overall work of OIOS. These include aligning work

priorities with organizational risks, such as updating audit risk assessments to factor in the effectiveness of existing key controls; developing a toolkit for auditing programme performance management; strengthening internal work processes and systems, with the customization of electronic documentation and management software; and establishing a Digital Forensic Unit in New York, located in the Investigations Division.

The report before you highlights only a fraction of the work that was completed during the period, but I can assure you that the last year has indeed been a very busy one for OIOS. We issued a total of 323 reports, and have highlighted the work of the Internal Audit Division, the Inspection and Evaluation Division, and the Investigations Division in paragraphs 32 to 63 of the report. I welcome your questions on any subject matter.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that my staff and I continue to be guided by our vision statement of a strong and accountable United Nations fortified by world-class internal oversight, and by our mission of delivering objective oversight results that make a difference. And here I would like to take the opportunity and thank all OIOS staff, at all levels and at all OIOS locations world-wide, for their hard work and the dedication they continue to show to internal oversight and the ideals of the United Nations in general. But, in particular, I would also like to thank you, the Member States, for your continued support and for the trust you place in OIOS.

Thank you.