

Agenda Item 136
**Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning
of the United Nations**

**Supply chain activities in the United Nations Secretariat
(A/76/139, A/76/595)**

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

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[9 March 2022](#)

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Fifth Committee,

I am pleased to be introducing two reports today: the report of the audit of implementation of post-employment restrictions for staff involved in the procurement process (A/76/139) and the report of the audit of demand and source planning for peace operations (A/76/595).

The first report covered the effectiveness of implementation of the Secretary-General's bulletin, prohibiting staff members involved in the Organization's procurement processes from seeking or accepting employment or any form of compensation or financial benefit from a United Nations contractor or vendor during or, for a defined period, after their service.

OIOS concluded that strong preventive controls, including training and other awareness-raising activities, were needed to apprise staff of the provisions of the bulletin and to help them meet its objectives. However, these controls were not being implemented effectively because of inadequate processes and lack of data to identify the staff who should be the focus of such interventions. Moreover, key terms had not been defined in the bulletin to clarify the scope of its application and limit its provisions to a core group of staff based on an assessment of risks.

The audit made five important recommendations that are being implemented, including for the revision of the Secretary-General's bulletin on post-employment to clarify its applicability and procedures for reporting violations.

Now I turn to the report of the audit of demand and source planning for peace operations. This audit was conducted at United Nations Headquarters in New York and in six peacekeeping missions: the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The audits assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of activities and information management systems used to develop demand and source plans as part of the supply chain management process.

These audits showed that the missions had made progress in developing demand plans, which enabled DOS to improve the visibility of field missions' requirements of goods and services. However, these plans were not yet: (a) realistic enough to serve as a basis for budget proposals; or (b) granular enough to be effectively used for acquisition and delivery planning and for category management. A high number of year-end purchases and the suboptimal use of internal sourcing options and system contracts indicated a need for further improvement.

The audits made 9 important recommendations to the Department of Operational Support and 16 recommendations to the six field missions, 14 of which are still being implemented.

In conclusion, on behalf of all of us in OIOS, I would like to thank management and staff for their cooperation in our oversight work. I would also like to express appreciation to all Member States for your invaluable support. I look forward to the dialogue that this session brings and welcome your questions.