



**Agenda Item 150**  
**Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the**  
**Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**  
**Cross-cutting Issues**  
**A/76/281 (Part II), A/76/697**

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

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**3 May 2022**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Fifth Committee,

I am pleased to be introducing two reports today: the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on peace operations (A/76/281 (Part II)), and the OIOS report on the thematic evaluation of political affairs in peacekeeping missions (A/76/697).

Firstly, report A/76/281 (Part II) on the peace operations activities of OIOS for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

The report provides an overview of OIOS activities pertaining to peace operations, including all peacekeeping and special political and peacebuilding missions and the Headquarters entities directly supporting them—such as the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support—during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

During 2021, the Office issued 313 oversight reports relating to peace operations. Copies of the 74 internal audit and evaluation reports issued in 2021 can be found on the OIOS website (<https://oios.un.org>). Those reports included 294 audit and evaluation recommendations, all of which

were accepted by programme managers. There were no recommendations classified as critical (which are defined by the Organizational ERM as those that address risk issues that, because of their potential impact, require the immediate attention of management). A total of 252 recommendations were closed as implemented during 2021, a 30 per cent increase compared with 2020.

OIOS received effective cooperation from management and staff in entities covered by OIOS oversight activities during the reporting period. OIOS also coordinated its activities with the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit to enhance synergies and efficiencies in the discharge of respective mandates.

I am also pleased to report that there were no inappropriate scope limitations that impeded the work or independence of OIOS during the reporting period.

Mr. Chairman, I now summarize some of the general trends and challenges regarding internal oversight in the United Nations that are highlighted in the report.

OIOS aims to provide recommendations to improve risk management, governance and operations of entities implementing and supporting peace operations. In 2021, four areas were prioritized in the Office's workplan: (a) implementation of the Secretariat reforms; (b) organizational culture; (c) procurement and supply chain; and (d) missions in transition. It also focused on strengthening the second line of defence, which includes the centralized, business-enabling functions that support the performance for mandate implementation of peace operations. The present report provides further details on the work that was done in these areas during 2021.

The strengthening of the enterprise risk management, delegation of authority and information management systems of the Secretariat and its entities in recent years allowed the Internal Audit Division to focus in 2021 more effectively on areas of higher residual risk and help to improve compliance with policies and performance towards mandated results. Some of the areas on which the Division reported on the results of the Organization in peace operations included: the response to the coronavirus disease; conduct and discipline; demand and source planning; warehouse management; liquidation planning; data management; management of troop and police personnel

and equipment contribution; delegation of authority; gender perspective; and environmental sustainability.

For the first time in 2021, the Inspection and Evaluation Division covered 15 peace operations in the biennial report on strengthening the role of evaluation (A/76/69), including a detailed assessment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). This result will guide the work of the Division to support results-based management in peace operations through strengthening evaluation.

During 2021, the average time taken by the Investigations Division to complete an investigation was 12.8 months, compared with 10.6 months in 2020. However, at the end of 2021, the average age of open cases was 8 months, which is the lowest average age for the end-of-year caseload for the past few years (10 per cent lower than in 2019 and 13 per cent lower than in 2020). The Division will continue to prioritize older cases to the extent possible, while strengthening the use of data to reduce investigation time.

Turning now to the OIOS report on the thematic evaluation of political affairs in peacekeeping missions (A/76/697).

This evaluation assessed the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of political affairs components in peacekeeping missions, with a particular focus on two intermediate outcomes: the establishment of peace agreements and the achievement of political dialogues. The evaluation covered the activities of the five peacekeeping missions with a “peace, reconciliation, and political process” mandate (that is, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNMISS, and UNMIK) over the period 2017–2020.

The evaluation concluded that the role of the political affairs component was significant in the achievement of peace outcomes. Political affairs officers had a deep knowledge of the political landscape of the country and maintained extensive networks with relevant stakeholders, allowing

missions to carve a political space to engage critical peace partners. The variety of political analyses produced by the political affairs components were generally timely and of good quality and were often used by senior mission leadership. Resulting peace agreements and political dialogue have helped reduce conflict and tensions in the countries and in some instances appeared to have reduced the level of fatalities.

The evaluation made three recommendations to the peacekeeping missions to develop clearly communicated mission-specific political strategies, and to strengthen the utility of political analyses and the performance assessment and reporting of the political affairs components. One recommendation was made to the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) to conduct a review of current mission structures related to political affairs. All the recommendations were accepted.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of all of us in OIOS, I would like to thank Secretariat management and staff for their valuable cooperation in our oversight work, and for their collegiality. 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.

Thank you.