

**Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on peace operations for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015**

**A/70/318 (Part II)**

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

**Heidi Mendoza**

**9 May 2015**

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 peace operations for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015 (A/70/318 Part II).

But before I do so, as this is my first time to address the Committee formally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Member States for my appointment as Under-Secretary-General of OIOS.

The report before you provides an overview of the work of the three Divisions: Internal Audit, Investigations, and Inspection and Evaluation. The Office issued 162 oversight reports on peace operations in 2015. The reports included 524 recommendations, 63 of which were classified as critical to the Organization. Descriptions of selected critical audit results are contained in the report.

During the reporting period, the Internal Audit Division continued to make use of thematic audits to identify systemic strengths and weakness across peace operations. In 2015, thematic audits were completed on Conduct and discipline; Waste management and Umoja implementation and deployment guidelines. Thematic audits help the Office identify systemic strengths and weaknesses across peace operations, to assess whether adequate policies and instructions have been developed and implemented and to determine whether appropriate monitoring and oversight occurs.

The Investigations Division issued 64 reports, including 22 investigation reports, 19 contingent reports and 23 closure reports. The highest number of investigation reports related to personnel issues, which includes falsification of documents, misuse of information and communications (ICT) resources, recruitment irregularities, conflict of interest and abuse of authority.

During the reporting period, the Inspection and Evaluation Division issued four reports, including three evaluations and one review. The Divisions workplan was based on a risk-based assessment initiated the previous year, developed in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. The Divisions activity included the completion of the following evaluations: enforcement and remedial assistance efforts for sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations and related personnel in peacekeeping operations, Standing Capacity of the Police Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations,

Senior Leadership training of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support and a Review of the logical frameworks underlying selected aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) has remained one of the significant areas of concern. In particular, in the wake of the Central African Republic (CAR) Panel Report and the continuing spike in report of SEA in CAR, OIOS is currently drawing on its global resources and arranging a deployment schedule to ensure appropriate presence of team of investigation staff on the ground in CAR at any time. The level of deployment can be scaled up or down as necessary and in response to what is developing in the field.

OIOS is also fully engaged with the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on SEA, and as members of the SEA-CAR Crisis Group and the SEA Task Force and we are working with Department of Field Support to develop training for Immediate Response Teams and National Investigation Officers.

The nature of the activity in CAR has demonstrated that we need close working partnership relationships with the Funds and Programmes in particular UNICEF, but also UNHCR, OHCHR and UNFPA. OIOS is working closely DFS and these agencies in the development of protocols for sharing information and with UNICEF specifically in the development of training for child interviewing.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to thank OIOS staff for their dedication to the work of OIOS, and for their commitment to the ideals of the United Nations.

I look forward to serving the United Nations and assure you of my full commitment to working together with Member States and internal stakeholders across the Secretariat towards assisting the Secretary-General in fulfilling his oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization.

I thank you and welcome your questions on any subject matter.