

Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

(A/71/337 (Part I) and Add.1/Rev.1)

**Statement to the Fifth Committee by
Under Secretary-General, Office of Internal Oversight Services
Heidi Mendoza**

30 September 2016

Madame Chair, distinguished Members of the Fifth Committee,

I am pleased to introduce my first report to the General Assembly on the non-peacekeeping activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the year ending 30 June 2016, A/71/337 (Part I) and Addendum.

During the reporting period, OIOS issued 362 oversight reports, including 7 reports to the General Assembly. The reports included 1,068 recommendations to improve internal controls, accountability mechanisms and organizational efficiency and effectiveness, of which 75 were classified as critical.

Audit recommendations have been analyzed and categorized into five integrated components of internal control: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring. Figure 1 in the report provides an overview of the trends in these categories over a three year period. In each of these years, the bulk of the recommendations related to the control activities component. Control activities include a range of policies, procedures and other mechanisms used to minimize risks during programme implementation.

Madame Chair,

During the reporting period, OIOS has implemented improvements to help focus our work and improve accountability for our own resources.

In Internal Audit, we have updated the organizational structure and reporting lines and established a working group to adapt and upgrade audit capacity in the Umoja environment. Additionally, as referenced in the report, we initiated a review of ratings assigned to audits. We have now concluded this review and as of October 1, OIOS internal audit reports will have an overall conclusion that will reflect the essence of the concerned audit results instead of a rating. We expect that this will

improve the manner in which OIOS communicates the results of internal audits of the organization's governance, risk management and control processes. This review comes five years since we implemented the ratings system and included feedback from our stakeholders. The Inspection and Evaluation Division continued to refine its risk assessment approach for evaluation and its capacity development of staff.

In the Investigations Division a new investigations case management system, goCase was deployed. We are excited to have this new system which provides integrated intake and information-processing capabilities as well as advanced analytical tools. I would also like to highlight the progress the Investigations Division has made in the reduction of long outstanding cases. In particular, at the end of the reporting period, 62 percent of matters of investigation had been pending for six months or less – this is a significant improvement over the previous period, in which only 29 percent of cases were pending for less than six months. OIOS plans to further capitalize on the progress made in this area by further reducing the backlog in the next year.

Madame Chair,

Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1994, our key objective remains supporting the Secretary-General in his oversight responsibilities. OIOS staff members are guided by this fundamental mandate and by our vision of a strong and accountable United Nations fortified by world-class internal oversight and our mission of delivering objective oversight results that make a difference.

I would like to thank OIOS staff for their hard work and dedication and I would also like to express my appreciation to you, the Member States, for your continued support and for the trust you place in OIOS. I welcome any questions you may have.

Thank you.