



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**  

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**SECURITY POLICY MANUAL**



# Table of Contents

<b>CHAPTER I</b>	<b>Security Policy Framework</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CHAPTER II</b>	<b>United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)</b>	<b>7</b>
	A. Framework of Accountability	25
	B. Executive Group on Security	28
	C. IASMN Terms of Reference	30
	D. Relations with Host Countries on Security Issues	39
	E. Role of the Department of Safety and Security	51
	F. Saving Lives Together	
<b>CHAPTER III</b>	<b>Applicability of UN Security Management System</b>	<b>58</b>
	A. Applicability of United Nations Security Management System	
<b>CHAPTER IV</b>	<b>Security Management</b>	<b>61</b>
	A. Security Risk Management	70
	B. Security Planning	76
	C. Security of Locally-Recruited Personnel	83
	D. Measures to Avoid Risk	92
	E. Security of United Nations Premises	100
	F. Special Events	104
	G. Close Protection Operations	109
	H. Use of Force Policy	113
	I. Armed Private Security Companies	120
	J. Arming of Security Personnel	133
	K. Unarmed Private Security Services	139
	L. Gender Considerations in Security Management	145
	M. Residential Security Measures (RSMs)	153
	N. Arrests and Detention	157
	O. Hostage Incident Management	164
	P. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)	170
	Q. Policy on Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear Threats and Attacks	
<b>CHAPTER V</b>	<b>Compliance with Security Policies and Procedures</b>	<b>176</b>
	A. Security Clearance Policy and the Travel Request Information Process (TRIP)	182
	B. Safety and Security Incident Reporting System -SSIRS	188
	C. Security Training and Certification	195
	D. Compliance, Evaluation and Best Practices	203
	E. Boards of Inquiry Policy – BOI	
<b>CHAPTER VI</b>	<b>Administrative and Logistics Support for Security Operations</b>	<b>226</b>
	A. Remuneration of United Nations system staff and eligible family members on relocation/evacuation status	236
	B. Locally Cost-Shared Security Budgets	248
	C. Management of Stress and Critical Incidents Stress (MSCIS)	
<b>CHAPTER VII</b>	<b>Provisions on Safety Matters</b>	<b>259</b>
	A. Commercial Air Travel Safety Policy	266
	B. Fire Safety	275
	C. Road Safety	

## CHAPTER I

# Security Policy Framework



## SECURITY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Promulgation Date: 12 Oct 2017



## Security Policy Framework

A clear and coherent written policy framework supports the effective, efficient and accountable management of security operations. The security policy framework is comprised of guidance material, hereby defined as all types of documents that explain principles, responsibilities and procedures to United Nations personnel. These include Policies, Guidelines, Manuals, Handbooks, Aide Memoires and Communiqués.

All UNSMS policy materials are subordinate to, and consistent with, the legislative issuances of the inter-governmental governing bodies, United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, and applicable system-wide policies of the Secretary-General.

The Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN), chaired by the Under-Secretary General for Safety and Security (USG UNDSS), is mandated to develop, establish and review security guidance for the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) under the auspices of the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM). UNSMS policy guidance is promulgated by the USG UNDSS following endorsement from the IASMN, and approval or endorsement by the HLCM, as required. UNSMS policy material is endorsed at the highest level of the United Nations system and is applicable system-wide. The organizations of the UNSMS may complement the UNSMS guidance with their own policies, procedures and instructions.

All UNSMS guidance material is developed, managed and disseminated following the format below:

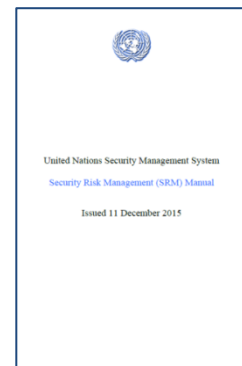
**I. Policy**—is a formal statement by the UN system that commits its organizations and their personnel falling under the UNSMS to a set of global principles and objectives. Policy documents are the highest form of guidance specific to the UNSMS and articulate the UN system’s institutional position, intent, direction or expectations for the UNSMS. A Policy is the basis of institutional consistency in managing security processes or issues and lays down principles for the achievement of one or more goals. UNSMS Policies are issued following endorsement of the IASMN and approval by the HLCM. They are compiled in the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), also known as the “blue book”. Compliance is mandatory.



**II. Guideline**— offers additional practicalities of how to implement a Policy and may include good practices. Guidelines define the “how” rather than the “what” and are therefore more operational than a Policy by nature. Guidelines are compiled in the *Security Management Operations Manual* (SMOM), also known as the “red book”. Compliance is expected (except where indicated as mandatory), and some flexibility is inherent as security professionals are expected to adapt the guidance to their specific situation. Guidelines are generally developed to complement Policies and are approved by the IASMN.



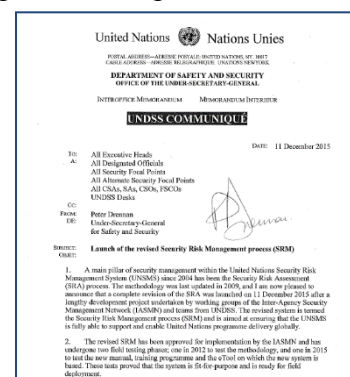
**III. Manual** –is a document that provides detailed technical instructions on how to carry on specific tasks related to a Policy or Guidelines. A Manual will generally refer to the parent Policy (i.e. Security Risk Management (SRM) Manual, Safety and Security Incident Recording System – SSIRS Manual). Manuals are developed and approved by the IASMN. Compliance with Manuals is expected (except where indicated as mandatory – an example being many parts of the Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment Including Firearms). Where manuals are directly related to a superior UNSMS policy, they are approved by the IASMN, otherwise at the point of drafting.



**IV. Handbook** –is a book giving information on a policy area or addressed to a particular audience, to assist in performing their role (i.e. *Designated Officials Handbook*). Handbooks are approved at the point of drafting.

**V. Aide-Memoire** –is a written summary or outline of important policy guidance and acts often as a handy pocket reference to Policy. Aides-Memoire are approved at the point of drafting.

**VI. UNDSS Communiqué** –is used by the USG UNDSS to disseminate communications across the UNSMS. Policies and Guidelines are always initially promulgated through a UNDSS Communiqué, which may include key elements and outlines of the UNSMS Policies and Guidelines being disseminated. Policy clarification or additional or new guidance may be circulated by means of a Communiqué before being taken up as informal Policy or Guidelines. Communiqués are also used to disseminate a variety of UNSMS operational messages including evacuation instructions, threat warnings, distribution of new equipment standards and the like. Communiqués are approved by USG UNDSS or as delegated by him/her.



**VII. Other** -In addition to the above, there are documents disseminated by UNDSS that are not UNSMS policies. A sample is indicated below, although the list is not exhaustive:

- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** (can be inter-departmental, intra-departmental within the Secretariat or within a division or service). The Policy Planning and Coordination Unit (PPCU) provides numbering and keeps records of original documents only for interdepartmental and intra-departmental SOPs on security.
- **Physical Security Unit Bulletin**: is a document that provides technical advice or standards on topics related to physical protection and equipment.

## CHAPTER II

# United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)



## Section A

### FRAMEWORK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Promulgation Date: 4 February 2011  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **I. Scope**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of personnel employed by United Nations system organizations, their spouses and other recognized dependants and property and the organizations' property rests with the host Government. This responsibility flows from every Government's normal and inherent function of maintaining order and protecting persons and property within its jurisdiction. In the case of international organizations and their officials, the Government is considered to have a special responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations or the Government's agreements with individual organizations.
2. Without prejudice to the above and while not abrogating the responsibility of the host Government for its obligations, the United Nations has a duty as an employer to reinforce and, where necessary, supplement the capacities of host Governments to fulfil their obligations in circumstances where United Nations personnel are working in areas that are subject to conditions of insecurity which require mitigation measures beyond those which the host Government can reasonably be expected to provide. This Framework of Accountability specifies the responsibilities and accountabilities of United Nations officials and personnel for such measures.
3. In this regard, the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS), in seeking to establish and maintain operations in insecure and unstable environments, adopts the principle of "how to stay" as opposed to "when to leave" as a tenet of its security management approach.
4. In accepting responsibility and accountability for security management, it is recognized that fatalities and/or casualties may occur, even though appropriate efforts are being made and measures implemented to reduce to an acceptable level the risks to United Nations personnel, premises and assets.

## **II. Mission Statement of the United Nations Security Management System**

5. The goal of the UNSMS is to enable the conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the safety, security and well-being of personnel and the security of United Nations premises and assets.
6. To achieve this goal, all organizations shall maintain a robust and cohesive security management system and adhere to three principles:
  - Determination of acceptable risk
  - Provision of adequate and sustainable resources to manage the risk to personnel and their eligible dependants, premises and assets; and
  - Development and implementation of security policies and procedures.

### **III. Governance Mechanism**

7. The governance of security management for the UNSMS is constituted as follows:
  - a) The Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN), consisting of the senior managers who have oversight of security functions within each member organization of the UNSMS, reviews existing and proposed policies, procedures and practices of the UNSMS and their implementation, and it provides recommendations on these to the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM).; and
  - b) A comprehensive review of policies and resource-related issues pertaining to the entire UNSMS is a standing item on the agenda of the HLCM. The HLCM reviews the recommendations made by the IASMN and either decides on them directly or recommends their endorsement and implementation to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), which is chaired by the Secretary-General.

### **IV. Actors within the United Nations Security Management System**

#### **A. The Secretary-General**

8. Under Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General is the chief administrative officer of the Organization. The mandates promulgated by the principal organs are entrusted to him for their implementation under Article 98. The Secretary-General is thus accountable to the Member States for the proper running and administration of the Organization and implementation of its programmes, to include, in the context of this framework, the overall safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets at headquarters and field locations. The Secretary-General can delegate authority to the various Under-Secretaries-General who are individually accountable to him.

#### **B. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security**

9. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security is appointed in writing by the Secretary-General to whom he/she reports and is accountable to. The Secretary-General delegates to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security the authority to make executive decisions relevant to the direction and control of the UNSMS and the overall safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets at both field and headquarters locations. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security represents the Secretary-General on all security-related matters and serves as the Chairman of the IASMN. The responsibilities of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security include:
  - (a) Developing security policies, practices and procedures for the United Nations system worldwide.

- (b) Coordinating with the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the implementation of, the compliance with and the support for security aspects of their activities.
- (c) Preparing reports of the Secretary-General on all security-related matters.
- (d) Advising the Secretary-General on all matters related to security and safety of the United Nations system.

### **C. The Executive Group on Security**

- 10. The members of the Executive Group on Security (EGS) are appointed by the CEB. When requested by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, the members of the EGS advise, reinforce and facilitate the rapid decision-making authority and accountability of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, in accordance with the EGS Terms of Reference. The members of the EGS have a responsibility to support the Under-Secretary-General in the discharge of his/her mandate related to the safety and security of all personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants, premises and assets.

### **D. Executive Heads of United Nations System Organizations<sup>1</sup>**

- 11. Executive Heads of the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFP) are responsible and accountable to the Secretary-General for ensuring that the goal of the UNSMS is met within their respective organizations. Without prejudice to their accountability to their own governing and legislative bodies, Executive Heads of the United Nations specialized agencies, and of other organizations participating in the UNSMS, recognize the coordinating role and authority of the Secretary-General in matters related to the safety and security of United Nations personnel and commit themselves to ensuring that the goal of the UNSMS is met.

### **E. Senior Security Managers and/or Security Focal Points at Headquarters**

- 12. The Executive Heads will appoint a Senior Security Manager and/or a Security Focal Point at their Headquarters to be responsible for coordinating the organization's response to safety and security matters and providing the Executive Head and all relevant actors with advice, guidance and technical assistance.

### **F. Designated Officials**

- 13. In each country or designated area where the United Nations is present, the most senior United Nations official is normally appointed in writing by the Secretary-General as the Designated Official for Security and accredited to the host Government as such. The

<sup>1</sup> The term 'organizations' includes: the major organizational units of the Secretariat which have heads officially accountable to the Secretary-General; other bodies subsidiary or related to the United Nations, such as the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes; and organizations participating in the United Nations security management system.

Designated Official<sup>2</sup> (DO) is accountable to the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, and is responsible for the security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets throughout the country or designated area. The Secretary-General delegates to the DO the requisite authority to make decisions in exigent circumstances, including, but not limited to, the mandatory relocation or evacuation of personnel. This authority, and decisions taken pursuant to it, shall remain subject to the authority and review of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. The DO is responsible for ensuring that the goal of the UNSMS is met in his/her country or area.

#### **G. Representatives of Organizations Participating in the United Nations Security Management System**

14. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system at the country level who participate in the UNSMS are accountable to the Secretary-General through their respective Executive Heads or to the Executive Heads of the United Nations specialized agencies, as appropriate, for all matters related to the security of their personnel at the duty station.

#### **H. Security Management Team**

15. The Security Management Team (SMT) will consist of the DO, who acts as chair, the head of each United Nations organization present at the duty station and the Chief Security Adviser (CSA)/Officer. The SMT advises the DO on all security-related matters.
16. In peacekeeping missions, where the Head of Mission serves as the DO, the SMT may also include Heads of components, offices or sections, as specified by the DO. Heads of military and police components of peacekeeping missions will always serve as members of the SMT.
17. Members of the SMT are responsible for supporting the DO in discharging his/her mandate related to the safety and security of all United Nations personnel, premises and assets.

#### **I. Area Security Coordinators**

18. Area Security Coordinators (ASCs) are staff members appointed in writing by the DO, in consultation with the SMT, in areas of larger countries which are separated from the capital, in terms of both distance and exposure to coordinate and control security arrangements applicable to all personnel, premises and assets in their areas of responsibility. ASCs are accountable to the DO for their security-related responsibilities, in accordance with their respective letters of appointment.

<sup>2</sup> Elected Executive Heads of Specialized Agencies appointed Designated Officials remain accountable to their respective governing bodies and carry out their DO functions based on specific bilateral arrangements agreed with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

## **J. Chief Security Advisers/Security Advisers**

19. The CSA/Security Adviser (SA) is a security professional appointed by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to advise the DO and the SMT in their security functions. The CSA/SA reports to the DO and maintains a technical line of communication to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). In countries where a Deputy Security Adviser is authorized, these provisions also apply.

## **K. Chief Security Officers**

20. In some countries where peacekeeping missions are deployed, and the Head of Mission is appointed as the DO for that country or area, there may be no presence of security professionals appointed by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. Under these circumstances, the mission's Chief Security Officer will act as a SA and assume this level of accountability.

## **L. Country Security Focal Points**

21. In the absence of a CSA/SA, the DO, in consultation with the UNDSS and the staff member's employing organization, will appoint an international staff member to act as Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) for the SMT. CSFPs are accountable to the DO, through their head of agency, for security-related matters, in accordance with their respective letters of appointment.

## **M. Other Security Personnel of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security**

22. The UNDSS personnel, at headquarters and in the field, are responsible for assisting the DO, AFP and organizations of the United Nations system. It is accountable to the Under-Secretary-General according to the terms of the UNDSS internal framework for accountability.

## **N. Single-Agency Security Officers**

23. Single-Agency Security Officers are security professionals hired by organizations of the UNSMS to advise their respective organizations and to be responsible for the security aspects of activities which are specific to their organizations. Single-Agency Security Officers are accountable to their respective organization and at the same time are responsible for supporting the DO under the coordination of the CSA/SA.
24. In the absence of the CSA/SA, Single-Agency Security Officers act as the CSA/SA ad interim for a specified period when required and requested. This will be confirmed in writing by the DO, following consultation with the relevant head of agency, and include the Terms of Reference of the CSA/SA for accountability purposes.



## **O. Local Security Assistants**

25. The Local Security Assistant (LSA) is recruited at the country level by the UNDSS, AFP or missions led or supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.
26. Under the immediate supervision of the respective security professional, the LSA provides assistance in the Security Risk Management (SRM) process and preparing, Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS), Residential Security Measures (RSMs) and contingency plans. The LSA monitors the implementation of security policies and procedures and all matters pertaining to the safety and security of personnel, premises and assets. It is important to note that the security professionals maintain responsibility and accountability for safety and security in accordance with the Framework of Accountability.

## **P. Wardens**

27. Wardens are appointed in writing by the DO/ASC, in consultation with the SMT, to assist in the implementation of the security plan. Wardens are accountable to the DO/ASC for their security-related functions, irrespective of their employing organization.

## **Q. Personnel Employed by Organizations of the United Nations System**

28. Personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system are accountable to their respective organizations. All such personnel, regardless of their rank or level, have the responsibility to abide by security policies, guidelines, directives, plans and procedures of the UNSMS and its organizations.

## **V. Conclusion**

29. This Framework of Accountability provides clear guidance on how to enable the conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the safety, security and well-being of personnel, premises and assets. This goal may be attained by ensuring that all actors of the UNSMS are empowered and provided with the necessary resources and training and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
30. The roles and responsibilities of all actors of the UNSMS for which they will be held accountable are attached as an annex.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of Actors within the United Nations Security Management System**

### **A. The Secretary-General**

1. Has overall responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets at headquarters and field locations.

### **B. Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security**

1. Advises the Secretary-General on all matters related to the security and safety of personnel, premises and assets of the United Nations system;
2. Represents the Secretary-General on all security-related matters;
3. Leads and manages the Department of Safety and Security;
4. Chairs the Inter-Agency Security Management Network;
5. Prepares and publishes an internal framework for accountability documenting individual roles, responsibilities and accountabilities related to safety and security in his/her department;
6. Oversees the development of security policies, practices and procedures for the United Nations system worldwide;
7. Coordinates with the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure implementation, compliance and support for security aspects of their activities;
8. Prepares reports of the Secretary-General on all security-related matters; and
9. Directs the organizational response to crisis management as required.

### **C. The Executive Group on Security**

1. When requested by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, or at the request of any Executive Group on Security (EGS) member, the EGS advises the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in situations where a rapid decision is required to avoid loss of life or to resolve an impasse at the SMT level;
2. Meets as requested by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security or confers with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security by telephone or other means when the situation does not permit a meeting; and
3. Supports the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in the implementation of his/her decision taken in consultation with the EGS.

#### **D. Executive Heads of United Nations Organizations<sup>3</sup>**

1. Implement the “no programme without security, no security without resources” strategy in all programmes;
2. Ensure that safety and security are core components of all programmes and activities, and that the SRM process considered and given due priority from the start of all planning processes;
3. Prepare and publishes an internal Framework of Accountability documenting individual roles, responsibilities and accountabilities related to safety and security for their organizations;
4. Ensure that all managers and personnel working for them not only support the Secretary-General, but also discharge their responsibilities to ensure compliance with the UNSMS;
5. Liaise closely with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to ensure a coherent, system-wide approach to security;
6. Have a collective responsibility to work together to implement and contribute to the development of the UNSMS;
7. Advocate in all available forums to ensure that Member States provide for the safety and security of all personnel, premises and assets of the United Nations system and that crimes against United Nations personnel, premises and assets will not be tolerated and the perpetrators brought to justice;
8. Have a “duty of care” to ensure that personnel employed by their organizations and their recognized dependants are not exposed to unacceptable risk and that all measures are taken to mitigate risks;
9. Appoint a Senior Security Manager and/or Security Focal Point at Headquarters;
10. Recognize and reward good performance in security management by including security in job descriptions and performance appraisals, and address cases of non-compliance at all levels in the organization; and
11. Address specific gender-related security concerns as required.

#### **E. Senior Security Managers and/or Security Focal Points at Headquarters**

1. Advise the Executive Head and senior management on security matters and keep them updated on security management issues;
2. Ensure that representatives of their organizations are aware that they must participate fully in the SMT as applicable;

<sup>3</sup> The term ‘organizations’ includes: the major organizational units of the Secretariat which have heads officially accountable to the Secretary-General; other bodies subsidiary or related to the United Nations, such as the United Nations Agencies, Funds, and Programmes; and organizations participating in the United Nations Security Management System.

3. Assist/support in the mobilization of resources to assist field offices in the implementation of security requirements;
4. Serve as members of the IASMN and other senior-level forums;
5. Work in close association with UNDSS and other members of the IASMN, as well as supports the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in the discharge of his/her responsibilities;
6. Provide advice to representatives of their organizations for the implementation of security policies and procedures as applicable;
7. Ensure that all personnel of their organizations and their recognized dependants are aware of security training requirements, and facilitate the provision of security training and briefings;
8. Disseminate information and educational materials regarding security matters; and
9. Monitor and report on compliance with security policies, practices and procedures.

#### **F. Designated Officials**

1. Implement the arrangements detailed in United Nations security policies and procedures as well as develop and implement the required plans for the duty station with the aim of maintaining the security and safety of United Nations personnel, premises and assets;
2. Engage with the authorities of the host country to advocate full implementation of the host country's security responsibilities in respect of United Nations personnel, premises and assets;
3. Apply the SRM approach to all United Nations activities and operations;
4. Manage and direct all security activities at the duty station;
5. Recommend to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security suitable nominations to act as Designated Official (DO) ad interim. Such appointees will be the head of a United Nations Agency, Fund, Programme or Organization;
6. Keep the Secretary-General informed, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, of all developments in the country which have a bearing on the safety and security of the United Nations system;
7. In the event that operational matters affect safety and security, communicate this information to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security;
8. Implement any arrangements decided by the Secretary-General in support of the host Government's measures for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets, as well as maintaining liaison with the government of the host country on matters concerning the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets;
9. Collaborate on safety and security matters with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working as operational partners of the United Nations system in accordance with established guidelines;

10. Chair the SMT and submit minutes to UNDSS;
11. Keep the members of the SMT, as well as the senior officials of each organization at the duty stations (as applicable) fully apprised of all security-related information and measures being taken in the country;
12. Include in security arrangements at the duty station the staff members (and their recognized dependants) of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have signed a memorandum of understanding;
13. Maintain a fully integrated operational communications system for security management;
14. In consultation with the SMT, appoint Area Security Coordinators (ASCs) and Wardens, verify that they are adequately trained and equipped and provide their parent agency with input for the individual's performance appraisal;
15. Prepare special arrangements, agreed on an inter-agency basis, for the evacuation of internationally-recruited personnel, and an internal relocation plan for locally-recruited personnel;
16. In an emergency where it has not been possible to communicate with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, use their best judgment in carrying out relocations/evacuations and report to the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, immediately thereafter;
17. Provide all United Nations personnel and their recognized dependants information on specific measures which they should take in relation to the security plan, and ensure that all such personnel receive adequate and appropriate security training;
18. Provide all requested reports to UNDSS, as outlined in the United Nations Security Management System *Security Policy Manual* or other directives from the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security;
19. Take appropriate action when advised of non-compliance with United Nations security policies, practices and procedures, including referral to the organization concerned, as well as report serious instances of non-compliance to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security;
20. Address specific gender-related security concerns as required; and
21. If applicable, appoint, in consultation with the employing organization, a Country Security Focal Point and ensure that the Country Security Focal Point receives appropriate training to fulfil his/her responsibilities.

#### **G. Representatives of Organizations Participating in the United Nations Security Management System**

1. Implement appropriate actions to provide for the safety and security of their respective personnel and their recognized dependants at the duty station;
2. Ensure that safety and security is a core component of their respective programmes in the country and that appropriate funding is provided;

3. Consult with and assist the DO on all matters concerning security and the implementation and maintenance of the security plan, Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) and RSMs;
4. Serve as a member of the SMT;
5. Advise the DO, CSA and their respective Security Focal Point at Headquarters on the particular concerns of their organizations regarding security;
6. Ensure full and complete compliance by their personnel and their recognized dependants with all security-related instructions;
7. Take action on instances of non-compliance of security policies, practices and procedures and advises the DO on actions taken;
8. Ensure that activities of their organization are conducted in a way that manages the risks to personnel, premises and assets;
9. On a regular basis, provide the DO with updated lists of all personnel and their recognized dependants in the country;
10. Routinely advise the DO regarding the whereabouts and the movement of their respective personnel and their recognized dependants, in accordance with procedures established at the duty station;
11. Report to the DO and their respective Security Focal Point at Headquarters all security-related incidents;
12. Report all recognized dependants residing at the duty station of internationally-recruited staff who are serving elsewhere so they are accorded the same provision for security as dependants of international staff serving at the duty station;
13. Ensure that arrangements are in place for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working as operational partners with the concerned United Nations agencies;
14. Ensure that movement of all personnel is undertaken in accordance with United Nations system rules and procedures;
15. Equip their respective personnel with required safety and security equipment as specified in MOSS and train personnel in its use;
16. Require that their respective personnel attend appropriate security awareness training and briefings;
17. Attend all security training for members of the SMT; and
18. Coordinate activities of agency security personnel, where applicable, with the DO.

#### **H. Security Management Team**

1. Collectively provides advice and support to the DO;

2. Meets on a regular basis to review the prevailing situation and ensures that security is being managed effectively at all locations throughout the country where personnel employed by the United Nations system are present;
3. Ensures that there are functioning and effective security and contingency plans which are maintained and implemented for all locations throughout the country where personnel employed by the United Nations system and their recognized dependants are present;
4. Ensures that lists of personnel and their recognized dependants are up-to-date;
5. Ensures that each ASC and Warden is trained, equipped and can carry out their responsibilities;
6. Establishes MOSS and RSMs, based on the SRM process, at all locations throughout the country where personnel employed by the United Nations system and their eligible dependants are present, including the monitoring of its implementation and compliance;
7. Ensures that resources are available to implement all measures which are approved;
8. Provides input on the performance appraisal of senior security officers employed in a country by the United Nations system where they have personnel operating, as appropriate; and
9. Addresses specific gender-related security concerns as required.

## **I. Area Security Coordinators**

1. Act under the authority of the DO to coordinate and control the security arrangements for operations in their areas of responsibility;
2. Appoint Wardens for their areas of responsibility;
3. Develop and maintain area-specific security plans;
4. Maintain lists of personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants at their locations;
5. Coordinate the implementation of MOSS, based on the SRM process;
6. Keep the DO systematically informed regarding incidents or developments in their areas of responsibility which have a bearing on the security and safety of personnel employed by organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants;
7. Convene meetings of the Area SMT; and
8. Manage the security clearance system for their areas of responsibility.

## **J. Chief Security Advisers/Security Advisers<sup>4</sup>**

1. Serve as principal adviser to the DO and the SMT on all aspects of security management, crisis readiness and preparedness at their respective duty stations and in the execution of responsibilities with regard to the security of personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their eligible dependants, premises and assets;
2. Participate in and provide security inputs to operational planning;
3. Cooperate closely on security matters with representatives of organizations at the country level and all other officials of the United Nations system at the duty station to ensure the best possible security management;
4. Manage the security unit to include personnel, finance, budget and logistics;
5. Assist with security operations conducted by agencies as requested;
6. Establish and chair a Security Cell for duty stations where there are also Single-Agency Security Officers, in order to ensure that all security officers at the duty station are working together to further security management;
7. Prepare appropriate records of meetings of the Security Cell;
8. Develop contacts with national security agencies, with a view to obtaining the best possible protection for personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants and property;
9. Serve as a member of the SMT at the country level;
10. Undertake the SRM process for all locations in the country where personnel of the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants are present, and facilitates the implementation of recommended mitigating measures;
11. Prepare, maintain and update country-specific security plans, contingency plans and security lists of personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants;
12. Prepare and maintain current, feasible and implemental plans for relocation/evacuation to a safe area;
13. Maintain an effective and functioning security and emergency communications system;
14. Establish a system for briefing all personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants upon initial arrival, providing local security training as necessitated by changes in the security environment and ensuring such personnel are kept informed of matters affecting their security;
15. Maintain up-to-date instructions for personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their eligible dependants on precautions they should take in relation to the implementation of the security plan, including providing a comprehensive list of emergency supplies they should have on hand and providing guidance on their behaviour during emergencies, including natural disasters and political crises;

<sup>4</sup> The term 'Chief Security Adviser' or 'Security Adviser' applies to the senior security professional directly supporting the Designated Official. Where a Chief Security Adviser or Security Adviser is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer and Chief of Security and Safety Services.



16. Report all cases in which personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and/or their recognized dependants have been victims of crime;
17. Conduct security surveys of residential areas and premises;
18. Maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality regarding security matters;
19. Advise and assist the DO and the SMT in the development and implementation of MOSS and RSMs;
20. Maintain regular communication with their respective Regional Desks and submit all mandatory reports in a timely manner to UNDSS; and
21. Report to the DO and concerned representatives of organizations all instances of non-compliance with security policies, practices and procedures.

**K. Country Security Focal Points (applicable in countries where there is no professional security staff assigned)**

1. Manage day-to-day security-related matters supported by UNDSS;
2. Maintain up-to-date lists of personnel and their recognized dependants;
3. Prepare, maintain and update the country-specific security plan;
4. Submit all mandatory reports in a timely manner to UNDSS;
5. Immediately report all security-related incidents involving United Nations staff and their recognized dependants to the DO and UNDSS;
6. Assist the DO and SMT in the development and implementation of MOSS and RSMs, based on the SRM process;
7. Serve as a member of the SMT; and
8. Provide information on residential security to international staff.

**L. Other Personnel of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security**

**1. Chief of Security and Safety Services/Sections**

1. Provides for the security and safety of delegates, staff, visiting dignitaries and other visitors within the United Nations Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters;
2. Assists the CSA and participates in the work of the Security Cell for the development of security policies and procedures as appropriate;
3. Prepares, monitors and maintains safety and security standard operating procedures and systems; oversees emergency preparedness and crisis management, as well as conducts the SRM process;
4. Manages all human resources, finance, budget and logistical matters for his/her service/section;
5. Provides standardized and specialized training for staff and security personnel;

6. Provides personal protection for United Nations senior officials and dignitaries present and/or visiting his/her area of responsibility as required;
7. Advises and assists the DO and SMT in the development and implementation of relevant MOSS;
8. Coordinates with local authorities and local law enforcement agencies;
9. Cooperates closely with all other offices of the United Nations system at the duty station on security and safety matters to ensure the best possible security management; and
10. Retains day-to-day operational responsibility and reporting in accordance with the reporting lines established for the duty station;

**2. Chief Security Officers for Peacekeeping Missions (where the Head of Mission is not the DO and a UNDSS Chief Security Adviser is present)**

11. Manage the day-to-day operations of the security section and serves as the mission SA to the Head of Mission on all security-related matters;
12. Coordinate with the CSA and participates in the Security Cell for the development of security policies and procedures;
13. Contribute to the SRM process for all locations in the mission area where personnel are present and actively participates in the planning and evaluation of the effectiveness of the country security plans and other aspects of security operations;
14. Review and monitor activities related to the mission security programme and mission security plans. Identifies air and land evacuation requirements to be used in emergencies;
15. Maintain emergency communications by making periodic checks to determine if the system is operational and functioning properly;
16. Establishes a 24-hour emergency response system;
17. Maintain continuing awareness of prevailing local security conditions, identifying probable threats and advising mission and project personnel to follow appropriate preventative steps;
18. Provide personal protection for senior personnel or visiting VIPs as required;
19. Compile and maintain an updated staff list which includes all mission personnel, including visiting missions and consultants;
20. Monitor and evaluate office physical security measures, and conducts security surveys of installations and facilities;
21. Provide training and advice to mission personnel on RSMs, as well as determines the need for such resources;

**3. Field Security Coordination Officers (responsible and accountable to the Chief Security Adviser/Security Adviser)**

22. Implement all aspects of security management, crisis readiness and preparedness at the duty station;

23. Prepare, maintain and update country-specific security plans, contingency plans and security listings of personnel employed by organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants;
24. Undertake the SRM process for all locations in the country/area where personnel employed by organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants are present;
25. Establish contacts with national law enforcement agencies with a view to obtaining the best possible protection for personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants; and
26. Conduct security surveys of residences and premises.

#### **M. Single-Agency Security Officers**

1. Advise and assist the agency country representative or operations manager on their security responsibilities, including participation in operational planning, and provide security inputs, including information regarding compliance with United Nations security policies, practices and procedures;
2. Advise and assist the DO, ASC or CSA in the discharge of their responsibilities as required;
3. Participate as a member of the Security Cell established by the CSA/SA;
4. Advise the Security Cell on concerns of their organizations regarding security; and
5. Act as the CSA/SA ad interim during the absence of the CSA/SA for a given duty station, as appropriate and when required by his/her employing organization.

#### **N. Local Security Assistants**

1. Assist in monitoring the implementation of security policies and procedures;
2. Assist in supporting all matters pertaining to the safety and security of personnel, premises and assets;
3. Assist in developing security contingency plans and the country security plan;
4. Assist in the SRM process;
5. Assist in preparing MOSS and RSMs and monitoring compliance;
6. Assist in preparing contingency plans; and
7. Assist in conducting security training for United Nations personnel, locally-recruited guards and others as appropriate.

#### **O. Wardens**

1. Function as a channel of communication between the DO and personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants and visitors staying at hotels in their zones;

2. Regularly inform personnel regarding security arrangements and the residual security risks;
3. Undertake other security-related duties as assigned by the DO or the CSA/SA;
4. Ensures that recognized dependants left at the duty station by internationally recruited staff who are serving elsewhere are accorded the same provision for security as dependants of international staff serving at the duty station; and
5. Visit every family living in his/her area to ensure that they are aware of the security arrangements.

**P. Personnel Employed by the Organizations of the United Nations System**

1. Must familiarize themselves with information provided to them regarding the United Nations security management system at their location;
2. Obtain security clearance prior to traveling;
3. Attend security briefings and sign a document certifying that they have been briefed;
4. Know their Warden, CSA/SA, FSCO or CSFP;
5. Are appropriately equipped for service at the duty station;
6. Comply with all United Nations system security regulations and procedures at the duty station, both on and off duty;
7. Comport themselves in a manner which will not endanger their safety and security or that of others;
8. Report all security incidents in a timely manner;
9. Attend and complete security training relevant to their level and role; and
10. Complete the Basic Security in the Field CD-ROM and Advanced Security in the Field CD-ROM security learning programmes as appropriate.

## CHAPTER II

# United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)



## Section B

### EXECUTIVE GROUP ON SECURITY

Promulgation Date: 5 May 2009  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **THE EXECUTIVE GROUP ON SECURITY**

### **A. Background**

1. The Executive Group on Security (EGS) was established by the Chief Executive Board to facilitate the rapid decision-making capacity of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security when there is an impasse or exigencies when life and limb are at stake which impacts the ability of the Designated Official (DO) or Security Management Team (SMT) to rapidly address developing or critical events which require a timely security decision.
2. The EGS may be called upon to serve the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to advise and assist the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, in rapidly resolving an impasse regarding the security of United Nations personnel and premises when there is no consensus within the SMT on the immediate course of action necessary at the duty station.
3. The EGS shall not meet or act as an appellate body.

### **B. Composition and Working Modalities**

4. In addition to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, the EGS shall be comprised of Executive Heads of organizations of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) as follows:
  - (a) World Food Programme (WFP)/The Chair of the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)
  - (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - (c) Department of Peace Operations (DPO)/Department of Operational Support (DOS)
  - (d) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
  - (e) United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
  - (f) Up to two Executive Heads of United Nations organizations, ideally comprised of those with the largest operational footprint(s) and Offices away from Headquarters in the affected country.
5. Secretariat support to the EGS should be provided by Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

### **C. Accountability of the Executive Group on Security**

6. The purpose of the establishment of the EGS is to reinforce the decision-making authority and accountability of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security as reflected in the Framework of Accountability (Section A).

7. The advisory role of the EGS should also be reflected in the Framework of Accountability. Within the context of the Terms of Reference of the EGS, members of the Group have an individual and collective responsibility to support the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in the discharge of his/her mandate related to the safety and security of all personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants.

## CHAPTER II

# United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)



## Section C

### IASMN ToR

Promulgation Date: 21 October 2009  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017



### **IASMN Terms of Reference**

1. The Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) supports the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) in its comprehensive review of policies and resource-related issues pertaining to the entire United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS), which is a standing item on its agenda.
2. The IASMN will be chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and a co-chair, who is elected among the members for a term of two years. It meets twice a year to review all existing and proposed policies, procedures and practices of the UNSMS, and it reports and makes recommendations on these to the HLCM. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security or his/her designated representative should participate in these meetings.
3. The IASMN comprises the senior managers who have managerial oversight of the security function within the following bodies:
  - (a) All organizations which are members of the Chief Executives Board;
  - (b) Organizations that have concluded a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations for the purposes of participating in the UNSMS;
  - (c) Any organization or department which has a specific mandate for management of the safety and security of United Nations staff, personnel and premises or which is directly involved in the coordination, delivery and support of United Nations activities in the field, especially during emergencies and in high-risk environments;
  - (d) Any other organization invited by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, as the Chair, as observers; and
  - (e) United Nations Staff Federations, as observers.
4. A Steering Group will be appointed to facilitate the work of the IASMN. The Steering Group will consider and propose the agenda for the IASMN meetings as well as the draft documents. The composition of the Steering Group will be reviewed and confirmed by the IASMN at its first meeting of the year.
5. Between annual meetings, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security may convene working group meetings among interested organizations to discuss specific security issues. The reports of the working groups will be provided to the IASMN for review and endorsement.
6. The IASMN will monitor the implementation of United Nations security management policies, practices and procedures by all actors of the United Nations system, including the related programme budget. It will report and make recommendations thereon to the HLCM.

## CHAPTER II

# United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)



## Section D

### HOST COUNTRY

Promulgation Date: 15 April 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel, other individuals covered by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) and the property of UNSMS organizations rests with the host Government. This responsibility flows from every Government's normal and inherent function to maintain order and to protect persons and property within its jurisdiction. In the case of the United Nations, the host Government has a special responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant agreements that the host Government may have with individual United Nations organizations.
2. Under Article 105 of its Charter, the United Nations is entitled to enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes. Likewise, United Nations officials are accorded with such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercises of their functions. United Nations entities and their staff, as well as some categories of non-staff personnel, enjoy similar privileges and immunities under the entities' respective constitutional instruments, international conventions and agreements with host Governments.
3. Within the territory of a State which is a party to the Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies (together 'the Conventions'), United Nations staff members "shall be given, together with their spouse and relatives dependant on them, the same repatriation facilities in time of international crisis as diplomatic envoys"<sup>1</sup>. Bilateral agreements with host Governments may extend the same protections to certain categories of non-staff personnel. The Conventions further stipulate that the premises of the United Nations and United Nations entities are "inviolable" and that their property, wherever located and by whomsoever held, is immune from "any form of interference". For relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the Specialized Organizations, see Annex A.
4. References to legal instruments alone are not sufficient for ensuring host Government support in the protection of the United Nations. Therefore, while not abrogating the responsibility of the host Government for its obligations, the United Nations has a duty to reinforce and supplement the capacity of the host Government to fulfil these functions and to collaborate with the host Government to this end.
5. Security collaboration with host Governments is an integral part of the United Nations multi-dimensional strategy for the protection of United Nations personnel, property and operations.

<sup>1</sup> The Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 1946 and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, 1947.

## **B. Purpose**

6. The purpose of this policy is to outline the approach of the UNSMS for collaborating with host Governments as a strategic tool in security management. The policy aims to assist Designated Officials (DOs), the Security Management Team (SMT) and United Nations security professionals in enhancing collaboration with host country authorities as a key aspect of their responsibility to implement security risk management measures in collaboration with the host Governments.
7. The policy underlines the need for the DOs, the SMT and United Nations security professionals to review the host country's capacity to carry out its responsibilities for protecting the United Nations and to identify, reinforce and supplement any shortfalls in this capacity.
8. Nothing in this policy is meant to contravene UNSMS organizations' adherence to humanitarian principles as enshrined in international law.

## **C. Applicability and Scope**

9. The policy is applicable to all the UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) ("Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System"). All references to the United Nations herein refer to the United Nations and United Nations system organizations participating in the UNSMS.
10. The policy does not cover collaboration with de facto local authorities and/or "non-state actors" that may be in control of areas where no government authority is in place or functioning. Depending on the circumstances, it may be useful in such situations to apply the principles outlined in this policy even though non-state actors or de facto local authorities controlling areas are not host Governments.

## **D. Definitions**

11. For the purposes of this policy, "host country" is defined as the country in which the United Nations is present and/or conducts its operations at the invitation of the Government.
12. "Host Government" refers to the Government of the host country in which the United Nations carries out its operation, activities and programmes.

## **E. Improving Security Collaboration with Host Governments**

13. In promoting and enhancing the protection of United Nations personnel, property and operations, DOs, SMT members and United Nations security professionals must make timely efforts to collaborate with host Government authorities.

14. At the country or local level, the DOs, members of the SMT<sup>2</sup> and United Nations security professionals shall take appropriate measures to enhance collaboration between the United Nations and host Governments, particularly in the following areas:
- a) **Liaison.** The first priority for ensuring proper host Government support for the safety and security of the United Nations is for the DOs and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DOs<sup>3</sup> to maintain close liaison with the designated contacts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and security organs. This includes cooperating with relevant host Government authorities to establish mechanisms for effective sharing of security-related information (see also paragraph 14b below) for strengthening the analysis of security threats and risks with implications for staff security, and for ensuring that privileged information is handled with appropriate discretion. The DOs shall request the host Government designate focal points with whom the United Nations can cooperate on a regular basis on security matters that impact staff security.
  - b) **Information Sharing and Strategic Communication.** Two-way information exchange is central to the cooperation between the United Nations and the host Government, and it is an integral part of the UNSMS. Emphasis should be placed on situational awareness, analysis of threats and vulnerabilities regarding United Nations personnel, premises and operations, and strategies for communication with the local population and other target audiences to promote understanding of the United Nations mandates and activities. There should be regular information exchange meetings between host Government focal points in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and other relevant security organs of the host Government and the DOs and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DOs.
  - c) **Security Risk Management Measures.** Attention should be paid to host Government assistance with, and implementation of, security risk management measures, especially with regard to United Nations premises and the import and licensing of security-related equipment. The assessment of security risks faced by the United Nations in any country at any given time, and what is required to manage them, may differ significantly between the host Government and the United Nations. Exchange of information and regular consultations eliminate differences and enable mutually agreed prevention and mitigation measures. Collaboration with host Government authorities must include periodic assessments of access control to, and external physical security of all United Nations premises and concrete action on the implementation of security management measures. Collaboration should also focus on timely customs clearance and licensing of security-related equipment required for the safety and security of the United Nations in that country. The host Government must provide the required resources for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, property and operations. Part of ensuring the necessary level of protection for the United Nations should include regular coordination meetings with host Government authorities (both within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of

<sup>2</sup> For designated security areas within a country, these provisions apply to Area Security Coordinators and Area Security Management Teams.

<sup>3</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser (CSA) or other Security Adviser (SA), or their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a CSA or SA is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) or Local Security Assistant (if necessary in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present).

Interior) by both the DOs and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DOs.

- d) **Crisis Management.** As part of security risk management, planning and preparedness for the management of security crises affecting the United Nations is an important aspect of collaborating with host Government authorities. To enable the Government to respond effectively in a crisis, the DOs shall request the host Government designate focal points with the authority to mobilize and coordinate support when a crisis affects the United Nations in the country. Central to collaboration on crisis management is host Government provision of emergency contacts, procedures and resources. It is also important to assess the capacity of host Government authorities to respond to events that can adversely affect the security of United Nations personnel, premises or operations. Part of this assessment shall include an annual crisis response exercise/drill.
- e) **Legal Aspects.** Collaboration with host Government authorities should aim to ensure that crimes committed against United Nations personnel are investigated and perpetrators identified and prosecuted according to the law. Each representative of the UNSMS organizations in-country must ensure that their respective personnel are aware of and respect national laws and customs. The DOs, in conjunction with the respective representative of the UNSMS organizations in-country, shall bring to the attention of the host Government as soon as possible any concerns regarding arrests, detention or harassment of United Nations personnel or any obstruction to freedom of movement of United Nations personnel.
- f) **Concerns for Specific Categories of Personnel.** Collaboration with host Government authorities should include gender-related security issues and the special circumstances of locally-recruited personnel. It is important to ensure that host Government counterparts understand the status of locally-recruited United Nations staff and non-staff personnel under international law.

## **F. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 15. DOs, SMT members and United Nations security professionals are responsible for implementing this policy as part of their security management responsibilities. All managers of the UNSMS are also responsible for carrying out their security management functions concerning collaboration with host Government authorities on security-related issues in line with this policy and other relevant policies, including the security risk management policy.
- 16. The DOs have the responsibility to liaise with host Government authorities or other relevant authorities in all aspects of security management on behalf of the United Nations and to consult, as necessary, with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in implementing this policy. The DOs are responsible for adapting this policy to the local context.
- 17. The DOs and heads of UNSMS organizations must ensure that appropriate financial resources are forecasted and allocated to carry out this policy.
- 18. Heads of UNSMS organizations are responsible for informing their respective personnel of the policy on host country matters with the aim to enhance collaboration with host

Government authorities as part of the security risk management to protect United Nations personnel, property and operations.

19. Security Advisers shall support the DOs and SMT members in carrying out this policy and related measures and providing technical advice on whether all required security risk management measures related to this policy are in place and effective.

#### **G. Requirements for Review and Reporting**

20. The DOs and the SMT, supported by the security advisers, must carry out regular assessment and review of host Government collaboration on issues related to the security of the United Nations.
21. Where a host Government has not adequately addressed aspects of its responsibility to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, property or operations (with special emphasis on the priority areas listed in paragraph 14 above), the DO must take timely action to seek host Government support to put in place the appropriate measures. If host Government support continues to be inadequate, the DO must report this to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to request strategic interventions at the appropriate level.
22. If any in-country actors within the UNSMS require clarification on their responsibilities regarding host Government collaboration or require additional technical or operational support, they must contact their respective headquarters in a timely manner.

#### **H. Training Requirements**

23. This policy shall be included in the mandatory security training for the DOs, SMT members, security professionals and managers in the United Nations system organizations who have responsibility for security management in line with the Framework of Accountability.

#### **I. Final Provisions**

24. This policy is to be distributed to all United Nations personnel.
25. This policy enters into effect on 15 April 2012.
26. *Field Security Handbook* (2006), Chapter IV, Section A, paragraphs 4.1 – 4.4 and *Field Security Handbook* (2006) Annex A are hereby abolished.

## Annex A

### RELEVANT EXTRACTS OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS Charter of the United Nations

#### Article 104

The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such legal capacity as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its purposes.

#### Article 105

- 1 The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes.
- 2 Representatives of the Members of the United Nations and officials of the Organization shall similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.
- 3 The General Assembly may make recommendations with a view to determining the details of the application of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article or may propose conventions to the Members of the United Nations for this purpose.

### RELEVANT EXTRACTS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 13 FEBRUARY 1946

#### Article V

#### OFFICIALS

#### Section 17

The Secretary-General will specify the categories of officials to which the provisions of this Article and Article VII shall apply. He shall submit these categories to the General Assembly. Thereafter these categories shall be communicated to the Governments of all Members. The names of the officials included in these categories shall from time to time be made known to the Governments of Members.

#### Section 18

Officials of the United Nations shall:

- a) Be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
- b) Be exempt from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the United



Nations;

- c) Be immune from national service obligations;
- d) Be immune, together with their spouses and relatives dependent on them, from immigration restrictions and alien registration;
- e) Be accorded the same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to the officials of comparable ranks forming part of diplomatic missions to the Government concerned;
- f) Be given, together with their spouses and relatives dependent on them, the same repatriation facilities in time of international crisis as diplomatic envoys;
- g) Have the right to import free of duty their furniture and effects at the time of first taking up their post in the country in question.

#### Section 19

In addition to the immunities and privileges specified in Section 18, the Secretary-General and all Assistant Secretaries-General shall be accorded in respect of themselves, their spouses and minor children, the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities accorded to diplomatic envoys, in accordance with international law.

#### Section 20

Privileges and immunities are granted to officials in the interests of the United Nations and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any official in any case where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the United Nations. In the case of the Secretary-General, the Security Council shall have the right to waive immunity.

#### Section 21

The United Nations shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of Members to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this Article.

### Article VI

## EXPERTS ON MISSIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

### Section 22

Experts (other than officials coming within the scope of Article V) performing missions for the United Nations shall be accorded such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions during the period of their missions, including the time spent on journeys in connection with their missions. In particular they shall be accorded:

- a) Immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal baggage;
- b) In respect of words spoken or written and acts done by them in the course of the performance of their mission, immunity from legal process of every kind. This immunity from legal process shall continue to be accorded notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer employed on missions for the United Nations;
- c) Inviolability for all papers and documents;
- d) For the purpose of their communications with the United Nations, the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags;
- e) The same facilities in respect of currency or exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions; and
- f) The same immunities and facilities in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys.

### Section 23

Privileges and immunities are granted to experts in the interests of the United Nations and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any expert in any case where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the United Nations.

## CHAPTER II

# United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)



## Section E

### ROLE OF UNDSS

Promulgation Date: 18 April 2016  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017



5 August 2013

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**Secretary-General's bulletin****Organization of the Department of Safety and Security**

The Secretary-General, pursuant to Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/1997/5](#), entitled "Organization of the Secretariat of the United Nations", as amended by [ST/SGB/2002/11](#), and pursuant to General Assembly resolution [59/276](#) on questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, and for the purpose of establishing the organizational structure of the Department of Safety and Security, promulgates the following:

**Section 1****General provision and definitions**

1.1 The present bulletin shall apply in conjunction with Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/1997/5](#), entitled "Organization of the Secretariat of the United Nations", as amended by [ST/SGB/2002/11](#).

1.2 For the purposes of the present bulletin, the following definitions shall apply:

The "United Nations Security Management System" means the strengthened and unified United Nations security management system instituted by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution [59/276](#), section XI, paragraphs 4 and 16, adopted on 23 December 2004. The United Nations Security Management System is comprised of the United Nations Secretariat, offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and international tribunals, as well as the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

The "Inter-Agency Security Management Network" is a working group of the High-Level Committee on Management designed with the goal of enabling the effective and efficient conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the security, safety and well-being of staff as a high priority.

**Section 2****Functions and organization**

2.1 The Department of Safety and Security:

(a) Strengthens the United Nations Security Management System by enabling the safest and most efficient conduct of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system and by providing leadership, operational support and oversight of the United Nations Security Management System;

(b) Provides leadership, strategic guidance and an integrated coordination framework to enable the conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the



safety, security and well-being of personnel and the security of United Nations premises and assets;

(c) Provides security expertise to all United Nations Security Management System entities to enable the planning and safe conduct of mandates, missions, activities and programmes of the United Nations system;

(d) Leads the concerted development, across the United Nations Security Management System entities, of standardized security policies and procedures through an integrated and interdependent organizational approach by working closely with the security services of all the United Nations Security Management System entities, under the umbrella of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network;

(e) Delivers integrated, efficient and coherent security support to United Nations field operations, drawing together standardized policy, field support and other critical elements, and links with other United Nations entities, including through its leadership, to address safety and security needs, particularly in the case of crisis or emergency;

(f) Ensures effective security risk management through the establishment of a coordinated security threat and risk assessment mechanism within the framework of a common system-wide methodology;

(g) Identifies and evaluates the security-related threats and risks faced by the United Nations civilian personnel when delivering their programmes as mandated by the General Assembly and the Security Council;

(h) Ensures a coherent, effective and timely response to all security-related threats and other emergencies;

(i) Leads and supports the cooperation and collaboration among United Nations Security Management System entities, including their headquarters and field offices, in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security, training and awareness;

(j) Promotes and coordinates strategic and operational partnerships within the United Nations Secretariat and with other organizations in the United Nations system, regional organizations and other multilateral and bilateral institutions and Member States to ensure that appropriate security measures are an integral part of the planning for existing and newly mandated United Nations operations;

(k) Provides leadership, oversight, strategic guidance and technical support to the Security and Safety Services of all entities of the Secretariat in New York and to the Offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and international tribunals, by agreement;

(l) Establishes, oversees and maintains the necessary capacity to ensure the systematic and coordinated management of the need for close protection throughout the United Nations Security Management System;

(m) Guides and promotes gender-sensitive approaches to the planning, design and implementation of policies and operational activities led by the Department and takes action to promote gender balance at all levels and ensure a gender-friendly work environment at Headquarters and in the field.

2.2 The Department of Safety and Security is composed of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services, the Division of Regional Operations and the Field Support Service.

2.3 The Department is headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. In performing his/her functions, the Under-Secretary-General is supported by the Assistant Secretary-General. The Under-Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General and the officials in charge of each organizational unit perform the specific functions set out in the present bulletin.

2.4 To ensure coherence and, where appropriate, coordination with non-United Nations partners, the Department maintains the following mechanisms:

(a) Strategic cooperation frameworks and regular communication with regional and subregional organizations and international institutions on security-related issues;

(b) Modalities for coordination and information-sharing for all safety and security-related matters;

(c) Regular strategic dialogue and exchange with United Nations partners through meetings of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee, the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and other relevant senior management forums.

### **Section 3**

#### **Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security**

3.1 The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security is accountable to the Secretary-General.

3.2 The Under-Secretary-General is responsible for all activities of the Department of Safety and Security. The core strategic functions of the Under-Secretary-General include:

(a) Advising the Secretary-General on all matters related to the security and safety of personnel, premises and assets of the United Nations;

(b) Representing or ensuring the representation of the Secretary-General on all security-related matters with governing bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations common system and administrative advisory bodies;

(c) Preparing reports of the Secretary-General on all security-related matters;

(d) Maintaining close liaison with the host countries' authorities and Member States to strengthen and implement the host countries' primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets;

(e) Leading and managing the Department of Safety and Security, and providing executive direction and control of the United Nations Security Management System and ensuring the overall safety and security of United Nations personnel, their eligible family members and United Nations premises and assets at headquarters locations and in the field;

(f) Coordinating with the organizations of the United Nations Security Management System to ensure implementation, compliance and support for security aspects of their activities;

(g) Convening and chairing meetings of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and the Executive Group on Security;

(h) Overseeing the development of security policies, practices and procedures for the United Nations Security Management System worldwide;

(i) Providing oversight, strategic policy and operational guidance to the Designated Officials for Security appointed by the Secretary-General and other field representatives deployed by the United Nations Security Management System entities;

(j) Taking all necessary measures on behalf of the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations Security Management System, to ensure that United Nations personnel are properly informed about, and operate in conformity with, existing policies, minimum operating security standards and relevant codes of conduct, are trained and duly authorized in the areas of safety and security.

#### **Section 4**

##### **Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security**

4.1 The Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security is accountable to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

4.2 The core functions of the Assistant Secretary-General include:

(a) Supporting the Under-Secretary-General in the full range of his/her responsibilities, including assuming responsibility for all operational activities of the Department related to tasking, planning the optimum use of resources, expertise and experience, and overseeing and assisting the Department's senior leadership in the discharge of their functions;

(b) Maintaining liaison with Designated Officials, representatives of Member States, regional groups, host Government authorities and other senior leadership within the scope of the United Nations Security Management System, both at Headquarters and field locations;

(c) Supervising and overseeing the Executive Office in carrying out its delegated financial, personnel and general administrative responsibilities;

(d) Overseeing and strengthening the day-to-day, internal management of the Department, as well as representing the Department in the absence of the Under-Secretary-General;

(e) Supporting the Under-Secretary-General in the performance of his/her functions as executive head of the Department, including by coordinating the work of various units both at Headquarters and in the field and overseeing the preparation of reports to intergovernmental bodies;

(f) Overseeing the work of the Policy and Compliance Service, the Field Support Service and the Executive Office.

#### **Section 5**

##### **Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security**

5.1 The Office of the Under-Secretary-General consists of the front office, the Policy and Compliance Service and the Executive Office.

5.2 The front office of the Under-Secretary-General provides support to the Under-Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General in carrying out their functions, which include the coordination of the work of the various units at Headquarters and in the field and overseeing the preparation of reports to intergovernmental bodies.

### **Policy and Compliance Service**

5.3 The Policy and Compliance Service is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Assistant Secretary-General. The Service consists of the Compliance, Evaluation and Monitoring Section and the Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit, each of which is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Chief of Service.

5.4 The Chief of the Service and the Chief of the Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit serve as the secretariat for the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and are accountable to the Assistant Secretary-General. The secretariat for the Inter-Agency Security Management Network provides inputs to the Under-Secretary-General.

5.5 The core functions of the Policy, Planning and Coordination Unit include:

- (a) Reviewing and recommending policies and guidelines required for the United Nations Security Management System;
- (b) Producing substantive policy documents and providing review of policy drafts prepared by other United Nations organizations on safety and security-related matters;
- (c) Producing reports of a substantive nature to the legislative organs of the United Nations on behalf of the Department on safety and security-related matters;
- (d) Enhancing the coordination and integration of, and compliance with, policies and procedures within the United Nations Security Management System.

5.6 The core functions of the Compliance, Evaluation and Monitoring Section include:

- (a) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of, and compliance with, security policy, procedures and guidelines of the United Nations Security Management System;
- (b) Advising members of the United Nations Security Management System on compliance-related matters;
- (c) Planning, coordinating and conducting inspections and compliance managerial reviews;
- (d) Advising on the development of security compliance training in close collaboration with the Training and Development Section;
- (e) Conducting strategic and thematic evaluations and promoting knowledge management, including lessons learned and best practices in safety and security-related matters.

### **Executive Office**

5.7 The Executive Office is headed by an Executive Officer, who is accountable to the Under-Secretary-General.

5.8 The core functions of the Executive Office are set out in section 7 of Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/1997/5](#).

5.9 The Executive Office undertakes inter- and intradepartmental coordination on issues relating to human resources, budgetary, logistics and general administrative matters, including at the inter-agency level, as they relate to the area of safety and security.



5.10 The Executive Office coordinates with the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the administration and support provided to the Department of Safety and Security field offices and with the local administrations of the Offices away from Headquarters and the regional commissions to ensure consistency in the administrative practices of the local security and safety services.

## **Section 6**

### **Division of Regional Operations**

6.1 The Division of Regional Operations is headed by a Director, who is accountable to the Under-Secretary-General. The Division consists of the Threat and Risk Assessment Unit, the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section and the Regional Sections.

6.2 The Division of Regional Operations is responsible for the management of regional operations for safety and security and serves as the safety and security focal point for field duty stations, providing primary operational and technical support, including:

- (a) Providing technical advice and guidance to Designated Officials for Security, Security Management Teams and Security Advisers according to existing policies and guidelines, best practices and lessons learned, and to assist them in the discharge of their functions and responsibilities for security;

- (b) Effectively coordinating safety and security matters in the field with United Nations Security Management System entities, including agencies, funds and programmes;

- (c) Coordinating with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the planning, implementation and review of safety and security programmes for peacekeeping, humanitarian and other special missions in the field;

- (d) Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of existing security arrangements, procedures, modalities and practices in field duty stations;

- (e) Coordinating contingency planning and crisis preparedness and timely response in field duty stations to security crises;

- (f) Developing security requirements and arrangements for new missions as well as for special, regular and emergency operations;

- (g) Programme and budget planning for regional operations to ensure the deployment of critical security resources to locations with the highest requirements, including the planning and administration of surge deployment.

6.3 The Division of Regional Operations is also responsible for management of the Communications Centre, which, for the purpose of timely information-sharing, is geographically co-located within the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, a jointly staffed Secretariat-wide crisis and coordination centre. The core functions of the Communications Centre include:

- (a) Maintaining round-the-clock emergency communications at Headquarters and with field duty stations on security matters;

(b) Organizing round-the-clock dispatch of official correspondence, including communiqués, security clearances and other official communications of the Department of Safety and Security and videoteleconferences between Headquarters and field duty stations;

(c) Providing operational support to the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, as well as with Regional Sections and the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section in crisis situations;

(d) Round-the-clock monitoring of open media sources to provide timely alerts on evolving events and developments that may impact on the safety and security of the United Nations system worldwide.

6.4 The Threat and Risk Assessment Unit is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Director of the Division. The core functions of the Threat and Risk Assessment Unit include:

(a) Identifying, in a timely manner, developing threats that may affect civilian personnel, assets and operations of the organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) Developing strategic, regional and country-specific security threat and risk assessments as required by the Department, Division and other actors of the United Nations Security Management System;

(c) Providing analytical and assessment support to other sections of the Division and field duty stations in the review of threat and risk assessments;

(d) Developing methodologies for security analysis and the training of security analysts in the field and methodological support and oversight over the outputs of security analysts in the field;

(e) Developing and distributing timely security threat information to all actors of the United Nations Security Management System at Headquarters and in the field;

(f) Developing security risk assessments for activities and travel conducted by Senior United Nations Officials, including development of Personal Security Risk Assessments.

6.5 The Peacekeeping Operations Support Section is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Director/Deputy Director of the Division. The core functions of the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section include:

(a) Providing effective security support to Integrated Operational Teams and other mission-focused work groups of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

(b) Coordinating security issues with the Department of Field Support;

(c) Ensuring that peacekeeping missions have complied with all United Nations security management policies and guidelines.

6.6 Each of the Regional Sections is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Director/Deputy Director of the Division. Both the Regional Sections and the Peacekeeping Operations Support Section are responsible for the day-to-day management of security operations in the field in countries and areas under their responsibilities, including:

(a) Coordinating daily with Designated Officials for Security and Security Advisers in the field on all security-related issues affecting United Nations personnel, assets and operations;

(b) Reviewing and endorsing Security Risks Assessments, Security Plans, Minimum Operating Security Standards and Residential Security Measures, and ongoing review of security levels wherever United Nations operations occur;

(c) Ensuring adequate contingency planning in the field, identifying possible crisis scenarios, plans of action, response strategies, required resources and arrangements;

(d) Developing crisis response strategies and provision of crisis response assistance, technical advice and guidelines to the field in contingency situations resulting from safety and security accidents and incidents;

(e) Coordinating with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the planning, implementation and review of safety and security programmes for peacekeeping, humanitarian and other special missions in the field;

(f) Monitoring compliance with security policies, procedures and modalities and implementation of Minimum Operating Security Standards and Residential Security Measures at field duty stations and by security components of peacekeeping operations and other special missions in the field, in close coordination with the Compliance, Evaluation and Monitoring Section.

## **Section 7**

### **Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services**

7.1 The Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services is headed by a Director, who is accountable to the Under-Secretary-General.

7.2 The Division consists of the Protection Coordination Unit and the Security and Safety Services/Sections located at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Offices away from Headquarters, the regional commissions and the international tribunals.

7.3 The Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services is responsible for the strategic management of safety and security operations at the Security and Safety Services/Sections locations, providing primary operational and technical support, including:

(a) Providing technical advice and guidance to Directors General, Executive Secretaries and Registrars of the Security and Safety Services/Sections locations, and Chiefs of Security Advisers according to existing policies and guidelines, sharing best practices and lessons learned, assisting in the discharge of their functions and responsibilities for security;

(b) Providing the framework to ensure standardization, and the integration of, practices and procedures in the Security and Safety Services/Sections;

(c) Acting as the focal point for consultation and advice within the Secretariat and with specialized agencies of the United Nations system regarding all security and safety policy issues, in particular the provision of security and safety operations at any United Nations system premises by providing policy direction and standards;

(d) Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of existing security arrangements, procedures, modalities and practices at the Security and Safety Services/Sections locations;

(e) Coordinating contingency planning and crisis preparedness and timely response at the Security and Safety Services/Sections locations;

(f) Advising on and coordinating security support for planning and implementing security arrangements for special events organized or sponsored by United Nations Security Management System organizations at locations and venues external from their headquarters;

(g) Closely collaborating with the Executive Office, acting as focal point for advice within the Division's responsibilities, on administrative matters such as budget and human resources issues as needed.

7.4 The Protection Coordination Unit is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Director of the Division. The core functions of the Protection Coordination Unit include:

(a) Developing a global repository of United Nations Security Management System policy and guidance to support the delivery of protective services while maintaining strategic oversight of all aspects of protective services operations within the United Nations system;

(b) Providing requisite guidance and oversight for global protective service operations for Senior United Nations Officials in a systematic and coordinated manner by identifying United Nations close protection assets to meet operational needs;

(c) Monitoring policy and guideline implementation and providing direction to resolve any failings by ensuring regular updating of an assignment and travel-tracking mechanisms of Senior United Nations Officials;

(d) Acting as the focal point for consultation and advice to other United Nations Security Management System entities, regarding all issues affecting the provision of protective services;

(e) Developing a strategic human resources platform from which the United Nations system can recruit protective services officers;

(f) In close consultation with the Division of Field Support Service, supporting the development and implementation of a robust training programme for officers delivering protective services within the United Nations system.

7.5 Each Security and Safety Service/Section at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Offices away from Headquarters, the regional commissions and the international tribunals is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Director of the Division as well as the Director General/Executive Secretary or his/her designee.

7.6 The core functions of the Security and Safety Services/Sections include:

(a) In accordance with the policies and guidelines of the United Nations Security Risk Management process, professionally managing risk utilizing state-of-the-art practices to establish a safe and secure environment for representatives, United Nations personnel and visitors at the designated United Nations premises, enabling the implementation of programmes;

(b) Protecting organizational assets by continuous review of vulnerabilities and developing and implementing appropriate and cost-effective risk mitigation strategies utilizing human resources and innovative technologically based applications solutions;

(c) In the context of organizational enterprise risk management, developing and exercising scenario-specific emergency preparedness response plans for significant natural and man-made situations as part of crisis management and business continuity;

(d) Maintaining liaison with local law enforcement authorities to facilitate cooperation and adherence to the relevant requirements for protection of United Nations personnel and assets, in accordance with respective host country agreements at the various duty stations;

(e) Providing specialized services, including protective services to Senior United Nations Officials and visiting dignitaries, investigatory capability, risk assessment functionality, hostile surveillance detection, information security and medical response;

(f) Providing security managers and personnel to assist United Nations organizations holding special events and external conferences at locations and venues away from United Nations premises.

## **Section 8**

### **Division of Field Support Service**

8.1 The Division of Field Support Service is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Assistant Secretary-General. The Service consists of the Training and Development Section, the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit, the Aviation Risk Management Office and the Crisis Management Information Support Section.

8.2 The Training and Development Section is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Chief of the Service, and its core functions are as follows:

(a) Managing the development and implementation of a United Nations security knowledge transfer and training strategy for all target groups within the United Nations Security Management System;

(b) Based on competencies and the roles and responsibilities identified in the framework of accountability for the United Nations Security Management System, developing knowledge transfer and training objectives, standards and programmes of instruction for all actors in the United Nations Security Management System;

(c) Evaluating skill requirements and identifying training needs for effective security management;

(d) Delivering training, including core and specialist courses for the United Nations Security Management System based on the security training strategy as defined by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network's Working Group on Security Training;

(e) Evaluating, validating and reviewing security training policy and measuring its ongoing relevance against established standards and policies, to ensure it meets the needs of the United Nations Security Management System.

8.3 The Critical Incident Stress Management Unit is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Chief of the Service. The core functions of the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit include:

(a) Developing and implementing a comprehensive United Nations policy regarding the management of critical incident stress, including gender-specific requirements;

(b) Ensuring inter-agency coordination regarding critical incident stress management;

(c) Providing a rapid professional response to critical incidents involving personnel in the organizations of the United Nations Security Management System;

(d) Providing or facilitating the provision of critical incident stress management training for United Nations personnel in the organizations of the United Nations Security Management System;

(e) Maintaining a roster of stress counsellors available for deployment, as required;

(f) Researching, assessing and monitoring factors that may lead to stress-related problems in the field;

(g) Chairing the Inter-Agency Security Management Network's Working Group on Critical Incident Stress Management.

8.4 The Aviation Risk Management Office is headed by an Aviation Risk Management Officer, who is accountable to the Chief of the Service. The core functions of the Aviation Risk Management Office include:

(a) Providing advice to all actors in the United Nations Security Management System on the relative safety of commercial scheduled airlines;

(b) Developing a methodology and process to evaluate airlines, taking into consideration the unique circumstances and travel habits of the members of the United Nations common system;

(c) Developing a process to assess airlines, as requested by the United Nations Security Management System.

8.5 The Crisis Management Information Support Section is headed by a Chief, who is accountable to the Chief of the Service. The core function of the Crisis Management Information Support Section is managing systems, including an automated security clearance mechanism for the travel of United Nations system personnel and information management tools that provide security-related information to security professionals, security management teams and United Nations system personnel worldwide.

## **Section 9**

### **Final provisions**

9.1 The present bulletin shall enter into force on the date of its issuance.

9.2 The Secretary-General's bulletin of 1 June 1998, entitled "Organization of the Office of Central Support Services" ([ST/SGB/1998/11](#), section 5, Security and Safety Service), is hereby abolished.

(Signed) **BAN Ki-moon**  
Secretary-General

## CHAPTER II

# United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)



## Section F

### SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

Promulgation Date: 14 April 2014  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## A. Introduction

1. The Saving Lives Together framework (herein referred to as “the Framework”)<sup>1</sup> was established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to improve cooperation on security issues between the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) that are implementing and/or operational partners of the United Nations. The Framework provides a collaborative approach to security management, particularly humanitarian operations in complex environments.

## B. Purpose

2. The purposes of this policy are as follows:

- (a) To reaffirm the commitment of all actors in the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) to security collaboration with relevant NGOs.
- (b) To reaffirm the importance of the Saving Lives Together Framework and ensure support, within available resources, for the implementation of the Framework at all levels within the UNSMS.
- (c) To outline the general approach of the UNSMS for using the Framework as a tool for collaborating with relevant NGOs.
- (d) To assist Designated Officials (DOs), Security Management Teams (SMTs), United Nations security professionals and United Nations system organizations in their collaboration with relevant NGOs as a part of their security management responsibilities.

<sup>1</sup> Saving Lives Together “*A Framework for Improving Security Arrangements among IGOs, NGOs and the UN in the Field*”, Rev. 2011. Since 2001, the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)<sup>1</sup> has examined best practices for security collaboration between the United Nations and non-United Nations organizations. Those best practices formed the basis for the Saving Lives Together framework, developed by the IASC. In 2006, the United Nations High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the IASMN (in Vienna in May 2006) approved the Saving Lives Together framework (ref: CEB/2006/HLCM/12/CRP.2). In August 2011, the IASC endorsed a review of the Framework. In October 2011, participants in the Second Saving Lives Together Conference, held in Geneva, endorsed the revised Saving Lives Together Framework, followed by the IASMN’s endorsement of the revised Framework in February 2012 at its 17th regular session. In October 2015, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Development Programme jointly issued a revised Saving Lives Together Framework. In October 2016, the HLCM approved revisions of the Programme Criticality Framework, followed by the endorsement of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in November 2016. The revised Framework, in line with the Secretary-General’s decision (PC/2016/1), is a mandatory policy of the Organization in areas where security risk levels are “high” or above. The Designated Official is accountable for using the results of the Programme Criticality Assessment and for endorsing security risk management decisions taken at country-level, taking both the Programme Criticality and the results of the Security Risk Management process into consideration.



### **C. Applicability**

3. The policy is applicable to all organizations and actors within the UNSMS.
4. Nothing in this policy contradicts the adherence to common humanitarian ground rules, including the need to maintain the neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian activities.

### **D. Scope**

5. At the country or mission level, the DOs, Area Security Coordinators (ASCs), members of the SMT<sup>2</sup> and security professionals should take measures to enhance collaboration with relevant NGOs, in consultation with host Governments, in accordance with the staged approach to security collaboration as described in the IASC-endorsed Saving Lives Together framework (attached).<sup>3</sup>
6. The policy is to be implemented taking into account the specific context in which the UNSMS operates. Depending on the specific local context and the discretion of the DOs, the UNSMS collaboration with the NGOs may include other NGOs which are implementing partners of the United Nations.

### **E. Roles and Responsibilities**

7. DOs, SMT members, ASCs and managers with security responsibilities in organizations in the UNSMS are responsible for implementing this policy and relevant operational guidelines as part of their security management responsibilities.
8. The DO is responsible for promoting the principles of the Framework and implementing measures identified in this policy while adapting the Framework's elements to the specific local context and available resources.
9. Security Advisers shall support the DOs and SMT members and provide technical advice in implementing this policy.
10. Executive Heads of UNSMS organizations are responsible for informing their respective personnel of this policy.

### **F. Requirement for Review and Reporting**

11. The DO and the SMT, supported by security professionals, should regularly assess the capacity of the local UNSMS to support the implementation of this policy.
12. If any actors within the UNSMS, in-country or in a mission area, require clarification on their responsibilities regarding this policy or require additional technical or operational support they are to inform their respective headquarters in a timely manner.

<sup>2</sup> For designated security areas within a country or mission, these provisions also apply to ASCs and Area Security Management Teams.

<sup>3</sup> Saving Lives Together "A Framework for Improving Security Arrangements among IGOs, NGOs and the UN in the Field", Rev. 2015.

## **G. Training and Compliance**

13. This policy constitutes part of the mandatory training for DOs, SMT members, security professionals and managers in the UNSMS organizations who have security management responsibilities in line with the Framework of Accountability for the UNSMS.

14. All actors within the UNSMS should be made familiar with and are requested to abide by this policy.

## **H. Final Provisions**

15. This policy is to be distributed to all United Nations personnel.

16. This policy enters into force on 14 April 2014.

# SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

“A Framework for improving Security Arrangements among International Non-Governmental Organizations/International Organizations and the United Nations”

October 2015

## Objectives and Principles

Saving Lives Together, or SLT, is a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing security collaboration between the United Nations, International Non-Governmental Organizations and International Organizations (“SLT partner organizations”). It recognizes the collectively experienced security threats and the importance of collaboration to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian and development assistance.

The objective of SLT is to enhance the ability of partner organizations to make informed decisions and implement effective security arrangements to improve the safety and security of personnel and operations.

To this end, SLT partner organizations commit to:

- Establish security coordination arrangements and forums;
- Share relevant security information;
- Cooperate on security training;
- Cooperate on operational and logistics arrangements, where feasible;
- Identify resource requirements for enhancing security coordination between the UN, INGOs and IOs, and advocate for funding; and
- Consult on common ground rules for humanitarian action.

It is recognized that SLT partner organizations perceive risks and assess vulnerabilities differently, accept different levels of risks, and implement security arrangements which they consider suitable for their organization and operational conditions.

In this context, SLT partner organizations accept that they remain fully accountable for the safety and security of their personnel in accordance with their ‘duty of care’ obligations as employing organizations. Accordingly, organizations that wish to cooperate under the SLT Framework are required to maintain internal security risk management procedures, contingency planning and adequate and reliable arrangements to respond to security emergencies. Implementation of SLT in the field will be achieved through the establishment of collaboration mechanisms at two levels: Regular and Enhanced. The arrangements associated with the two levels are designed to differentiate between “low/medium” and “high/very high” risk areas and the related security and operational conditions.

The SLT arrangements in the field will be supported by UN, INGO and IO headquarters security managers and through the SLT Oversight Committee. A feedback mechanism will be maintained for the resolution of coordination issues which may arise in the field.

Although Saving Lives Together is a voluntary engagement by the SLT partner organizations, the success and effectiveness of the initiative is dependent on the commitment of all participating organizations to work collectively towards the mutual goal of improving the security of personnel, operations and assets. Accordingly, organizations that wish to become SLT partner organizations must commit to the adoption of the principles, objectives and arrangements comprised in this framework.

## Headquarters Support for SLT

UNDSS and OCHA will work with the headquarters of SLT partner organizations to achieve the following:

- Timely sharing of security incident reports and alerts;

## SLT Cooperation in the Field – Regular Level

- Timely responses to queries on SLT related issues;
- Supporting the resolution of security coordination problems which may arise in the field;
- Supporting the coordination of security incident response measures in the field;
- Sharing of contact information between security managers of SLT partner organizations;
- Collecting, compiling and cross-checking information for regular security reports and coordinate mutual assistance in maintaining relevant security incident databases;
- Making training events available to security managers of SLT partner organizations, when feasible;
- Organising workshops and conferences to enhance mutual knowledge and understanding of UN, INGO, and IO security collaboration;
- Exploring further areas of security cooperation between the UN, INGOs and IOs; seeking innovation and efficiencies in areas of security management.

To support the effective implementation of this framework with the required leadership and guidance, and to ensure monitoring and reporting, an SLT Oversight Committee has been established to:

- Provide strategic guidance for the implementation of the SLT Framework;
- Monitor the implementation of the SLT Framework;
- Review and approve INGO HQs’ requests for admission to SLT partnership;
- Maintain a feedback mechanism for the resolution of coordination issues in the field;
- Identify and disseminate good practice to enhance security cooperation between the UNSMS, INGOs, and IOs;
- Report on the implementation of SLT to the IASC on an annual basis; UNDSS, on behalf of the SLT OC, will compile regular reports to reflect the status of SLT implementation globally, record new developments and initiatives, and publicise good practices;
- Monitor the application of the SLT Levels to ensure their coherence.

The SLT OC is co-chaired by UNDSS and a representative of an INGO SLT partner organization. UNDSS and OCHA will function as a Secretariat for the SLT OC.

## SLT Partner Organizations

The SLT partnership comprises the following categories of organizations:

- United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) Organizations;
  - International Non-Governmental (INGOs)/ International Organizations (IOs) that are implementing or operational partners of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes;
- INGOs and IOs may request global SLT partnership status, which will be formalized through an exchange of letters of understanding (LOUs) between the headquarters of INGOs/IOs and UNDSS, upon review and agreement of the SLT OC. SLT partnership is conditional to committing to implement the principles, objectives and arrangements comprised in this framework.

The essential goal at the Regular Level of SLT implementation is to create dialogue and information sharing arrangements to ensure that

all SLT partner organizations have adequate access to relevant security information.

#### **Coordination Arrangements**

- INGOs and IOs will nominate representatives to interface and engage with the UNSMS. Where feasible, INGOs and IOs will establish a security coordination platform or use a coordination entity to interface with the UNSMS through UNDSS;
- INGOs and IOs may opt to grant observer status to nominated UNSMS representatives to attend relevant portions of the INGO and IO security forum meetings;
- UNSMS may opt to grant observer status to INGO and IO representatives to attend the relevant portions of the United Nations' Security Cell and/or Security Management Team meetings.
- UNDSS will function as the focal point for SLT security cooperation on behalf of the UNSMS, in close cooperation with UN Agencies and OCHA;

#### **Information Sharing**

- Obtaining relevant, timely and accurate security information is a critical element of informed decision making, and it is therefore incumbent on all SLT partner organizations to commit to sharing relevant security information with each other.
- Security information shared under the SLT framework is for the sole purpose of enhancing the security of personnel, operations and assets, and must not be used for any other purposes. Participating organizations commit to ensuring confidentiality of shared information and the appropriate use of the information within their organization. Information received cannot be further distributed to third parties without the prior consent of the originating organization. All assessments and decisions made on the basis of shared security information remain the responsibility of the individual organizations making those assessments and decisions.

- It is recognised that SLT partner organizations may have limitations on what information they can share due to internal confidentiality requirements, restrictions applicable to information originating from third parties, obligations to protect the privacy of their personnel, and preserving the credibility and integrity of their organization. However, SLT partner organizations should make every effort to disclose relevant security information, especially when such information may be critical to mitigate an imminent risk of injury or death.
- Security information sharing comprises the following: incident reports; situation reports; security alerts; security procedures, risk mitigation and contingency measures, as well as lessons learnt related to security incidents.

#### **Operational and Logistics Arrangements**

- SLT partner organizations will share logistics to enhance security arrangements and respond to security incidents where feasible, e.g. UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS);
- SLT partner organizations should seek to implement, where feasible, interoperable communications systems, advocate for the provision of frequencies, and assist each other in support and maintenance arrangements.

#### **Security Training**

- Recognising that UN, INGO and IO personnel operate in the same environment and that their security is often interlinked, it is advisable that security training is harmonised. Accordingly, SLT partner organizations will collaborate and consult on the development and delivery of security training, and offer participation or observer status at security training exercises, where feasible.
- In areas where the UNSMS establishes a Safe and Security Approaches to Field Environments (SSAFE) training, it will offer participation for INGO and IO personnel, if feasible.

## **SLT Implementation in the Field – Enhanced Level**

When security conditions become more complex and challenging, information sharing and security coordination arrangements between SLT partner organizations should be enhanced concurrently. Accordingly, the goal of the Enhanced Level of cooperation is to achieve stronger and more effective information sharing, security coordination, and operational arrangements.

In areas with challenging security conditions, the elements of the Enhanced level SLT cooperation below should be considered and applied in addition to the Regular Level SLT components listed above.

### **Coordination Arrangements**

Effective coordination mechanisms established and formalised:

- INGOs and IOs will establish a fully functioning security coordination platform to interface with the UNSMS;
- UNDSS will nominate a security focal point for SLT, providing a strong link with the INGO security coordination platform;

When required to provide additional capacity for security coordination with INGOs and IOs, and depending on capacity and availability of funding, UNDSS may establish a security support team.

### **Information Sharing**

SLT partner organizations will:

- support the systematic sharing of security incident reports;
- establish regular security coordination meetings and briefings;
- share operational planning information, where relevant, in the interest of mutual security.
- UNDSS and the INGO security coordination platform will:
- cooperate closely and enhance information sharing to enhance situational awareness for all SLT partner organizations;
- cooperate on security analysis, risk assessments, and operational planning, where feasible.

UNSMS Security Information and Operations Centres (SIOC), where established, will function as a central node for coordination and information sharing between SLT partner organizations.

### **Operational and Logistics Arrangements**

SLT partner organizations will:

- Collaborate on security arrangements for jointly conducted operations, where applicable;
- Identify security requirements to be included in Consolidated Appeals (CAP), Strategic Response Plans (SRP), or other joint funding appeals;
- Consult on security coordination with host country authorities and other local actors with a view to achieving a coordinated and/or common approach where appropriate;
- Consult on contracted security services, e.g. security escorts, with a view to achieving a coordinated and/or common approach, where appropriate.

## CHAPTER III

### Applicability of the UNSMS

#### Section A

#### APPLICABILITY OF THE UNSMS



Promulgation Date: 8 April 2011

## **A. Introduction**

1. Policies, procedures, standards and other arrangements of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) are applicable to the following categories of individuals:

### *United Nations Personnel*

- (a) All United Nations system staff members, including temporary staff, in posts subject to international or local recruitment (except those who are both locally-recruited and paid by the hour);
- (b) United Nations Volunteers (UNVs);
- (c) Individually deployed military and police personnel in Department of Peacekeeping Operations- or the Department of Political Affairs-led missions,<sup>1</sup> including but not limited to:
  - (i) United Nations police officers, military observers, military liaison officers, military advisers and staff officers;
  - (ii) Military members of national contingents or members of formed police units when not deployed with their contingent or unit.
- (d) Consultants, individual contractors and experts on mission when actually employed by an organization of the United Nations system; and
- (e) Officials other than United Nations Secretariat staff members and similar non-staff officials of other organizations of the United Nations system with a direct contractual agreement with a United Nations system organization.

### *Other Individuals Covered*

- (a) Eligible family members (as determined by the staff rules and regulations of the organizations comprising the United Nations system).
- (b) Eligible family members (who are authorized to be at the duty station) of United Nations Volunteers.
- (c) United Nations fellows, either non-resident fellows studying in the country or nationals who are on leave from their country of study.

<sup>1</sup> It does not cover military members of national contingents or members of formed police units when deployed with their contingent or unit nor does it cover any spouses or other family members of the military and police personnel listed in subparagraphs (a) and (b).

- (d) Personnel and their eligible family members of intergovernmental organizations that have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with an organization of the United Nations system to cooperate on security matters.



## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management

## Section A

### SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT



Promulgation Date: 18 April 2016  
Technical Review: 10 October 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The Security Risk Management (SRM) process was launched by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) in 2004 as a system-wide managerial tool to analyse and manage safety and security risks to United Nations personnel, assets and operations. It was last updated in 2009 with additional guidelines, training tools and templates.
2. In July 2010, the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) formed a working group for broader enhancements of the SRM process. Reviews of the SRM process and the resulting recommendations and decisions indicated that the following areas could be further enhanced:
  - (a) The reliability and validity of the assessment of security risks;
  - (b) The context-specific SRM strategies;
  - (c) Dynamic, responsive and flexible application of the SRM process, to changes in the situation and programming;
  - (d) Structured decisions on risk management measures and acceptance of risks; and
  - (e) Management and oversight of the implementation of approved SRM measures.
3. As a result, a revised SRM process has been developed and tested across the spectrum of security environments. It supports valid, context specific, and timely Security Risk Assessments and risk management decisions to ensure that programmes are delivered within an acceptable level of security risk. The revised process supports security professionals and security decision-makers to effectively manage security risks.

## **B. Purpose**

4. The purpose of this policy is to provide United Nations security decision makers, programme managers and security professionals with the concept, principles and applicability of the SRM process as defined by the UNSMS.
5. This policy must be read in conjunction with the UNSMS Security Risk Management Manual (“SRM Manual”) which provides details of the theory, practices and procedures of the SRM process. The SRM Manual contains directions on how to carry out the SRM process and how to apply the SRM tools.

### C. Scope and Applicability

6. This policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III, Section A of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”). All references to the United Nations herein refer to the United Nations and United Nations system organizations participating in the UNSMS.

### D. Policy principles

7. The primary responsibility for the safety and security of the United Nations rests with the host Government.<sup>1</sup> In addition, all actors in the UNSMS have security management responsibilities and accountability in line with the Framework of Accountability for the UNSMS (“Framework of Accountability”).<sup>2</sup>
8. In cooperation and collaboration with relevant host Government entities, United Nations managers take security management decisions based on technical advice provided by United Nations security professionals.
9. The goal of the UNSMS SRM is to enable programmes and operations of United Nations personnel, premises and assets.
10. Security Risk Management is essential to achieving the United Nations goals by decreasing the effect of threats. Security Risk Management offers a structured approach to identifying and assessing the threats to the United Nations, enabling identification of SRM measures to reduce the level of assessed risk and enhancing the decision-making process in line with the Framework of Accountability, UNSMS policies and guidelines. It allows managers to maximize programme opportunities and to allocate security-related resources in ways that enable programme delivery within acceptable levels of risk.<sup>3</sup> It is vital for achieving the planned and envisioned programme results for the UNSMS organizations, especially in complex and dangerous environments.
11. Security decisions must be in line with existing UNSMS policies and guidelines.
12. The UNSMS only has the remit for three areas of safety: road safety, fire safety and aviation safety. Thus, there are many other areas of safety not covered by the UNSMS

<sup>1</sup> For more details, refer to UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section D (“Relations with Host Countries on Security Issues”).

<sup>2</sup> For more details, refer to UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A (“Framework of Accountability”), which outlines the roles and accountability of all actors with security management responsibilities in the United Nations Security Management System.

<sup>3</sup> For more details, refer to the Programme Criticality Framework which has been endorsed by the HLCM in March 2013 and by the CEB in October 2013.

(and, therefore, the SRM process), including medical issues, occupational health and safety, and structural engineering.

## E. Security Risk Management concept

13. Any United Nations objective, from global strategic goals to local programme plans, may fail because of various obstacles. In the security context, obstacles are called threats. All managers must identify threats and evaluate how these threats may affect their objectives. In many of the places where we work, the effect of threats, if not managed, can be fatal to personnel and can result in cessation of programmes.
14. Security Risk Management is the process of identifying future harmful events (“threats”) that may affect the achievement of United Nations objectives. It involves assessing the likelihood and impact of these threats to determine the assessed level of risk to the United Nations and identifying an appropriate response. Security Risk Management involves four key strategies: controlling, avoiding, transferring and accepting security risk. Security risks are controlled through prevention (lowering the likelihood) and mitigation (lowering the impact).
15. Risk is the combination of the likelihood of a threat being carried out and the subsequent impact to the United Nations. Security measures can either be used to prevent vulnerability from being exploited or mitigate the impact of exploitation, or both.<sup>4</sup> One way to think of risk management is that it is the systematic determination and implementation of timely and effective approaches for managing the effects of threats to the Organization. SRM is merely the management of security-related risks.
16. In the SRM process, likelihood and impact are assessed on a 1-5 scale and combined in a risk matrix as follows:

Risk Matrix		Impact				
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Critical
L I K E L Y H O O D	Very Likely	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Unacceptable
	Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	Moderately Likely	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Figure 1: Risk Matrix

<sup>4</sup> When discussing the management of risks, the UNSMS has adopted the terms “prevention” and “mitigation”; taking measures to reduce likelihood is called “prevention” while taking measures to reduce impact is called “mitigation”.

## F. The Security Risk Management process structured approach

17. The SRM process is a structured approach to evaluating security risks to ensure that a comprehensive threat and risk analysis leads to effective security decision-making and to the implementation of SRM measures. The SRM process endeavours to be:
- (a) Objective, fact-based, logical and systematic;
  - (b) Globally applicable in a consistent, de-politicized manner;
  - (c) Reliable (achieve similar results when different people use it);
  - (d) Valid (accurately represent the security environment on the ground); and
  - (e) User-friendly without being over-simplistic.

The SRM process is an ongoing process with nine steps:

- Step 1: Setting the Geographical Scope and Timeframe;
- Step 2: Situational Analysis;
- Step 3: Programme Assessment;
- Step 4: Threat Assessment (General and Specific);
- Step 5: Security Risk Assessment;
- Step 6: Security Risk Management Decisions;
- Step 7: Security Risk Management Implementation;
- Step 8: Acceptable Risk; and
- Step 9: Follow up and Review.

18. Each step of the risk management process and how each step interacts with other steps is explained below in figure 2 below.

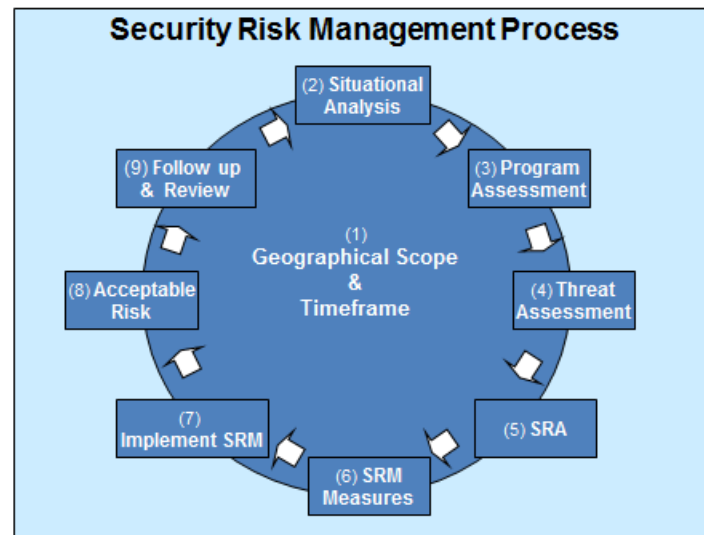


Figure 2: Security Risk Management Process Structured Approach

## **G. Roles and Responsibilities in the SRM Process**

19. The *Framework of Accountability* identifies the following roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the SRM process:
  - (a) Security professionals are responsible for initiating, conducting and monitoring all phases of the SRM process.
  - (b) Security decision makers are responsible for decisions made throughout the SRM process, including those associated with SRM measures and acceptable risk.
  - (c) The Designated Official (DO) is the only decision maker who can approve SRM measures for an SRM Area. Where an Area Security Coordinator (ASC) is appointed, he or she will present the SRM recommendations for the Security Area to the DO for approval.
  - (d) The SMT members advise and support the DO in the decision making process. The approval process for each SRM Area MOSS will be as follows:
    - i. The SRM measures will be presented to the DO and SMT for consideration as part of the Area SRM process.
    - ii. SMT members will be given a minimum of four weeks to consider the measures during which time they should seek endorsement, support and advice from their HQs, as required.
    - iii. Considering the advice of the SMT members, the Area SRM will be approved or not by the DO at a formal SMT meeting. The SRM measures approved in the Area SRM will become the MOSS for that area. This will be a part of the SMT minutes.
  - (e) Once the area MOSS approved by the DO, the responsibility for implementing rests with all UN Personnel as members of the UNSMS and UNSMS Organizations with a presence in that area. Specific management responsibilities for implementation are to be identified prior to the approval of the measures is mandatory for all.
  - (f) UNDSS supports the monitoring of the SRM implementation in consultation with the Chief Security Adviser and/or security professionals who advise the Designated Official and the SMT.
  - (g) Any security decision maker can accept recommendations that follow an ad hoc SRM process, unless these recommendations would be less effective in reducing the risk than the requirement already approved by the DO. Less effective ad hoc SRM recommendations would require DO approval.
20. Accountability for the conduct and quality of Programme Criticality Assessments lies with the Resident Coordinator or the Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of Mission, as applicable. The DO uses the results of the Programme Criticality Assessment

and takes decisions on acceptable risk at the country level.<sup>5</sup> In situations of a very high residual risk, the final decision on acceptable risk lies with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

21. The review of the SRM process, including recommended SRM measures and monitoring of the implementation of approved measures when necessary, must be a standing agenda item for all Security Management Team meetings.

## H. Definitions

22. For the purpose of this policy, the definitions of key terms are as follows:

<b>Security Risk Management</b>	The systematic determination and implementation of timely and effective approaches for managing the effects of threats to the United Nations.
<b>Threat</b>	A potential cause of harm initiated by deliberate actions.
<b>Hazard</b>	A potential cause of harm resulting from non-deliberate actions.
<b>Risk</b>	The likelihood of a harmful event occurring and the impact of the event if it were to occur. (Risk = Likelihood x Impact)

### Conditions of Risks within the SRM Process:

• <b>Present Risk</b>	The security risk based on the threats, and the security measures and procedures currently in place.
• <b>Projected Risk</b>	The expected security risk if recommended security measures and procedures were to be in place.
• <b>Residual Risk</b>	The security risk remaining after approved security measures and procedures have been implemented.
• <b>Risk Rating</b>	A rating of the risk based on an assessment of the likelihood and impact from very low to unacceptable.
<b>Likelihood</b>	A rating of the assessed potential for a harmful event to effect the Organization.

<sup>5</sup> Decision of the Secretary-General, 12 January 2016, Meeting of the Policy Committee.

<b>Impact</b>	A rating of the assessed potential harm that an event would have (if it were to occur) on the Organization.
<b>Vulnerability</b>	A weakness that can allow a threat or hazard to cause harm.
<b>Vulnerable</b>	Inadequate SRM measures and procedures meant to address a threat.
<b>Capability</b>	The capacity or ability of threat actors to cause the threat event as described.
<b>Intent</b>	The motivation or disposition of a threat actor to cause the threat event as described.
<b>Event Description</b>	Clear description of a harmful event that the SRM process will examine (must include the effect on the Organization).
<b>SRM Area</b>	Geographic scope defined for the application of the SRM process.
<b>MOSS</b>	Once approved by the DO, the output of the Area SRM process is the MOSS and as such is area and, in some cases, agency specific.
<b>Programme Assessment</b>	A process by which the security professional formally comprehends the programme requirements of the UNSMS organizations.

## **I. Training Requirement**

23. All United Nations officials who have specific security responsibilities within the Framework of Accountability shall be cognizant of the SRM concept and process. Training on SRM shall be mandatory.
24. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) shall develop a training specifically tailored for DOs, Security Management Team members, security professionals and managers of United Nations system organizations, and coordinate the delivery of such training courses.

## **J. Final Provisions**

25. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
26. This policy enters into force on 18 April 2016 with revisions made October 2017.



27. The UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section A: “Policy and Conceptual Overview of Security Risk Management” (April 2009); Chapter IV, Section B: “Security Level System”; Chapter IV, Section C: “Guidelines for Determining Acceptable Risk”, and Chapter IV, Section N: “Policy for United Nations Minimum Operating Security Standards” (MOSS) are hereby abolished and replaced by the provisions of this policy.

## CHAPTER IV

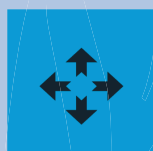
# Security Management



UNSMS  
CONTACT LIST



WARDEN  
SYSTEM



EVACUATION  
AND RELOCATION  
PLANS



MEDICAL  
PLANS



SPECIFIC  
RESPONSE  
PLANS



EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS

## Section B

# SECURITY PLANNING

Promulgation Date: 28 September 2018

## **A. Introduction**

1. Security planning is a core security function contributing to the safety and security of United Nations Personnel, premises and assets. Security planning proactively lays out a set of predetermined and rehearsed responses to various crisis that could impact the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) in a security area.

## **B. Purpose**

2. The purpose of this policy is to identify the requirements and obligations related to security planning. This new policy is meant to provide updated guidance on security planning in line with other policies contained in the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM).
3. The “Guidelines on Security Planning” provide additional details on the preparation, format and maintenance of the security plans.

## **C. Scope and Applicability**

4. This policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III of the SPM (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”).
5. All references to the United Nations herein refer to United Nations System organizations and other entities participating in the UNSMS.

## **D. The United Nations Security Management System in the Field**

6. The roles and responsibilities of security decision-makers and security professionals within the UNSMS are identified in the Framework for Accountability<sup>1</sup>.
7. The Designated Official for Security (DO) must establish a Security Management System in his/her designated area of responsibility. Depending on the size of the Designated Area, if there are sub-offices, programmes or operations outside of the capital, the DO may need to establish an Area Security Management System.
8. The DO is required to nominate at least three persons that could serve as DO a.i. upon approval and appointment by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security (UNDSS). Such nominees shall be heads of Agencies, Funds, Programmes, or organisations at the Designated Area, members of the Security Management Team (SMT), and accredited to the host Government. In Designated Areas with Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) or Special Political Missions, DO a.i.’s may include the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and, whenever the DO is a Force

<sup>1</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A : “Framework for accountability”

Commander (FC), the Deputy FC. All nominated DOs a.i. shall obtain clearance from their respective parent organisations before accepting the DO's nomination.

9. The DO shall ensure that one of the appointed DOs a.i. remains in the Designated Area whenever he or she is away from the Designated Area. This will ensure continuity in leadership and decision-making of the UNSMS of respective Designated Areas. A DO a.i. may assume leadership and decision-making authority for the UNSMS in a Designated Area if the DO is incapacitated or otherwise unable to be reached during a crisis, whereby time-sensitive security management decisions have to be taken<sup>2</sup>.
10. USG UNDSS shall review, approve and appoint DO a.i. nominees in writing. The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>3</sup> shall be responsible for maintaining an updated list of DOs a.i. in the Designated Area, in coordination with the relevant UNDSS Division of Regional Operations Desk Officer at UNDSS-HQ.
11. In Designated Areas containing Security Areas, the DO shall also appoint, in writing, Areas Security Coordinators (ASCs) to manage the UNSMS in their respective Security Areas and Area Security Coordinators ad interim to manage the UNSMS in the absence of the ASC. As part security planning, the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO shall be responsible for maintaining an updated list of ASCs for each Security Area.
12. All appointed DOs a.i., ASCs, and ASCs a.i. must complete all mandatory security training courses for UN personnel and applicable specific training for security decision-makers

## **E. Security Plan**

### ***Purpose***

13. The Security Risk Management Process (SRM)<sup>4</sup> is the primary tool for security decision-makers to identify threats to the United Nations and enable SRM measures to reduce the level of assessed risks. The Security Plan is a management tool aimed at ensuring security preparedness. While it is recognized that the Host Government is responsible for the security of United Nations premises, the DO must ensure that there are security plans in place to deal with crisis situations.

<sup>2</sup> The provisions contained in this paragraph also apply to Area Security Coordinators and Area Security Coordinators a.i.

<sup>3</sup> This is usually the Principle Security Adviser (PSA), Chief Security Adviser (CSA) or other Security Adviser (SA), including their officer in-charge *ad interim*. This function may be performed by a Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP), a Single-Agency Security Adviser or Local Security Assistant (if necessary) in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present.

<sup>4</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section A: "Policy on Security Risk Management".

14. The purpose of the Security Plan is to outline the responsibilities of individuals, actions to be carried out and the sequence to be followed in situations which may impact United Nations personnel and operations.

### ***Approval***

15. The DO, in consultation with the SMT, is responsible for approving all Security Plans.

### ***Guiding Principles***

16. It is the primary responsibility of the most senior UNDSS security professional directly supporting the DO or the ASC, with the assistance of other key personnel, to prepare and maintain Security Plans.
17. Security Plans must be area specific and follow specific scenario identified through the SRM process.
18. The provisions and arrangements of security plans must be realistic, tested and reviewed. They must be coordinated with all relevant United Nations plans and communicated with all relevant United Nations actors. This includes reception areas in case of relocation or evacuation, as well as police, military and logistics in peace operations.
19. Security plans are essential elements of the cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations and the host Government<sup>5</sup>. The DO and the most senior security professional must make every effort to ensure that host government authorities are engaged appropriately to mobilize and coordinate support.
20. The DO will endeavour to inform organizations that do not belong to the UNSMS and diplomatic missions of foreign countries of the security plan arrangements. Specific arrangements may be put in place with diplomatic missions who are willing to assist in the execution of the UNSMS Security Plans.
21. All Security Plans should be developed and reviewed taking into consideration gender sensitive approaches and responses<sup>6</sup>.
22. The most senior security professional advising the DO will consult with UNDSS Division of Regional Operations during the development of the Security Plan. The desks will make a technical review of the plans and ensure that they are sound and consistent with the applicable policy, within the agreed timeframe. However, the plans remain approved locally by the DO.

### **F. Assistance to other persons**

23. When possible and to the extent feasible, the UNSMS in the Designated Area may lend assistance in a crisis situation for in extremis support to persons not covered by Chapter III of the Security Policy Manual. Any travel or financial assistance provided to such

<sup>5</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section D: “Relations with Host Countries”

<sup>6</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter VI, Section L : “Gender Considerations in Security Management”

persons will be on a space-available and reimbursable basis. This includes assistance to NGOs covered under the Saving Lives Together Framework of cooperation with the United Nations<sup>7</sup>. The DO is responsible for authorizing the details of this assistance.

## **G. Crisis Telecommunications**

24. Crisis telecommunications must be an integral part of the security plan. The overriding criteria for crisis telecommunications in any operation is that all personnel have the ability, 24 hours a day, to contact help should the need arise. Therefore, the security plans must make provisions for redundancy and continuity in telecommunications; the type and importance of these provisions are guided by the conclusions of the SRM in regards to security telecommunications. In addition, due to the variety of communication types, coordination between organizations is essential to ensure that inter-operability of communications is achieved and maintained, particularly prior to crisis.
25. It is recognized that each operation will have different local resources available and therefore additional resource requirements will vary.
26. The specific recommendations related to crisis telecommunications will be substantiated in the SRM process and approved as Security Risk Management measures for the security area<sup>8</sup>. Once approved, the provisions for crisis telecommunications measures will be included in the Local Cost-Shared Security Budget<sup>9</sup>.
27. Representatives of organizations in the Designated Area are responsible for the communications within their organization and to their headquarters. Each organization is responsible for providing the necessary communications equipment and procedural advice to its personnel to conform to the crisis communications requirements as determined by the Designated Official through the SRM process.

## **H. Assistance to Locally-Recruited Personnel**

28. Security Plans must include provisions for locally-recruited personnel and their eligible family members.
29. Locally recruited personnel must play an active role in the preparation of the section of the security plans which affects them.
30. Each UNSMS organizations must ensure that locally recruited personnel are regularly briefed on the assistance the UNSMS will provide to them and their eligible dependants in times of crisis.

## **I. Training Requirement**

<sup>7</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section F: "Saving Lives Together"

<sup>8</sup> The senior security professional may need to consult with local representatives of the Emergency Telecom Cluster and, or with UNSMS organizations telecoms specialists prior to the determination of SRM measures.

<sup>9</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter VI, Section B: "Locally Cost-Shared Security Budget"

31. The provisions of this policy must be included in all relevant security training.

**J. Final Provisions**

32. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.

33. This policy enters into force on 1 January 2019.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section C

### SECURITY OF LOCALLY- RECRUITED PERSONNEL

Promulgation Date: 28 September 2018



## **A. Introduction**

1. All security policies apply to all personnel covered by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS), without distinction of their type of recruitment. However, these policies, in particular with regard to relocation and evacuation, may contain specific provisions for locally recruited personnel<sup>1</sup>.
2. Locally recruited personnel make up the majority of United Nations personnel serving in the field and suffer from situations of insecurity and violence. In its resolution 72/131, dated 15 January 2018, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to review the relevant United Nations safety and security guidance to further enhance the safety and security of locally recruited personnel.
3. Recognizing the crucial role of locally recruited personnel in the delivery of United Nations operations and programmes, the UNSMS is committed to their safety and security. This policy is meant to summarize the principles and approaches guiding the safety and security of locally recruited personnel in all its aspects. Like all security policies, the implementation of this policy will need to be adapted to the local contexts.
4. In addition, there is a number of medical, human resources or administrative issues related to locally recruited personnel that are broader than security and require a coordinated United Nations approach and considerations. These issues are addressed by the High-Level Committee on Management in the context of its work on Duty of Care<sup>2</sup>.

## **B. Purpose**

5. The present policy aims to provide comprehensive direction on all aspects of the security management of locally recruited personnel.

## **C. Applicability**

6. This policy is applicable to all personnel in the UNSMS in accordance with Security Policy Manual, Chapter III, “Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this policy, locally recruited personnel are United Nations personnel who are in posts subject to local recruitment, irrespective of their nationalities or the length of time they may have been in the country (see for example, paragraph 4.4 of the *Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations*).

<sup>2</sup> CEB/2018/HLCM 5: “Cross-functional Task Force on Duty of Care for personnel in high risk environment report, April 2018”; CEB/2018/3: “HLCM 35<sup>th</sup> Session report”.

## D. Guiding principles

7. The security of locally recruited personnel is primarily managed through the Security Risk Management (SRM) process. The SRM is the key process to identify specific threats to locally recruited personnel and to recommend appropriate SRM measures. In that regard, it is important to recognize that locally recruited personnel may be operating in areas where their ethnicity or origins require specific attention, while undertaking cross-line operations. In addition, tasks cannot be randomly reassigned from one category of personnel to another without a justification of acceptable risk through the SRM process. If programme managers envisage assigning a task or activity to locally recruited personnel because the risk to internally recruited personnel is unacceptable, the SRM process must demonstrate that the risk to the locally recruited personnel assigned the task is within acceptable levels.
8. Similar to international personnel, locally recruited personnel's sex characteristics, gender identity, sexual orientation and sexual expression may also result in context specific threats. These nuances should be captured in the SRM process or ad-hoc SRMs to recommend adapted SRM measures.
9. While security policies apply to all UNSMS personnel without distinction, there are a number of measures identified in these policies which particularly support the security of locally recruited personnel and their eligible family members. This includes:
  - a) **Liaison** with authorities through heads of organizations or Designated Officials<sup>3</sup> to understand the status of locally recruited United Nations staff and non-staff personnel under international law.
  - b) **Support** to personnel in cases of **arrest and detention**<sup>4</sup>.
  - c) **Security Planning**  
Security plans<sup>5</sup> must include provisions for locally recruited personnel and their eligible family members, and they must play an active role in the preparation of the section of the security plans which affect them. As an example, representatives of locally recruited personnel should be invited to meetings of the security cell when the security plan is prepared or discussed.

<sup>3</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section D: "Relations with Host Countries on security issues".

<sup>4</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section N: "Arrests and detention".

<sup>5</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section B: "Security Planning".

- d) **Security crisis**
    - (i) In times of crises, locally recruited personnel may be particularly exposed. One SRM option is to avoid risk by temporarily removing them from a situation of unacceptable residual risk through the use of alternate work modalities, relocation or evacuation (or their combination). Specific provisions<sup>6</sup> apply to locally recruited personnel in these situations.
    - (ii) The Designated Officials should also consider stress counselling as an efficient SRM measure for locally recruited personnel.
  - e) **Gender considerations**<sup>7</sup>: Responses to gender-based threats against locally recruited personnel require additional consideration, which will be reflected in the SRM process, in the security plans and in the Aide-Memoire on gender-based security incidents. These should consider the contextual threats posed to locally recruited personnel of different sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.
  - f) **Training**: while locally recruited personnel maybe more familiar with the security of the locations where they are employed, they must undertake all mandatory security training, including security briefings upon recruitment. The security briefings are important to allow them to understand, the risks to the United Nations and their impact on them as employees of the UN; the assistance that the UNSMS provides as well as the requirements incumbent on all UN personnel.
10. The Designated Official, together with UNSMS organizations, must communicate to locally recruited personnel on the assistance the UNSMS can provide to them and their eligible family members, and, in times of crisis.
11. In addition, the reporting of incidents affecting locally recruited personnel is essential to contribute to threat analysis and to inform effective SRM measures. In accordance with the “Framework for Accountability”, all personnel employed by the organization are required to “report all security incidents in a timely manner”<sup>8</sup>. During security briefings, security professionals will appraise all personnel who they should report security issues to, the format of the reporting requirement, the use of the information provided, advise them on what action will be taken and how they can receive feedback and/or support/assistance on their report.

<sup>6</sup> Security Policy Manual, Chapter IV, Section D: “Measures to Avoid Risks”.

<sup>7</sup> UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section L ‘Gender Considerations in Security Management’

<sup>8</sup> An exception is made to this requirement with regard to gender-based security incidents, where incidents are only to be reported with the explicit consent of the individual affected, in accordance with UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section L ‘Gender Considerations in Security Management’

## **E. Security of locally recruited personnel outside of work**

12. Locally recruited personnel may be subjected to specific threats due to their employment with United Nations organizations outside of their working environment, including at their residences or on their way to or from the office. In these cases, the threats are managed through the SRM process. Outside of these specific situations, the UNSMS is also encouraged to provide advisory services and general information on personal and residential security to locally recruited personnel (see Annex: Considerations on Residential Security Risks for United Nations Locally Recruited Personnel. These services are for the considerations of locally recruited personnel, to allow them to determine for themselves the most appropriate way to enhance their personal security against local threats, in particular criminality. These services do not create financial obligations for the organizations<sup>9</sup>.

## **I. Training and Implementation**

13. This policy is to be part of the training for Designated Officials, Security Management Team members, and UNSMS security professionals and managers who have responsibility and accountability for managing security for their organization.

## **J. Final Provisions**

14. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
15. This policy enters into effect on 1 January 2019 and is subject to review within two years after entering into effect.

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<sup>9</sup> It does not preclude individual UNSMS organisations from establishing additional measures for locally recruited personnel employed by their organisations.

## ANNEX

### **Considerations on Residential Security Risks for United Nations Locally Recruited Personnel**

The following recommendations are for the consideration of the Designated Officials and Security Professionals and should be adapted to local context situations and constraints in order to support, to the extent feasible, locally recruited personnel in the management of their own residential security.

#### **a) Provision of a non-binding advisory service**

Where identified through the Security Risk Management (SRM) process, the security section, in collaboration with the security cell, should provide, where feasible, advice to locally recruited personnel upon request on how to improve residential safety and security. Such service would enhance their awareness of basic security practices and enable locally recruited personnel to determine for themselves the most appropriate way to enhance their residential security against local threats, in particular criminality.

#### **b) General information on residential safety and security**

All duty stations can develop, as required and where required, general information for locally recruited personnel including the following topics:

- Fire safety – detectors, extinguishers, storage of flammable items, family evacuation routes and emergency measures, etc.
- Burglary prevention – exterior considerations, interior considerations, doors, windows and locks, securing valuables, pets, lighting, alarms, shutters, bars/grills, etc. In essence, all personnel should apply to their residences the *Integrated Systems Approach* described in the UNSMS Security Advisers can use the principles outlined in the Policy on Security of United Nations Premises, such as the four Ds (Deter, Detect, Delay and Deny), layers of security, systems approach and access control, to guide locally recruited personnel on how to design a residential security system for themselves.
- General safety – electricity (cords, overloading, etc.), hazardous materials/poison, “childproofing”, household accidents, swimming pools, first aid, emergency response, children home alone, strangers at the door/phone, intruder drills, key control, power loss, storms, snow/ice, dust, mosquitos (malaria, dengue, zika, chikungunya), neighborhood watch, etc.
- UNSMS policy requirements - such as accurate personnel and dependents lists, contact details, security briefings to newly recruited personnel, informing UNDSS on the exact location of the residence (geo-location), etc.
- Actions required – to secure important documents/copies, stockpile basics (food, water, medicine, cash), family contact plans, emergency drills, move around the neighborhood, etc.

- Locally recruited personnel can coordinate with their neighbors to increase collective security, including through “neighborhood watch” approaches.

- Duty station specific residential safety and security issues particular to that location could include potential threats and advisories related to:

- ❖ Burglaries/break-ins
- ❖ Home invasions
- ❖ Gender considerations for households' main earners/breadwinners or living alone
- ❖ House service providers/housekeeping
- ❖ Kidnapping
- ❖ Confidence scams
- ❖ Capacity/capabilities of emergency services
- ❖ Natural disasters
- ❖ Power outages/problems
- ❖ LNG/propane issues
- ❖ Houses versus apartments
- ❖ Communities
- ❖ Warden system
- ❖ Traffic patterns

Information on residential security is generally available online from multiple non-UN open sources, such as through short videos, and articles.

c) In addition, security professionals are encouraged to share material and experience to strengthen security at the residences of locally recruited personnel through the best practice mailbox: [bestpractices.undss@org](mailto:bestpractices.undss@org).

## **CHAPTER IV**

# **Security Management**



## **Section D**

### **MEASURES TO AVOID RISK**

Promulgation Date: 8 April 2011  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The United Nations policy on Security Risk Management (SRM) categorizes decisions on how to manage risk as accept, control, avoid and/or transfer (see *Security Policy Manual (SPM)*, Chapter IV, Section A, “Policy on Security Risk Management”, paragraph 14). As part of a broader security risk management strategy, the Designated Official (DO) may temporarily remove personnel and/or eligible family members from an area or situation of unacceptable risk as a means of managing that risk (i.e., avoiding the risk). This chapter lays out the parameters, as well as the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors, regarding the three basic options for avoiding risk used by the United Nations Security Management System:
  - (a) Alternate Work Modalities (temporary closure of offices, “work-from-home” for personnel, “stay-at-home” instructions for eligible family members, etc.)
  - (b) Relocation
  - (c) Evacuation

## **B. Purpose**

2. The purpose of this policy is to lay out the parameters of measures to avoid risk as part of SRM, including alternate work modalities, relocation and/or evacuation, and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of relevant United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) actors in these decisions.

## **C. Application/Scope**

3. The policy is applicable to all individuals covered by the UNSMS, as defined in Chapter III, Section A of the *Security Policy Manual* (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

4. The SRM process is the fundamental United Nations tool for managing risk. It assesses the level of risk of specific threats to the United Nations. Based on the SRM process, different security measures may be implemented to reduce the level of risk to acceptable levels and enable the United Nations to continue operations.
5. One security risk management option is to avoid risk by temporarily removing persons or assets from a situation of unacceptable residual risk by using alternate work modalities, relocation or evacuation (or their combination). Indeed, until proper measures to control and lower risks are put in place, avoiding risk is the only option when residual risks are deemed unacceptable (see “UNSMS Security Risk Management (SRM) Manual”, page 48-49).
6. Any decision to avoid risk must take into consideration the impact of the removal of personnel and/or eligible family members on United Nations programmes and activities,



including security and/or business continuity plans. Avoiding risk can be a cost-effective way to manage risk, and it is best suited for situations when resource limitations prevent the implementation of proper risk controls or when there has not been enough time to implement proper risk controls (for details on risk control, see “UNSMS Security Risk Management (SRM) Manual”).

#### **E. Alternate Work Modalities**

7. For this policy, “Alternate Work Modalities” are defined as measures that limit or totally remove the number of personnel or family members at a specific location(s), short of official relocation or evacuation, with the view to limit or remove their exposure to a sudden situation that creates unacceptable residual risk.
8. Alternate Work Modalities include, but are not limited to, temporarily limiting or removing the number of personnel at United Nations premises, ordering school-aged family members to stay out of school temporarily or creating “no-go” areas in urban areas where personnel and family members cannot visit at certain times.
9. Alternate Work Modalities are effective security risk management strategies for when there is no time to implement proper risk controls, if such controls are not cost-effective or if there is not enough information to determine what risk controls are needed.
10. Decisions on Alternate Work Modalities that involve temporarily closing offices or work-from-home arrangements must be made in accordance with United Nations Human Resources rules and regulations.

#### **F. Evacuation and Relocation**

11. Relocation is defined as the official movement of any personnel or eligible dependant from their normal place of assignment or place of work to another location within their country of assignment for avoiding unacceptable risk. Relocation is a risk avoidance measure that can be applied to all personnel and eligible family members.
12. Evacuation is defined as the official movement of any personnel or eligible dependant from their place of assignment to a location outside of their country of assignment (safe-haven country, home country or third country) for the purpose of avoiding unacceptable risk. Except in the situations outlined in paragraph 13 below, evacuation is a risk avoidance measure that can be applied only to internationally-recruited personnel and their eligible family members. The evacuation of eligible family members of internationally-recruited personnel is governed by the same eligibility conditions as for the payment of evacuation allowances as per *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter VI, Section A (“Remuneration of United Nations System Staff and Eligible Family members on Relocation/Evacuation Status”).
13. Locally-recruited personnel and/or their eligible family members may be evacuated from a duty station only in the most exceptional cases in which their security is endangered as a direct consequence of their employment by organizations of the United Nations common system. A decision in this regard can only be made by the Secretary-General, as

recommended by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, based on a recommendation by the DO. Personnel and/or their eligible family members not covered by paragraph 12 above may also be assisted to leave the country by the organization, when possible and to the extent feasible and on a reimbursable basis.

14. The generic term “Family Restrictions” will be used to describe situations where the DO has placed restrictions on the presence of any or all eligible family members of United Nations internationally-recruited personnel for a given area. Similarly, the term “Personnel Restrictions” will be used to describe situations where the DO has placed restrictions on the presence of any or all United Nations personnel for a given area.

## **G. Roles and Responsibilities**

15. The DO, in consultation with the Security Management Team (SMT) and based on the advice of the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO,<sup>1</sup> may institute planned or ad hoc Alternate Work Modalities for all or some United Nations personnel and eligible family members to address specific security problems in their area of responsibility in accordance with Section F above. Contingencies for Alternate Work Modalities should be included in the Security Plan and any ongoing Alternate Work Modality (such as “no-go” areas in a city) should be included in the country-specific Minimum Operating Security Standards.
16. Representatives of organizations participating in the United Nations Security Management System can also institute Alternate Work Modalities solely for their personnel in response to agency-specific risks. This derives from their responsibility and authority in the United Nations Framework of Accountability for Security. Representatives wishing to implement such measures should examine any possible negative impact these measures would have on security and/or business continuity plans. They should also consult with other members of the SMT to examine whether these decisions would have any negative impact on the security of other United Nations personnel in the country.
17. The DO, in consultation with the SMT, may recommend the relocation or evacuation of personnel and/or eligible family members when residual risks are deemed unacceptable. This recommendation is submitted through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to the Secretary-General. After assessing the situation, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security makes a recommendation to the Secretary-General for approval of evacuation or relocation.
18. Upon the Secretary-General’s approval of the recommendation, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security distributes an “All Agency Communiqué” to the United Nations System announcing the details and parameters of the relocation and/or evacuation.

<sup>1</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser (CSA) or a Security Adviser (SA), including their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a CSA or SA is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) or Local Security Assistant (if necessary) in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present.

19. If there is an impasse or life-threatening exigencies that impacts the ability of the DO and SMT to make timely risk avoidance decisions, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security can take such decisions, including by consulting, as necessary, the Executive Group on Security to advise and assist in rapid decision-making.
20. In the event of a breakdown of communication, the DO is authorized to use his/her best judgment to implement relocation and/or evacuation and report on such action immediately thereafter to the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.
21. If the DO, in consultation with the SMT, recommends that relocation and/or evacuation are no longer needed in any circumstance or area, it is the Secretary-General, on the advice of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, who decides when and how personnel and eligible family members can return.
22. Decisions to relocate or evacuate personnel and/or family members are clearly decisions to control the number of personnel and family members as explained in paragraph 2(c) of Chapter V, Section A (“Security Clearance Procedures and the Travel Request Information Process (TRIP)”). Therefore, DOs must institute “manual” security clearance procedures<sup>2</sup> for all locations in relocation or evacuation status.

## **H. Process of Relocation and/or Evacuation**

23. Authorized relocation and/or evacuation of personnel and/or family members requires the DO to take the following steps:
  - (a) A decision, in consultation with the SMT, on which personnel and eligible family members must be relocated and/or evacuated. The decision as to who remains is based on the “Acceptable Risk Model” (see the UNSMS Security Risk Management (SRM) Manual) and associated mechanisms for determining Programme Criticality and personnel requirements for priority programmes. Personnel who are unable to carry out their assigned tasks effectively due to the security situation and level of residual risk should also be relocated/evacuated. The DO and SMT may determine who will be relocated or evacuated prior to any official authorization of relocation and/or evacuation, including as part of contingency planning or in anticipation of such authorization;
  - (b) Temporary concentration of all personnel and/or their eligible family members, as decided as per paragraph 23(a) above, in one or more concentration points. The DO and SMT may undertake this step prior to any official authorization of relocation and/or evacuation in anticipation of such authorization;
  - (c) Relocation of all personnel and/or their eligible family members, as decided as per paragraph 23(a) above, to alternative locations within the country (note: the temporary concentration and/or internal relocation of locally-recruited personnel and

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 18 of Chapter V (“Security Clearance Procedures and the Travel Request Information Process (TRIP)”) for details on “manual” and “automatic” security clearance procedures.

eligible family members is contingent on their desire to avail themselves of this option); and/or

- (d) Evacuation outside the country of all internationally-recruited personnel and/or their eligible family members, as decided as per paragraph 23(a) above.

24. Relocation and evacuation movements are official travel, so the Travel Request Information Process (TRIP) must be updated regarding the movements of personnel and eligible family members.

25. Before the evacuation of any personnel or eligible family members, the DO must take all the following actions:

- (a) Notify the host Government and local authorities and request assistance as necessary;
- (b) Notify the DO in the designated country of evacuation, as well as neighbouring countries and any other countries that may be affected, of the evacuation;
- (c) Notify Area Security Coordinators and wardens to instruct all personnel and their eligible family members on actions to be taken;
- (d) Brief Area Security Coordinators and wardens, as necessary, on further steps that may be required;
- (e) Review financial arrangements, including for the payment of salary advances, allowances or other essential payments as necessary;
- (f) Adjust lists of personnel and eligible family members to reflect the evacuation and/or relocation;
- (g) Notify personnel in other parts of the country, unaffected by the evacuation and/or relocation, of these developments through the Area Security Coordinator; and
- (h) Complete a checklist in respect of those who have been evacuated as per Annex A below, "Follow up after Evacuation of United Nations Personnel".

#### **I. Return of Evacuated Personnel and Eligible Family members:**

26. Any personnel evacuated may be authorized to return under two conditions:

- (a) The Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, authorizes the cancellation of the evacuation status on the recommendation of the DO, in consultation with the SMT, in accordance with paragraph 21 above; or
- (b) The staff member is recommended to return to the duty station based on a Programme Criticality assessment, as outlined in paragraph 23(a) above, and is

authorized to do so by the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security).

27. The authorization to evacuate eligible family members means that eligible family members, as described in the evacuation authorization, are not authorized to be present until the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, cancels the evacuation status on the recommendation of the DO, in consultation with the SMT, in accordance with paragraph 21 above. Compliance is mandatory.

**J. Final provisions:**

28. Field Security Handbook (2006), Chapter V, Section E and G and Annexes I and J are hereby abolished.

## **Annex A: Checklist: Follow-up After Evacuation of United Nations Personnel**

NAME OF STAFF MEMBER:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

PROJECT / OFFICE:

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### **1. Personal effects/household goods**

Still remain at duty station?

Packed or unpacked, and whereabouts

Has staff member:

- a) Left packing instructions?
- b) Specified destination and full shipping address?
- c) Specified mode of shipment?
- d) Supplied packing list?
- e) Arranged insurance?
- f) Obtained export permit?
- g) Specified any items for disposal locally?
- h) Indicated preferred prices?
- i) Left instructions for transfer of any income from sales?
- j) Left details of any items still in shipment to the duty station?

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### **2. Private Vehicles**

Still at duty station?

Make, type and plate/chassis number

Whereabouts?

Has staff member:

- a) Specified destination and full shipping address?
- b) Specified mode of shipment?
- c) Arranged insurance?
- d) Obtained export permit?
- e) Specified that vehicle is to be sold locally?
- f) Indicated preferred price?
- g) Left instructions for transfer of any income from sales?

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### **3) Rental, etc.**

Has staff member:

- a) Surrendered his lease?
- b) Left written instructions for settlement of outstanding rental payments or for recovery of deposits from landlord?
- c) Left written instructions for payment/terminal payment of house servants?
- d) Left written instructions for payment of outstanding utilities/recovery of deposits for:
  - gas?

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- electricity?
- water?
- e) left written instructions for payment of outstanding school fees?

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#### 4. Bank accounts

Has staff member:

- a) Left bank accounts?
- b) Left local currency?
- c) Other financial items left?
- d) Left transfer instructions with bank?
- e) Left transfer instructions with Designated Official's office together with written authority for DO or his representative to handle account?

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## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section E

### SECURITY OF UN PREMISES

Promulgation Date: 8 November 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017



## A. Introduction

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel, eligible family members and organization property rests with the host Government. This responsibility flows from every Government's normal and inherent function of maintaining order and protecting persons and property within its jurisdiction. In the case of the United Nations, the Government has a special responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant agreements the host Government may have with individual United Nations organizations. The organizations of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) rely on the host Government for the provision of adequate security.<sup>1</sup>
2. Without abrogating the responsibility of the host Government for its obligations, the United Nations has a duty as an employer to reinforce and supplement the capacity of the host Government to fulfil these functions in circumstances where United Nations personnel are subject to conditions of insecurity that require security measures beyond what the host Government can provide. This need for UNSMS organizations to reinforce and supplement what the host Government can provide for premises security is important when the whole or part of the United Nations premises is an "exclusive use area" of the United Nations in which the host Government has no authority.
3. The security of premises is a security risk management issue, but a specific policy focused on strengthening premises security is required for the following measures:
  - (a) Premises are static locations that are more vulnerable to detailed, planned criminal, terrorist, civil unrest or other attacks or the impact of attacks on neighbouring buildings;
  - (b) Premises concentrate personnel and/or assets within one location;
  - (c) United Nations premises can be considered as desirable, even iconic, targets for various forms of violence, including terrorism, civil unrest and crime;
  - (d) Most premises that the United Nations lease, rent or have provided by member states are not built with security and safety considerations;
  - (e) Security for premises often requires large financial and capital investments in security construction and systems, including physical security, as well as long term planning;
  - (f) Personnel expect United Nations premises to be places where they can feel safe and secure.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section D. "Relations with Host Countries on Security Issues", paragraph 10, if de facto local authorities and/or "non-state actors" are in control of the areas where United Nations premises are located, depending on the circumstances, it may be useful to apply the principles outlined in this policy even though non-state actors or de facto local authorities controlling areas are not host Governments.

## **B. Purpose**

4. The purpose of this policy is to establish the basic principles and requirements for efficient and effective management of security risks associated with United Nations premises.

## **C. Application/Scope**

5. The policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III, Section A, of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”).
6. This policy is primarily intended for all categories of security personnel and others with responsibility for acquisition, operation and maintenance of United Nations premises.
7. This policy only covers the security aspects of premises management, including fire safety. This policy does not address occupational health or safety issues or safety aspects relating to premises design, construction, refurbishment and management, including the technical assessment of the risks from natural hazards.
8. This policy is applicable to all United Nations premises worldwide.

## **D. Premises Security**

9. For purposes of this policy, the term “United Nations premises” means all categories of land and physical structures occupied by personnel of one or more organizations of the UNSMS, including structures such as buildings, offices, warehouses, stores, shops, dwellings, containers, prefabs and tents.
10. This policy is that there must be a minimum standard for United Nations premises that is grounded on four important principles of premises security:
  - (a) Security Risk Management;
  - (b) Integrated Systems Approach;
  - (c) “Four Ds” (Deter, Detect, Delay and Deny);
  - (d) Concentric Layers of Security.
11. **Security Risk Management.** UNSMS officials will use the SRM process to determine appropriate situation-specific security procedures and measures for premises safety and security. Application of the SRM process for a specific United Nations premises will identify the actors with the intent and capability to carry out credible threats against the premises, with special emphasis on the threat actors that have the capability to exploit potential weaknesses in a premises’ security system. The weaknesses are documented in a security survey for the premises and analysed within the vulnerability assessment of the SRM process for the specific premises. In this approach, not all United Nations premises will be protected in the same way or to the same extent, but all premises protection will be commensurate with the specific security situation the premises faces. United Nations security professionals are to work in close collaboration with host Government, facilities

managers and other applicable parties in the applications of the SRM process to United Nations premises.

**12. Integrated Systems Approach.** Proper security and safety of United Nations premises require an approach that focuses on the total system and resulting management of it, rather than on the individual components of the system. The systems approach is an integration of physical,<sup>2</sup> procedural, technical and human aspects that create a self-reinforcing protection of the premises. The Integrated Systems Approach must also coordinate with areas of responsibility of the host Government outside of the premises.

**13. Four Ds.** Security systems for premises are based on the effective use of the following principles, for which the host Government is primarily responsible<sup>3</sup>:

- (a) Deter – physical and procedural security that attempts to prevent undesirable action against the premises by influencing attacker’s decision-making (increase perception of effort or fear of failure);
- (b) Detect – measures to detect and assess planning, or actual attempts to plan, by threat actors to penetrate security perimeter or to test the effectiveness of the security system in place;
- (c) Delay – physical, technical, procedural or psychological barriers to restrict movement and to allow time for appropriate response<sup>4</sup> (by security or host Government forces);
- (d) Deny – the ability to oppose or negate the effects of an action against the premises, including denying access to information on the layout and contents of the premises. The premises security system must be designed to deny identified threat actors the ability to carry out a successful harmful action against the premises.

**14. Concentric Layers of Security.** The integration of the principles outlined in the Four Ds above requires the concept of Concentric Layers of Security (Defence in Depth). Proper premises security requires a system designed with enough diversity and redundancy so that the strength of one particular component offsets the weakness of another. Components of the security system must be designed in sufficient number of layers to make it more difficult to defeat the whole system. All United Nations premises require at least two physical layers of security between personnel or valuable assets and the areas beyond direct United Nations control, including a system to only allow authorized persons, vehicles and other items to cross these layers (access control). The principle of Concentric Layers of

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this policy, physical security entails the full range of construction, fixtures, equipment and related procedures that are integrated into the larger premises security system.

<sup>3</sup> It is the responsibility of UNSMS officials to review and assess host Government ability to apply the “Four Ds”. If this assessment indicates that the host Government is lacking in any area, the UNSMS organization responsible for the premises must find means to compensate.

<sup>4</sup> With the appropriate resources, time and planning capabilities, any security system can be defeated. Therefore, the security system must also include an appropriate response by host Government or other security forces to neutralize the threat or an appropriate response by management to evacuate the premises.

Security also requires UNSMS officials responsible for the premises to coordinate with areas of responsibility of the host Government outside of the premises.

15. Access control systems, beginning at the perimeter and continuing through each layer of protection within the premises, channel personnel and vehicle access through designated control points for verification of identity, authority to enter and other security checks. Access control systems must provide for detection of and response to unauthorized entry attempts or other security breaches. Physical security measures on the perimeter of United Nations premises must be capable of confining attempted intrusions to the perimeter and limiting the risk to personnel associated with the threat of a direct or targeted attack or delaying attempted intrusions for sufficient time to enable a response that will limit the risk to personnel. Proper selection, supervision, management and training of guard forces used in the premises security system are also required.
16. The UNSMS organization responsible for the premises is to work in close collaboration with United Nations security professionals, host Governments, facilities managers and other responsible parties during all phases of design, construction, refurbishment and management of premises security systems to ensure that the technical, architectural and engineering elements of the premises are appropriate for the security threats and risk determined by the SRM process. This collaboration is essential to ensure that United Nations resources are used efficiently. When a UNSMS organization is considering occupying a new premise, United Nations security professionals must be involved in a security evaluation and assessment of the premises and, after acquisition of premises, must be involved in ongoing planning of security arrangements. Any assessments conducted by facilities managers to determine the risk from natural hazards are to be reviewed by security personnel to ensure security contingency response plans for natural-hazard events affecting the premises are compatible with the design and structural elements of the premises. Planning should also consider future changes in the threats the premises may face and the fact that threats may increase faster than premises upgrades can reasonably be made.
17. United Nations premises facing a substantial threat from direct, targeted violence must ensure full-time supervision to oversee the premises' security system (including coordination with the host Government) and to ensure its continual proper operation.
18. Premises security systems must also incorporate fire safety issues<sup>5</sup> and crisis contingency plans, including building evacuation plans and mass casualty plans.<sup>6</sup>

## **E. Roles and Responsibilities**

19. In accordance with the "Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System"<sup>7</sup> (herein "Framework of Accountability"), the UNSMS is to reinforce and supplement the capacity of the host Government to fulfil its responsibilities for the security and safety of United Nations premises. The Framework of Accountability

<sup>5</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter VII, Section B, Fire Safety.

<sup>6</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section B, Security Planning

<sup>7</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III, Section A, Framework of Accountability.

describes the responsibilities of security managers within the UNSMS in relation to premises security.

20. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security is responsible for overseeing the development of this policy and coordinating its implementation with organizations of the UNSMS.
21. The Designated Official (DO), in consultation with the Security Management Team (SMT), is accountable for ensuring that the SRM process is applied to the United Nations premises in its respective duty stations/missions so that SRM measures recommended for the premises are cost-effective, relevant, implementable and sustainable. SRM measures will respond to the security risks identified and must be designed, implemented, supervised and maintained up-to-date to counter the capable threat actors identified. Special emphasis is placed on investments and procedures that address more than one security risk at the same time. All security arrangements at United Nations premises shall also comply with the current Minimum Operating Security Standards policy and the country-specific Minimum Operating Security Standards requirements.
22. The premises security system must be approved by the DO and implemented within an agreed timeframe according to its priority. Organizations of the UNSMS are responsible for providing adequate funding to meet the premises security needs of their respective agencies. The UNSMS cost-sharing mechanism should be applied to shared or common premises, as appropriate. Notwithstanding this, agencies, funds, programmes and organizations may implement additional SRM measures to their respective premises as they determine appropriate. If there are any significant problems with the proper application or implementation of premises security systems by UNSMS organizations, the DO must contact the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for support and/or intervention at the Headquarters level.
23. The DO and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>8</sup>, along with the designated representative (and security professional, as applicable) of the UNSMS organization managing the premises, shall establish and maintain contact with both national and local security authorities to confirm the responsibility of host Governments for premises protection and security and to ensure proper host country collaboration in the planning, developing and maintaining of the United Nations premises security system. If host Government support is insufficient, the DO must contact the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for support and/or intervention at the Headquarters level.
24. If premises are purpose-built for use by an organization of the UNSMS, the security system for that premises, and the capital investment required, must be included in the earliest stages of planning.

<sup>8</sup>This is usually the Chief Security Adviser (CSA) or other Security Adviser (SA), or their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a CSA or SA is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) or Local Security Assistant (if necessary in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present).

25. The evaluation of premises for rent or purchase by an organization of the UNSMS must examine security consideration as early as possible and take into full account area-specific requirements, conditions and considerations.
26. Based on the outcome of the SRM process and prevailing conditions, a recommendation will be made by the DO, in consultation with the SMT, as to whether common premises, single-agency premises or a more diverse United Nations premises approach is appropriate to respond to the security threats and risks to the United Nations. Decisions on common premises must be guided by realistic assessments about the ability to create an appropriate premises security system for one location that will adequately protect a large number of staff despite the high-visibility and high value of the “target”. Cost-saving should never be the primary decision-maker regarding common premises.
27. United Nations security professionals are responsible for determining the security risks to United Nations premises through the SRM process and shall advise the DO, SMT and the UNSMS organization responsible for the premises. During the SRM process, security personnel shall engage with respective facilities managers to ensure that the required security response to non-security risks, such as natural hazards, are reflected in security plans and procedures. Security professionals should also consider occupational health and safety issues in the development of security contingency response plans.
28. While evaluating the security of premises and recommending appropriate security measures, United Nations security professionals should, when necessary, consult and/or engage necessary technical expertise<sup>9</sup> and applicable UNSMS guidelines and technical standards.

## **F. Additional Considerations**

29. Existing Inter-Agency fora, such as the Inter-Agency Network for Facilities Managers, the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Common Premises and, at the country level, Operations Management Teams should network and integrate efforts of all United Nations premises stakeholders. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the UNSMS organizations Security Focal Points must participate in the above to allow proper mainstreaming of safety and security in premises decisions.
30. Training for premises security planning and operation is to be developed and provided by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and other appropriate UNSMS organizations to all relevant personnel.
31. The implementation of the present policy will be monitored and supported by the compliance, evaluation and monitoring processes of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

<sup>9</sup> Technical experts, if not available “in-house” may include, but are not limited to, qualified architects, engineers, design consultants, construction and blast engineers, counter-terrorism experts, law enforcement personnel, safety and security specialists and building management officials.

32. In accordance with the United Nations “Use of Force Policy”, deadly force can never be used to defend property.

**G. Final Provisions**

33. This policy is meant to be shared with all United Nations personnel.

34. This policy enters into effect on 08 November 2012.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section F

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Promulgation Date: 8 November 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017



## **A. Introduction**

1. United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations sponsor and organize many events and conferences each year. These events and conferences often gather large numbers of United Nations personnel and other participants in locations that are normally not under organizational control. These unique security challenges and the broad variations in size, scale and security requirements for these events necessitate a UNSMS policy. This policy should be read in conjunction with the *Security Management Operations Manual* (SMOM) guidelines entitled “Security Arrangements for Special Events Organized or Sponsored by United Nations Security Management System Organizations”.

## **B. Purpose**

2. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the proper management of security issues associated with special events organized or sponsored by UNSMS organizations.

## **C. Application/Scope**

3. The policy is applicable to all organizations participating in the UNSMS.

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

4. UNSMS organizations routinely coordinate and organize meetings and other similar events as part of their regular country program or normal work both within and outside their respective office facilities. These meetings are program activities that fall within the normal scope of the Program Assessment within the Security Risk Management process and are not the focus of the present policy.
5. Some events (herein “Special Events”), however, create unique security challenges because of their scope, size or public profile. To ensure that these unique security requirements are properly met, this policy outlines the key notifications and planning steps required.

## **E. Definitions**

6. For the purposes of this policy, a “Special Event” is defined as any event, conference, meeting or special conference sponsored or organized by a UNSMS organization that meets all the following criteria:
  - (a) The event is held at a venue other than a UNSMS organization’s premises;
  - (b) Participants include both personnel and other individuals of the organizations<sup>1</sup> and third parties (i.e., government officials or private individuals) are participating in the event.

<sup>1</sup>As per *Security Policy Manual* Chapter III, Section A “Applicability of UN Security Management System”

- (c) The UNSMS organization has concluded or intends to conclude a legal agreement with the host country with respect to the “Special Event”.

## **F. Notification**

7. The responsibility of each UNSMS organization is to notify the Designated Official (DO) and most senior security professional<sup>2</sup> of their programme activities; however, each organization shall make specific notification of any event that they are planning that would meet the criteria of a Special Event as per paragraph 6 above.
8. The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO will inform the headquarters of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) of the above notification.
9. This notification is not a request for clearance for the conference to take place. It merely initiates the required process, including allowing the DO to determine whether the security situation permits the holding of the conference and assess whether adequate security measures can be implemented for the conference.
10. If a UNSMS organization is not sure if its event qualifies as a “Special Event” for the purposes of this policy, it should notify the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO, who will work with the headquarters of UNDSS to clarify the fact.
11. The above notifications should ideally come at least three months in advance of the planned start date of the Special Event.

## **G. Assessment**

12. The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO, in coordination with other security professionals of the UNSMS organizations, will complete the Security Risk Management (SRM) process<sup>3</sup> for the proposed event and venue and make recommendations on the security risk management measures needed to bring the residual security risks to the conference to acceptable levels.
13. The decision about whether a Special Event should be held at any particular location at any particular time must be supported by the SRM process and a resultant security plan that shows the residual security risks to the event will be within acceptable levels. As guidance, Special Events should not normally be held in locations with high and very high residual risks because of the complexity involved in managing security risks to large events in such locations.

## **H. Planning and Support**

14. If the DO, in consultation with the Security Management Team and on the advice of

<sup>2</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser, other Security Adviser, or most senior security professional directly supporting the DO.

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section A: Policy on Security Risk Management.

UNDSS, provides clearance for the event to occur, the Department will coordinate with the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO to establish whether to provide additional specialized assistance is required for the event.

15. Should such additional specialized assistance be needed, an Event Security Coordinator (ESC) will be assigned. Either a security professional with relevant experience from the UNSMS organization sponsoring or organizing the event or UNDSS official(s) will be appointed. The costs of UNDSS personnel appointed to the event will be charged to the hosting organization. The designated ESC will visit the event venue, update the event's SRM process and security plan, update all applicable agreements with the host Government and establish any additional security requirements for the conference. The ESC will work in close collaboration with UNDSS.
16. The UNSMS organization sponsoring or organizing the event shall ensure the all applicable legal documents and agreements (for example, the Host Country Agreement) are established with the relevant government authority hosting the event. In addition, a more detailed operational-level written agreement between the host Government and the UNSMS organization may be required to clarify and confirm the understanding of both parties concerning the division of responsibilities and tasks outlined in the operational plan.
17. The UNSMS organization sponsoring or organizing the event shall request the host Government provide a senior officer to directly supervise and direct all host country security elements supporting the Special Event. This senior officer must work in close cooperation with representatives of UNDSS, where applicable.
18. More details on the above are found in the *Security Management Operations Manual* guidelines entitled "Security Arrangements for Special Events Organized or Sponsored by United Nations Security Management System Organizations".

## **I. Final Provisions**

19. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
20. This policy enters into effect on 08 November 2012.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section G

### CLOSE PROTECTION OPERATIONS

Promulgation Date: 15 April 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of staff members rests with the host country. Senior United Nations officials can face an increased risk of security incidents due to their potentially higher visibility and the fact that they are often required to issue statements which may make them a focus of hostile entities. Protective Services are designed to enable the ongoing presence of the Senior United Nations Official facing an increased risk. Protective Services deliver a range of flexible options, of which close protection operations are used to manage the highest risk

## **B. Applicability**

2. The policy is applicable to all security personnel and managers in United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations who are responsible for providing or coordinating protective services, including close protection.
3. Member State-provided close protection teams (e.g., police or military contingents) that are not employed on United Nations contracts are exempt from the provisions of this policy.

## **C. General Policy**

4. Close protection operations are a viable method to manage risks to the security and dignity of United Nations officials. Close protection operations are defined as the 24/7 provision of multiple protection officers, armed, in concentric layers of defence around the protected person to prevent or minimize the effects, primarily through extraction from the area, of an attack intended to cause physical harm or embarrassment.
5. The UNSMS System provides a mechanism by which the need for close protection arrangements can be assessed and delivered where deemed necessary.
6. At the guidance of the General Assembly, close protection is provided on a permanent basis to the following:
  - (a) The President of the General Assembly;
  - (b) The Secretary-General;
  - (c) The Deputy Secretary-General.
7. The deployment of close protection in all other circumstances will be based upon the Security Risk Management (SRM) process and generally for official business only. Further provisions in circumstances under which close protection may be deployed are provided in the *Manual of Guidance on Protective Services*.
8. The SRM process will be conducted according to the procedures outlined in *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section A “Policy on Security Risk Management (SRM)”.

9. Armed United Nations close protection officers shall be permitted access to all premises and vehicles of organizations of the UNSMS when required to do so as part of their official duties.

#### **D. Notification and Assessment**

10. The SRM process will be conducted upon the assignment or travel on official business of a Senior United Nations Official
11. A Senior United Nations Official is defined as an Executive Head of an organization participating in the UNSMS.
12. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) will maintain a confidential, ongoing review of those Senior United Nations Officials identified as facing an elevated threat and will conduct the SRM process with consideration for these officials. The respective Security Focal Point will be informed of the inclusion of their Senior United Nations Official in this process and is responsible for notifying the UNDSS of the intended travel itinerary and programme. This notification commences the assessment process.
13. The SRM process for all other Senior United Nations Officials will be conducted upon request from the officials concerned.
14. The need for close protection for individuals not included in the definition of a Senior United Nations Official and for those whom the United Nations retains a duty of care, such as Goodwill Ambassadors and Messengers for Peace, will be assessed upon specific requests from the respective organizations.
15. In all circumstances, notification should be made in writing and email to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security at least ten full working days prior to travel and must include details of the itinerary and programme. Where emergency travel is undertaken or changes to existing travel plans are made in transit, the UNDSS should be informed at the earliest opportunity.

#### **E. Operational Planning**

16. The most senior security professional directly supporting the Designated Official (DO)<sup>1</sup> in the location to be visited or assigned to is responsible for producing documents related to the following:
  - (a) The SRM process;

<sup>1</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser or another Security Adviser, including their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a Chief Security Adviser or Security Adviser is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services or the Local Security Assistant (if necessary for countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present).

- (b) The Concept of Security;
  - (c) The Operational Plan.
17. Where the DO determines that no capability exists within the country to undergo the SRM process on the Senior United Nations Official, the Division of Regional Operations in the UNDSS may assign additional expertise to assist.
  18. The Concept of Security is a broad overview of the security requirements for the operation, including arrival and departure protocols, during movement, at the accommodation and office or event location, and medical support. It includes the division of responsibility between the host country and United Nations, the chain of command for the operation and the intended providers for each requirement. It also outlines any additional assets not available in-country which the UNDSS must source. The Concept is designed to be shared with the headquarters of the UNDSS for information and the Security Focal Point of the Senior United Nations Official for approval, without risking breaches of confidentiality, and it should include a cost estimate.
  19. The Operational Plan is a detailed schedule of the implementation of the Concept of Security, with timings and contingencies for each phase of the operation and emergency actions, communications schedules and contact details and linkage with the host country. The Plan is to be kept strictly confidential and would not normally be shared beyond the DO, the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO and any individuals assisting in the implementation of the Operational Plan.
  20. Where no capability exists to prepare the Concept of Security and/or the Operational Plan, the UNDSS may assign additional experts to assist.
  21. The decision to deploy a close protection team from the United Nations, either in support of host country resources or where these are unavailable, will form part of the SRM process, recommended by the senior most security professional to the Designated Official.
  22. The DO will determine whether the recommendations on close protection are approved or revised.

## **F. Coordination and Resourcing**

23. Where close protection is to be deployed, the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO will appoint an officer in country to act in the role of Close Protection Coordinator to implement the Operational Plan.
24. The Protection Coordination Unit of the UNDSS will facilitate the liaison between the Close Protection Coordinator and the Security Focal Point to the office of the Senior United Nations Official, on a confidential basis.

25. Funding for the close protection detail will be provided by the participating organization sponsoring the visit. In instances of contention, the Protection Coordination Unit will facilitate dialogue between the Security Focal Point to the office of the Senior United Nations Official and senior management within the UNDSS to obtain resolution.

## **G. Delivery and Review**

26. United Nations Close Protection Officer training and refresher courses are required for any individual to function as a United Nations Close Protection Officer.<sup>2</sup>
27. The delivery of any close protection arrangements will be carried out in accordance with the *Manual of Guidance on Protective Services* and the United Nations Use of Force Policy as found in *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section H.
28. The Protection Coordination Unit will conduct a Post Operational Review with input from the office of the Senior United Nations Official, the Close Protection Coordinator and the close protection provider to identify best practices and lessons learned.

## **H. Final provisions**

29. This policy is meant to be distributed to all United Nations personnel.
30. This policy enters into force on 15 April 2012.
31. “United Nations Policy on Close Protection Operations” (08 October 2008) is hereby abolished.

<sup>2</sup> At its 14th Session in January 2011, the IASMN decided that all close protection officers must be fully certified to the UNDSS specified standard by 01 January 2015.



## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section H

# USE OF FORCE POLICY

Promulgation Date: 8 April 2011  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The United Nations recognizes and respects the value and integrity of each and every human life. Deciding whether to utilize force when authorized in the conduct of official responsibilities is one of the most critical decisions made by a United Nations security official. It is a decision which must be made quickly and under difficult, often unpredictable and unique circumstances. Sound judgment and appropriate exercise of discretion will always be the foundation of decision-making in the broad range of possible use of force situations. The official will necessarily have to select what type of action, ranging from verbal warnings or instructions to the use of a force, including deadly force, is appropriate based on the nature of the threat to be negated and the specific circumstances of the incident.
2. While detailed policy guidance is provided in training and must serve as the basis for any official's decision on what type of force to use, if any, this is no substitute for good judgment that must be exercised at all times.<sup>1</sup> United Nations security officials are always to bear in mind that when the use of force is unavoidable, they will act with restraint, respecting and preserving human life and causing the minimum harm to people and property.

## **B. Purpose**

3. The purpose of this policy is to provide United Nations security officials with guidelines and restrictions for the use of force (both Non-Deadly Force and Deadly Force). This policy is based on the highest standards of international guidelines and human rights law.<sup>2</sup>

## **C. Applicability**

4. This policy applies to United Nations security officials at the Security Service, General Service, Field Service and Professional levels as well as other contracted security personnel responsible for the protection of United Nations personnel, visitors and assets.

## **D. Definitions**

5. Deadly Force means any force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury.
6. Non-Deadly Force means any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force. This includes any physical effort used to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another.

<sup>1</sup> Detailed guidance on the implementation of the Use of Force Policy is set out in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security *Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment including Firearms*. The full range of options in the use of force is covered in training.

<sup>2</sup> Reference is made to the Memorandum dated 21 June 2007 from the Assistant Secretary-General of Legal Affairs to the Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. It is noted that specific host country use of force laws and policies may impact this United Nations policy. United Nations security officials responsible for the implementation of this policy should confer with their local legal counsel.

7. Serious Bodily Injury means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious and protracted (i.e., long-term) disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.
8. Bodily Injury means any physical injury other than that which is considered serious bodily injury.

#### **E. Essential Criteria for the Use of Force**

9. The following essential criteria must be applied:
  - (a) The force is reasonable, proportional to the threat offered and the minimum required to negate the threat;
  - (b) The force is necessary, under all the circumstances known at the time, to negate the threat;
  - (c) There is no other reasonable alternative available.

#### **F. Criteria for the Use of Non-Deadly Force**

10. Based on the three essential criteria above, a United Nations security official may use Non-Deadly Force:
  - (a) In defence of him/herself, other United Nations personnel and/or others against imminent threat of bodily injury;
  - (b) To maintain order and security within and/or restrict access to United Nations premises; and prevent damage to United Nations premises or property;
  - (c) To detain<sup>3</sup> and/or prevent the escape of a person who constitutes a threat to order and security and/or who has committed a serious crime.

#### **G. Criteria for the use of Deadly Force**

11. Based on the three essential criteria in 9 above, a United Nations security official may only use Deadly Force:
  - (a) To defend him/herself, other United Nations personnel and/or others against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury and there is no other reasonable alternative available.

#### **H. Additional Considerations**

##### ***Decision to Use Force***

12. As a first step in the use of force, security officials will audibly instruct the subject to comply. If, however, giving such an instruction would pose a risk to the security official or others, it need not be given. When a decision is made to use force the security official should act decisively and without hesitation, using force proportional to the threat and the

<sup>3</sup> The right to detain is set out in ST/AI/309/Rev 2, dated 18 February 1997

minimum required to negate the threat. A United Nations security official is not required to place him/herself or others in unreasonable danger before acting.

***Post Application of Force***

13. Once force has been applied and the threat negated, the security official must:
  - (a) Where feasible, arrange for appropriate medical aid to the person subjected to the use of force; and
  - (b) Follow all relevant procedures, including reporting the incident to the supervisor, and cooperate with United Nations investigations.
14. A security official involved in the application of non-deadly or deadly force may be provided with stress and medical counselling as appropriate.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section I

### ARMED PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES (PSCS)

Promulgation Date: 8 November 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel, their eligible family members and the premises and property of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations rests with the host Government. In ensuring such safety and security, certain circumstances may arise where armed security services become necessary. When the host Government is unwilling or unable to provide such protection, as determined by the United Nations in consultation with the relevant authorities, armed security services will normally be provided by alternate Member States or the appropriate security entity within the United Nations system.
2. On an exceptional basis, to meet its obligations the UNSMS may use private companies to provide armed security services when threat conditions and programme need warrant it.
3. The fundamental principle guiding when to use armed security services from a private security company is that this may be considered only when there is no possible provision of adequate and appropriate armed security from the host government, alternate Member State(s) or internal United Nations system resources such as the Security and Safety Services or security officers recruited directly by a mission or through another UNSMS organization.

## **B. Purpose**

4. In circumstances where a UNSMS organization determines that armed security services from a private security company are required, the engagement and use of such services will be governed by a clear accountability and responsibility framework and clear operational standards and oversight. Further details are stipulated in the accompanying “Guidelines on the Use of Armed Security Services from Private Security Companies”.
5. The present policy describes the fundamental pillars of the decision-making framework, the assessment process and standards for such decisions.

## **C. Applicability**

6. This policy is applicable to all security professionals and managers in the United Nations Security Management System in accordance with Security Policy Manual, Chapter III, Section A, Framework of Accountability.
7. This policy applies to the selection, contracting and management of any armed security services from private security companies by an organization participating in the UNSMS.

#### **D. General Policy**

8. The objective of armed security services from a private security company is to provide a visible deterrent to potential attackers and an armed response to repel any attack in a manner consistent with the United Nations “Use of Force Policy”, respective host country legislation and international law.
9. Armed security services from a private security company may not be contracted, except on an exceptional basis and then only for the following purposes:
  - a. To protect United Nations personnel, premises and property.
  - b. To provide mobile protection for United Nations personnel and property.
10. The details of the services outlined in paragraph 9 above are contained in the accompanying “Guidelines on the Use of Armed Security Services from Private Security Companies”.
11. The approval of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security must be obtained prior to commencing the process of engaging a private security company.

#### **E. Security Risk Management**

12. The decision to use armed security services must be based upon a specific Security Risk Management Process (SRM).
13. The SRM will be conducted in accordance with *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section A, Policy on Security Risk Management.
14. The SRM must be supported by further analysis and recommendations on the need for an armed security capability and on the most appropriate provider for that capability, as outlined in Section F.
15. Armed security services from private security companies will be considered on an exceptional basis only when the SRM and supporting analysis and recommendations have concluded that the fundamental principle guiding the use of armed security services from a private security company, outlined in paragraph 3, has been met.

#### **F. Roles and Responsibilities**

16. The responsible most senior security official identified by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, usually the Designated Official (DO) supported by the Security Management Team (SMT), must evaluate any potential negative impacts the contracting of armed security services from a private security company could have on the United Nations system and its programmes. The analysis of the potential negative impacts should encompass, *inter alia*, the prevailing usage of private security companies in the area of operation as well as globally, host country

and local community acceptance of armed security services from private security companies and the local history of negative impacts of incidents involving private security companies and their armed security services.<sup>1</sup>

17. When the DO and the SMT agree that the use of armed security services from a private security company is justified, a request for approval must be submitted to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for consideration. The Executive Heads of the affected agencies, funds and programmes or the head of Department for Secretariat-led field operations must be copied on this request.
18. The request for approval will include the related SRM, explanations of why armed security services cannot or should not be provided by the host government, alternate Member States or internal UNSMS resources and details of the assessment of the potential negative impacts of engaging armed security services from a private security company.
19. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall reply in writing as to whether he/she approves the request for the use of armed security services provided by private security companies.
20. Where approval for the use of armed security services provided by private security companies is granted, at each contract renewal the full approval process must be implemented, including a new assessment of the primary options of host governments, alternate Member States or internal United Nations system resources for such provision.

#### **G. Selection Criteria for the Armed Private Security Company**

21. In cases where the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security has approved the use of armed security services from a private security company, companies bidding for the contract must meet the mandatory requirements for possible selection. The mandatory requirements are described in the “Guidelines on the Use of Armed Security Services from Private Security Companies”.
22. The selection of armed security services from a private security company shall be undertaken in accordance with the applicable UNSMS organization’s rules and regulations from those companies that meet the requirements stipulated in paragraph 21 above.

#### **H. Screening Requirements for the Personnel of the Armed Private Security Company Selected**

<sup>1</sup> For examples of the humanitarian considerations in this analysis, reference should be made to IASC Guidelines on the Use of Armed Escorts for Humanitarian Convoys, found at: <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Armed%20Escort%20Guidelines%20-%20Final.pdf>



23. The private security company wishing to provide armed security services to an organization participating in the UNSMS shall confirm to that organization, in writing, that the mandatory screening process for its personnel, as outlined in the “Guidelines for Armed Security Services from Private Security Companies” has been conducted and that only personnel who meet the mandatory requirements will be used to provide armed security services to the UNSMS organization in question.

#### **I. Use of Force, Weapons Manual and Standard Operating Procedures**

24. Any private security company wishing to provide armed security services to an organization participating in the UNSMS is required to develop and implement:
- a. Its own Use of Force Policy consistent with the applicable national laws of the state in which the services are to be provided and, to the extent consistent with the applicable national law, with the United Nations “Use of Force Policy” as found in Security Policy Manual, Chapter IV, Section H (which shall be made available to the private security company for reference). However, the Use of Force Policy of the private security company must be as or more restrictive than the “United Nations Use of Force Policy”. The private security company’s Use of Force Policy shall not be less restrictive than the “United Nations Use of Force Policy”. In addition, the private security company’s Use of Force Policy shall be consistent with the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers<sup>2</sup>;
  - b. Its own firearms management procedures and “Weapons Manual” consistent with the applicable national laws of the state in which the services are to be provided and, to the extent consistent with the applicable national law, with the “United Nations Department of Safety and Security Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms” (which shall be made available to the private security company for reference). However, the private security company’s Weapons Manual must be as or more restrictive than the “United Nations Department of Safety and Security Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms”. The private security company’s Weapons Manual shall not be less restrictive than the “United Nations Department of Safety and Security Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms”. In addition, the private security company’s firearms management procedures and Weapons Manual should also be consistent with the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers;
  - c. The necessary standard operating procedures for the implementation of the contract in consultation with the UNSMS organization involved.

#### **J. Training Requirements to be met by the Private Security Company**

<sup>2</sup>See <http://www.icoc-psp.org/>

25. The private security company is required to ensure that its personnel have the requisite skills and experience to perform the services in accordance with the contract and standard operating procedures (see paragraph 24(c) above).
26. Before commencing the provision of services to the UNSMS organization in question, the private security company must provide a written certification to that organization that each of the company's personnel has undergone the above training and demonstrated the necessary level of skill.

## **K. Management and Oversight**

27. The day-to-day management of the contract is the function of the UNSMS organization that has engaged the private security company, and that organization shall provide a daily on-site inspection of the private security company.
28. In circumstances where a private security company is hired to provide armed security services to a common United Nations facility or a common United Nations operation, it is the responsibility of the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>3</sup> to:
  - a. Ensure that the on-site inspection of the private security company is completed;
  - b. Ensure that a monthly review of the performance of the private security company is also completed;
  - c. The on-site inspections and the monthly review may be delegated to members of the Security Cell, but the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO will remain accountable for their completion.
29. The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO and an official of the contracting organization must immediately submit a joint report of any performance issues or concerns identified, along with recommended remedial action, to the DO and the Country Representative of the organization concerned for approval.

## **L. Training and Compliance**

30. This policy is to be part of the training for DOs, SMT members, security professionals and managers in UNSMS organizations who have responsibility and accountability for managing security for their organization.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this policy, this is the Chief Security Adviser, Security Adviser, Chief of Security and Safety Services, or their respective officer-in-charge *ad interim*.

#### **M. Utilization of Common Security Funding for Armed Private Security Companies**

31. In instances where armed security services from private security companies are funded through the local Common Security Budgets (CSB), a specific budget line indicating the amount for these services must be included in the local security cost shared budget.

#### **N. Enforcement**

32. United Nations personnel that fail to abide by the terms of this policy may be subject to administrative measures.

#### **O. Final Provisions**

33. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
34. This policy enters into effect on 8 November 2012.
35. Annex O of the Field Security Handbook is hereby abolished.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section J

### ARMING OF SECURITY PERSONNEL

Promulgation Date: 18 April 2016  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel and other individuals covered by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) rests with the host Government. However, circumstances may arise where it may be mandated or otherwise necessary to supplement existing host Government capacity with, inter alia, armed United Nations peacekeepers, including United Nations guard units provided by Member States or private security services.<sup>1</sup> Under certain circumstances, when such options are not available, applicable, appropriate or sufficient, the arming of trained<sup>2</sup> security professionals may be considered in order to protect UNSMS personnel. In those instances, there are specific principles and procedures established in this policy that must be followed.

## **B. Purpose**

2. The purpose of this policy is to outline the strict framework under which UNSMS security personnel, designated under paragraph 4 below, may be authorized to carry arms. Detailed provisions, including guidelines, procedures and standards, for arming such personnel are found in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security's (UNDSS) *Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms* ("Manual of Instruction").<sup>3</sup> The *Manual of Instruction* shall be read in conjunction with this policy, but it shall not be interpreted as limiting or prejudicing this policy in any way.

## **C. Applicability**

3. This policy is applicable to all organizations participating in the UNSMS.
4. This policy contains specific provisions applicable to the following categories of UNSMS security personnel:
  - UNSMS security personnel assigned under UNDSS/Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services (DHSSS);<sup>4</sup>
  - All other UNSMS security personnel with specific protection functions, such as Close Protection Officers,<sup>5</sup> guard force managers, guards or security personnel performing escort operations; and
  - All other UNSMS security personnel who do not normally have protection

<sup>1</sup> See UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section I, "Armed Private Security Companies".

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this policy, training refers to the specific training in use of firearms, including safety, technical qualification and unit tactics.

<sup>3</sup> The Terms of Reference for the Weapons Committee are found under Annex B of the UNDSS *Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms*.

<sup>4</sup> This includes all UNSMS security personnel assigned globally under UNDSS Security and Safety Services (SSS).

<sup>5</sup> See UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section G, "Close Protection Services".

functions, who may be temporarily assigned protection functions under exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the strict provisions contained in this policy.

#### **D. Principles**

5. Arming of United Nations security personnel shall be subject to national and local laws and regulations, as applicable, as well as any existing agreements between the United Nations and the host Government, such as Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) or Status of Mission Agreements (SOMAs).
6. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security may authorize the arming of UNSMS security personnel in a Designated Area, based on their specific functions, as outlined in paragraph 4 above. Such authorization constitutes a Security Risk Management (SRM) measure<sup>6</sup> and therefore, the security considerations for arming UNSMS security personnel shall be based upon the approved SRM process for the Designated Area when there are risks that cannot be mitigated by the host Government, United Nations guard units provided by Member States or private security services, or when such options are not available, applicable, appropriate or sufficient.
7. Arming of UNSMS security personnel shall be subject to a formal recommendation and authorization process, as detailed in this policy, as well as strict compliance and oversight mechanisms. Authorization shall only be granted to UNSMS security personnel who are trained and certified<sup>7</sup> to carry arms issued by UNSMS organizations.
  - a) Regarding the arming of DHSSS personnel, it is recognized that Security Officers assigned under DHSSS are required to carry arms whenever on duty.<sup>8</sup> The roles and responsibilities of such personnel are detailed in the *Manual of Instruction*. The recommendation and authorization process for arming such personnel, along with the revocation process for such personnel once armed, shall continue to be governed by the *Manual of Instruction*.
  - b) With regard to other UNSMS security personnel, this policy distinguishes between the following two categories:
    - i. UNSMS security personnel whose primary role or responsibility is to perform a protection function, such as Close Protection Officers,<sup>9</sup> guard force managers or security personnel performing escort operations; such personnel may be armed in accordance with the Recommendation and Authorization Process

<sup>6</sup> Please refer to UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section A, Policy on Security Risk Management, which entered into force on 18 April 2016.

<sup>7</sup> In accordance with the *Manual of Instruction* and specific provisions contained in this policy (see footnotes 2 and 11 and section H "Training Framework").

<sup>8</sup> See Secretary-General's report A/56/848, paragraph 34(b) ("It is a standard requirement that all United Nations security officers carry firearms when on duty").

<sup>9</sup> See UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV ("Security Management"), Section G ("Close Protection Services").

found in this policy (see Section F, “Recommendation and Authorization Process”); and

- ii. UNSMS security personnel whose primary role or responsibility does not normally involve a protection function; such personnel may only be armed under exceptional circumstances in a Designated Area and only to the extent required to perform a specific protection function, including, but not limited to, circumstances where there is an imminent threat to life. Such personnel shall be assigned protection functions and armed in accordance with the Recommendation and Authorization Process found in this policy (see Section F, “Recommendation and Authorization Process”), if appropriately trained<sup>10</sup> and certified to carry a firearm for the period specified.
8. Given UNSMS organizations’ accountability and responsibility for their personnel, in line with the *Framework of Accountability*,
    - UNSMS organizations are required to promulgate their internal policies in line with this policy, the *Manual of Instruction* and the *Use of Force Policy*, qualifying if their security personnel are authorized to carry out protection functions or further restricting or barring them from carrying arms under any circumstances.
    - UNSMS organizations may also determine that UNSMS security personnel authorized to carry a firearm do not carry their weapon when accompanying their personnel, entering their premises or utilizing their assets (e.g., vehicles and aircraft), particularly if doing so would violate their organization’s policies, as identified above, or would harm an organization’s ability to deliver its programmes or fulfil its mandates.

## **E. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security**

9. Through this policy, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security has authority to authorize the possession and use of arms for UNSMS security personnel, in order to strengthen the safety and security of UNSMS personnel.
10. In exercising this authority, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall be responsible for authorising, in writing, inter alia, the following:
  - Specific Designated Areas, in which UNSMS security personnel, designated under paragraphs 7b above, may carry arms. Such personnel shall be personally identified, including their specific functions or titles, and the duration and circumstances of their authorization;

<sup>10</sup> Training in use of firearms for this function includes safety, technical qualification and unit tactics.

- Specific types of standard or alternative weapons, weapon systems or ammunition that such personnel may carry, dependent upon their current training certification for the weapons indicated.
11. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall be the final decision maker regarding all requests to arm UNSMS security personnel in a Designated Area, in accordance with this policy, the *Manual of Instruction* and relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

### **UNDSS Weapons Committee**

12. The UNDSS Weapons Committee shall report to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, through the Director of DHSSS as Chair of the Weapons Committee, and shall adhere to the provisions of this policy, the *Manual of Instruction* and relevant SOPs.<sup>11</sup> The Weapons Committee serves as a technical advisory body and is responsible for, *inter alia*, the following:<sup>12</sup>
- Reviewing requests to authorize the arming of UNSMS security personnel based on their specific functions in a Designated Area as outlined in this policy and taking into consideration UNDSS' Division of Regional Operations (UNDSS/DRO) final request, including input from Security Focal Points (SFPs) of UNSMS organizations with a presence in the Designated Area and making appropriate recommendations to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to grant or deny such requests in accordance with the SRM process;
  - Reviewing requests to add or remove standard or alternative weapons, weapon systems or ammunition in a Designated Area and making appropriate recommendations to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to grant or deny such requests in accordance with the SRM process;
  - Conducting an annual review of weapons, weapon systems and ammunition as found under Annex D of the *Manual of Instruction*;
  - Providing input on policies, procedures, guidelines and standards related to weapons, weapons systems and ammunition; and
  - Monitoring trends and advances in protective weapons and weapon systems technology.

<sup>11</sup> Including, but not limited to, UNDSS Headquarters Standing Operating Procedure (SOP), "Requests to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to Approve the Carriage of Firearms," dated 18 March 2015.

<sup>12</sup> UNDSS *Manual of Instruction of Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms*, paragraphs 1.19-1.20.



13. UNSMS organizations shall collectively designate a representative from the IASMN to the Weapons Committee when required.

### **UNDSS' Division of Regional Operations**

14. UNDSS/DRO shall be responsible for the following:

- Communicating the DO initial request to arm UNSMS security personnel in a Designated Area to Security Focal Points (SFPs) of UNSMS organizations with a presence in the Designated Area for their input;
- Validating that the request is in line with the SRM process, including that there is no other alternative mitigation measure to provide protection functions.
- Validating that the staff assigned to the functions proposed to be armed are supported by UNDSS/DRO on the condition that the required United Nations training and certification for the type of weapons proposed is successfully completed.
- Reviewing the DO's initial request, taking into consideration the input of SFPs of relevant UNSMS organizations;
- Submitting a final, written request to authorize the arming of UNSMS security personnel to the Chair of the UNDSS Weapons Committee. Such personnel shall be identified by name with their specific functions or titles, the duration and circumstances for their authorization shall be indicated;
- Maintaining close oversight over all aspects of implementation and operations for armed security personnel, including any revocation instituted by the Chief Security Adviser/Security Adviser (CSA/SA) or Chief Security Officer (CSO) in the field.
- Establishing a fact-finding investigation in all instances of discharge of weapons for any reason other than at a recognized and approved range training area for certification and training purposes.

### **Designated Official for Security/Security Management Team (SMT)**

15. Under the Framework of Accountability, the DO for Security, advised and supported by the SMT, is responsible for the safety and security of UNSMS personnel, premises and assets in the Designated Area.
16. In fulfilling this responsibility, the DO, advised and supported by the SMT, shall be responsible for, *inter alia*, the following:

- Considering and balancing any negative consequences of arming UNSMS security personnel, including with respect to the delivery of United Nations programmes and fulfilment of United Nations mandates, and recording them in the SMT minutes;
- Requesting to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in writing, the arming of UNSMS security personnel based on specific functions in a Designated Area, as outlined in this policy and as determined through the SRM process, where there is no alternative mitigation measure that can be employed immediately;
- Approving and issuing a *Firearms Carry Standard Operating Procedure* and other relevant SOPs for the Designated Area based on this policy, the Use of Force policy and the *Manual of Instruction*; and
- Ensuring adherence to international, national and local laws and regulations as well as any existing agreements between the United Nations and the host Government.

### **Chief of Security (UNDSS/DHSSS)**

17. The roles and responsibilities of the Chief of Security (COS), UNDSS/DHSSS are detailed in the *Manual of Instruction*.

### **Chief Security Adviser/Security Adviser and Chief Security Officer for Peacekeeping Missions<sup>13</sup>**

18. Under the Framework of Accountability, the CSA/SA or CSO for Peacekeeping Missions,<sup>14</sup> as applicable, is responsible for advising the DO and the SMT with respect to their security functions.<sup>15</sup>
19. In fulfilling this responsibility, the CSA/SA or CSO shall be responsible for, inter alia, the following:
  - Recommending to the DO/SMT, in writing, the arming of UNSMS security personnel that should be armed, based on their specific required functions in a Designated Area, as defined under paragraph 7b of this policy, in accordance with the SRM process; such personnel shall be identified by name, their specific

<sup>13</sup> May include UNDSS/DHSSS' Chief of Security (COS) when simultaneously serving as the Chief Security Adviser (CSA)/Security Adviser (SA) for a Designated Area.

<sup>14</sup> For the purposes of this policy, any reference to Chief Security Officer (CSO) applies solely in the context of non-integrated Peacekeeping Missions.

<sup>15</sup> May be supported by UNDSS/DHSSS' Chief of Security (COS) if he or she is not simultaneously serving as CSA/SA.

functions or titles and the duration of their authorization (maximum 3 months); and other mitigation alternatives;

- Developing and implementing a local *Firearms Carry Standard Operating Procedure* and other relevant SOPs;
- Ensuring all UNSMS security personnel, authorized to carry arms in the Designated Area have been appropriately trained and certified to carry and use such arms for the environment required;
- Conducting, where feasible, appropriate background checks for UNSMS security personnel prior to recommending the carriage of arms or attendance of training in the use of weapons;
- Ensuring appropriate mechanisms exist to manage and secure all approved weapons, weapon systems and ammunition;
- Ensuring that relevant UNSMS security personnel authorized by the USG, UNDSS to carry arms in a Designated Area are issued approved distinctive badges, insignia, markings or uniforms to be publicly displayed or worn whenever armed while on official business, as required;
- Ensuring that UNSMS security personnel authorized to carry arms by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security do not carry such arms whenever the specific security situation or function to be performed does not warrant the carriage of arms;
- Ensuring that UNSMS security personnel permitted to carry personal arms under international, national, and local laws and regulations, yet not authorized to do so by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, do not carry such arms whenever on official business, including when accompanying UNSMS personnel, entering UNSMS premises or utilising UNSMS assets (e.g., vehicles and aircraft); and
- Ensuring compliance with this policy, UNDSS *Manual of Instruction*, local *Firearms Carry Standard Operating Procedure* and other relevant SOPs, including through the development of oversight mechanisms and reporting any non-compliance immediately to UNDSS/DRO;
- Notifying Saving Lives Together partners at the field level when firearms authorization has been granted by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

## **Armed UNSMS Security Personnel**

20. Armed UNSMS security personnel shall be responsible for the following:

- Abiding by all UNSMS policies and those of their respective parent organization;<sup>16</sup>
- Exercising good judgment at all times and complying strictly with this policy and the terms of the authorization;
- Ensuring maintenance of training and proper certification for the types of weapons they are authorized to carry;
- Carrying distinctive badges, insignia, markings or uniforms to be publicly displayed or worn whenever armed while on official business, as required by their functions;
- Refraining from carrying or retaining possession of weapons when off-duty and when not performing the protection function for which the authorization was issued; and
- Respecting and adhering to an individual UNSMS organization's requirement that armed UNSMS security personnel does not carry their arms when accompanying their personnel, entering their premises, or utilizing their assets (e.g., vehicles, aircraft), particularly if doing so would violate the organization's policies or harm the organization's ability to deliver its programmes or fulfil its mandates.

21. Security professionals who have an advisory and managerial role are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate with their function even if they have been granted authorization by the USG, UNDSS to carry firearms. They are required to perform their primary advisory role at all times.

### **F. Recommendation and Authorization Process<sup>17</sup>**

22. The CSA/SA or CSO shall submit an initial, written recommendation to the DO/SMT, which shall be based upon or include the following:

- SRM Process: The SRM process must be followed with respect to a Designated Area or a specific mission, whereby the types of threats and the level

<sup>16</sup> The Framework of Accountability (Chapter II, Section A, paragraph 28, states: "Personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system are accountable to their respective organizations. All such personnel, regardless of the rank or level, have the responsibility to abide by security policies, guidelines, directives, plans and procedures of the United Nations security management system and their organizations."

<sup>17</sup> See Annex A ("Flowchart of the Recommendation and Authorization Process").

of risk facing United Nations personnel as well as existing and potential risk management measures are considered;

- Detailed assessment of existing or potential host Government capacity, along with, *inter alia*, armed United Nations peacekeepers, United Nations guard units or private security services, as applicable, to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets in a Designated Area or on the specific mission;

- Specific recommendation containing the following:

22...1. UNSMS security personnel, that should be armed, based on the required functions in a Designated Area such personnel shall be identified by name, their specific functions or titles and the duration of their authorization;

22...2. Types of weapons, weapon systems and ammunition that should be issued;

22...3. Geographical areas where such personnel should be armed;

22...4. Duration that such personnel should be armed; and

22...5. Reasons why such personnel should be armed, in accordance with the SRM process.

- Detailed assessment of existing support mechanisms for procuring the recommended types of weapons, weapon systems and ammunition as well as training and certifying UNSMS security personnel, as required; and
- Detailed assessment of adherence to international, national, and local laws and regulations as well as any existing agreements between the United Nations and the host Government, including but not limited to, SOFAs or SOMAs.

23. The DO, advised and supported by the SMT, shall review the CSA/SA or CSO initial recommendation and, upon agreeing with or modifying its content, submit an initial request to authorize the arming of UNSMS security personnel to UNDSS/DRO. The SMT should be asked to detail the negative consequences of arming UNSMS security personnel, including on the delivery of United Nations programmes and fulfilment of United Nations mandates. The DO's request shall be in writing and shall include the final recommendation, all required assessments under paragraph 22 of this policy, and all dissenting views expressed within the SMT.

24. UNDSS/DRO shall communicate the DO's initial request to SFPs of UNSMS organizations with a presence in the Designated Area for their input. UNDSS/DRO shall subsequently review the DO's initial request, taking into consideration the input of SFPs of relevant UNSMS organizations. Upon agreeing with or modifying its content, UNDSS/DRO may submit a final,

written request to authorize the arming of UNSMS security personnel to the Chair of the UNDSS Weapons Committee; such personnel shall be identified by their name, specific functions or titles and the duration of their authorization.

25. The UNDSS Weapons Committee shall review the final request to authorize the arming of UNSMS security personnel, recognised under the Framework of Accountability, based on their specific functions in a Designated Area and make appropriate recommendations to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to grant, modify or deny such a request. Similarly, it shall review a final request to add or remove standard or alternative weapons, weapon systems or ammunition in a Designated Area and make appropriate recommendations to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to grant, modify or deny such requests.
26. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall respond to the final request in writing with the advice and support of the UNDSS Weapons Committee. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security may authorize the request, with or without modification, or deny the request. The authorization shall indicate the name of the personnel, the rationale and timeframe for the authorization.
27. The CSA/SA or CSO shall not issue any weapons, weapon systems and ammunition prior to obtaining written authorization from the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. Any issuance of arms must be in accordance with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security' written authorization and the *Manual of Instruction*.

#### **G. Revocation and Suspension Authority**

28. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall maintain the right to permanently revoke or modify, in writing, a previously granted authorization at any time with the advice and support of the UNDSS Weapons Committee.
29. UNDSS/DHSSS, UNDSS/DRO or UNSMS Security Focal Points may recommend to UNDSS Weapons Committee, in writing, that a previously granted authorization be permanently revoked or modified. The underlying reasons for revocation or modification must be included in the recommendation. Such a recommendation may be initiated at the headquarters level (i.e., by UNDSS/DHSSS or UNDSS/DRO, as applicable) or field level (i.e., by the CSA/SA, CSO or COS, as applicable, through the DO). The UNDSS Weapons Committee shall subsequently make appropriate recommendations to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to permanently revoke or modify the previously granted authorization.
30. UNDSS/DHSSS and UNDSS/DRO shall maintain the right to temporarily suspend a previously granted authorization for individual UNSMS security personnel. Such a suspension may be initiated at the headquarters level (i.e., by UNDSS/DHSSS or UNDSS/DRO, as applicable) or field level (i.e., by the CSA/SA, CSO or COS, as applicable).

## **H. Training Framework**

31. UNDSS shall maintain a Joint Working Group on Firearms Training, which shall develop the required training standards, competencies and training courses for the various weapons, weapon systems and ammunition employed by the United Nations. UNDSS shall coordinate the delivery of such training courses.
32. Firearms training for security personnel performing protection functions, as indicated in paragraph 7b, shall include safety, technical qualification and unit tactics.

## **I. Use of Force**

33. The use of force shall be governed by the UNSMS Use of Force Policy.<sup>18</sup>
34. Any discharge of firearm<sup>19</sup> (other than during an approved training session) must be reported immediately to the CSA/CSO, including the time, date and location of the incident and any relevant details. A written report must follow as soon as feasible but no later than 24 hours after the incident.
35. In the event of an investigation into an alleged incident involving UNSMS security personnel and the possession or use of arms (i.e., weapons, weapon systems or ammunition authorized under this policy), the failure of such personnel to abide by the provisions of this policy or other UNSMS policies may warrant administrative or disciplinary action.
36. Investigations will be guided by ST/AI/371/Amend. 1 Disciplinary Measures and Procedures; or respective organizations policies and instructions; and policies of the UNSMS.

## **J. Final Provisions**

37. This policy shall be made available to all UNSMS organizations and to all individuals covered under the UNSMS.<sup>20</sup>
38. This policy enters into force on 18 April 2016.
39. The IASMN and UNSMS organizations will ensure that the *Manual of Instruction, Use of Force Policy* and relevant Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) are revised in line with this policy and the UNSMS Security Policy Manual (SPM).

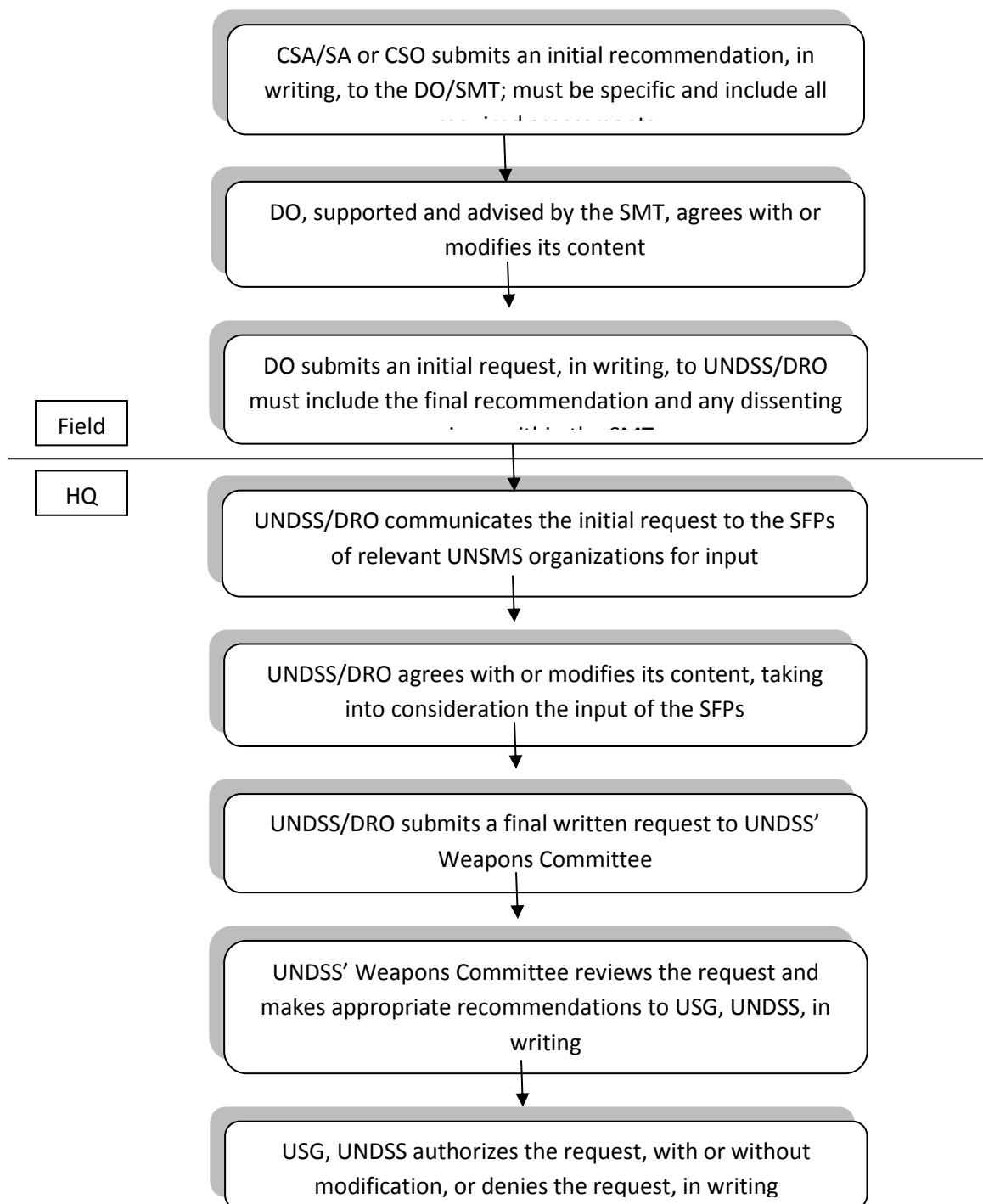
<sup>18</sup> See UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section H (“Use of Force Policy”).

<sup>19</sup> See the *Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms* for further guidance.

<sup>20</sup> See UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”).

## Annex A

### Flowchart of the Recommendation and Authorization Process<sup>21</sup>



<sup>21</sup> See the *Manual of Instruction on Use of Force Equipment, including Firearms* for the Recommendation and Authorization Process applicable to UNSMS security personnel assigned under UNDSS/DHSSS.



## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section K

### UNARMED PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES

Promulgation Date: 18 April 2016  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of personnel employed by the United Nations system organizations, their spouses and other recognized dependants and property, and of the organizations' property rests with the host Government. This responsibility flows from every government's normal and inherent function of maintaining order and protecting persons and property within its jurisdiction. In the case of international organizations and their officials, the Government is considered to have a special responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations or the host Government's agreements with the individual organizations.
2. Without prejudice to the responsibility of the host Government for ensuring safety and security, certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary for the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) to supplement the capacity of the Host Government. The UNSMS may use commercial (private) security services for specific security functions, to complement existing UNSMS capacities or to deliver security services in a cost-effective manner without endangering or compromising the security of UNSMS personnel and visitors.<sup>1</sup>
3. The use of armed private security services on an exceptional basis is regulated by the UNSMS policy on Armed Private Security Companies,<sup>2</sup> adopted in 2012. The present policy regulates the use of unarmed private security services (UPSS) providers to ensure a consistent approach, common standards and guidelines for the contracting and management of such services.
4. The fundamental principle of this policy is that the use of UPSS<sup>3</sup> will be governed by a clear accountability framework, common operational standards and the highest degree of oversight in line with United Nations procurement rules, international standards and human rights laws.

## **B. Purpose**

5. This policy provides a list of the services for which UPSS providers may be contracted. It clearly identifies roles and responsibilities with regard to their engagement, management and oversight, including contract termination.
6. Further details are provided in the accompanying 'Guidelines on the Use of Unarmed Security Services from Private Security Companies,' which describes in more detail the decision-making framework, the assessment process and standards for the hiring and management of such companies.

<sup>1</sup>General Assembly Resolution 59/289, "Outsourcing practices," dated 29 April 2005.

<sup>2</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section I, "Armed Private Security Companies".

<sup>3</sup> "Unarmed security services" are outlined in paragraph 11 of this policy and provided in more detail at paragraph 8 of the "Guidelines on the Use of Unarmed Security Services from Private Security Companies".

### **C. Applicability**

7. This policy is applicable to all persons and organizations of the UNSMS in accordance with the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter II, Section A, Framework of Accountability.
8. This policy applies to the selection, contracting and management of any UPSS from private security companies by any organization participating in the UNSMS.

### **D. General Policy**

9. The UNSMS often establishes physical security systems to protect life, maintain order and deter terrorist and criminal attacks against personnel, premises, property and assets of UNSMS members.
10. The representative responsible for the organization's country operation must notify the Designated Official (DO) of the reason for engaging UPSS in the designated area.
11. UPSS duties may include the following:
  - (a) Entry control procedures management, screening, perimeter patrolling, escorts, counter-hostile surveillance, mail screening, responding to alarms and training<sup>4</sup>
  - (b) Security advisory and assessments services
  - (c) Site and specialist technical surveys
  - (d) Installation, maintenance and operation of security technology (e.g., close circuit television, tracking systems and communications)
  - (e) Safety, fire, traffic and medical services
  - (f) Residential guard services
  - (g) Other services as defined in the contract and in accordance with this policy.
12. Further details on the services outlined in paragraph 11 above are contained in the accompanying 'Guidelines on the Use of Unarmed Security Services from Private Security Companies'.
13. By definition, members of private security companies who deliver UPSS shall not, at any time, carry firearms. Their equipment shall be limited to non-lethal equipment and their reactions governed by the criteria on the use of non-deadly force, identified in the UNSMS Use of Force Policy,<sup>5</sup> applicable host country legislation and international law.

### **E. Security Risk Management (SRM)**

<sup>4</sup> Such as Safe and Secure Approach to Field Environments (SSAFE) training

<sup>5</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section H ("Use of Force Policy").

14. The decision to use UPSS must be supported by the SRM process. The SRM process must evaluate any potential negative impacts that the contracting of services from a UPSSs could have on the United Nations system and its programmes.
15. The SRM process will be conducted in accordance with the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section A, “Policy on Security Risk Management (SRM).”
16. The SRM process must be supported by specific analysis and recommendations on the requirement for an unarmed security capability.

## **F. Roles and Responsibility**

17. When the use of UPSSs is determined by the respective organization’s Representative based on the SRM process as outlined in paragraphs 14–16, the DO, Division of Regional Operations (DRO) and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) will be informed. The latter will be informed by the DO or through the Security Focal Point (SFP) of the organization concerned. Records of these decisions are to be retained in a central repository by the DRO. The “Guidelines on the Use of Unarmed Security Services from Private Security Companies” will outline applicable procurement processes and regulations, including circumstances where immediate emergencies are addressed, in the short-term, in a flexible and practical manner.

## **G. Authority**

18. When contracted by a UNSMS organization, the UPSS provider is performing security risk management functions for the UNSMS at a given location or locations. In accordance with the Framework of Accountability,<sup>6</sup> United Nations personnel are expected to abide by requests made by the UPSS provider in the conduct of their contracted duties, which forms part of the authorized security policies, guidelines, directives, plans and procedures of the UNSMS.

## **H. Selection Criteria for the UPSS Providers**

19. Where the DO and/or the relevant organization Representative have approved the use of UPSSs, companies bidding for the contract must meet mandatory requirements for consideration of their bid. The mandatory requirements are described in the ‘Guidelines on the Use of Unarmed Security Services from Private Security Companies’ and in the applicable procurement regulations.

## **I. Screening Requirements for the Personnel of UPSS Providers**

20. Any UPSS provider wishing to provide unarmed security services to an organization participating in the UNSMS shall confirm to that organization, in writing, that the mandatory screening process for its personnel, as outlined in the ‘Guidelines for Unarmed Security Services from Private Security Companies’ has been conducted and that only

<sup>6</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A, paragraph 28

personnel who meet the mandatory requirements will be used to provide unarmed security services to the UNSMS organization in question.

#### **J. Use of Force, Non-Lethal Means and Standard Operating Procedures**

21. Any UPSS provider wishing to provide services to an organization participating in the UNSMS is required to develop and implement its own Use of Force Policy that complies with the criteria on the use of non-deadly force included in the UNSMS Use of Force Policy<sup>7</sup> and that is consistent with the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers.<sup>8</sup>

#### **K. Training Requirements to be met by UPSS Providers**

22. The UPSS provider is required to ensure that its personnel have the requisite skills and experience to perform the services required in accordance with the contract and the standard operating procedures.
23. Before commencing the provision of services to the UNSMS organization in question, the UPSS provider must provide a written certification that each of the company's personnel to be employed in the contract has undergone the training required in the contract and demonstrated the necessary level of associated skill.

#### **L. Management and Oversight**

24. As part of the contract execution, the Contracting Officer shall appoint, in writing, a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). The COR is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the UPSS provider. The COR shall represent the Contracting Officer in any discussions on contract performance with the UPSS provider as outlined in the Scope of Work and contract.
25. In the case of a single UNSMS organization, that organization shall manage the contract of the UPSS provider.
26. In the case of a common UNSMS facility,<sup>9</sup> the senior security professional shall be appointed as the COR.
27. The COR must immediately submit a joint report to the Contracting Officer regarding any performance issues or concerns identified along with recommended remedial action.

<sup>7</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section H ("Use of Force Policy"), paragraph 10.

<sup>8</sup> See <http://icoc-ppsp.org/>.

<sup>9</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section E: "Security of United Nations Premises".

#### **M. Training and Compliance**

28. This policy is to be part of the training for the DOs, Security Management Team (SMT) members, security professionals and managers in UNSMS organizations who have responsibility and accountability for managing security for their organization.

#### **N. Utilization of Common Security Funding for Unarmed Private Security Companies**

29. In instances where UPSS providers are funded through local cost-shared security budgets (LCSSB), a specific budget line indicating the amount for these services must be included in that local security cost-shared budget.

#### **O. Final Provisions**

30. This policy is to be made available to all UNSMS personnel.
31. This policy enters into effect on 18 April 2016.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section L

# GENDER CONSIDERATION

Promulgation Date: 18 April 2016  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## A. Introduction

1. In a global security environment that remains complex and dynamic, United Nations personnel<sup>1</sup> continue to work with significant security challenges, including challenges and risks that are gender-based. Gender refers to the attributes, opportunities and relationships associated with being male or female, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and inter sexed (LGBTI) individuals. Gender is context-specific and variable, it determines what is expected, allowed and valued in given contexts. Gender identity is a person's basic sense of being a man, woman, or another gender, which may not be the same as one's gender assigned at birth. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. Like people all around the world, United Nations personnel are at risk of violence or other security-related threats and risks based on their gender or their sexual orientation and gender identity. As such, United Nations personnel, particularly women and individuals who are LGBTI are at risk of being subject to gender-based security incidents. The occurrence of gender-based security incidents has highlighted the importance of gender sensitivity, responsiveness and inclusion in Security Risk Management (SRM) in all environments in which the United Nations operates.
2. The United Nations has been at the forefront advocating for mainstreaming gender into all its policies and programmes, which includes the efforts to seek gender sensitivity and responsiveness in all aspects of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) and process. While there have been achievements in this aspect, consistent efforts, however, are required. This shall include as a priority the development of a specific gender policy statement of the UNSMS to promote the understanding of gender-based security risks and to reaffirm the United Nations commitment to make the UNSMS more gender-sensitive and gender-responsive.
3. The need for a UNSMS policy on Gender Considerations in Security Management was recognized by the UNSMS organizations, and the decision to develop this policy was made in May 2015 through the UNSMS Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) forum. In developing this policy, the UNSMS has undertaken to ensure that the process be guided by the principles as manifested in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), the Beijing Declarations and Platform for Action (1995), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution on Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System (1997), the United Nations System-Wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2006) and the associated United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) (2012).

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this policy, 'personnel' refers to United Nations personnel and eligible family members as outlined in UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III, Section A, "Applicability of United Nations Security Management System").



## **B. Purpose**

4. The purpose of this policy is to raise awareness and address security related threats, risks and vulnerabilities of all United Nations personnel, especially those most vulnerable. The policy is also intended to reaffirm the United Nations commitment to ensuring its security management system is more gender-sensitive and gender-responsive and provides appropriate and effective responses, management and mitigation measures. Finally, the policy provides tools that will ensure the United Nations commitments are best fulfilled at various levels at the Headquarters and in the field.
5. This policy should be read in conjunction with *the Security Management Operations Manual* (SMOM) “Guidelines on Gender Considerations in Security Management”.

## **C. Applicability**

6. This policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals<sup>2</sup> defined in the *UNSMS Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter III (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).

## **D. Scope**

7. This policy intends to promote gender considerations and their inclusion in United Nations security management.
8. At the country or mission level, the Designated Official (DO) and Area Security Coordinator should take measures to enhance discussion with host Governments on matters determined by this policy to enable the right of all members of the UNSMS to a security management system that provides an appropriate gender-sensitive response. While this policy provides internal guidance for the United Nations, discussions with host Governments on gender considerations at the country or mission level are strongly encouraged. The United Nations will benefit from the host Governments’ support when dealing with gender-related security incidents in a local context.
9. The policy recognizes the specific context in which the UNSMS operates. The UNSMS commits to communicate to all United Nations personnel host Governments’ approaches (or attitudes) to gender, whilst implementing this policy and ensuring consistency with the values contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

## **E. Policy**

### *General Principles*

10. The UNSMS commits to promoting the understanding by all United Nations security personnel of gender-specific risks for different groups of individuals, as well as the need for gender-sensitivity and gender-responsiveness in all aspects of the security management process to effectively prevent, mitigate and resolve gender-related security incidents. For those with security management responsibilities, their understanding of gender perspective

<sup>2</sup> All individuals covered by the UNSMS include United Nations system personnel, United Nations Volunteers, individually deployed military and police personnel in missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Department of Political Affairs, consultants, individual contractors, experts on mission and other officials with a direct contractual agreement with an organization of the United Nations system. The term does not refer to military members of national contingents or members of formed police units when deployed with their contingent.

is particularly important as this will ensure the inclusion of gender considerations at all levels, including at the policy, strategic and operational levels, both in the field and at the Headquarters.

11. The UNSMS commits to implementing ECOSOC Resolution on Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into All Policies and Programmes in the United Nations System (1997). This will be a particular focus of the United Nations Security Risk Management (SRM) process to ensure that specific gender-based threats, risks and vulnerabilities are considered.
12. The UNSMS commits to aligning itself with the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) for Implementation of the United Nations Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The UNSMS will ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation measures to respond to gender-based security risks are identified and implemented.
13. The UNSMS commits to putting in place an appropriate response mechanism relative to the security and safety of United Nations personnel affected by gender-based security incidents and adheres to the core principles: Safe Environment, Confidentiality and Consent, Respect and Non-Discrimination.
14. The UNSMS commits to ensuring access to training and resources designed to promote gender-related security awareness and visibility and to ensure that those responding to such incidents have the capacity to respond appropriately.
15. The UNSMS commits to determining and allocating sufficient resources identified as mitigation measures for gender inclusion in security management.

### ***Policy Requirements***

16. All UNSMS security policies shall be reviewed to ensure that gender considerations are sufficiently reflected in all security policies, guidelines and procedures. The IASMN will ensure that all UNSMS policies are reviewed by gender focal points and/or gender experts from UN Women.
17. All organizations of the UNSMS shall apply effectively gender sensitive and gender responsive approaches throughout the SRM process. In that regard, the DO and the Security Management Team (SMT), supported by the Chief Security Adviser (CSA), Security Adviser (SA) and Chief Security Officer (CSO) in collaboration with the Security Cell, will ensure that:
  - 17.1 There shall be routine analysis of gender-based security threats and risks in each SRM area.
  - 17.2 All gender-based threats, risks and vulnerabilities are considered and included in the SRM process, in particular when doing risk analysis, identifying specific risk

management measures for gender-related security incidents, managing stress and reporting gender-related security incidents.

- 17.3 Every effort has to be made to ensure that gender-sensitivity and gender-responsiveness are applied in a country or area's security plans and procedures, including contingency plans for emergency/crisis situation.
  - 17.4 Security Risk Management measures, including for residences, are reviewed on a regular basis with a gender perspective.
  - 17.5 Gender-related security incidents may be reported and recorded through the UNSMS Safety and Security Incident Reporting System (SSIRS), only after the consent of the personnel has been obtained.
18. All organizations of the UNSMS will ensure that an appropriate response mechanism that is gender-responsive and gender-sensitive is established and maintained to support personnel affected by gender-related security incidents. This includes guidance for the UNSMS on immediate response.
19. In relation to training:
- 19.1 The IASMN Security Training Working Group will undertake regular review and evaluation of the UNSMS security training programmes to ensure they are gender-sensitive and gender-responsive.
  - 19.2 The United Nations 'I Know Gender' training course (and/or another organizations' equivalent gender training) is mandatory for UNSMS security personnel.
  - 19.3 UNDSS will develop a gender in security training programme to be delivered to United Nations personnel through a variety of training modalities.
20. All organizations of the UNSMS shall pursue every possible means to ensure that the United Nations personnel are fully briefed and aware of the risks that they may face, including those that are gender-related, and the availability of appropriate gender-sensitive support if there is a security incident.
- 20.1 UNDSS will create a gender section on the UNSMIN website where gender-related resources will be maintained. A specific section on gender will also be included in the UNDSS Travel Advisory.
  - 20.2 All mandatory security briefings in country should be reviewed to incorporate gender-specific threats and address appropriate gender-related risk management measures as per the SRM process.
21. The UNSMS shall undertake regular evaluation and improvement of processes in place to support this policy.

## **F. Roles and Responsibilities**

22. Executive Heads of the UNSMS organizations are responsible for informing their respective personnel of this policy and ensuring that all necessary actions are taken within their organizations so that the measures identified are actioned and appropriate resources are allocated.
23. DOs and SMTs are responsible for promoting the implementation of this policy and ensuring that expertise at the country level is utilized.
24. CSAs, SAs and CSOs, with the support from the Security Cell, are responsible for including gender-sensitivity and gender-responsiveness into the SRM process and all security plans and guidelines, including contingency plans.
25. UNDSS will ensure the SRM process will factor in gender-based threats, risks and vulnerabilities and that appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented.

#### **G. Training**

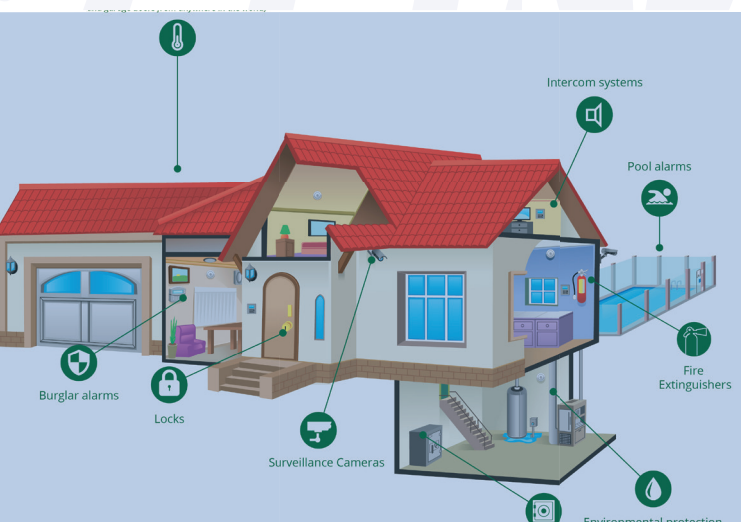
26. This policy shall become part of the mandatory training for DOs, SMT members and security personnel, as well as managers in the UNSMS organizations who have security management responsibilities and accountabilities as defined in the Framework of Accountability for the UNSMS.

#### **H. Final Provisions**

27. This policy is to be distributed to all United Nations personnel who are responsible to be familiar with, commit to and abide by this policy.
28. This policy enters into force on 18 April 2016.
29. This policy shall be reviewed every two years by the IASMN.

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section M

### RESIDENTIAL SECURITY MEASURES

Promulgation Date: 23 November 2015  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel and other individuals covered by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) rests with the host Government. At times, however, governments may be unable to provide the necessary protection when there is a partial or total breakdown of law and order resulting in increased criminal activity.
2. Under such exceptional circumstances, Residential Security Measures (RSMs) may be approved to enhance residential security. RSMs may include residential security advice and training, procedures and restrictions, and the installation of security enhancements in or around residences (“cost-based elements”).
3. United Nations personnel and other individuals covered under the UNSMS have a shared responsibility for ensuring their safety and security, in conjunction with the Organization, regardless of whether RSMs are approved. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all such personnel and other individuals covered under the UNSMS to ensure that they understand their threat environment and basic residential security principles and, in response, implement all practical and appropriate measures to enhance their residential security, commensurate with their threat environment, at all times.
4. RSMs are distinct from Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS). RSMs do not constitute a set of baseline measures to be applied uniformly across all duty stations. They may vary across duty stations depending upon the residential security risk environment. Once approved for a duty station, the implementation of RSMs shall be mandatory.

## **B. Applicability**

5. This policy is applicable to all internationally-recruited or internationally-deployed individuals covered under the *UNSMS Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”). These individuals shall herein be referred to as “personnel.”<sup>1</sup>
6. This policy is also applicable to eligible family members of personnel residing with such personnel at the duty station or installed at an Administrative Place of Assignment (APA) by the respective parent organization where RSMs have been approved.<sup>2</sup>

## **C. Purpose**

<sup>1</sup> This policy shall not apply to personnel required to live in a specific residence provided by their respective parent organization (e.g., guesthouse or compound at a high-risk duty station).

<sup>2</sup> The Special Operations Approach (SOA) for non-family duty stations provides for the designation of an Administrative Place of Assignment (APA), which is considered as the official duty station for eligible United Nations staff members for administrative purposes. The SOA is being phased out gradually and is expected to be fully discontinued as of 1 July 2016.

7. RSMs are intended to protect personnel from physical harm or injury at their residence as a result of increased criminal activity at the duty station. RSMs are not intended to safeguard property.
8. RSMs do not constitute an entitlement or allowance and shall not include cost-based elements that specific entitlements or allowances are intended to cover.<sup>3</sup>

#### **D. Basis for RSMs**

9. The Security Risk Management (SRM) constitutes the basis upon which RSMs are recommended and approved. The SRM process must be conducted in accordance with the *UNSMS Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section A (“Policy on Security Risk Management (SRM)”). The SRM process must reasonably justify the existence of a “partial or total breakdown of law and order resulting in increased criminal activity,” and, therefore, the need for RSMs at the duty station. Whenever possible, the SRM process shall include information on the following:
  - (a) Nature, location and frequency of crimes or attacks, or the threat of crimes or attacks, targeting the residences of members of the international community at the duty station; and
  - (b) Effectiveness of RSMs implemented by local authorities.
10. The SRM process may be supplemented by information relating to residential security at the duty station, including the following:
  - (a) RSMs commonly implemented by other members of the international community for similarly-situated personnel or eligible family members;<sup>4</sup> and
  - (b) Underlying cause(s) of a partial or total breakdown of law and order resulting in increased criminal activity at the duty station, including intolerance or hostility towards identifiable individuals or groups at the duty station.

#### **E. Roles and Responsibilities for Determining RSMs**

11. The Designated Official (DO), in consultation with the Security Management Team (SMT), shall determine what RSMs, if any, will be recommended for the duty station based upon the SRM process and any supplementary information. As noted in Section A (“Introduction”), RSMs may include residential security advice and training, procedures and restrictions, and cost-based elements. The following shall apply when recommending cost-based elements:
  - (a) The DO, in consultation with the SMT shall reasonably justify any

<sup>3</sup> For details on specific allowances and entitlements applicable in the UN Common System, please refer to the website of the International Civil Service Commission ([www.icsc.un.org](http://www.icsc.un.org)).

<sup>4</sup> Commonly implemented RSMs may change over time. Therefore, the Designated Official (DO)/Security Management Team (SMT) should take into account the local context when identifying such RSMs.

recommended cost-based elements based upon the SRM process and any supplementary information.

- (b) The DO/SMT shall not recommend any cost-based elements commonly installed by owners or lessors of residential properties at the duty station.<sup>5</sup>
- (c) The DO, in consultation with the SMT, shall determine a financial cap (i.e., maximum amount) for each cost-based element. When determining such a cap, the DO/SMT shall first consider a common services approach, seeking economies of scale, common standards of performance and quality of service. One-time installation costs and recurrent costs (i.e., for operation or maintenance, as applicable) shall be identified separately.

12. The following procedures shall be followed by the DO when proposing RSMs and financial caps to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and by UNDSS when subsequently evaluating the DO's proposal:

- (a) The DO's proposal, consisting of the SRM measures as part of the SRM process, and any supplementary information as well as recommendations for RSMs and financial caps, shall be submitted to UNDSS's Division of Regional Operations (DRO).
- (b) Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the receipt of the DO's proposal, UNDSS/DRO shall:
  - (i) Evaluate the DO's proposal, in consultation with the relevant Chief Security Adviser (CSA)/Security Adviser (SA) or Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) in the field; and
  - (ii) Share the evaluation and the DO's proposal, including the outcome of the SRM process and any supplementary information, with the Headquarter Security Focal Points (SFPs) of respective parent organizations.
- (c) Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the receipt of UNDSS/DRO's evaluation, the Headquarter SFPs of respective parent organizations shall provide input to UNDSS/DRO. If no input is provided, consensus shall be implied.
- (d) Within five (5) calendar days of the receipt of input, UNDSS/DRO shall seek to establish consensus on the DO's proposal, in consultation with the Headquarter SFPs of respective parent organizations.
  - (i) If consensus is established, UNDSS/DRO shall notify the DO of any approved RSMs and financial caps.
  - (ii) If consensus is not established, a Residential Security Measures Review Group (RSMRG) shall be convened in accordance with the RSMRG's Terms of Reference.<sup>6</sup>
- (b) Once approved, RSMs and financial caps for the duty station can only be modified through the submission of a new proposal by the DO, together with the most recent SRM process documents and any supplementary information.

<sup>5</sup> Commonly implemented RSMs may change over time. Therefore, the DO/SMT should take into account the local context when identifying such RSMs.

<sup>6</sup> The RSM Review Group's Terms of Reference are found in Annex A to this policy.



## **F. Roles and Responsibilities for Implementing RSMs**

13. Parent organizations at the duty station shall ensure that their respective personnel attend a security briefing upon their initial arrival at the duty station.<sup>7</sup> UNDSS/DRO shall ensure that the content of the security briefing includes sufficient residential security advice so as to inform personnel of the residential security environment and any approved RSMs.<sup>8</sup>
14. Parent organizations shall inform their respective personnel of their individual responsibility to implement RSMs, in accordance with this policy.
15. Parent organizations shall hold their respective personnel accountable for any default, fraud or deceit with regard to RSMs.<sup>9</sup>
16. With regard to cost-based elements, parent organizations shall notify personnel of the financial and implementation modalities under which such elements may be obtained.
  - (a) In cases where parent organizations determine that the length of deployment does not justify obtaining a residence at the duty station, parent organizations shall ensure, whenever feasible, that personnel are provided with or directed to accommodation where RSMs, as applicable to the duty station, have been fully implemented.
17. Personnel are required to abide by the security policies and guidelines of the UNSMS and their respective parent organization, including with regard to RSMs.<sup>10</sup>
18. Personnel shall notify their respective parent organization of any delay or difficulty in implementing RSMs at their residence.
19. Personnel who change their residence within the duty station may be eligible for RSMs at

<sup>7</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section G, paragraph 16 mandates representatives of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations to require their respective personnel to “attend appropriate security awareness training and briefings.”

<sup>8</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section J, paragraph 14 mandates Chief Security Advisers/Security Advisers to establish a “system for briefing all personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants upon initial arrival, providing local security training as necessitated by changes in the security environment and ensuring such personnel are kept informed of matters affecting their security.”

<sup>9</sup> The Framework of Accountability, paragraph 28 states: “Personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system are accountable to their respective organizations.”

<sup>10</sup> The Framework of Accountability, paragraph 28 states: “Personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system are accountable to their respective organizations. All such personnel, regardless of the rank or level, have the responsibility to abide by security policies, guidelines, directives, plans and procedures of the United Nations security management system and their organizations.”

their new residence depending on the circumstances for the change. Such circumstances shall be reviewed by their respective parent organization on a case-by-case basis.

20. Personnel may supplement RSMs at their own expense to fit their particular circumstances.

## **G. Roles and Responsibilities for Compliance and Oversight**

22. In addition to their roles and responsibilities noted in Section E (“Roles and Responsibilities in Determining RSMs”), the DO/SMT shall establish compliance mechanisms for the duty station to verify that RSMs have been properly implemented.<sup>11</sup> The DO/SMT shall designate the relevant Chief Security Adviser (CSA)/Security Adviser (SA)<sup>12</sup> to implement such mechanisms, which shall, whenever feasible, include an on-site visit to the residence.<sup>13</sup>
23. UNDSS shall submit an annual report to the IASMN identifying duty stations where RSMs have been proposed, approved or implemented over the past year and any related observations and trends.

## **H. Final Provisions**

24. This policy shall be made available to all UNSMS organizations and to all individuals covered under the *UNSMS Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter III (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”).
25. This policy shall be supplemented by Residential Security Measures (RSM) Guidelines in the *UNSMS Security Management Operations Manual* (SMOM). These guidelines are intended to complement this policy and, therefore, shall not be interpreted as limiting or

<sup>11</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section H, para. 6 delegates the responsibility for “monitoring implementation and compliance” of residential security measures to the Security Management Team (SMT).

<sup>12</sup> In duty stations where no Chief Security Adviser (CSA)/Security Advisers (SA) is present, the Designated Official (DO)/Security Management Team (SMT) shall designate a representative from UNSMS organizations present at the duty station to implement such mechanisms.

<sup>13</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section J, paragraph 17 requires Chief Security Advisers (CSAs)/Security Advisers (SAs) to conduct “security surveys of residential areas and premises” while paragraph 21 requires them to report “all instances of non-compliance with security policies, practices and procedures” to the Designated Official (DO) and concerned representatives of UNSMS organizations. Similarly, the *Framework of Accountability*, Annex, Section L, paragraph 26 requires Field Security Coordination Officers (FSCO) to conduct “security surveys of residential areas and premises.” Furthermore, the *Framework of Accountability*, Annex, Section N, paragraph 5, requires Local Security Assistants (LSAs) to assist in “monitoring compliance” with respect to residential security measures. Finally, the *Framework of Accountability*, Annex, Section G, paragraph 6 mandates representatives of UNSMS organizations to ensure “full and complete compliance by their personnel and their recognized dependents with all security-related instructions” while paragraph 7 requires them to act on “instances of non-compliance of security policies, practices and procedures” and advise the DO on “actions taken.”

prejudicing this policy in any way. These guidelines shall be made available to all UNSMS organizations and to all individuals covered under the UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter III (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”).

26. This policy shall enter into force on 23 November 2015 and, upon entry into force, shall supersede Chapter V, Section H of the United Nations *Field Security Handbook* (2006), paragraphs 5.54-5.63 (“Security of Residences of Internationally-recruited Staff members (aka MORSS)”), in addition to all previous communiqués, memoranda, and other communications related to RSMs.

## **Annex A**

### **Terms of Reference for the Residential Security Measures Review Group (RSMRG)**

1. The Residential Security Measures Review Group (RSMRG) is intended to resolve an impasse between the United Nations Department of Safety and Security's Division of Regional Operations (UNDSS/DRO) and Headquarter Security Focal Points (SFPs) of respective parent organizations with regard to what RSMs, if any, shall be approved for a duty station based upon the proposal submitted by the Designated Official (DO).
2. The RSMRG shall convene whenever consensus cannot be established between UNDSS/DRO and Headquarter SFPs of respective parent organizations with regard to the DO's proposal. The RSMRG shall meet no later than forty-five (45) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal.
3. The RSMRG shall include the following members:
  - (a) The Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, as Chair of the RSMRG, with the relevant UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers present;
  - (b) A maximum of three Headquarter SFPs of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations with a presence at the duty station, including the UNSMS organization with the greatest number of personnel at the duty station; and
  - (c) Three Headquarter SFPs nominated by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) to serve on the RSMRG on an annual basis.
4. The RSMRG shall require a quorum of five (5) members, with at least one (1) member identified under paragraph c(i), c(ii), and c(iii) of this Annex, respectively, in attendance.
5. The RSMRG shall evaluate the DO's proposal in an effort to establish consensus.
  - (a) If consensus is established, the Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, as Chair of the RSMRG, shall notify the DO and Headquarter SFPs of respective parent organizations of any approved RSMs and financial caps.
  - (b) If consensus cannot be established within forty-five (45) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall take the final decision, either upholding the DO's proposal or incorporating any amendments.
6. The Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, as Chair of the RSMRG, shall ensure that a written summary of the RSMRG's deliberations and related outcome is provided to the DO and Headquarter SFPs of respective parent organizations.



## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section N

# ARREST AND DETENTION

Promulgation Date: 15 April 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. It is important to have clarity on the role that United Nations security officials play when individuals covered by the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) are arrested or detained by authorities of a Government. Clarity on the key legal and procedural issues surrounding arrest and detention enhances the ability of the UNSMS to ensure the safety and welfare of individuals affected.

## **B. Purpose**

2. The purpose of this policy is to establish roles and responsibilities for officials in the UNSMS upon receiving information about the arrest or detention of any individual covered by the provisions of this policy. It is not intended to replace or contravene other administrative issuances of UNSMS organizations regarding arrest and detention.<sup>1</sup>

## **C. Applicability**

3. The policy is applicable to all organizations and all individuals covered by the UNSMS, as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

4. Organizations participating in the UNSMS should follow standard procedures for responding to any incident of arrest and detention of an individual covered in paragraph 3 above.
5. The entities comprising the UNSMS are in some cases subject to different legal regimes governing their status, privileges and immunities and those enjoyed by their personnel. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for security officials to make determinations on the legal status of the person under arrest or detention. The relevant member organization of the UNSMS will provide, in accordance with its legal status and applicable legal instruments, guidance to the relevant security officials with respect to the arrest or detention of individuals for whom it has security responsibility.
6. The overall responsibilities of actors of the UNSMS at the duty station<sup>2</sup> in regard to incidents of arrest and detention of individuals covered by the provisions of this policy are to the following:
  - (a) Ensure the applicable organization’s headquarters is informed of the situation;
  - (b) Immediately report the incident to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. This responsibility includes gathering all relevant information about the incident, including from national authorities and from access to the detained person;
  - (c) When deemed appropriate, such as when there are concerns for the safety and/or welfare of the individual arrested or detained, request access as soon as possible to the detained person by an official of the United Nations and, if feasible, a medical physician. When such access is not granted, there should be systematic follow-up to request it until it is granted.

<sup>1</sup> In the United Nations Secretariat, this would be ST/AI/299.

<sup>2</sup> This includes the Designated Official and/or the applicable UNSMS organization Representative.

## E. Duties and Responsibilities

7. When an individual covered by the UNSMS, as per paragraph 3 above,<sup>3</sup> has been arrested or detained by authorities of a Government, actors of the UNSMS at the duty station<sup>4</sup> shall immediately report the incident by the fastest means of communication available to the employing organization headquarters and the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security as soon as possible.
8. The Designated Official (DO) or the applicable UNSMS organization Representative at the location where the arrest or detention has taken place shall immediately contact the Foreign Ministry or relevant government office and request:
  - (a) All relevant information about the arrest or detention; and
  - (b) When there are concerns for the safety and/or welfare of the individuals arrested or detained, the Government's cooperation in arranging as a matter of urgency that representatives of the United Nations accompanied, if feasible, by a medical physician of their choice be given access to the individual arrested or detained. If necessary and applicable, the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>5</sup> shall use contacts at his or her level to assist the DO in seeking the Government's cooperation in this regard.
9. The report to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall convey all information readily available, including the following:
  - (a) The name and nationality of the person arrested or detained, his/her employment status with and official functions for the UNSMS organization concerned; for family members, the family relationship must be given. In the case of children, the age(s) should be given;
  - (b) The time, place and other circumstances of the arrest or detention;
  - (c) The legal expression or term used by the applicable local law to describe the arrest or detention;
  - (d) The legal grounds for the arrest or detention, including any charges against the person concerned;
  - (e) The name of the governmental agency, such as a court or administrative authority, under whose authority the measure is taken;
  - (f) Whether a representative of the United Nations has been or will be given access to the person arrested or detained. In the affirmative, any request or other reaction from the person concerned also shall be conveyed;

<sup>3</sup> In case of doubt concerning whether a person is included or not, the DO's report shall include information on the person's status.

<sup>4</sup> This includes the DO and/or the applicable UNSMS organization Representative.

<sup>5</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser or another Security Adviser, including their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a CSA or SA is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services or Local Security Assistant (if necessary in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present).

- (g) Whether consular protection and/or legal counsel is planned to be availed to the person arrested or detained. In the affirmative, the identity of these services shall be conveyed; and
  - (h) An assessment of the welfare or safety of the arrested or detained individual, including any reports of mistreatment.
10. If information on some of the items listed above is not available without delay, the available information should be forwarded immediately, and the missing items shall be communicated in a supplementary report or reports as soon as possible. Additional information relevant to the case shall also be reported as soon as possible. This will ensure that there is accurate and up-to-date information available centrally on the arrested or detained individual(s).
11. The employing organization will be responsible for communications with the immediate family members and staff representatives concerned. The employing organization shall also determine what further action may be required, including, as appropriate, the involvement of the Secretary-General and the Office of Legal Affairs.
12. The present procedures shall also be applied, as appropriate, with respect to detention carried out by persons other than authorities of the host Government.

**F. Final provisions:**

13. This policy is meant to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
14. This policy enters into force on 15 April 2012.
15. Field Security Handbook (2006), Chapter VI, Section F, paragraphs 6.18-6.26 and Annexes M and N are hereby abolished.



## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section 0

# HOSTAGE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Promulgation Date: 15 April 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. As the organizations of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) are increasingly called upon to operate in insecure areas, the risk of United Nations personnel or their families becoming the victims of a hostage incident has increased as well. This policy provides actors within the UNSMS with an overview of how the United Nations manages a hostage situation.
2. This policy must be read in conjunction with UNSMS “Guidelines on Hostage Incident Management” available for Designated Officials (DOs), members of a Security Management Team (SMT) and Security Officials within the organizations of the UNSMS.

## **B. Purpose**

3. The purpose of this policy is to outline the UNSMS strategy and approach to managing the risk from hostage-taking.

## **C. Application/Scope**

4. The policy is applicable to all individuals covered by the UNSMS, as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”). These individuals include the categories of “United Nations Personnel” and “Other Individuals Covered” (the latter of which includes eligible family members).
5. The UNSMS hostage incident management processes may be applied to secure the release of individuals not covered by paragraph 4 above in *extremis* situations.

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

6. The policy of the organizations of the UNSMS with regard to hostage-taking of personnel and other individuals covered is based on the existing norms of international law as reflected in the 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages which, *inter alia*, provides that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community, that any person committing an offence of taking hostages shall either be prosecuted or extradited, and that States shall make such offences punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account the grave nature of these offences.
7. The policy of the UNSMS regarding hostage-taking is also based on the relevant decisions of its principal organs adopted in furtherance to the aforementioned norms of international law and, in particular, on Security Council resolution 579 (1985) by which the Council unequivocally condemned hostage-taking, called for the immediate release of all hostages wherever and by whomever they were being held, and affirmed the obligation of all States in whose territory hostages were held to urgently take all appropriate measures to secure their safe release and to prevent the commission of acts of hostage-taking in the future.
8. For the purposes of the present policy, hostage-taking is defined as the seizure or detention with a threat to kill, injure or to continue to detain individuals (hostages) in order to compel

a third party, namely a State, an organization of the UNSMS, a natural or juridical person or group of persons, to do or to abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the hostages.

#### **E. Hostage Incident Management Policy**

9. Should individuals covered by the UNSMS be taken hostage, the organization shall make every effort to secure their speedy and safe release. To achieve this goal, the organization may establish contact or start a dialogue with the hostage-takers if it is determined that this would promote the speedy and safe release of the hostages. Such contact or dialogue should be aimed at trying to convince the hostage-takers of the inhumanity, illegality and futility of their actions as a means of attaining their objectives.
10. The Organization shall neither pay ransom<sup>1</sup> nor make any substantial concessions to hostage-takers to secure the release of hostages, nor shall it intervene with the Member State concerned to make concessions in exchange for hostages because this would encourage potential hostage-takers, and thus increase the danger that other staff members might face in the future.

#### **F. Planning and Prevention**

11. Good security planning and coordination will greatly reduce the risk of United Nations personnel and other individuals covered becoming hostages and assist adherence to and compliance with this policy. To assist DOs in this effort, a simple hostage risk assessment methodology has been included in the UNSMS “Guidelines on Hostage Incident Management”. Assessments should be undertaken before, during and after the conclusion of an incident. This is essential in the development of strategy, tactics and security.
12. Every hostage situation is different. There are no strict rules of behaviour; however, there are techniques which can be used by personnel to minimize the effects of a detention in the unlikely event they are taken hostage. Information on how to survive as a hostage is contained in Annex A below. This information should be made available to all United Nations personnel in the context of a security training programme at those duty stations where there is a threat of hostage-taking.

#### **G. Responsibilities of Member States**

13. Notwithstanding the provisions of the present procedures, the Government of the State in which the hostage-taking has occurred, or, if applicable, the Government of the State where the hostages are held by the offenders, has the primary responsibility under international law to take all measures it considers appropriate to ease the situation of the hostages, in particular to secure their release and, after their release, to facilitate, when relevant, their departure. Any request for United Nations assistance in mediating an agreement to secure the release of hostages, made either by a Member State or an organization involved in the

<sup>1</sup> Ransom is defined as the money or other consideration paid for the release of a hostage.

hostage incident, must be forwarded to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for approval.

## **H. Decision-Making Authority**

14. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security is directly accountable and reports to the Secretary-General. He/she is responsible for developing security policies, practices and procedures for the UNSMS to ensure implementation, compliance and support for security aspects of their activities. In the event of a hostage-taking, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security will take the necessary policy decisions and ensure a coherent response by the Organization.
15. Should United Nations personnel, or other individuals covered, be taken hostage, it is the responsibility of the DO, who, in accordance with the Framework of Accountability of the United Nations Security Management System, is the key person in the security arrangements at the duty station, to take all necessary actions on behalf of the Organization to secure the speedy and safe release of the hostage(s). Such actions should be taken by the DO in consultation with the SMT and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. In those instances where the issues involved are so sensitive as to cause damage to other United Nations personnel or have an impact on United Nations operations inside or outside that particular duty station, the DO should not proceed with any decisions which might have significant implications for the Organization and its personnel without obtaining the concurrence of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. Throughout the hostage incident, the DO should consult with the senior official of each organization at the duty station which has personnel being held hostage.

## **I. Hostage Incident Management**

16. The UNSMS will manage the risk posed by hostage-taking, as well as hostage incidents themselves, in accordance with the “Guidelines on Hostage Incident Management” available for DOs, members of a SMT and Security Officials with the organizations of the UNSMS.
17. Coordinated planning and a unified response by the United Nations, host Governments and any other national representatives of the hostages is critical to prevent negotiations being compromised by differing interests and is crucial to securing the release of the hostage(s).

## **J. Lessons Learned Report**

18. After the incident is over, a review and evaluation of the Hostage Incident Management Plan and the way personnel responded should be conducted. The lessons learned not only enable the DO to make improvements to the local plan, but also can help other duty stations in reviewing or preparing their plans. UNSMS “Guidelines on Hostage Incident Management” provide methods for conducting and reporting on this evaluation.
19. A copy of the evaluation report prepared by the DO must be forwarded to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security not later than 30 days after the termination of the incident. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security will consolidate the

key lessons learned and share them with Senior Security Managers/Security Focal Points at the Headquarters of organizations participating in the UNSMS, as appropriate.

#### **K. Enforcement**

20. In the event of an investigation into a hostage incident, findings that any United Nations personnel failed to abide by the terms of this policy may lead to administrative or disciplinary proceedings.

#### **L. Final Provisions**

21. This policy is meant to be distributed to all United Nations personnel.
22. This policy enters into force on 15 April 2012.
23. *Field Security Handbook* (2006), Chapter VI, Section H, paragraphs 6.29-6.47 and “Hostage Incident Management Guidelines” (June 2006) are hereby abolished.

## Annex A

### Surviving as a Hostage

1. Every hostage or kidnap situation is different. There are no strict rules of behaviour; however, there are steps which can be taken to minimize the effects of detention.
2. If you are taken hostage or kidnapped, there are a number of options which could enhance your ability to cope and to see the incident through to a successful release. The following techniques have been successfully employed by persons taken hostage:
  - (a) At the time of your seizure, do not fight back or attempt to aggravate the hostage-takers. You may be injured if you attempt to resist armed individuals. There is a possibility that you will be blindfolded and drugged;
  - (b) Be prepared to explain everything you have on your person;
  - (c) Immediately after you have been taken, pause, take a deep breath and try to relax. Fear of death or injury is a normal reaction to this situation. **Recognizing your reactions may help you adapt more effectively;**
  - (d) Do not be a hero; do not talk back or act "tough". **Accept your situation.** Any action on your part could result in a violent reaction from your captors;
  - (e) The first 15 to 45 minutes of a hostage situation are the most dangerous. Follow the instructions of your captors. Your captors are in a highly emotional state, regardless of whether they are psychologically unstable or caught in an untenable situation. They are in a fight or flight reactive state and could strike out. **Your job is to survive.** After the initial shock wears off, your captors are able to better recognize their position;
  - (f) **Keep a low profile.** Avoid appearing to study your abductors, although, to the extent possible, you should make mental notes about their mannerisms, clothes and apparent rank structure. This may help investigators after your release;
  - (g) Be cooperative and obey hostage-takers' demands without appearing either servile or antagonistic. Be conscious of your body language as well as your speech. Do not say or do anything to arouse the hostility or suspicions of your captors. **Do not be argumentative. Act neutral and be a good listener to your captors.** Do not speak unless spoken to, and then only when necessary. Be cautious about making suggestions to your captors, as you may be held responsible if something you suggest goes wrong;
  - (h) Anticipate isolation and possible efforts by the hostage-takers to disorient you, including unverifiable stories by your captors or frequent movements to different locations;
  - (i) Try to keep cool by focusing your mind on pleasant scenes or memories or prayers. Create games and amusement in your mind. Try to recall the plots of movies or books.

This will keep you **mentally active**;

- (j) Ask for anything you need or want (medicines, books, and paper). All they can say is no;
- (k) **Build rapport** with your captors. Find areas of mutual interest which emphasize personal rather than political interests. An excellent topic of discussion is family and children. If you speak their language, use it -- it will enhance communications and rapport;
- (l) **Exercise daily**. Develop a daily physical fitness programme and stick to it;
- (m) As a result of the hostage situation, you may have difficulty retaining fluids and may experience a loss of appetite and weight. Try to drink water and eat even if you are not hungry. It is important to maintain strength;
- (n) Do not make threats against hostage-takers or give any indication that you would testify against them. If hostage-takers are attempting to conceal their identities, give no indication that you recognize them;
- (o) Try to think of persuasive reasons why hostage-takers should not harm you. Encourage them to let authorities know your whereabouts and condition. Suggest ways in which you may benefit your captors in negotiations that would free you. It is important that your abductors view you as a person worthy of compassion and mercy. Never beg, plead or cry. You must gain your captors' respect as well as sympathy;
- (p) If you end up serving as negotiator between hostage-takers and authorities, make sure the messages are conveyed accurately. Be prepared to speak on the radio or telephone;
- (q) If there is a rescue attempt by force, drop quickly to the floor and seek cover. Keep your hands on your head. When appropriate, identify yourself;
- (r) Escape only if you are sure you will be successful. If you are caught, your captors may use violence to teach you and possibly others a lesson;
- (s) If possible, stay well-groomed and clean;
- (t) At every opportunity, emphasize that, as a United Nations employee, you are neutral and not involved in politics; and
- (u) **Be patient**



# UNDSS

PROTECTING THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR A BETTER WORLD

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT  
OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

## CHAPTER IV

# Security Management



## Section P

# IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IEDS)

Promulgation Date: 8 November 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017



## **A. Introduction**

1. The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) has increased by threat actors in many areas where the United Nations has operations. The United Nations has been the target of IEDs, including Person-Borne and Vehicle-Borne IEDs to devastating effect, and it can be expected that the United Nations will be targeted again by such weapons. An IED is a uniquely dangerous weapon due to its versatility, adaptability and method of employment.
2. Nevertheless, United Nations system entities are required to implement programmes and activities in areas where IEDs are currently employed or may be employed in the future, including where IEDs deliberately or indirectly threaten United Nations personnel, property and programmes. Some United Nations entities have been requested to engage in the removal of IEDs still operational with little policy guidance about the security risks this might entail. For these reasons, there is a clear need for a policy on the United Nations' approach to managing the security risk posed by IEDs.<sup>1</sup>

## **B. Purpose**

3. The purpose of this policy is to outline the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) approach to managing the security risk posed by IEDs that directly or indirectly threaten United Nations personnel, property or programmes and to delineate the roles, responsibilities and limitations within the United Nations system for the management of these security risks<sup>2</sup>.

## **C. Application/Scope**

4. This policy is applicable to all UNSMS entities (herein "United Nations entities"), including all individuals defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) ("Applicability of Security Arrangements") (herein "United Nations personnel"). This policy does not cover members of formed military or police units when deployed with their contingent or unit in United Nations missions.
5. The scope of this policy is confined to IEDs that directly or indirectly threaten United Nations personnel, property or programmes. This policy does not address the United Nations' approach to, and management of, the effect of IEDs on others, including civilian populations.
6. Details on specific IED security risk management measures and related technical procedures will be covered in separate UNSMS standards and procedures.

<sup>1</sup> On 13 July 2010, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee decided that "DSS will, in consultation with DPKO, DPA and all other relevant UN agencies, coordinate and facilitate the development of a comprehensive policy on the UN's approach to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) that are part of active hostilities and target UN personnel and facilities."

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section A, Policy on Security Risk Management.

## **D. IED Definitions**

7. For the purposes of this policy, an IED is defined as an explosive device fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to kill, injure, damage, harass or distract. IEDs are often made from commercially available products and/or military munitions, are simple in design and are usually cheap in labour and cost to produce.
8. IEDs are highly versatile weapons due to the multiple methods available for their construction, delivery and initiation. This versatility allows them to be rapidly adapted to achieve different effects against varying targets, defeat the tactics and counter-measures employed by opponents and/or changes in the supply of raw material for their construction. The versatility and adaptability of IEDs, combined with their simplicity and low cost in manufacture, have made them a preferred weapons choice of certain threat actors who have used them to either attack larger and better equipped security forces (often with an indiscriminate impact on the civilian population) or to target civilians directly (including the United Nations).
9. United Nations entities working in complex threat environments have long been confronted with various types of weapons, including explosive weapons. In most cases, the United Nations has dealt with explosive weapons that were abandoned or unexploded ordnance, including “explosive remnants of war” (ERW) that have ceased to have value for those who deployed them. However, explosive weapons, including IEDs, that are not remnants are considered “operational” (see below) and of some value to those who deploy or use them.

## **E. Remnant and Operational IEDs**

10. For the purpose of this policy, IEDs are categorized as either a “Remnant IED” or an “Operational IED”.
11. For the purpose of this policy, a “Remnant IED” is defined as an IED that has been declared so through the official procedures governing such decisions within the United Nations system, involving the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, in consultation with the United Nations Country Team and mine-action advice, if necessary. Such decision-making processes will consider the political, humanitarian, legal and other issues of the context in which the IEDs are found.
12. For the purpose of this policy, an “Operational IED” is defined as an IED that has **not** been officially declared a Remnant IED by the process described in paragraph 11 above. If there is any doubt as to whether an IED has been officially declared a Remnant IED, it shall be assumed to be an Operational IED by default.
13. Various United Nations entities have a mandate and clear policies and guidelines for dealing with explosive remnants, for example the International Mine Action Standards

(IMAS) that include safety principles for dealing with these explosive hazards.<sup>3</sup> These safety principles, as well as advice from mine action advisers, are the basis of the United Nations strategy for lowering the risk posed by Remnant IEDs.

## F. Managing the Security Risk posed by IEDs

14. IEDs can create a significant safety and security risk to the United Nations if not addressed. The security risk posed by IEDs that deliberately or indirectly threatens United Nations personnel, property or programmes will be managed through existing Security Risk Management policy<sup>4</sup> and manual. The strategy of the United Nations for managing the security risk from IED threats is one of both **prevention** and **mitigation**, and can include any prevention and/or mitigation measure except activities prohibited in paragraph 16 below.
15. **Prevention** entails physical, procedural and training measures intended to lower the likelihood of an IED incident occurring and affecting the United Nations. Prevention measures available to United Nations entities, include, but are not limited to, information exchange and management, travel planning, security-awareness programmes and electronic countermeasures. **Mitigation** entails physical, procedural and training measures intended to lower the impact of an IED incident once it has occurred. Mitigation measures available to United Nations entities, include, but are not limited to, defensive measures such as blast/ballistic protection and stand-off distance and crisis response plans and preparations for rapid medical attention. Approved IED security risk management measures will be included in the country-specific Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS).
16. United Nations entities and/or personnel covered by the provisions of this policy, as laid out in paragraph 4 above, cannot directly engage in, support or fund activities primarily meant to disarm, remove or destroy an Operational IED. This provision is founded on the understanding that interference with the active weapons systems of threat actors may create the intention and perceived justification for violent action against the United Nations. This provision is further reinforced in situations of armed conflict by the humanitarian principle of neutrality, as enshrined in international humanitarian law and other provisions of international law. This policy should not preclude United Nations personnel from conducting capacity development of national security authorities for the protection of civilians.
17. Nevertheless, nothing in this policy is meant to contravene the provisions of the United Nations “Use of Force Policy” (see *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section H) as it may apply to defensive actions that may be deemed necessary in emergency situations meant to negate an imminent threat to the United Nations from an IED.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, IMAS 10.10 – 10.70, “Mine Action Safety and Occupational Health” at <http://www.mineactionstandards.org/international-standards/imas-in-english/list-of-imas/>.

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the Security Policy Manual, Chapter IV, Section A on “Security Risk Management” which entered into force on 18 April 2016 and Security Risk Management Manual of 11 December 2015..

18. The primary responsibility for the management of IEDs, especially Operational IEDs, rests with the host Government or any other authority in control, including occupying powers or foreign forces operating in support of the authorities. Managing the security risk from Operational IEDs that directly target the United Nations may require the assistance of the host country, United Nations peacekeeping mission police/military assets and/or other international military/police forces, including to engage in activities prohibited to United Nations personnel as per paragraph 16 above.
19. If after prevention and mitigation measures are implemented the residual security risk from IEDs is deemed unacceptable,<sup>5</sup> then the only option is to avoid the risk by temporarily removing United Nations personnel or assets from the danger as per *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section D (“Relocation, Evacuation and Alternate Work Modalities – Measures to Avoid Risk”).

## **G. Roles and Responsibilities**

20. In the management of the security risks posed by IEDs, officials of the UNSMS in-country, including the Designated Official (DO), members of the Security Management Team, and UNSMS Advisers, must fulfil their responsibilities as per the Framework of Accountability<sup>6</sup> for security and all other existing security management policies, including those governing Security Risk Management, with special reference to Section F above.
21. DOs have special responsibility to liaise with host country or other applicable authorities in relation to IEDs on behalf of the United Nations and to consult, as necessary, with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in implementing a workable IED security risk management plan.
22. Heads of United Nations entities are responsible for informing their respective personnel of the threats and risks posed by IEDs and for properly implementing the Security Risk Management measures included in this policy (and approved by the DO) to lower the risk to their personnel, property and programmes.
23. DOs and heads of United Nations entities are to ensure that appropriate financial resources are forecasted and allocated to implement the approved IED security risk management measures.
24. United Nations Security Advisers shall advise on whether all required and approved IED security risk measures and procedures are in place and effective, including, but not limited to, physical protection, access control, training, contingency/crisis plans and information management and analysis.
25. All United Nations personnel shall be familiar with and abide by all United Nations IED risk management measures and procedures established in-country. Personnel covered by

<sup>5</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section D. “Relocation, Evacuation and Alternate Work Modalities – Measures to Avoid Risk”.

<sup>6</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A, “Framework of Accountability”.

the provisions of this policy have a special responsibility to refrain from any activities outlined in paragraph 16 above and to report to their respective headquarters any attempts to force or persuade them to do so.

## **H. Enforcement**

26. In the event of an investigation into an IED-related incident, findings that any United Nations personnel failed to abide by the terms of this policy may lead to administrative or disciplinary proceedings.

## **I. Final Provisions**

27. This policy is meant to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
28. This policy enters into effect on 8 November 2012.

## **CHAPTER IV**

# **Security Management**



## **Section Q**

### **POLICY ON CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR THREATS AND ATTACKS**

**Promulgation Date:** 23 January 2019

## A. Introduction

1. Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) events are actions or occurrences that may lead to the release or dispersal of hazardous materials that put individuals or groups at significant risk. CBRN events are of serious health, safety and security concern to United Nations personnel<sup>1</sup>.
2. The release of hazardous materials in a CBRN event can be non-deliberate, such as those caused by industrial accidents, disease, natural disasters, or discovery of remnants of war. The release can also be deliberate, with the goal of causing injury, death, disruption, or fear. This policy only addresses the deliberate release of CBRN agents, in line with the current distinction made between safety (non-deliberate events) and security (deliberate events) in the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS)<sup>2</sup>. Safety risk management<sup>3</sup> should provide the framework for the prevention and mitigation of safety-related events resulting from a non-deliberate release of CBRN agents.
3. The characteristics and effects of CBRN agents are unfamiliar to most people. The threats associated with CBRN attacks create anxiety and fear due to their nature and impact. The Guidelines entitled Operational Considerations for Unintended Toxic Chemical Weapons Exposure<sup>4</sup> provide basic information on chemical warfare agents and other chemicals used as weapons and on basic first aid and operational reaction in the event of exposure. Similar information regarding biological, radiological and nuclear events, which are extraordinarily rare, is available in open sources.<sup>5</sup> Care should be taken when using open sources, as not all CBRN open source material is authoritative.
4. Nothing in this policy contradicts existing relevant emergency response frameworks including, among others, those coordination frameworks to which the United Nations system organizations, Host Governments, Member States, regional organization and other international organizations such as the OPCW have already agreed.

## B. Purpose

5. This policy outlines the principles of the UNSMS for managing CBRN threats or the consequences of a CBRN attack in areas where United Nations personnel operate in order to ensure a coordinated and efficient approach, in collaboration with Member States and other intergovernmental organizations.

<sup>1</sup> All individuals as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* on “Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System.”

<sup>2</sup> *Security Risk Management Manual*

<sup>3</sup> For example, Occupational Health and Safety (OSH)

<sup>4</sup> *Security Management Operations Manual*.

<sup>5</sup> See “[Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response: Introductory Guidance](#)”, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); “[Nuclear, Radiological, Biological and Chemical events – in Brief](#)” (ICRC)

6. This policy aims to assist the Designated Official (DO), the Security Management Team (SMT), and United Nations security professionals, as well as programme managers, in carrying out their security management responsibilities to minimize the risks to the United Nations while operating under a CBRN threat or to manage the consequences of a CBRN attack, in line with the Framework of Accountability<sup>6</sup>.

### **C. Applicability**

7. The policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”). All references to the United Nations herein refer to the United Nations and United Nations system organizations forming part of the UNSMS.

### **D. Definitions**

8. The components of CBRN are defined as:
  - i. Chemical: naturally occurring or man-made toxic substances used in everyday life, industry and medicine, or for law-enforcement/military purposes;
  - ii. Biological: naturally occurring or genetically altered microorganisms (viruses, fungi and bacteria) and toxins (poisonous chemicals produced by biological organisms);
  - iii. Radiological: radioactive materials occurring naturally, as by-products of industrial processes or manufactured for use in industry or medical therapy;
  - iv. Nuclear: radioactive materials generated by nuclear fission or fusion, such as those associated with an operating nuclear power plant or with the detonation of a nuclear weapon.
9. CBRN attacks may be conducted by States, Non-State Armed Groups, criminal groups, or individuals.
10. CBRN attacks may result in hazardous conditions in the operating environment such as the contamination of air, water, or earth with harmful chemicals, residual biological agents, radioactive material, or irradiated materials from a nuclear explosion, such as radioactive fallout in the atmosphere or radioactive water or other substances.

<sup>6</sup> Please refer to *Security Policy Manual* Chapter II, B.



## E. Principles

11. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel and assets from CBRN threats and for consequence management of CBRN attacks affecting said personnel and assets rests with the Host Government.
12. The CBRN threats and responses are sensitive by nature and must consider host nation capabilities, perceptions of governments, local authorities, as well as the perceptions of the general public. During armed conflict, parties to the conflict may note the nature and scale of UNSMS actions, and they may have conflicting perceptions of those actions. It is therefore important, wherever possible, to anticipate and prepare for scenarios as part of security planning and to consider the consequences of possible actions.
13. Where the risk is unacceptable (very likely and critical impact or compared with programme criticality), risk avoidance is required, so United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations will not undertake or continue operations in an environment where CBRN attacks are occurring or have occurred. Appropriately-trained and equipped personnel from entities with mandates to operate in environments with CBRN hazards may undertake or continue operations after an attack<sup>7</sup> if such training and equipment lower the likelihood and/or impact so that the risk is acceptable.
14. The threat of CBRN attacks is addressed at the field level through the SRM process. Recognising that these types of threats are highly technical and require appropriate expertise, the DO is encouraged to seek expert resources primarily from specialised UNSMS organisations, Member States (as feasible in the local context), other international organizations. Subject matter experts will be essential to identifying appropriate security management measures and to preparing specific scenarios and responses as part of security planning<sup>8</sup>.
15. In responding to a CBRN event, the primary objective is to reduce the risk of injury from exposure. The three key steps to take are:
  - (a) To avoid exposure, especially inhalation of CBRN agents or material
  - (b) Remove agents from exposed skin, hair and clothing by decontamination
  - (c) Seek medical attention
16. Security Risk Management Measures (SRMM) identified to manage CBRN risks may require specialized training and the acquisition of equipment that can be considered sensitive by some host governments. No measure should be selected if it cannot be realistically implemented, nor equipment acquired if prohibited by local restrictions. These measures should be regularly reviewed by the DO to ensure continued relevance.

<sup>7</sup> Organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

<sup>8</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section B: “Security Planning”

## **F. Roles and Responsibilities**

17. The SMT members, and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>9</sup> are responsible for ensuring that CBRN events are considered and managed through the Security Risk Management (SRM) process. The SRM process requires that the DO and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO maintain close liaison with Host Government authorities in all aspects of security management, including on CBRN threats, on behalf of the United Nations, and to consult, as necessary, with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in implementing this policy.
18. When finding that Host Government support or capacity to respond is inadequate, the DO must report this to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security to request strategic interventions at the appropriate level. It is preferable to acquire required CBRN technical advice from UNSMS organizations<sup>10</sup>, however, commercial providers and the direct hire of experts as staff or consultants may be optimal in certain circumstances. The DO is responsible for consulting with the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security when deciding which approach will best meet the requirement for CBRN expertise in a timely manner.
19. The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO is responsible for reaching out to relevant expertise within the United Nations system or acquiring such expertise from commercial providers to ensure that CBRN threats are properly analysed, reviewed and that the SRMM are adapted. These measures could include alternate work modalities, relevant awareness programmes for personnel, planning for consequence mitigation of assessed, specific CBRN risk scenarios. In cooperation with relevant experts, security planning, as deemed feasible according to specific contexts, might include the development of awareness information products such as signs and handbooks, prepositioning decontamination kits, post-exposure antidote/medication, and acquisition or deployment of early warning tools in a range of settings, possibly to complement evacuation or shelter-in-place plans or procedures.

## **G. Training Requirements**

20. This policy and relevant training on decision-making in the CBRN threat context shall be included in the security training for DOs, SMT members, security professionals, and managers in the United Nations system organizations posted in SRM areas with identified CBRN threats who have responsibility and

<sup>9</sup> This is usually the Principal/Chief or Security Adviser (P/C/SA) or his or her officer-in-charge ad interim. Where a P/C/SA is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) or Local Security Assistant (if necessary in countries where there is no assigned international professional security advisor).

<sup>10</sup> Organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

accountability for security management in line with the Framework of Accountability for the UNSMS.

21. Training relevant to specific CBRN security risks and specified as SRMM will be provided to UNSMS personnel by relevant organizations such as the OPCW, the IAEA, the WHO, or if so determined by these UN expert entities, commercial providers, as *ad hoc* training, as modules integrated into regular security training courses, or as otherwise deemed appropriated by the DO and SMT.
22. Technical guidance on risk management will be made available to personnel in relevant SRM areas by specialized organizations<sup>11</sup> within the scope of their mandates or through commercial providers, if necessary; however, its purpose will be for the generalist security official to gain an understanding of CBRN threats and possible mitigation measures.

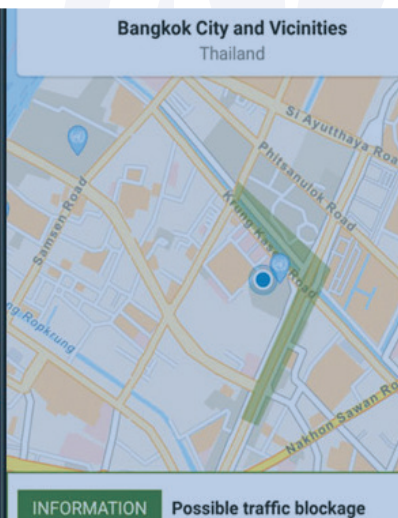
## **H. Final Provisions**

23. This policy is to be distributed to all United Nations personnel.
24. This policy enters into effect on 1 June 2019.

<sup>11</sup> i.e. OPCW, IAEA, WHO

## CHAPTER V

# Compliance with Security Policies and Procedures



## Section A

### SECURITY CLEARANCE AND TRIP

Promulgation Date: 8 April 2011  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. In accordance with the Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS), the Secretary-General delegates to the Designated Official (DO), through the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, the requisite authority to take security-related decisions. Based on the DO's authority and responsibility for the security and safety of all United Nations system personnel and their eligible family members at a duty station, it is mandatory that DOs manage security clearance procedures for their area of responsibility and issue security clearances for external and internal travel. To assist with this responsibility, the Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) supports a web-based system called "Travel Request Information Process" (TRIP).
2. Security clearance procedures are required so that the DO and other officials of the UNSMS in-country can:
  - (a) Effectively monitor the location and number of United Nations system personnel and eligible family members and include them in the country security plan;
  - (b) Provide important security information to United Nations system personnel and eligible family members on official travel, including locating all registered individuals in the event of a crisis or emergency, and;
  - (c) Control the number of United Nations system personnel and eligible family members where the security plan requires it.

## **B. Purpose**

3. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all United Nations system personnel and related individuals (as explained in Section C below) on official travel on behalf of the Organization obtain security clearance before travelling and to outline the relevant roles and responsibilities regarding security clearances.

## **C. Application/Scope**

4. The policy is applicable to all individuals covered by the UNSMS, as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) ("Applicability of United Nations Security Management System"), who are on official travel for the Organization. Individuals covered by the provisions of this policy are herein referred to as "personnel" and "traveller" interchangeably.

## **D. Security Clearance – Official Travel**

5. It is mandatory for United Nations system personnel and eligible family members to obtain security clearance for all official travel, regardless of location, and they cannot commence official travel without obtaining it (except as laid out in Section G below). The TRIP web-based system provides for "automatic" clearance response when the Security Plan allows (See Section E, paragraph 17 below). Other technological refinements that will facilitate requests for security clearance are supported and encouraged.
6. Organizations of the UNSMS shall make all necessary effort so that their personnel (and eligible family members) receive security clearance prior to all official travel. Organizations

must also make all necessary effort so that all their travellers are well acquainted with existing or potential security problems in the areas that they intend to visit.

7. It is critical that all travellers understand their responsibility for their security while on official travel, such as obtaining a security clearance prior to all official travel, obtaining destination-specific security information and advice prior to travelling and obtaining a security briefing from the appropriate security official upon arrival at their destination.
8. For the purpose of this policy, official travel includes official home leave or other entitlement travel where the cost of travel is borne by organizations of the United Nations system. This applies regardless of whether official travel is undertaken by air, sea, land or any combination thereof.
9. Based on the Security Risk Management (SRM) process, security clearance authority for the SRM areas in which security risk level is unacceptable is not delegated and will be granted only by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security on behalf of the Secretary-General.
10. The DO is responsible and accountable for his/her decision when providing security clearance for official travel to, through and within his/her area of responsibility, including when security clearances are issued automatically (see Section E below).
11. The DO has the authority to grant, deny or ask for more information on a security clearance request where delegation exists.
12. The DO may further delegate his/her authority to grant security clearance on his/her behalf. This delegation must be in writing and the DO remains ultimately accountable for all security clearances provided. For this purpose, authority may be delegated to:
  - (a) The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>1</sup>;
  - (b) An Area Security Coordinator, who is responsible and accountable for security within his/her area of responsibility as designated by the DO, in consultation with the Security Management Team.

## **E. Security Clearance Procedures**

13. This procedure applies to all personnel and eligible family members who are required to travel on official business to any location. The individual must submit a security clearance request in TRIP to the DO at the duty station to be visited. If the mission consists of more than one person, it is the responsibility of the mission team leader to request security clearance. For all official travel with his/her eligible family members, a staff member is considered the “mission team leader”. Organizations may request security clearance on behalf of an individual, including consultants, experts on mission or other related personnel or eligible family members.

<sup>1</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser or other Security Adviser, including their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a Chief Security Adviser or Security Adviser is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) or Local Security Assistant (if necessary) in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present.

14. The request for security clearance made in TRIP will include, at a minimum, the following information:
- (a) Name;
  - (b) Nationality;
  - (c) United Nations Laissez-Passer (UNLP) or national passport number, issue and expiry date;
  - (d) Agency/organization;
  - (e) Mission/travel purpose;
  - (f) Specific dates of the mission;
  - (g) Where the individual is staying while at the duty station.
15. A prerequisite for official travel by United Nations system personnel, with the exception of appointment travel, is successful completion of all required training, including “Basic Security in the Field” (BSITF) training for all official travel and “Advanced Security in the Field” (ASITF) for official travel to any field location.<sup>2</sup> Organizations of the UNSMS shall ensure that their personnel have completed these training courses as required. BSITF and ASITF certificates are valid for three years, at which point staff members must recertify.
16. Official travel within countries or other areas of responsibility also requires security clearance. TRIP ensures that internal security clearance requests are transmitted to the relevant person responsible (for example, the Area Security Coordinator), who processes the security clearance in accordance with his/her delegated authority in paragraph 12(b) above. DOs may create an “operational radius” whereby one security clearance applies to all official travel (see Section F below).
17. If the security plan for a certain location requires security clearance solely to track traveller numbers and movement, DOs have the option of setting “automatic” clearances in TRIP. When set to automatic, TRIP provides an immediate security clearance response when travellers create a TRIP entry for proposed official travel.
18. When the security plan requires control over the number of personnel or eligible family members in a specific location, DOs can set the TRIP system so that all official travel into a specific area has to be cleared manually. Manual security clearance procedures can be established at any location regardless of the security risk level, if the DO requires it, and it is highly recommended that all areas with high or very high residual security risk have manual security clearance procedures.
19. For official travel to areas requiring manual security clearance, TRIP entries must be submitted seven days before the start of travel to ensure sufficient time for the traveller to receive official approval. Locations requiring manual security clearance will be listed in the Travel Advisory issued by the UNDSS.

## **F. Security Clearances and Operational Radius**

20. DOs can designate an Operational Radius, in which personnel routinely reside and operate and in which they can travel without obtaining further security clearance. Personnel moving

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this policy, “field location” is any location not designated as an “H” duty station under the mobility and hardship scheme established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

throughout this Operational Radius must be able to communicate with the United Nations radio room, communications centre or other source of assistance.

21. A cross-border Operational Radius may also be established. In this situation, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security grants to one DO the authority, accountability and responsibility for an area on the other side of the border of that DO's country.<sup>3</sup>
22. An SRM process, in line with the SRM policy and manual<sup>4</sup>, must justify the establishment of an Operational Radius as a security risk management measure. There must be clear justification showing that the area designated as the Operational Radius (including cross-border) contains similar threats and risks, as well as the requirement of one common set of security measures.

## **G. Exceptional Measures**

23. In exceptional and compelling cases where insufficient time is available to comply with this policy, such as immediate medical evacuation or other life-threatening situations, the traveller must inform the DO or delegate, by the fastest means available, and complete the TRIP clearance process as soon as possible.
24. For the purposes of a “no notice” inspection or investigation by an agency or organization of the United Nations system, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security may grant security clearances that are not submitted through TRIP in advance. The Department of Safety and Security will normally inform the DO and other concerned individuals of such official travel and, upon arrival in the country, the TRIP clearance will be processed.
25. If the security situation worsens, the DO must advise, through TRIP, all individuals with security clearance (and their employing organization via the Security Focal Point) whether the security clearance will be rescinded or if travel can take place as initially authorized.

## **H. Personal Travel**

26. Personal travel, including for annual leave, is not official travel and does not require security clearance. However, all United Nations system personnel and/or eligible family members going on personal travel are strongly encouraged to register personal travel in TRIP, designating travel as such. Travellers completing a TRIP entry for personal travel will receive an acknowledgement along with essential security information. In the event of a crisis or emergency, it may also be possible for the local UNSMS to provide security support to United Nations system personnel and eligible family members who have registered personal travel in TRIP. Any such assistance is subject to the capacity of the UNSMS to provide such support at the time of the crisis or emergency.

## **I. Compliance with Security-Related Decisions**

<sup>3</sup> A cross-border operational radius may be required when staff are residing in one country and traveling to work in a neighboring country on a daily basis.

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section A on “Security Risk Management” which entered into force on 18 April 2016.



27. Personnel who refuse to comply with the security-related instructions of the DO may be informed by the DO, in writing and with a copy provided to the Security Focal Point at the headquarters of their employing organization, that their security clearance has been revoked.
28. The DO will provide to the Department of Safety and Security, with a copy to the Security Focal Point at the Headquarters of the employing organization, the information and names of personnel refusing to comply with security clearance procedures and instructions.

#### **J. Final Provisions**

29. Chapter VI, Section A and Section B paragraph 6.2 of the Field Security Handbook (2006) and its Annex H are hereby abolished.

## CHAPTER V

# Compliance with Security Policies and Procedures

The screenshot displays the SSIRS web application interface. The top navigation bar includes links for 'New', 'Save', 'Reload', and 'TenDocs'. The main form is titled 'Security Incident' and contains several sections: 'Incident Type' (CRIMES AGAINST A PERSON), 'Received Date/Time' (9/29/2011 03:43 PM), 'Completed Date/Time', 'Development', 'Building', 'Unit', 'Dispatched Date/Time', 'Arrival Time', 'Dispatched Unit', 'Employee', 'Other Agency', 'Agency Action', 'Report Taken', 'Police Report Number', 'Final Action' (with a list of options including Arrest Report, CHAIRS Incident - Investigation Rp, Civil Matters, False Alarm Report, Gone on Arrival/Unable to Locate, Injured Person / Illness, and Member Submits), and a 'Comments' field. Below the main form is a 'Person Name' search bar and a 'Tenant?' dropdown. At the bottom, there is an 'Address 1' section with fields for Address Type (Physical), Address, Apt #, City, State, and ZIP Code.

## Section B

# SAFETY AND SECURITY INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (SSIRS)

Promulgation Date: 17 April 2015  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## A. Introduction

1. The diversity and multitude of threat environments in which the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) operates requires mechanisms to help understand those threats and to allow senior managers the requisite information to assess and mitigate them. Knowledge of the type, location and impact of incidents that intentionally, or accidentally, harm United Nations personnel, programmes, premises and assets provides the foundation of this understanding and guides appropriate responses.
2. The Safety and Security Incident Recording System (SSIRS) is a tool intended to collect information on incidents that affect the UNSMS in order to inform of threats and incidents to contribute to situational awareness that supports effective response, including mitigation requirements and the review of operating modalities in accordance with security risk management practices.
3. SSIRS enables users to
  - (a) **Register:** acknowledge that an incident occurred and alert others of this occurrence;
  - (b) **Record:** store data;
  - (c) **Query to support analysis:** contextualize information for security managers to interrogate and analyse;
  - (d) **Disseminate:** distribute information products.

## B. Purpose

4. The purpose of this policy is to define the type of incidents that are required to be recorded by SSIRS, by providing taxonomy of incidents, detail accountability for recording these incidents and instructions on the recording and endorsing processes.

## C. Applicability

5. This policy is applicable to all personnel employed by the organizations of the UNSMS that have a security function within the UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter II, Section B (“Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System”). In particular, this policy applies to all UNSMS actors as described within the Framework of Accountability, including personnel employed by the organizations of the UNSMS that have the responsibility to “report all security incidents in a timely manner.”
6. This policy refers to the use of the Safety and Security Incident Recording System only. It does not alter or define responses to incidents. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for appropriate incident management response, in addition to both UNSMS and organizational policies and guidelines, will outline the appropriate incident response in these cases.

## **D. Accountability for Security Incident Reporting**

7. In accordance with the Framework of Accountability, all personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system are required to “report all security incidents in a timely manner”.
8. Additionally, the Framework of Accountability requires the Designated Official (DO) to keep members of the Security Management Team (SMT), as well as senior officials of each organization at the duty station, as applicable, fully apprised of all security-related information and measures being taken in the country.

## **E. Use of the Safety and Security Incident Recording System**

### *Requirements and Restrictions*

9. SSIRS is primarily used to record incidents that harmed or had the capability and/or intent to harm United Nations personnel, programmes, activities, premises, facilities and assets only.
10. Reporting is mandatory for any incident involving or impacting United Nations personnel, programmes, activities, premises, facilities and assets.
11. SSIRS can be used to record incidents that do not involve or impact the United Nations. Use of SSIRS for non-United Nations impact incidents is at the discretion of the most senior security professional in each country. However, data related to non-United Nations impact incidents included in SSIRS cannot be used for any official purpose by any United Nations entity. It is for the exclusive use of the country inputting this data based on its own SOPs. Because this data is not verified or endorsed according to rules and standards set in the SSIRS policy or manual, this data is not to be used for any purpose except for those defined by individual country SOPs.

### *Responsibility for Using SSIRS*

12. The most senior security professional is the person responsible for advising the DO within a designated area and is the person accountable for recording incidents in SSIRS. The most senior security professional will most likely be the Chief Security Adviser/Security Adviser, Chief Security Officer, Field Security Coordination Officer, Agency Security Officer or Country Security Focal Point, but can include others. The most senior security professional can only be security personnel recognized in the Framework of Accountability.
13. Accountability for ensuring that incidents are reported cannot be delegated; however, responsibility for data entry in SSIRS may be delegated. In consultation with the DO and the SMT, the most senior security professional determines the need and assigns rights to eligible persons (anyone with a role within the UNSMS) to enter and endorse incident data in SSIRS.

14. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Division of Regional Operations (DRO) will provide oversight on the daily implementation and use of SSIRS and review data entry in accordance with this policy.
15. To help ensure compliance in recording all incidents, SSIRS will automatically send an email showing all incidents recorded in the system for the past week to each Designated Area's most senior security professional, DO/Area Security Coordinator (ASC) and relevant DRO Desk Officer, and will request them to verify that the data in respect of their area is complete.

#### **F. Incident Recording Processes**

16. The inclusion of an incident in SSIRS is a two-step process:

- (a) **Step 1: Entering incident data:** all relevant data regarding an incident, including who or what was impacted, when and where the incident occurred and how it happened is input into the SSIRS user interface. All data is in draft form and resides only on a local server until the incident data is endorsed.
- (b) **Step 2: Endorsing incident data:** all incident data entered into SSIRS (step 1) is reviewed for completeness and accuracy by the most senior security professional or his/her designate. Once reviewed, the most senior security professional/designate includes the SSIRS record in the global SSIRS data set by endorsing it.

#### *Entering Incident Data*

17. As described in paragraph 7 above, personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system are required to report incidents to UNSMS personnel who will then ensure the incident is recorded in SSIRS. Eligible persons with authority as delegated by the most senior security professional in a country are the only persons authorized to enter incident data directly into SSIRS.

- (a) Incidents involving only one organization

18. Individual organizations can input incidents involving or affecting their own personnel, programmes, activities, premises, facilities and assets into SSIRS as agreed to by the most senior security professional, in consultation with the DO and SMT, as outlined in paragraph 13 above.

- (a) Incidents involving multiple organizations

19. Incidents can be recorded by multiple organizations but must be reviewed and consolidated manually by the most senior security professional; alternatively, the most senior security professional may choose to enter data on incidents involving multiple organizations. This decision may be taken on a case-by-case basis and shall be made locally by the most senior security professional in consultation with the DO and SMT.

- (a) Other recording requirements

20. Incidents must be recorded in the designated area in which they occur. If a most senior security professional or other personnel of a UNSMS organization is informed of an incident that occurred outside his/her designated area, incident details must be relayed to the most senior security professional of the designated area in which the incident occurred.
21. All incidents must be recorded within seven days of the most senior security professional's knowledge of occurrence. If the incident is only drawn to the attention of the most senior security professional thereafter, it should still be recorded to ensure that all incidents are captured in the SSIRS system. In cases when multiple incidents occur within a given event, each incident will be recorded separately and then linked in the SSIRS.
22. If a country's most senior security professional decides to use SSIRS for the purpose of recording non-United Nations impact incidents, the SMT must agree on an SOP for recording and endorsing requirements. Once the SOP is adopted, the most senior security professional should request the capability to add non-United Nations impact incidents from UNDSS, Crisis Management Information Support Section (CMISS).

#### *Endorsing Incident Data*

23. The most senior security professional is responsible for ensuring the quality of incident data recorded by endorsing the record of the incident.
24. Endorsement of an incident is necessary for the incident to be included in the SSIRS dataset. Without endorsement, incident data will not be included in SSIRS.
25. The endorsement function can be delegated by the most senior security professional, but this must be delegated to a security professional (a UNSMS personnel who accepts responsibility and accountability for security management as per the Framework of Accountability).
26. The delegated entry and endorsement functions should ideally not reside with the same person.
27. Endorsement procedures for cases when incidents' details are unclear or there are discrepancies in details will be addressed through the UNSMS, as appropriate, for the designated area. Before endorsing a report, however, the onus is on the most senior security professional to ensure that the data entry is clear and accurate in accordance with this policy and guidelines.

#### *Incident Response*

28. SSIRS is primarily a recording mechanism. It does not replace SOPs within UNSMS organizations for reporting incidents nor does it trigger a response to an incident. In many cases, a SSIRS incident record might be created after an incident has received a response.
29. UNSMS organizations will have established critical incident management and response plans according to their own internal security management guidelines.

## **G. Disclaimer**

30. Information in SSIRS is confidential and subject to all United Nations rules, regulations and procedures regarding information handling. It is to be used by UNSMS entities only. Any other use requires UNDSS permission.

## **H. Final Provisions**

31. This policy shall be made available to all UNSMS organizations and to all individuals covered under UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).
32. This policy enters into force on 17 April 2015.
33. *Field Security Handbook* (2006), Chapter VI, Section E, paragraphs 6.16-6.17 are hereby abolished.

## CHAPTER V

# Compliance with Security Policies and Procedures



## Section C

### SECURITY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Promulgation Date: 8 November 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017



## **A. Introduction**

1. To fulfil respective security-related responsibilities as detailed in the Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System, United Nations personnel at all levels requires proper training. Security-related training offers one of the most cost-effective ways to lower risks<sup>1</sup> to United Nations personnel, premises and assets. The Framework of Accountability clearly states that “all actors of the UNSMS are empowered by providing them with the necessary resources, training and a clear understanding of their responsibilities”.<sup>2</sup>
2. The responsibility of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) for security training across the whole United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) is mandated by the General Assembly.<sup>3</sup> The UNSMS must have sustainable, coherent and targeted security learning programmes, including harmonized and regulated content for all security-related courses. Security training raises security awareness, promotes security culture and consciousness, improves security preparedness and creates the capacity to respond effectively to emerging threats towards the United Nations.
3. The goal of security training within the UNSMS is to enhance Security Risk Management effectiveness and cooperation between security personnel, managers with security responsibilities and all other personnel. Standardized training systems are an important tool in reaching this goal. At the same time, training must be delivered in a timely, cost-effective manner using the most appropriate means of delivery.

## **B. Purpose**

4. This policy sets out the goals and parameters for UNSMS-wide security training. It identifies roles and responsibilities in the development and delivery of training materials, methodologies and learning programmes.

## **C. Applicability**

5. The policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (“Applicability of Security Arrangements”).

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

6. Specific objectives of security training are to develop and enhance the skills and knowledge of United Nations personnel to:
  - a. Enhance the security preparedness of managers with security responsibilities within the UNSMS.

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section A (Security Risk Management)

<sup>2</sup> *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A (“Framework of Accountability”, paragraph 29).

<sup>3</sup> A/59/365 as of 11 October 2004, noted by A/RES/59/276 as of 17 January 2005.

- b. Enhance the competencies, skills, knowledge, values and behaviour of all security personnel in the UNSMS.
  - c. Enhance security awareness for all United Nations personnel to assist them in acting in a manner that will not endanger their safety and security and to improve their understanding of their role in their own safety and security.
  - d. Enhance the security awareness training for eligible family members of United Nations personnel, especially at duty stations where they may be affected by the threats identified in the Security Risk Management process.
7. The strategy of security training within the UNSMS is to support effective United Nations operations worldwide by providing cost-effective security training to three categories of United Nations personnel: security managers,<sup>4</sup> security personnel and all other United Nations personnel.<sup>5</sup>
  8. Security training within the UNSMS is either “core security training” or “specialized security training”. Core security training ensures that United Nations personnel at all levels are familiar with their security responsibilities, how to fulfil those responsibilities and the range of support available to them. Specialized security training shall be designed to equip United Nations personnel with the specific knowledge and expertise they need to discharge their security responsibilities in a professional, consistent and accountable manner.
  9. Recognizing that UNSMS organizations have their own professionally qualified trainers and learning managers, the UNDSS shall establish, through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network’s “Security Training Working Group”, a mechanism for certification on security learning programmes, to allow the greatest outreach for these learning products. Learning partnerships between UNDSS and UNSMS organizations ensures the best use of resources and training materials.

## **E. Training for United Nations Personnel**

10. There are two core, self-administered online security learning programmes for all United Nations personnel: one basic programme and one advanced programme.
11. All United Nations personnel must successfully complete the basic security learning programme.
12. United Nations personnel assigned to, or visiting on official travel, any field location<sup>6</sup> must successfully complete the advanced security learning programme.

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this policy, “security manager” refers to the Designated Official and Representatives of UNSMS organizations who are members of the Security Management Team in-country or are assigned as Area Security Coordinators or members of respective Area Security Management Teams.

<sup>5</sup> To include United Nations personnel who perform functions within a Warden System.

<sup>6</sup> For the purpose of this policy, “field location” is any location not designated as an “H” (Headquarters) duty station under the mobility and hardship scheme established by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

13. The certificates for the basic and advanced security learning programmes are valid for three years, after which the individual must re-certify.
14. It is the responsibility of all United Nations personnel to ensure that they have completed these training courses as required and of their respective organizations to ensure that these courses are made available.
15. In addition to the above, United Nations personnel must attend the required security briefings conducted by security personnel at each duty station and successfully complete other specialized security training where required at designated locations.
16. United Nations personnel who perform functions within a Warden System must successfully complete security training for those functions.

#### **F. Training for United Nations Security Personnel**

17. The security training curriculum provides progressive and comprehensive training at basic, intermediate and advanced stages and establishes an important career development channel for security personnel.
18. All security personnel with functional security responsibilities are to receive core training, specialist training or specific training relevant to their functional tasking, and this training should meet standards of content and methodology that are agreed upon through the Security Training Working Group. Additional career development courses are available on the UNDSS and UNSMS organization Learning Management Systems.
19. Core security training and learning programmes are designed to equip security personnel with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes (behaviour) to fulfil their assigned functions to an agreed standard of competency. They will also enhance interoperability between UNSMS organizations and facilitate upwards mobility and career movement (i.e., “cross fertilization”) of security personnel between UNDSS and other UNSMS organizations.
20. Specialized security training for security personnel shall depend on requirements to fulfil specific functions, including, but not limited to, courses on: hostage incident management, security analysis process and practice and close protection.

#### **G. Training for United Nations Managers with Security Responsibilities**

21. Security training is mandatory for security managers. Designated Officials are required to complete a Designated Official induction security orientation course prior to their assumption of duty at their respective country of assignment.
22. It is mandatory for Designated Officials, all members of Security Management Teams and Area Security Coordinators to complete training specific to their security functions. At a minimum, Designated Officials and Security Management Team members must complete

the UNDSS online Security Management Team training module and maintain a record of certification.<sup>7</sup>

## **H. Development of Training Materials and Delivery of Training Programmes**

23. UNDSS is responsible for the following security training-related activities:

- a. Continuous review of training materials to ensure that they reflect approved security policies and procedures, best practices, lessons learned and requirements for objectivity.
- b. Through the Security Training Working Group, establish and oversee security-related qualification and certification standards and practices for learning managers and trainers across the UNSMS.
- c. With the support of the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, develop security-related training materials in the official languages of the United Nations, as appropriate.
- d. Develop and maintain, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, the official listing of mandatory security training requirements.

24. UNDSS may provide security training through the following modalities:

- a. Distance learning initiatives.
- b. The Department's website and Learning Management System.
- c. Mobile training teams.
- d. A network of regional security training focal points, certified trainers and learning managers from UNSMS organizations.
- e. Outsourcing, where appropriate, to Member States, other UNSMS organizations or commercial vendors.

## **I. Management of Security Training Programmes**

25. To ensure the relevance and efficiency of security training throughout the UNSMS, UNDSS will periodically assess training needs. All UNSMS organizations shall share training materials with other organizations within the system, either bilaterally or through the Security Training Working Group. This collaboration will help to ensure that training materials and activities meet requirements and may provide a basis for prioritization, cost efficiencies and the avoidance of duplication.

<sup>7</sup> Face-to-face Security Management Team training may also be conducted by qualified learning managers on a case-by-case basis.

26. As part of its system-wide responsibility for security training, UNDSS shall establish and maintain a database to record training-related information regarding the number of United Nations personnel who have successfully completed security training.
27. UNDSS will catalogue its Learning Programmes, providing details of specific aims, learning objectives, key learning points, suggested methodologies for delivery and detailed lesson plans. Learning programmes will be available for use by qualified learning managers and certified trainers in any UNSMS organization. UNDSS will also cooperate closely, through the Security Training Working Group, with the Learning Development Centres of other UNSMS organizations to develop learning best practices.

## **J. Roles and Responsibilities**

28. In accordance with *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A (“Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System”), the following are the responsibilities of various actors of the UNSMS in regards to security training:
  - a. Senior Security Managers and/or Security Focal Points at Headquarters of UNSMS organizations shall ensure that all personnel of their organization, and their recognized eligible family members, are aware of security training requirements and facilitate the provision of security and safety training and briefings.
  - b. Representatives of organizations participating in the UNSMS shall attend all security training as members of the Security Management Team.
  - c. Chief Security Advisers/Security Advisers shall establish a system for briefing all personnel employed by the organizations of the UNSMS and their eligible family members upon initial arrival and provide local security training as necessitated by the security environment.
  - d. Chief of Security and Safety Services/Sections shall provide standardized induction and specialist training for United Nations staff and security personnel.
  - e. Chief Security Officers for Peacekeeping Missions (where the Head of Mission is not the Designated Official and where a UNDSS Chief Security Adviser is present) shall provide security training to mission personnel.
  - f. Local Security Assistants shall assist in conducting security training for United Nations personnel, locally-recruited guards and others (including security guards from contracted companies) as appropriate.
  - g. Personnel employed by the organizations of the UNSMS shall attend and complete security training relevant to their level and role and complete the required security training as outlined in paragraphs 10–16 above.
29. In accordance with *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter VII, Section C, *Road Safety*, UNSMS organizations in-country are responsible for road safety information and awareness

campaigns for their personnel and for providing, in consultation and coordination with UNDSS, safe-driving training for drivers.

**K. Final Provisions**

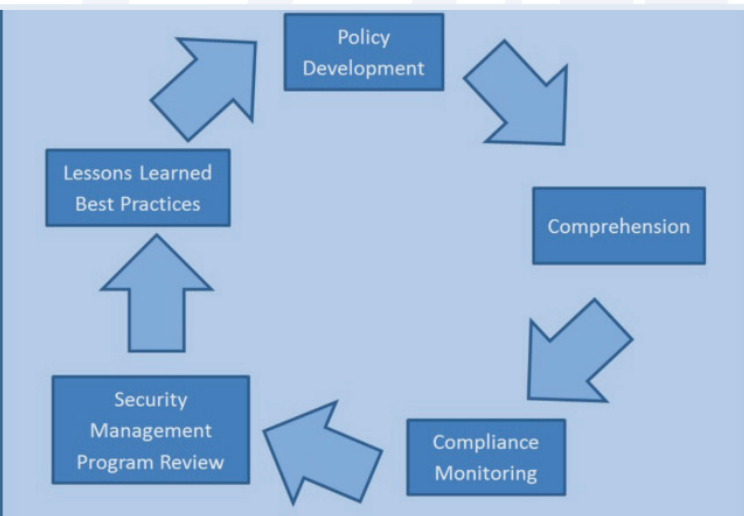
30. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.

31. This policy enters into effect on 08 November 2012.

32. *Field Security Handbook*, Chapter II, paragraphs 2.5 (e), (f) and (j) are hereby abolished

## CHAPTER V

### Compliance with Security Policies and Procedures



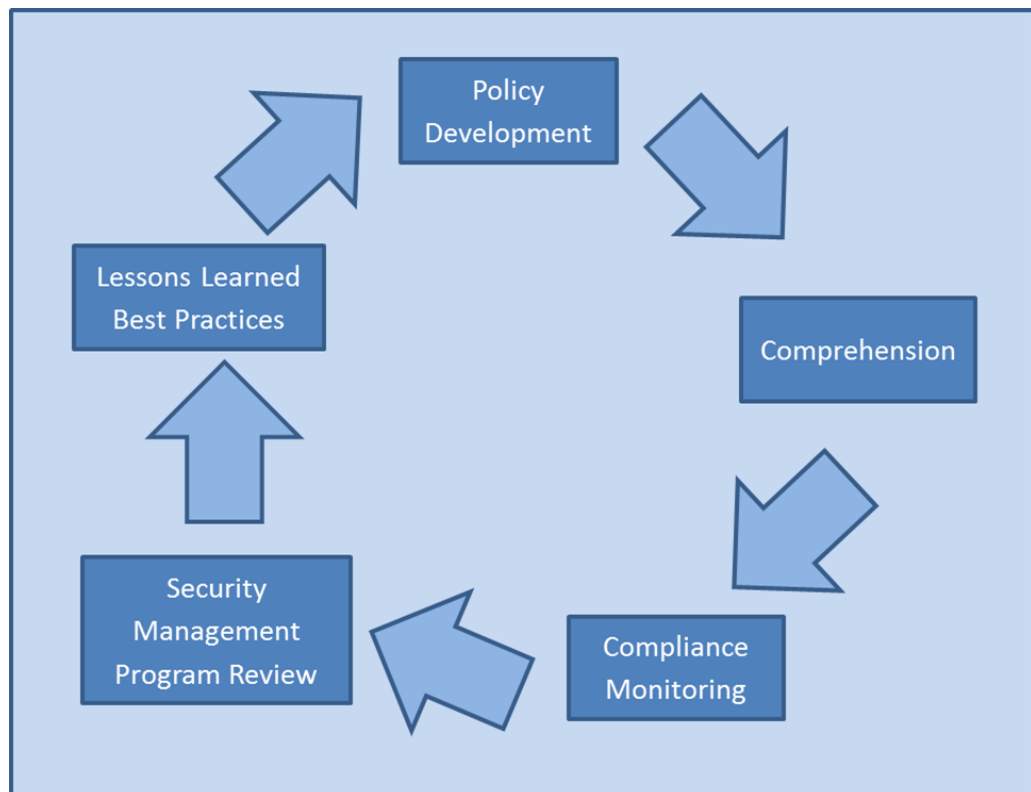
## Section D

### COMPLIANCE, EVALUATION AND BEST PRACTICES

Promulgation Date: 28 September 2018

## A. Introduction:

1. The goal of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) is to enable UN programmes and activities within acceptable levels of security risk. To achieve this goal, the UNSMS has established a robust set of policies, procedures and guidelines that lay the foundation for the management of security at the operational and managerial level. These policies, procedures and guidelines are implemented in country- and programme-specific contexts.
2. To ensure that the policies of the UNSMS remain robust and focused on ensuring the most effective security management programmes, the UNSMS has established a policy feedback loop meant to ensure that policy development is informed by best-practices and lessons learned that came from a review of our security management programmes and the monitoring of compliance status.
3. The Policy feedback loop comprises the following five elements (see Figure 1 below):
  - a. Policy Development
  - b. Comprehension
  - c. Compliance Monitoring
  - d. Security Management Programme Review
  - e. Lessons Learned / Best Practices



*Figure 1*



4. **Policy development** activities are undertaken by IASMN through the production, revision and updating of security policies and related tools. Once approved by HLCM, policies become applicable and binding within all UNSMS entities.
5. **Comprehension** of the policies are articulated through professional learning and development activities and other comprehension-building initiatives conducted by UNDSS and UNSMS entities. This element aims to facilitate the understanding and implementation of policies, communicate compliance standards, roles and responsibilities and motivate adherence.
6. The remainder of the elements from the policy feedback loop comprise the contents of this policy and are explained in detail below.

#### **B. Purpose:**

6. The purpose of this policy is to provide a common institutional framework for the elements of the policy feedback loop related to compliance monitoring, security management programme review and lessons learned/best practice, as well as the operational approach and arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the policy. Compliance monitoring and security management programme review are primarily meant to be proactive steps taken to identify and address security management-related issues before they occur.

#### **C. Applicability:**

7. The “Compliance, Evaluation and Best Practice policy” applies to UNDSS and all other UNSMS entities.

#### **D. Definitions**

8. For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:
  - a. **Compliance:** Status of conformity and adherence to the policies, manuals, procedures and guidelines of the UNSMS.
  - b. **Compliance Monitoring** is a management tool that involves systematic oversight and collection of indicators of progress, or lack thereof, in implementing security risk management measures and security policies.
  - c. **Security Management Programme:** a set of activities aimed at ensuring the safety and security of UN personnel and assets for enabling UNSMS entities implementing their mandates.
  - d. **Lessons Identified:** Past events or actions that could develop into lessons learned if properly analyzed and actioned.
  - e. **Lessons Learned:** Learning, either positive or negative, drawn from Lessons Identified with a purpose of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of particular activities by applying or avoiding them in future similar situations and which could

be developed into Best Practices. Lessons Identified only become Lessons Learned when they are properly actioned with a purpose of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of similar activities.

- f. **Best Practices:** Process or procedure for performing an activity that has been applied and proven effective in at least one situation and could have applicability in another similar situation in future.

## **E. Policy Framework**

9. The compliance monitoring and security management programme review functions ensure the effective and efficient implementation of security management policies and procedures, as part of the UNSMS efforts to enable the implementation of United Nations programmes and mandates, in as safe and secure a manner as possible.
10. Compliance monitoring is a regular part of the oversight and management of the security management programme. Monitoring the adherence to security policies, and of the implementation of Security Risk Management (SRM) measures and procedures (SRM Manual, Step 9, “Monitoring and Review”), through regular assessments and monitoring practices, are essential features to ensure the effectiveness of a security management programme.
11. Security management programme reviews focus on the results, design and implementation of the security management programme. Programme evaluation determines the relevance, performance, efficiency and impact of a security management programme.
12. Although distinct, compliance monitoring and security management programme reviews are mutually complementary. Evaluations, as a component of the Programme Review are based as much as possible on information acquired from monitoring activities. Compliance monitoring and security management programme reviews are used as a management tool, emphasizing accountability and compliance.
13. A sustained and expanding culture of accountability, transparency and quality improvement is a strategic vision of the UNSMS. Compliance monitoring and security management programme reviews are essential to accountability, learning and decision making.
14. Compliance monitoring and security management programme review play a key role in ensuring the UNSMS is a learning entity that develops and revises security management policies and procedures that are most effective for successful security management programmes on the ground.
15. Both activities allow for the identification of lessons learned and resultant best practices that shall be channeled in the process of developing and updating security policies.

## **F. Compliance Monitoring**

16. Monitoring the implementation of SRM measures and adherence to security policies at the operational level is a proactive measure meant to ensure a safe environment for UN personnel and programme delivery (see SRM Manual, Step 9, “Monitoring and Review”)
17. Compliance with security management policies is a key requirement for the effective functioning of the UNSMS and its associated security management programmes. UNDSS and other UNSMS entities are responsible for monitoring their compliance with UNSMS policies and to take then necessary corrective action on incidences of non-compliance.
18. Compliance monitoring will consist of **general** and **specific/targeted** techniques that may include:
  - a. Self-assessment.
  - b. Peer reviews.
  - c. Continuous document reviews.
  - d. Compliance audits (as necessary).
19. **General Compliance Monitoring** will be conducted by UNDSS and UNSMS entities through the following tools:
  - a. UNDSS develops and maintains the procedures and issues the guidelines that govern both UNDSS centralized document reviews<sup>1</sup> at desk level and UNDSS decentralized in-country self-assessments.
  - b. UNSMS entities shall maintain their own internal compliance monitoring tools, informed by IASMN best practices.
20. **Specific/targeted Compliance Monitoring.** UNDSS and UNSMS entities shall retain the capacity of deploying compliance audits to address specific compliance-related challenges or instances of non-compliance. These audits shall complement the general compliance monitoring system as described in paragraph 19 above. Where audits are intended to review multiple UNSMS entities, USG UNDSS, as chairperson of the IASMN, shall determine the scope and composition of compliance audit teams, in consultation with applicable UNSMS entities, to achieve greater inclusivity and representation.
21. **Reporting and Corrective Actions** - When an UNSMS entity fails to meet a policy or SRM requirement, non-compliance exists. The DO shall report instances of non-compliance to the applicable UNSMS entity so that that entity can take corrective actions to prevent recurrence by eliminating the cause(s) of an existing non-compliance. The DO shall inform USG UNDSS on these instances for a follow up with the respective UNSMS entities

<sup>1</sup> The centralized document review is a formal examination of mandatory security documents and processes defined by UNSMS policies produced or maintained by the Senior Security Professional within the Designated Area, including, *inter alia*, Security Risk Management process, SSIRS, security plans, SMT minutes, etc. The purpose of the examination is to verify whether the documents and processes are in alignment with the policy requirements both in terms of formalities and content.

headquarters level. Reciprocally, UNSMS entities are also encouraged, through their respective headquarters security focal points, to inform the USG UNDSS of suspected non-compliance of UNDSS activities.

## **G. Security Management Programme Review**

22. The security management program review encompasses preventive and *post facto* evaluation activities. Preventive activities include security programme evaluation and management reviews. The *post-facto* interventions consist of Board of Inquiries, other type of inquiries, and fact-finding mechanisms.

### **23. Preventive**

- a. **Security Programme Evaluation** is a systematic and objective determination of the relevance and effectiveness of the UNSMS in the Designated Area. The evaluation function in UNDSS will be implemented through different types of evaluation activities that will be based on the needs that it serves and the level in which are applied. The programme evaluation function is guided by the norms and standards defined by the United Nations Evaluation Group<sup>2</sup>.
- b. **Management Reviews**, including UNDSS Security Assistance Visits and interagency support missions, will address security management deficiencies that have come to the attention of UNDSS and/or UNSMS entities. These reviews are of a thematic nature and focus on a single or cross-cutting security management issue or activity. The review shall be conducted within the framework of current security policies and procedures and in accordance with the specific Terms of Reference

### **24. Post Facto**

- a. **UNSMS Board of Inquiry**. As indicated in *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter V, Section G, a Board of Inquiry is an analytical and managerial tool to review investigation reports and record the facts of critical security incidents involving UNSMS entities, including whether the occurrence took place as a result of the acts or omissions of any individual(s). The purpose of a Board of Inquiry is to identify gaps or deficiencies in the application of UNSMS policy, procedures or guidelines, and to inform lessons learned.
- b. **Other Inquiries**: There may be other, *post facto*, inquiries by UNDSS or UNSMS entities, based on the internal procedures of respective UNSMS entities.

## **H. Lessons Learned and Best Practices**

25. The purpose of Lessons Identified, Lessons Learned and Best Practices collected, synthesized and shared through a formalized process are aimed to:

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) is an interagency professional network that brings together the evaluation units of the UN system, including UN Departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

- a. Enable staff and partners in UNSMS entities to benefit from institutional memory and collective experience and expertise;
  - b. Ensure that the collective experience and institutional memory are reflected in system-wide policy and standards development;
  - c. Facilitate the transfer of knowledge and its efficient management;
  - d. Improve efficiency and productivity of the Department's security activities and those of the UNSMS.
26. Lessons Learned and resulting Best Practices will be shared and incorporated into designing, developing and implementing security policy and training where applicable
27. UNDSS will develop the procedure for establishing an enabling system and methodology for capturing, processing, disseminating and managing knowledge from Lessons Learned to Best Practices.

#### **I. Roles and Responsibilities**

28. UNDSS shall maintain procedures to review and assess the adherence with applicable security policies, including implementation of required SRM measures and procedures. (SRM Manual, Step 9, "Monitoring and Review")
29. UNDSS, as the custodian of the compliance monitoring and security management programme review function, shall coordinate and support the implementation of the policy.
30. UNDSS shall provide support to the development, design and implementation of UNSMS entities' self-evaluations when so requested.
31. UNDSS shall submit an annual report to the IASMN on the results and impact of the compliance monitoring and security management programme review functions. This report shall present a consolidated picture of results and a summary of cross-cutting issues and learning insights based on the activities undertaken during the reporting year.
32. The Security Focal Points for UNSMS entities, as per their internal accountability framework, will address gaps in implementing SRM measures and procedures to ensure action is taken to address non-compliance.
33. Designated Officials and Representatives/Heads of UNSMS entities at country level shall ensure that appropriate actions are taken to implement this policy.

#### **J. Final Provisions**

34. In implementing the compliance monitoring, evaluation and best practices policy, UNDSS shall work closely with other compliance and/or evaluation units of other United Nations entities and inter-agency and interdepartmental mechanism including the United Nations Evaluation Group.

35. UNDSS and the IASMN shall periodically review the implementation and effectiveness of this policy.
36. This Policy enters into force on 1 January 2019.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **Compliance with Security Policies and Procedures**



## **Section E**

### **BOARDS OF INQUIRY (BOI)**

**Promulgation Date:** 8 November 2012  
**Technical Review:** 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. Using Boards of Inquiry as an analytical as well as a managerial tool to review investigation reports and record the facts of serious incidents is a well-established administrative practice in many organizations, including within the United Nations. Boards of Inquiry have proven to be useful in identifying gaps or deficiencies in procedures and policies and in strengthening internal controls to avoid recurrence and to improve managerial accountability. Recommendations of Boards of Inquiry can provide managers with a proposed course of action.
2. There is a corresponding need for a similar mechanism within the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) to review critical security and safety incidents involving the personnel and property of its member organizations. This mechanism would support the Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System and identify lessons learned to strengthen Security Risk Management (SRM) policy<sup>1</sup> and procedures and address operational gaps in SRM.

## **B. Purpose**

3. The purpose of this policy is to establish a common framework within the UNSMS for convening and executing a Board of Inquiry (herein referred to as “a Board”) following the investigation of a critical security incident that involves member organizations.

## **C. Application/Scope**

4. The policy is applicable to all member organizations of the UNSMS and all their personnel (herein “United Nations personnel”) as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

5. A Board of Inquiry is neither an investigative nor a judicial process and does not make recommendations on questions of compensation, legal liability or disciplinary action. A Board of Inquiry is convened after the investigators of the affected organizations have completed their investigation of the incident in accordance with their applicable legal framework. In appropriate cases, organizations affected will consider coordinating their pre-Board investigations with the view to gain maximum efficiency and preservation of evidence.
6. A Board of Inquiry is an analytical and managerial tool to review investigation reports and record the facts of critical security incidents involving organizations of the UNSMS, including whether the occurrence took place as a result of the acts or

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to Security Policy Manual, Chapter IV, Section A, Security Risk Management, which entered into effect on 18 April 2016.



omissions of any individual(s). The purpose of a Board of Inquiry is to identify gaps or deficiencies in SRM policy, procedures or operations, to SRM controls (lessons learned) and to improve accountability for SRM.

7. For the purpose of this policy, a “critical security incident” is defined as a significant occurrence caused by hostile action that results in death or serious injury of multiple personnel, generally of more than one UNSMS organization.
8. A Board of Inquiry is not appropriate in matters principally involving allegations of misconduct by any United Nations personnel. Such matters are to be handled by the relevant UNSMS organization in accordance with its internal policies and procedures.
9. Nothing in this policy inhibits the requirement for investigations, which might exist in certain cases, in accordance with other sources of policy and/or guidance of UNSMS organizations and national legislation.

#### **E. Convening a Board of Inquiry**

10. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security will consult with the Executive Head(s) of the UNSMS organizations involved in an incident to determine together whether they consider that a Board of Inquiry is warranted. Where it is determined that such an inquiry is warranted, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall proceed to convene the Board of Inquiry for that purpose.
11. The Board shall be established, and its members appointed, with a Convening Order signed by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security after consultation with the Executive Head(s) of the UNSMS organization(s) involved in the incident, as per paragraph 10 above.<sup>2</sup> When necessary, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security can consult the Executive Group on Security<sup>3</sup> before issuing a Convening Order.
12. The Terms of Reference of the Board constitutes an integral part of the Convening Order. The Terms of Reference is the framework within which the Board operates and defines the facts and issues the Board is to address. The Terms of Reference shall be as specific as possible and must provide a clear limit to the Board’s scope of review. In particular, the Terms of Reference shall always specify that Board members are prohibited from making recommendations regarding compensation, disciplinary action or legal liability.<sup>4</sup> The Convening Order, including the composition of the Board, and the Terms of Reference shall be determined by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security in consultation with the UNSMS organizations affected.

<sup>2</sup> Annex A provides a template for the Convening Order.

<sup>3</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section B, “Executive Group on Security”.

<sup>4</sup> Annex B provides a template for developing Terms of Reference.

## **F. Composition of a Board of Inquiry**

13. A Board of Inquiry shall comprise at least four (4) members, including a Chairperson. Due consideration shall be given to geographic and gender representation. A Board should generally not comprise more than six (6) members, including the Chairperson.
14. The Chairperson of the Board, whose name shall be identified in the Convening Order, shall be an individual with present or past United Nations system senior management experience, considering the provisions of paragraph 18 below.
15. At least one member of the Board shall be appointed from individuals recommended by the UNSMS organizations involved in the incident, considering the provisions of paragraph 17 below.
16. At least one member of the Board shall have practical and policy knowledge and experience of the UNSMS, considering the provisions of paragraph 17 below.
17. No person shall be appointed as a member of the Board if he or she
  - (a) Has a perceived or actual conflict of interest with either the individuals or components involved in the incident under review;
  - (b) Is from a unit or office that had the responsibility for security management of the location or office involved in the incident under review; or
  - (c) Has taken part in the investigation of the occurrence, is a material witness, is an accused person, is a suspect from that investigation or is likely to have a role in reviewing the findings of the Board.
18. All Board members shall serve on the Board in their individual capacity and shall be independent for the purpose of this duty. Managers or supervisors of Board Members shall ensure that no undue pressure is exerted on them in the context of the Board's proceedings.
19. Depending on the nature of the occurrence, the Board may require expert advice in a related area. Subject experts shall be arranged by a Board Support Officer (see paragraph 22 below) with due regard to excluding conflict of interest with either the individuals or organizational components under review. Such experts shall not be considered Board members.

## **G. Support to the Board**

20. The Board of Inquiry shall be supported by a Board Support Officer and a Secretary.

21. The Board Support Officer shall be responsible for all matters with regard to coordinating the convening process and ensuring the efficient functioning of the Board.
22. The Board Support Officer shall be appointed from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security or from one of the UNSMS organizations involved in the incident.
23. The Board Support Officer fulfils the following functions:
  - (a) Draft the Convening Orders listing the names of the Board Chairperson and members and preparing, when necessary in consultation with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, incident-specific Terms of Reference for approval by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security;
  - (b) Administer the “Undertaking of Confidentiality” in accordance with the approved format;<sup>5</sup>
  - (c) Provide administrative and logistical advice and support to Board members throughout the Board’s proceedings;
  - (d) Review the Board’s draft report for quality control and format compliance;
  - (e) Coordinate the review of the Board’s report by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs;
  - (f) Submit the Board’s report package and all annexes for approval by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security;
  - (g) Maintain all records related to the Board’s review.
24. The Board Support Officer shall not be considered a Board Member.
25. A Secretary shall be appointed from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security or from one of the UNSMS organizations involved in the incident to serve the Board by providing day-to-day administrative assistance to its members, including the following:
  - (a) Set up the initial briefings for the Board members;
  - (b) Advise on Board procedures and arrange expert advice on applicable United Nations rules and regulations;
  - (c) Arrange interviews with individuals who may have relevant information to provide;

<sup>5</sup>See Annex D.

- (d) Assemble relevant documentation from different sources;
- (e) Prepare and participate in on-site visits;
- (f) Keep minutes of interviews and deliberations;
- (g) Draft the report for review by the Board members, the Board Support Officer, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and, in appropriate cases, other relevant offices;
- (h) Obtain signatures of Board members, and of those who were formally interviewed by the Board, on the report case file documents; and
- (i) Compile the report case file.

26. The Secretary shall not be considered a Board Member. However he/she shall be one of the signatories to the final report.

#### **H. Proceedings of a Board of Inquiry**

27. In its inquiry, a Board of Inquiry shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Receive the Convening Order and Terms of Reference;
- (b) Receive a procedural briefing from the Board Support Officer and a legal briefing from the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs;
- (c) Obtain all available investigation reports and other relevant source materials regarding the occurrence, including, *inter alia*: Security Incident Report(s), Military or Police Report(s), UNSMS organization investigation reports, technical assessments (including threat assessments and security risk assessments of the SRM process), witness statements, expert opinions, medical reports and evaluations and any other documents required by the Board to conduct its deliberations;
- (d) Collect any relevant additional statements from any individual involved or affected by the incident, and conduct any necessary additional site visits, interviews, or further inquiries;
- (e) Seek explanations or clarifications of technical or specialized reports or other information of a technical or specialized nature from experts or specialists, should it be deemed necessary by the Board to enable it to address all relevant issues;
- (f) Establish facts from the whole body of available information presented and review the circumstances of the occurrence in a comprehensive manner; and

- (g) Within the deadline specified in the Convening Order, present a written report to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, setting forth in a clear, logical and objective manner the Board's findings, conclusions and recommendations.
28. United Nations personnel, as described in paragraph 4 above, have a duty to assist the Board of Inquiry by providing information they may have related to the incident. Any other person, including local citizens and local police or military officers, may be requested to make a statement to the Board or answer its questions, but are under no obligation to do so.
29. Due consideration shall be given to all individuals who were affected by or witnessed the incident – especially minors, particularly in sensitive cases – to protect them from unnecessary repeat interviews that could be intimidating.
30. Principles of fairness and due process shall apply to all aspects of the Board's proceedings. Any person interviewed can suggest the names of others who may have information relevant to the inquiry. The Board shall not be bound by any individual's suggestion, if it deems it irrelevant based on the analysis of previously collected information. Where the Board decides not to interview any person who has been suggested by another, it shall make an explicit statement to that effect in the "Deliberations" part of the report and give the reasons for its decision.
31. If necessary, persons who have previously provided information to an investigation may be questioned again by the Board to clarify any ambiguities in their statements and to indicate to what extent, if any, they have knowledge of relevant facts not previously mentioned in their statements.
32. If an individual, including non-United Nations personnel, provides information to the Board but refuses to make or sign a statement, the Board shall record that fact.
33. Individuals shall be interviewed in the language they naturally use, resorting to interpretation when necessary. In such cases, the "Undertaking of Confidentiality" shall be administered to the interpreter in accordance with the format attached herewith as Annex D.
34. Individuals providing information to the Board shall be questioned by the Board without the presence of other persons.
35. The Board shall question a minor in the presence of a parent, guardian or, if neither are available, an adult of the minor's choosing. Where possible, there should be present an appropriate officer from the United Nations system with experience dealing with children, ideally, a Child Protection Officer.
36. When United Nations personnel are called to provide information to the Board, the attestation at the beginning of the standard form statement (Annex E) shall be read to him/her in the language that the personnel naturally use. Following that, the

individual shall sign the form and date it before proceeding to answer any questions. A thumb impression may be used in lieu of a signature.

37. All individuals interviewed by the Board shall be informed of the subject matter of the inquiry and the reasons why he or she has been called for an interview. The Board shall then ask the person to state any information he/she is aware of regarding the occurrence. Following that, the Board members may ask questions. Additional practical advice on interviews is contained in the Guidelines for Board members on the Conduct of Inquiries. (Annex F)
38. While the interview progresses, a record shall be taken of the information provided by the individual in the form of a statement. Translation into a working language of the United Nations shall be provided, if necessary.
39. Following the interview, the individual shall be familiarized with the transcript and asked if he/she wishes to amend anything. Once he/she is satisfied with the statement, he/she shall be asked to sign and date the statement. A thumb impression may be used in lieu of a signature. In the case of a third party providing information, the reference to administrative and/or disciplinary action shall be removed from the attestation text. The Board Chairperson shall also sign the statement.

## **I. Deliberations**

40. The Board shall consider carefully all information and findings of fact it has collected.
41. Board Members shall consider which of the facts it has established, single or in combination with others, triggered the unfolding of events, resulting in the occurrence. No assumptions shall be made. At the same time, reasonable inference is admissible and shall be practiced.
42. While formulating their recommendations, Board Members shall focus them at the cause(s) of the occurrence in question. Board members shall be prohibited from making recommendations regarding compensation, disciplinary action or legal liability.

## **J. Timelines**

43. The process to initiate and convene a Board of Inquiry shall be in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10 and 11 above within two weeks of the results of the investigation of the incident being presented to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. All efforts shall be made to finalize the Board's report within the timelines stipulated in the Convening Order, preferably within six weeks.<sup>6</sup>
44. In the event that the Board cannot submit the report within the specified timeline, the Chairperson of the Board shall submit a written request for an extension to the

<sup>6</sup>Annex C provides a format outline for a Board report.

Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, stating the reason for not meeting the timeline.

#### **K. Dissemination of a Board's Report**

45. Board reports are to be treated as confidential documents. Access to a Board report and its annexes shall be provided in their entirety to the Executive Head of the affected UNSMS organization. Access to a Board report and its annexes shall be provided in their entirety or in part on a need-to-know basis to other officials of UNSMS organizations that require them for their deliberations. Special consideration shall be given to the protection of interests of individuals who provided information to the Board.
46. A copy of the Board report with all annexes shall be retained by the Department of Safety and Security for three calendar years, following which it shall be archived.
47. All Board reports that have implications in relation to issues of alleged misconduct or breach of discipline by United Nations personnel shall be forwarded to the appropriate office of the UNSMS organization concerned for review and follow-up.
48. Board reports shall, in principle, not be made available to parties other than the membership of the UNSMS. However, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall, in consultation with the concerned organizations, have the discretion to make reports available to Member States, particularly in cases that involve the personnel of that country. Such reports may be redacted as appropriate.
49. When a Board report is shared with a Member State, it shall be accompanied by a *Note Verbale* that includes the following sentence: "This report is an internal document of the United Nations and is being made available for official use only; it is not to be made public in any form, either in whole or in part."
50. Board reports shall not be shared with other third party entities (e.g., families of victims). Upon request, and in consultation with the concerned organization(s), a summary factual account of the occurrence based on a Board report may be shared with such entities. Such factual accounts shall not contain any extraneous details, analysis, conclusions or recommendations usually found in a Board report. Requests of this nature must be approved in writing by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.
51. In deciding whether to make a report or a factual account of the occurrence available to a non-UNSMS entity, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security shall seek the advice of the Office of Legal Affairs and, where relevant, other offices, on a case-by-case basis, especially in cases that might impact the privileges and immunities of the organizations and/or cases where issues of confidentiality arise.

#### **L. Follow-Up Action and Lessons Learned**

52. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security will collate all agreed-upon recommendations contained within the Board's report to address SRM-related operational, management and/or policy gaps or deficiencies. It is the responsibility of each UNSMS organization to implement agreed-upon recommendations applicable to them.
53. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security will also collect and analyse lessons learned and present to the Inter-Agency Security Management Network recommendations for reviewing UNSMS policies, procedures and measures based on this analysis.

#### **M. Final Provisions**

54. This policy is to be made available to all United Nations personnel.
55. This policy enters into effect on 08 November 2012.



## Annex A

### Board of Inquiry Convening Order

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: [distribution]

From: [Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security]  
[Executive Head of Organization #1]  
[Executive Head of Organization #2]

Subject: Board of Inquiry for [incident]

1. In accordance with United Nations *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter V, Section G, a Board of Inquiry is hereby convened to consider and prepare a report on the [brief description of occurrence] which took place on the [date] at [time] hours at [place].

2. The Terms of Reference of this Board are attached.

3. An initial legal briefing shall be provided to the Board on its responsibilities immediately prior to commencement of its deliberations. Copies of the investigation report and other relevant documentation will be forwarded to the Board members prior to the initial briefing. Attendance at the initial briefing and any subsequent briefings/meetings is mandatory.

4. Composition:

Name Title  
Chairperson  
Member  
Member  
Member

5. The Chairperson shall submit the final report, reviewed and finalized by [date].

Distribution:  
Chairperson, Members of the Board  
Legal Officer  
Board Support Officer

## Annex B

Terms of Reference of Board of Inquiry for [brief description of occurrence] which took place on the [date] at [time] hours at [place]

*[Attention: the following Terms of Reference is generic and represents the most typical issues confronted by a Board of Inquiry. The Board Support Officer, in consultation with the appropriate Legal Advisers, shall prepare incident-specific Terms of Reference depending on the circumstances of each incident.]*

The mandate of the Board of Inquiry shall be as follows:

- (a) Obtain all investigation reports and other relevant source materials regarding the occurrence, including, *inter alia*: Security Incident Report(s), Military Police Report(s), technical assessments (including threat assessments and security risk assessments of the Security Risk Management process), witness statements, expert opinions, medical reports and evaluations and any other documents required by the Board to conduct its deliberations;
- (b) Collect any relevant additional statements from any individual involved or affected by the incident, and conduct any necessary additional site visits, interviews, or further inquiries;
- (c) Seek explanations or clarifications of technical or specialized reports a technical or specialized nature from experts or specialists, should it be deemed necessary by the Board to enable it to address all relevant issues;
- (d) Establish facts from the whole body of available information presented and review the circumstances of the occurrence in a comprehensive manner;
- (e) Within the deadline specified in the convening order, present a written report to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, setting forth in a clear, logical, concise and objective manner the Board's findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The Board shall establish the following facts:

- (a) Date, time and place of occurrence;
- (b) Factual and comprehensive account of the occurrence and the events leading thereto;
- (c) Identification of United Nations and non-United Nations investigators, if applicable. Full names of all individuals involved in the occurrence, their nationalities, statuses and United Nations ID/index numbers;
- (d) When, how and by whom were the United Nations Security Management System structures informed of the occurrence;
- (e) What standing procedures, if any, were implemented following the notification of the occurrence? When, and by whom;
- (f) When, how and by whom was the search and rescue operation/MEDEVAC carried out (if relevant);
- (g) By whom and for how long was the occurrence site preserved;
- (h) Who maintained custody of the chain of evidence during investigation(s);
- (i) Have the remains of all of the victims been identified? How were the remains identified (if relevant);
- (j) Whether or not any court action (prosecution or lawsuit) has been initiated;
- (k) Residual security risk, SRM and Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) in force at the time and place of the occurrence;
- (l) Were the affected United Nations personnel briefed about security threats in the area;
- (m) What precautionary measures, if any, and by whom have been put in place to anticipate the occurrence or mitigate its effects;
- (n) The roles of each of the United Nations personnel involved in the incident;
- (o) Identification (to the extent possible) of attackers.

The Board shall provide its judgment on the following:

- (a) What caused the occurrence?
- (b) Were relevant United Nations Security Management System SRM procedures, rules and regulations adequate? Were they followed properly?

- (c) Did the occurrence take place as a result of the acts or omissions of any individual(s)?
- (d) Did the death or injury occur in the course of a performance of official duties on behalf of their organization, or was the death or injury otherwise connected to the performance of such official duties?

The Board shall, based upon its conclusions, provide its recommendations concerning any actions, steps or measures that it considers should be taken by United Nations Security Management System organizations to properly manage security risks from potential future incidents and avoid future casualties in such incidents (e.g., compliance with previous Board recommendations and/or lessons-learned exercises, additional security precautions or administrative actions such as amending policies, rules, instructions or procedures, etc.).

For ease of reference the following outline format of a Board report is provided:

- A. CONSTITUTION
  - B. DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE
  - C. FINDINGS OF FACT
  - D. DELIBERATIONS
  - E. RECOMMENDATIONS
  - F. OBSERVATIONS
  - G. SIGNATURES
  - H. ....AN
- NEXES

## **Annex C**

### **Format of Board of Inquiry Report**

The Board shall prepare a report in the following format:

A. Constitution shall cite the convening order, its date, the period during which the Board conducted its proceedings, as well as the venue thereof;

B. Description of occurrence shall contain a factual description of the occurrence under review. It shall not include any extraneous information, analysis, conclusions and/or recommendations;

C. Findings of Fact shall respond to all issues cited in the Terms of Reference;

D. Deliberations shall contain an account of how the findings of fact related to the occurrence were assessed by the Board and shall specify the reasons relied upon by the Board in reaching the conclusions and recommendations in the case;

E. Conclusions shall generally follow the issues cited in the Terms of Reference. At a minimum, the Board shall be expected to reach a conclusion on the following:

(a) Cause(s) of the occurrence;

(b) Whether the occurrence took place as a result of acts or omissions of any individual(s) or non-compliance with existing UNSMS policies<sup>7</sup>;

(c) Whether the death or injury occurred in the course of performance of official duties on behalf of an organization or was otherwise connected to the performance of such official duties.

F. Recommendations shall be specific and feasible with the focus on possible policy and operational measures with the aim to address the cause(s) of the occurrence and improve management accountability. Board members are prohibited from making recommendations regarding compensation, disciplinary action or legal liability.

G. Observations shall be an optional section of the report, reserved for additional matters not covered by the Terms of Reference, but believed by Board members to be significant and relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry.

H. Signatures shall be affixed by Board members only upon the review of the draft report by the Legal Adviser. A dissenting member shall not be obliged to put his/her signature on the report, but shall explain the abstention in a separate document addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, which shall become an integral part of the case file.

<sup>7</sup>As contained in the *Security Policy Manual*

I. Annexes shall contain documents relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, which have been considered by Board members in the course of the proceedings.

## **Annex D**

### **UNDERTAKING OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

I, the undersigned, undertake that, in the performance of my duties as a Chairperson /Member/Secretary (underline as appropriate) of [name] United Nations Security Management System Board of Inquiry, shall exercise the utmost discretion in all matters relating to the Board proceedings, and I shall not, at any time, use for private advantage or communicate any information relating to the Board proceedings to any person or institution, within or outside the United Nations, without the authorization of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

I undertake that all evidence, files, statements, maps, drawings, photographs, discs, plans, reports, recommendations, estimates, documents and any other data or information compiled or received by me as a result of my association with the Board of Inquiry shall be treated as confidential, shall be delivered only to the Board Support Officer and shall not be retained by me in any form. I shall ensure that I have returned all documents and other information and materials to the Board Support Office after completion and submission of the Board of Inquiry Report.

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annex E

Statement to United Nations Security Management System Board of Inquiry [Reference No. \_\_\_\_\_]

The Statement of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Individual

Index No. (If UN personnel): \_\_\_\_\_

Position of UN personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
(If non-UNSMS individual) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm that the information I give to this Board of Inquiry shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.
  - 2.
- Etc.

### Attestation of Individual Providing Information

I have reviewed my above statement. I have been told that I may amend it or add anything I wish. The statement is true. I make it of my own free will, knowing that if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true, I may be liable to administrative and/or disciplinary action.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Individual

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **Annex F**

### **Guidelines for Board Members on the Conduct of Inquiries<sup>8</sup>**

#### **A. General**

1. When the United Nations Security Management System Board of Inquiry (herein “the Board”) is convened by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and the Executive Head(s) of the United Nations Security Management System organizations involved in the incident, it will receive, along with a Convening Order, its Terms of Reference, together with the report of the preliminary investigation and other document files assembled by the Board Support Officer. The Board will also receive initial briefings by the Board Support Officer and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs.
2. When the Board members have been able to peruse the documents, they shall meet and determine the internal procedure by which they will operate, in particular deciding which persons shall be called for interviews. Minutes of the meetings shall be kept throughout the proceedings and should include a record of times, names and places relevant to the occurrence in question.

#### **B. Interviews**

3. Before starting interviews, the Board, at its preliminary meeting, should decide what issues on the Terms of Reference it will need to address with particular persons. While it will be, from time to time, inevitable that a person is called back more than once, the process of re-interviewing individuals should be avoided as much as possible.
4. The Board members should decide, in advance of each interview, the member who will lead it. At the beginning of the interview, this person should explain the mandate of the Board to the interviewee, introduce the Board members and request the Secretary to administer the attestation. After the interviewee has signed it, he/she should be requested to state, initially, what he/she knew about the occurrence in question. The interviewers should be careful not to ask “leading questions” (i.e., questions which suggest an answer). For instance, “Tell us what happened from your perspective in this incident” is usually much better than: “Is it right that there were three attackers?” In other words, the information should be the interviewee’s and not the Board’s.
5. When the interviewee has finished with the narration and the leading interviewer has completed her/his initial questioning, he/she will request other Members to ask questions, as they think appropriate. Finally, the interviewee shall be asked whether

<sup>8</sup>This Annex is directly based on United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support “Standard Operating Procedure – Boards of Inquiry”, Annex III.

he/she wishes the Board to hear the information of any other particular persons or review any other lines of inquiry.

6. The above may seem simple, but it is not. The art of questioning is not easily acquired. While leading questions should not be asked initially, this does not mean that the Board should accept vague and unhelpful answers. The Board should obtain clear answers as much as possible. However, there is a fine line that must be drawn between pressing an interviewee for a clear answer and harassing him/her. Clearly, the latter is unacceptable.

### **C. Information**

7. The Board should acquire the best information. It should note that original documents are better than copies, if they are available. Documents should always be identified by numbers and referred to in statements. Care and accuracy should be applied at all times.
8. Similarly, it is always preferable to hear what Mr. B actually says, rather than hear Mr. A's account of what Mr. B has supposedly said. This is always the case when it comes to deciding the truth of what actually happened, although there may be occasions when hearing what an individual has said before might be important to test that individual's consistency. Inconsistency sometimes indicates unreliable information.

### **D. Deliberations**

9. The Board should arrive at conclusions based on information that it has considered carefully and found credible. No assumptions should be made. If the facts are simply not there, the Board must say so. At the same time, reasonable inference is admissible and should be practiced.
10. In determining the cause(s) of an occurrence, Board members should consider which of the facts it has established, single or in combination with others, triggered the unfolding of events, resulting in the occurrence. Conversely, a cause can be a deficiency that, if corrected, eliminated or avoided, could have prevented the occurrence. A cause may be an act, an omission, a condition or a circumstance and it either starts or sustains the accident sequence. A cause may be an element of human or mechanical performance. An environmental condition may be a cause if it was not foreseeable or avoidable.
11. One of the conclusions Boards are usually expected to make is whether or not the death or injury of a United Nations personnel occurred in the course of performance of official duties on behalf of their organization, or was the death or injury otherwise connected to the performance of such official duties? Unfortunately, organizations do not have a clear, unambiguous and precise definition of "official duty". For the purpose of Board proceedings, the following should be kept in mind. Absent information to the contrary, it is generally assumed that the official duty of United Nations personnel is usually limited by official working hours. Traveling to

or from work (but not deviations from the usual route for shopping, restaurants, clubs, etc.) would clearly be in connection with official duty. However, the real issue facing a Board is to make a sensible judgment on whether the occurrence is “in connection with official duty”. The Board should arrive at a conclusion in this regard on the basis of assessment of the specific circumstances of the occurrence. Very often the issue facing a Board is to make a sensible judgment on whether the involvement of the person in occurrence was “service related”. Board members will need to examine the specific circumstances of the occurrence to determine this. “Non-service related” activities would be ones where the participants were at liberty to decline participating therein.

## **E. Writing a Report**

12. The report of a Board should be based on evidence derived from the Investigation Report, as well as facts obtained by the Board throughout its proceedings. It should cover all points of the Board’s Terms of Reference.
13. The section “Constitution” should cite the convening order, its date, the period during which the Board conducted its proceedings, as well as the venue thereof.
14. Under the title “Description of Occurrence” the Board should provide a purely factual description of the occurrence under review. It should not include any extraneous information, analysis, conclusions and/or recommendations.
15. In the section “Finding of Fact” the Board should respond to all issues cited in the Terms of Reference. The objective of this paragraph is to present a clear statement of all relevant facts. The Board can choose to present them in either chronological order, starting with what is considered to be the first significant event, or follow the order of questions in the Terms of Reference. The most important factor is that all issues are fully addressed. The Board should avoid expressing its opinions and conclusions on the cause(s) of the occurrence in this section unless they form an essential part of the description of the accident. Adjectives “adequate”, “appropriate”, “inadequate”, etc. should be saved for the section “Conclusions”.
16. The following section, “Deliberations” is a “bridge” between the “Findings of Fact” and the two following sections. In this section, the Board should analyze all findings of fact and explain how it arrived at conclusions on the causes of the occurrences and the recommendations it wishes to make to avoid any repetition of the event, cited in the preceding section. The Board should describe each aspect that was considered and explain its significance. The reasoning of the Board should be based on its members’ best judgment or expert opinion and should be explained in detail, as well as be supported by references to interview statements, documents or other exhibits. If there is conflicting information, the Board should state why it is not prepared to accept the information that it does not use. While determining whether personnel involved in an occurrence were performing official duties on behalf of their organization or the occurrence was otherwise connected to the performance of such official duties, the Board should specify the facts and explain the reasons

- relied upon in reaching such a conclusion. In cases where the Board is of the opinion that rules and regulations were violated, the report should be specific as to what rule was violated and in what respect. If the Board concludes that the occurrence was caused by internal malfunctioning of the Organization, it should clarify where the procedures were inadequate and in what respect.
17. The “Conclusions” section of the report should generally follow the issues cited in the Terms of Reference. However, should the Board arrive at conclusions other than those requested in the Terms of Reference, they could also be included in the report.
  18. “Recommendations” should be specific, feasible and directed at the elimination of the cause(s) of the occurrence in question. An important aspect to bear in mind is that Board Members are prohibited from recommending administrative or disciplinary action. Likewise, the recommendations regarding compensation or legal liability should never be made by the Board. These are matters outside the purview of a Board and should be addressed by the individual’s organization.
  19. “Observations”: This is an optional section of the report. If, during the course of its deliberations, the Board’s attention is drawn to additional matters of significance, not covered by the Terms of Reference but relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry, the Board can point them out in this section of the report.
  20. “Signatures”: Board members should initial the draft before submitting it for review by the Board Support Officer and the appropriate Legal Advisers. Once the report is finalized with due regard to the Board Support Officer’s and the appropriate Legal Adviser’s comments and recommendations, the Board members should sign it with their full signatures. A dissenting member is not obliged to put his/her signature on the report, but should explain the abstention in a separate document addressed to the Convening Authorities, which becomes an integral part of the case file.
  21. “Annexes” The following documents should typically be annexed to a Board report:
    - I. Convening order and Terms of Reference;
    - II. Investigation report with original attachments, including photos;
    - III. List of persons present or involved in the occurrence, giving names, United Nations ID/index numbers, positions (if civilian); addresses and occupations (if non-United Nations);
    - IV. Statements and attestations by those providing information;
    - V. Maps or sketches of the scene of the occurrence;
    - VI. Medical reports and technical inspection reports;

- VII. Claims, local police reports, pending proceedings or actual decisions of local courts;
- VIII. Detailed descriptions of property destroyed or damaged, with attachments of available damage/discrepancy reports; and
- IX. Any additional relevant documents, statements, photos, etc.

#### **F. Finalizing the Report**

- 22. Members of the Board remain the sole authors of their report. As such, they are under no obligation to follow the recommendations of Legal Advisers made after reviewing the draft report. However, they should realize that the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security's position on the report will be greatly influenced by the opinions of Legal Advisers communicated in a memorandum attached to the report. Thus, the recommendations of Legal Advisers should be treated with the utmost respect and attention.

#### **G. After the Inquiry**

- 23. Board Members should consider whatever information they became privy to during the Board proceedings as strictly confidential, and should not share it with any other individual(s), other than those directly involved with the Board.

## CHAPTER VI

# Administrative and Logistic Support for Security Operations

## Section A

### REMUNERATION ON EVACUATION AND RELOCATION STATUS



Promulgation Date: 8 April 2011  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## REMUNERATION OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF AND ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS ON RELOCATION/EVACUATION<sup>1</sup> STATUS

**Note: The following provisions are designed to assist organizations in the administration of Evacuation Allowances. These provisions are not an exhaustive listing; clearly, a certain degree of judgment and flexibility will be required to deal with the various situations that might arise. These should be handled on the basis of consultation among organizations.**

### *Alternate Work Modality*

1. Administrative measures related to Alternate Work Modalities (AWM)<sup>2</sup> that involve temporarily closing offices or the work status of a staff member will be implemented by each organization in line with its rules and regulations. The measures include, but are not limited to, working from home or an alternate work place within the duty station and Special Leave with Pay. If staff members and their eligible family members are instructed to move into a hotel within the duty station for security reasons, Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) at the rate applicable at the duty station (or an ad hoc DSA rate recommended by the Security Management Team and approved by the headquarters of the lead agency) will be payable in respect to the staff member and half of that amount for each eligible family member for up to 30 days.

### *Relocation*

2. In case of relocation, the applicable DSA rate (or an ad hoc DSA rate recommended by the Security Management Team and approved by the headquarters of the lead agency) is payable in respect to the staff member and half of that amount for each eligible family member for up to 30 days.

### *Additional measures for locally recruited staff*

3. In case of relocation of locally-recruited staff, irrespective of the DSA payment mentioned above, the Designated Official (DO) may recommend to the Security Management Team (SMT) that a decision be taken by representatives of organizations participating in the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) to provide an advance<sup>3</sup> of three months' salary to be paid to locally recruited staff members and, if necessary, transportation costs for themselves and their eligible family members. In the most exceptional cases where locally recruited personnel and/or their eligible family members are evacuated, Security Evacuation Allowance will be payable as per the provisions below.

<sup>1</sup> Relocation is within the country of duty station; evacuation is outside. Security Evacuation Allowance is payable for evacuation. In relocation cases, DSA applies.

<sup>2</sup> UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section D "Measures to Avoid Risk", paragraph 7.

<sup>3</sup> This is an advance and not an additional salary of three months.

## ***Security Evacuation Allowance***

4. SEA is payable for eligible internationally recruited staff members and their eligible family members.<sup>4</sup>

a. In respect to the staff member:

- US \$200 per day during the first 30 days and US \$150 per day from the 31<sup>st</sup> day until the staff member returns to the duty station, or until the staff member is reassigned to another location, or until six months have elapsed following evacuation, whichever is soonest.

b. In respect to each eligible family member residing at the duty station:

- US \$100 for the spouse and each dependant child during the first 30 days and US \$75 per day from the 31<sup>st</sup> day until the staff member returns to the duty station, or is reassigned to another location, or until six months have elapsed following evacuation, whichever is soonest.

c. If the staff member is authorized to return to the duty station and some or all eligible family members are not authorized to return or unable to return due to specific 'Family Restrictions' that may be in force for security purposes, or if the staff member is sent on mission (and receives relevant DSA), the first eligible family member will be entitled to the higher rate of evacuation allowance (US \$200 or US \$150 as applicable).

5. Additionally, for the purpose of facilitating a small shipment of personal effects (and incidentals including terminal expenses); a lump sum of US \$500 will be provided at the time of evacuation to eligible staff members who were installed at the duty station. This is a one-time payment for the staff member and all of his/her eligible family members even if they are evacuated at different times.

6. Loss and damage to personal effects that remain at the duty station will be compensated in accordance with established administrative guidelines. Staff members should be reminded of their responsibility to submit to the officer in charge who has been designated to manage organization-specific matters, a list of their valued and itemized personal effects, which will be used by the respective compensation committees of the organization to determine compensation in the event of loss or damage to personal effects.

## ***Provisions applicable in respect to eligible internationally recruited staff members***

7. Internationally recruited staff members eligible for both security evacuation allowance and security evacuation travel are those who travelled and were installed at the duty station at the organization's expense, as well as those who were internationally recruited at the duty station.

<sup>4</sup> Rates agreed as per CEB/2009HLCM/HR/46/Rev.1.



8. If the staff member is evacuated to the destination authorized by the Under-Secretary General for Safety and Security (USG DSS), the security evacuation allowance will be paid at the rates specified in paragraph 4(a) above.

9. If the staff member is outside the duty station at the time of evacuation, he/she will normally be entitled to the security evacuation allowance only as of the expected date of return to the duty station (i.e. upon expiration of any period of authorized home leave, annual leave, sick leave, or official mission).

10. If the staff member does not join his/her eligible family members immediately following evacuation (e.g. is sent on mission), he/she will be entitled to the security evacuation allowance only on the date of his/her actual arrival at the place of home leave or any other location.

### ***Travel to the country of home leave or country of the staff member's choice***

11. The cost of travel due to security evacuations will be based on the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS. The staff member may choose to travel to a) the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS, b) the country of home leave or c) the country of his or her choice. If the staff member and/or eligible family members choose to travel to the country of home leave or to the country of his or her choice instead of the authorized destination, the travel may be reimbursed up to cost of the authorized destination or it may be processed under the home leave entitlement. During the period of evacuation status in the home country, security evacuation allowance will be paid in respect to the staff member and each eligible family member at the rates specified in paragraph 4 above.

12. When security evacuation is authorized to the country of home leave and where a staff member and/or eligible family members cannot return to the home country due to 'Personnel Restrictions'<sup>5</sup> for security purposes or for political reasons, evacuation to a country of the staff member's choice may be authorized. When the reason for requesting travel to a country of the staff member's choice is solely for the personal convenience of the staff member, travel expenses to be borne by the Organization will not exceed the costs that would have been payable to the home country.

### ***Provisions applicable in respect to eligible family members***

13. For the purpose of determining eligibility for payment of security evacuation allowances and travel entitlements, eligible family members shall be those recognized family members of an internationally recruited staff member who travelled and were installed at the duty station at the Organization's expense and/or reside at the duty station with the staff member:

<sup>5</sup> UNSMS Security Policy Manual, Chapter IV, Section D "Measures to Avoid Risk", paragraph 14.

- (a) **If the eligible family members are evacuated to the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS,** security evacuation allowance will be paid at the rates specified in paragraph 4 (b) above;
- (b) **If the eligible family members are evacuated to the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS, but not the staff member,** the first eligible family member will be paid at the higher rate of security evacuation allowance;
- (c) **If the staff member is authorized to return to the duty station and some or all eligible family members are unable to return due to specific ‘Family Restrictions’ that may be in force for security purposes,** the first eligible family member who remains outside the duty station will be paid at the higher rate of security evacuation allowance;
- (d) **If the staff member is sent on a mission** (and receives the relevant DSA), then the first eligible family member is paid at the higher rate of security evacuation allowance;
- (e) **If the eligible family members are outside the duty station at the time of evacuation,** the allowance will be payable:
  - (i) effective the date they are joined by the staff member in the country of evacuation; or
  - (ii) on the expected date of return to the duty station, (when the staff member remains at the duty station);
- (f) **In the case of a dependant child studying at a location (other than the staff member’s official duty station) when ‘Family Restrictions’ for security purposes have been declared,** travel at the Organization’s expense will normally be authorized on the basis of education grant or home leave travel. Security evacuation allowance will not be payable in this instance;
- (g) **In the case of a dependant child on a visit at the staff member’s duty station when ‘Family Restrictions’ for security purposes have been declared,** the travel at the Organization’s expense will be authorized under the education grant and/or home leave travel. Security evacuation allowance will not be payable;
- (h) **In the case of a dependant child studying at the staff member’s duty station when ‘Family Restrictions’ for security purposes have been declared,** the following shall apply: when the child needs to attend a second school due to the declaration of ‘Family Restrictions’ for security purposes, additional education grant for attending the second school may be authorized for the same period, provided that the staff member can demonstrate that s/he has made every reasonable effort to obtain reimbursement of advance school fees from the school at the duty station from which the child was evacuated/relocated. Under these circumstances, security evacuation/relocation allowance is applicable but the lump sum for board element of the education grant will not be payable;
- (i) Security evacuation allowances shall be paid for a maximum period of six months. In the event that evacuation remains in place beyond six months, the security evacuation allowance in respect to family members will cease to be paid as from the seventh month. Applicability of Extended Monthly Security Evacuation Allowance EMSEA)

depends on the staff member's assigned date to the duty station in light of the decision by the GA Resolution 65/248.<sup>6</sup>

### ***Emoluments applicable during evacuation***

14. When evacuation has officially been declared by the USG, UNDSS for a duty station, he or she has the authority to order the relocation/evacuation of internationally recruited staff and their eligible family members to an authorized destination. If the cost of travel to the home country from the duty station is lower than that to the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS, direct travel to the home country may be authorized whenever logistically possible.

15. During the period of evacuation to the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS, staff members will continue to be paid their net base salary plus post adjustment, mobility hardship allowance applicable at the official duty station,<sup>7</sup> and the rental subsidy of the official duty station plus the security evacuation allowance (in respect to the staff member and each eligible family member).

16. If staff members and/or their eligible family members are not authorized to return to the duty station within 30 days following the evacuation, each respective organization will decide with regard to:

- a. reassignment, temporary or otherwise, of the staff member together, as applicable, with his/her eligible family members;
- b. travel to the home country.

### ***Reimbursement of Rental Payment and Rental Deposit/Advance***

17. Reimbursement of rental fee and/or rental deposit may be considered by the Organization in respect to evacuated staff who will not return to the duty station, if a well-documented request includes copies of the lease (which should normally contain the standard diplomatic clause) and correspondence between the staff member and the landlord showing that the staff member took the necessary action to terminate the lease and obtain reimbursement.

### ***Extended Monthly Security Evacuation Allowance (EMSEA)***<sup>8</sup>

18. An Extended Monthly Security Evacuation Allowance (EMSEA) shall be payable in respect to eligible family members of staff members of organizations that apply EMSEA after completion of the six month period mentioned in paragraph 13(i) above in the following cases:

<sup>6</sup> Extended Monthly Security Evacuation Allowance (EMSEA) will gradually phase out as per the GA Resolution 65/248. See also A/65/30 *Report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2010*, paragraph 243.

<sup>7</sup> The "official duty station" may be the Administrative Place of Assignment (APA) for staff members in Special Operations Area.

<sup>8</sup> Extended Monthly Security Evacuation Allowance (EMSEA) will gradually phase out as per the GA Resolution 65/248. See also A/65/30 *Report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2010*, paragraph 243.

- (a) If the staff member is authorized to return to the duty station and some or all eligible family members are unable to return due to specific 'Family Restrictions' that may be in force for security purposes;
- (b) If some or all eligible family members of a newly recruited staff member are unable to travel to the duty station due to specific "Family Restrictions" that may be in force for security purposes (in this case, the EMSEA will be payable from the first day on duty);
- (c) In cases where staff members have been reassigned to another duty station and some or all eligible family members are unable to travel to the duty station due to specific 'Family Restrictions' that may be in force for security purposes;
- (d) When both the staff member and his/her eligible family members have been on evacuation status for more than six months, and no other arrangements have been made to place the staff member.

19. The amount of EMSEA is determined by applying the rental threshold percentage of the salary (net salary plus post adjustment) of a single staff member at the P-4 step VI level. The post adjustment and relevant threshold percentage used shall be that of the duty station where the family is located. In no case shall the amount be higher than that applicable in the staff member's country of home leave or for evacuated staff members of the previous duty station if the latter is maintained as actual family residence. The amount shall be set at one of two levels as follows:

- (a) When paid on behalf of the spouse (who, for the purposes of EMSEA does not have to be a dependant), the EMSEA will be the rental subsidy threshold amount at the single rate of the actual residence of the spouse, as defined above;
- (b) When paid on behalf of a spouse plus one or more dependant children, the amount in a) above is increased by 30% regardless of the number of dependants. Dependant children in respect to whom an education grant is paid are not taken into account for the determination of EMSEA payments.

20. In the application of the EMSEA, no additional travel entitlements shall be payable. However, regular travel entitlements (such as home leave, family, visit travel, education grant travel), remain payable. Furthermore, there is no obligation for the organization to provide any additional financial, administrative or legal assistance towards those family members.

21. The EMSEA shall not apply to staff members on mission service, i.e., those in receipt of base salary, post adjustment and other elements of remuneration of the duty station of origin, plus DSA or MSA of the mission area.

### ***United Nations Volunteers (UNVs)***

22. In the event of 'Personnel Restrictions' for security purposes, arrangements for UNVs are administered by UNDP or the United Nations.

## ***Consultants***

23. Provisions for evacuation for internationally recruited consultants will be incorporated into the initial contractual arrangements. Options for local or international consultants while ‘Personnel Restrictions’ for security purposes are in force are listed below.

- a. Should there be ‘Personnel Restrictions’ for security purposes in an area where a consultant is operating, the consultancy contract will not be terminated if it is determined that the services to be provided by the consultant can be accomplished outside of the duty station location. The consultant's travel costs will be covered up to the location from where recruitment took place or any other location mutually agreed from where the services can be provided as per the original terms.
- b. Should there be ‘Personnel Restrictions’ for security purposes in an area where a consultant is operating, the consultancy contract will be terminated in accordance with the contractual termination clause if it is determined that the services to be provided by the consultant cannot be accomplished outside of the duty station location.
- c. If circumstances permit, the consultant agrees and sound operational reasons exist, the consultancy contract may be suspended. The consultant's travel costs will then be covered up to the location from where recruitment took place. Once the ‘Personnel Restrictions’ for security purposes are lifted, the return of the consultant will be authorized and the related travel costs will be covered. The contract will be reactivated under the original terms and arrangements.

24. In situations where it is expected that ‘Personnel Restrictions’ for security purposes will be of a maximum duration of seven days, the consultant may be evacuated/relocated to the destination authorized by the USG, UNDSS. The applicable DSA in case of relocation or travel costs and security evacuation allowance in case of evacuation will be covered up to seven days (at the rate applicable to staff members) by the relevant organization. If the lifting of the ‘Personnel Restrictions’ for security purposes does not take place within the seven days period, options 23 a, b or c above apply.

## ***Focal points on Administrative and Staff Welfare Issues***

25. For administrative questions staff members should contact their respective agency’s human resources focal point, and for staff welfare issues, the staff welfare focal point.

## **Overview of Security Evacuation Allowances**

<b>Area of Evacuation</b>	<b>Applicable Security Evacuation Allowance rate/staff member alone</b>	<b>Eligible family members</b>
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Outside the duty station country (safe haven, home country, third country)	US\$ 200 per day for up to 30 days; thereafter US\$ 150 per day (from the second through the sixth month)	For family normally residing at the duty station: US\$ 100 per day for up to 30 days. Thereafter US\$ 75 per day.
Shipping Entitlements and terminal expenses	A single lump-sum payment of US\$ 500 is made to the staff member when he/she, or his/her family, is evacuated (i.e., it is not necessary that the staff member himself/herself is actually evacuated). The amount is the same regardless of the number of dependants. Terminal expenses are included in the lump-sum payment	
Relocation within country of duty station	DSA of location applies.	50% of applicable DSA per each eligible family member.



## CHAPTER VI

# Administrative and Logistic Support for Security Operations



## Section B

### LOCALLY COST-SHARED SECURITY BUDGETS

Promulgation Date: 13 October 2017



## **A. Introduction**

1. The Locally Cost-Shared Security Budget (LCSSB) supports security risk management measures used by United Nations Security Management Network (UNSMS) organizations to address common security concerns at the country level. The LCSSB is a necessary component of the financing of in-country generated common security costs. Preparing and managing this budget requires that those involved have clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities to ensure that this process is “fit for purpose”.

## **B. Purpose**

2. This policy outlines the purpose, scope, procedures, timelines, and categories of activities/expenditures, of the LCSSB and related roles and responsibilities. The aim is to provide a standard approach of how to prepare a LCSSB, and to ensure accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as accountability throughout the LCSSB process.

## **C. Applicability and Scope**

3. This policy is applicable to the personnel of all UNSMS organizations, at Headquarters (HQ) and country-level who are involved in the process of preparation, submission, approval and implementation of the LCSSB. This includes but is not limited to the DO/SMT/SFPs/Single Agency Security Officers/ Administration/ Finance personnel involved in the process.
4. This policy governs the LCSSB process that covers the requirements not funded through other means (such as the Jointly Funded Activities, “JFA”), yet is required for in-country security purposes.<sup>1</sup> The expenditures should be restricted to country- specific security risk management measures as described in Section F below.
5. This policy ensures that the LCSSB is considered *only* when specific security issues cannot be addressed within existing sources of funding, following the Security Risk Management (SRM) process. The application of this policy is therefore mandatory where a LCSSB is required.

## **D. Definition**

6. The LCSSB is a supplementary funding tool developed on an annual basis, which allows the UNSMS organizations to fund additional security requirements that will support common security services, projects and activities in a country, at Designated Areas or Security Areas not funded through other resources. It is based on the security risk management measures identified in the SRM process and necessitated by particular circumstances on the ground.
7. Costs are shared among UNSMS organizations participating in common security services based on the actual presence of personnel in the Designated Areas or benefiting from specific services provided by the common security budget. It is based on formulas

<sup>1</sup> The SMT does not approve the JFA budget allocation. This information is required to make sure that the LCSSB does not cover items that are already included in the JFA.

negotiated and agreed upon locally at the time of discussions on the LCSSB.<sup>2</sup> UNDSS remains exempt from LCSSB arrangements.<sup>3</sup>

## E. Principles

8. The LCSSB process shall be governed by the following principles:
  - a. The LCSSB funds requirements/activities that are security-related; identified by the SRM process; dictated by particular circumstances; agreed upon by participating UNSMS organizations; and consolidated at the country-level.
  - b. The LCSSB cycle covers the period from 1 January to 31 December of the year.
  - c. The LCSSB reflects capital and recurring cost, and shall be cost-effective.
  - d. Simplicity shall be observed for calculating the amount to be shared by each participating UNSMS organization. The costs should be equitably shared among the participating organizations, and each respective organization's share should accurately reflect the services received from and contributed to each individual LCSSB activity.<sup>4</sup>
  - e. UNDSS maintains an oversight on the LCSSB to ensure that activities included in the LCSSB are not covered by other funding mechanisms.

## F. Categories of Activities and Common Elements for Each Activity

9. The LCSSB shall cover eight main activity categories:
  - a. **Identification Programme** - The amount approved for the common badge system implemented at the duty station, such as pass and ID service and access control systems to United Nations facilities. It may include personnel costs related to additional staffing to manage the identification programme where there are significant staffing numbers.<sup>5</sup>
  - b. **Security Operational support** - The number, function and level of approved additional security personnel or surge deployments (justified through the SRM) which are not included in the JFA-resources structure, not funded through CERF/XB or other funding mechanisms; or where SMT members indicate that their own resources are not in a position to support the entire UNSMS for a specific location, above the UNDSS-authorized staffing. Posts are to be security-related, and not for support services such as administration or drivers, unless the complexity of the operation requires it. When

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the LCSSB Guidelines for examples on how to determine the percentage or calculate the amount to be shared by participating organizations, and how to address exemptions in exclusive and specific cases.

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to CEB/2013/HLCM/FB/15 dated 5 August 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Common services and resources relating to LCSSB activities made available by UNSMS organizations should be incorporated into the cost-sharing formula to take into account all provisions made. They include but are not limited to the hosting and equipment of radio rooms, crisis management center, vehicles, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Different cost-sharing arrangements for the purpose of ID programmes should be implemented where there are military and police contingents in DPKO missions.

submitting the LCSSB, all posts required to be cost-shared must be accompanied by a TOR to substantiate the work.

- c. **Communications Structure** - The amount approved for communications infrastructure in the country such as radio rooms manned by locally recruited radio operators to support 24/7 emergency communications, as determined through the SRM process.
- d. **Security Training** - The amount approved for conducting training, as identified by the country training-needs assessment. This includes but is not limited to the Safe and Secure Approaches to Field Environment (SSAFE) training, or other security-related training such as Emergency Trauma Bag (ETB) or Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK), as part of the First Responder Programme; and as determined through the SRM process and indicated in the yearly security-training plan approved by the SMT.
- e. **Crisis Coordination Centre** - The amount approved for operating a crisis coordination centre<sup>6</sup>, which is a sustainable venue for the DO and the SMT to perform crisis management functions in safety and security crises. If a crisis coordination centre is located in an existing space, it should be at a minimal cost to maintain and support.
- f. **Guard Force** - The amount approved for operating, contracting and/or other requirements for guard force arrangements at the duty station that goes to support all the UNSMS Organizations participating in the LCSSB. This activity generally includes armed and unarmed security guard service providers<sup>7</sup> for the protection of common premises (shared by all UNSMS Organizations participating in the LCSSB) or joint mobile security operations (for security patrols and/or security interventions).

**Note:** Any security-related costs (including guard force services) inherent to a UN common premise or UN House, which is not included in the LCSSB, must come under the common services budget of that premise and shall be shared by all UNSMS organizations located in these premises.<sup>8</sup>

- g. **Psychosocial Support** - The amount approved for providing psycho-social services by Counsellors, to those at risk of experiencing or experiencing stress and critical incident stress; together with associated support costs. The Critical Incident Stress Management Unit (CISMU), in coordination with Staff Counselling focal points and with the UNSMS organizations at the duty station determines and reviews these needs.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See UNSMS *Security Management Operations Manual*, "Guidelines on Management of Security Crisis Situations".

<sup>7</sup> Please refer to *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section I, "Armed Private Security Companies (November 2012)," and Section K, "Unarmed Private Security Services (August 2016)".

<sup>8</sup> UNDSS does not pay into the locally cost-shared security budget (LCSSB) but it remains responsible for contributing its share as tenants to the common premises budget. For any security capital investments/improvements for the premise where UNDSS is located, UNDSS does not participate in the cost-share of such projects; the UNDSS portion will be shared by UNSMS organizations in the country.

<sup>9</sup> *Security Policy Manual* Chapter VII Section G: "Management of Stress and Critical Incident Stress (MCIS)." More details on psychosocial support will be included in the LCSSB guidelines.

- h. **Vehicle Requirements** - The amount approved for special vehicle requirements such as armoured vehicles, first response medical support or vans. The vehicles under this category need to be available based on the requirements for all joint missions or loaned to AFPs for VIP visits without additional rental costs. The fuel and maintenance of the vehicles can be included in the LCSSB based on an actual yearly cost associated with joint-use of the vehicles.
10. Under each of the above-mentioned categories, there are a common set of elements that may be used to support them. When added up, they determine the total cost for each activity:<sup>10</sup>
- a. **Personnel** - The salary/benefits for additional personnel to support each specific activity, including their security entitlements;
  - b. **Travel** - The cost of travel for personnel identified in (a) for the specific activity to perform duties away from the duty station in country;
  - c. **Equipment and furniture** - The cost for providing basic office equipment and furniture required for each activity, mainly for the initial setup (one-time) and/or replacement as needed;
  - d. **Vehicle** - The cost if an additional vehicle is required for personnel to perform his/her duties related to each activity;
  - e. **Vehicle maintenance, fuel, insurance** - This is needed if a vehicle is procured and it could include the use of rented vehicles;
  - f. **Rental and Maintenance of Premises** - This element covers the cost of rent, utilities, and maintenance;
  - g. **Communication Equipment** - Communication equipment for personnel in each activity to perform his/her duties, (ex. radio, phone, and sat phone.) It does not cover related expenses (see item j. below);
  - h. **Contracts** - External commercial type contracts that support the activity. If the activity is out-sourced to a commercial company, this is where the cost is reflected;
  - i. **IT equipment** - As required to enable personnel to perform the required activity. It should include software, printers, scanners, and/or replacements and upgrades;
  - j. **Communications expenses** - This covers telephone and internet bills; and
  - k. **Office supplies, stationary, pouch & postage** – These are for materials needed to support the activity.

<sup>10</sup> More details and examples of elements for each activity can be found in the LCSSB Guidelines.

11. In addition to the above, there are **Administration Support Costs**. These costs are associated with the provision of support services required for the implementation of the LCSSB. It should be taken into consideration while preparing the overall budget. These costs are identified as per the cost recovery policy of the Administering Agency and could be included either as a lump sum of the total budget or under each activity.<sup>11</sup>

## **G. Process, Procedures and Timelines**

### Step One: Establishment of the SRM

*Timeline: As agreed by the SMT<sup>12</sup>*

The SRM forms the basis for the development of the LCSSB and serves as the guiding principle. The SRM, once approved by the Security Management Team (SMT) and the Designated Official (DO), identifies those security risk management measures (SRMM) that may be cost-shared.

### Step Two: Preparation of LCSSB and Review by the SMT

*Timeline: By the end of June*

At the preparation stage, the most-senior UNDSS representative supporting the SMT/DO<sup>13</sup> will provide the information on the JFA allocation for the country to the DO/SMT, so that there can be no ambiguity of which posts and activities are funded through the JFA; thus allowing a comparison to determine additional needs under each category of activity.

The most-senior UNDSS representative supporting the SMT/DO prepares the LCSSB, based on real costs and estimates in line with the SRM measures as identified in the SRM process, and in consultation with the Security Cell. The budget shall cover the next calendar year. Any requirement for supplementary funds due to emergency or contingency planning shall be addressed individually.<sup>14</sup>

The most-senior UNDSS representative will present the draft budget to the SMT providing detailed rational for each cost as per the guidelines and at least one week prior to the SMT, for their internal review. The financial records of previous cost shared budgets – statements of expenditure – should also be provided at this time.

Where there is an OMT (Operations Management Team), the OMT may request the P/C/SA to provide clarifications in the process. Once the OMT returns the reviewed draft including costing sheets and apportionment, the P/C/SA submits to the SMT.

<sup>11</sup> More details and examples can be found in the LCSSB Guidelines.

<sup>12</sup> Note that for the timelines identified in the steps below to be implemented, the SRM process will need to be completed no later than June, the year prior to the draft LCSSB.

<sup>13</sup> The most Senior UNDSS representative supporting the DO/SMT is normally the Principle/Chief/Security Adviser. For the purpose of this policy, they will be referred to as the "most-senior UNDSS representative".

<sup>14</sup> Please see the Guidelines on how to address the requirement for supplementary funds that arise outside of the LCSSB due to an unexpected change of security situation.

The SMT members will consult with their relevant Security Focal Point (SFP), and seek their concurrence, as part of their review. They will also ensure that input of all security professionals in the country, is considered.

Note: This SMT meeting will provide an opportunity for members to ask questions on the budget and is not the SMT meeting where the budget will be approved; however, the SMT minutes should reflect the discussion and position of the organizations.

Step Three: Review by UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers

*Timeline: By the end of July*

The DRO Desk Officers conduct a technical review to ensure the LCSSB is developed within the parameters of the LCSSB policy and guidelines and to provide quality control and oversight.

- UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers review the draft LCSSB to ensure it is appropriately prepared (i.e. the proposed requirements are vetted against the SRM, there is no overlap in funding, security services and activities are correctly selected and justified in line with definitions for categories and activities).
- If the UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers identify any issue that needs to be revisited at the country-level, the draft LCSSB shall be sent back to the most-senior UNDSS representative supporting the SMT/DO (Repeat Step Two, Preparation).
- UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers must review all LCSSBs regardless of the amount.

Step Four: Consultation of SFPs

*Timeline: By mid-September*

Following the initial review and comments, UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers will consult the SFP of the UNSMS organizations that have a presence in that location, by memorandum, and provide all relevant documentation including SMT minutes. This consultation and review will result in a consolidated advisory issued by the Desks to the most-senior UNDSS personnel advising the DO/SMT.

Step Five: Approval by the DO/SMT

*Timeline: By mid-October*

The LCSSB is presented to the SMT/DO for approval, after the LCCSB is reviewed by the UNDSS/DRO Desk Officer and in consultation with the SFPs.

The decision, along with supporting documentation will be recorded in the SMT meeting minutes.

Whenever consensus cannot be established with regard to the DO's proposal on the LCSSB, the Review Group (see Annex A, "Terms of Reference") shall be convened. The

RG shall meet no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal.

If consensus cannot be established within fifteen (15) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security (USG, UNDSS) shall take the final decision, either upholding the DO's proposal or incorporating any amendments.

Step Six: Notification by DRO

*Timeline: By end of October*

The LCSSB, SMT meeting minutes and supporting documents are sent to UNDSS/DRO for final notification and shared with the SFPs. The UNSMS organizations (SMT members) will proceed to include the agreed-upon LCSSB in their budgetary projections as per their organizational budgetary structures.

Step Seven: Finalizing LCSSB data on UNSMIN

*Timeline: By mid-November*

The most-senior UNDSS representative supporting the SMT/DO should upload the approved version of the LCSSB along with related documents to UNSMIN and subsequently inform the SMT and security cell. UNDSS/DRO should monitor uploading of LCSSB on UNSMIN and follow-up with C/SAs as appropriate.

Step Eight: Billing

*Timeline: By early December*

An UNSMS organization participating in the LCSSB will be designated as the '*Administering Agency*' to provide administrative support on behalf of all participating UNSMS organizations. This includes preparing the billing and invoice that needs to be submitted to AFPs for their payment. The billing and invoice should be signed by the DO.

Step Nine: Payment

*Timeline: By the beginning of January*

The SMT member shall execute the payment of their shared portion of the LCSSB to the local account of the designated organization or '*Administering Agency*'. If there is an issue of non-payment, the DO should inform UNDSS/DRO, and engage the respective SFPs. As far as feasible, all payments should be transferred at the beginning of the LCSSB budget cycle, which is January of each year (see Step Two). If there are any constraints from AFPs to process the payments due to their budget cycles, this should be discussed locally with the Administering Agency.<sup>15</sup>

Step Ten: Budget Execution

<sup>15</sup> See LCSSB guidelines.

*Timeline: January to December of the following year*

All UNSMS organizations participating in the LCSSB shall ensure the implementation of the LCSSB.

- The most-senior UNDSS representative is responsible to the SMT and DO for the management and the implementation of the LCSSB.<sup>16</sup>
- The most-senior UNDSS representative should coordinate quarterly budget implementation and expenditure updates with the Administering Agency for review by the SMT and DO and provide statement of accounts at the year-end.<sup>17</sup>

#### **H. LCSSB on-line tool at UNSMIN**

12. The senior-most UNDSS representative supporting the SMT/DO at the country level shall upload the LCSSB data on the 'LCSSB' tab on UNSMIN by early November, once it is approved. It will allow the UNSMS organizations and SFPs to review, comment and obtain aggregate data when needed.
13. All LCSSB data should be uploaded into UNSMIN using the agreed-upon format and in a timely fashion.
14. The purpose of uploading LCSSB on UNSMIN aims to provide information on locally cost-shared activities through a consolidated platform. It also aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, monitoring and implementation of LCSSBs.

#### **I. Roles and responsibilities**

Most-senior UNDSS representative supporting the SMT/DO: Prepares the LCSSB and discusses with the Security Cell; submits to the SMT and DO for review and approval; submits to DRO desks for review and comments inputs the data in UNSMIN; and monitors and reports on the implementation of the LCSSB.

SMT and DO: Reviews and approves the LCSSB based on measures from the SRM process and recommendations from senior-most UNDSS professional supporting the SMT/DO; and manages the implementation of the LCSSB.

UNDSS HQ: UNDSS/DRO reviews the LCSSB, facilitates consultation with UNSMS organizations through SFPs' HQ, and notifies approved LCSSBs.

SFP: Reviews the LCSSB and provides comments, feedback and concurrence to their respective local representative and to UNDSS/DRO.

<sup>16</sup> In locations where there is no full time professional P/C/SA, this task is carried out by the senior-most security professional.

<sup>17</sup> In locations where there is no full time P/C/SA, this task is carried out by the senior-most security professional.



UNSMS Administering Agency: An UNSMS organization designated by the SMT provides administering support, including submitting periodic reports on the expenditure of LCSSB.

UNDSS Training and Development Section (TDS): Develop a learning programme on LCSSB process and management for all security professionals who are engaged in the LCSSB process.

Operations Management Team (OMT): Where there is an OMT, the OMT is responsible for providing technical input during the consultation stage and overseeing the coordinated implementation of the LCSSB arrangements with the Administering Agency.

LCSSB Review Group: chaired by the Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, is intended to resolve an impasse in the approval of the LCSSB.

Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security (USG UNDSS): If consensus cannot be established within forty-five (45) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal, the USG, UNDSS takes the final decision on the LCSSB, either upholding the DO's proposal or incorporating any amendments.

## **J. Compliance and oversight**

15. In line with the Framework of Accountability<sup>18</sup>, the SMT and DO shall have oversight to ensure implementation and quality control of the LCSSB, along with compliance to the LCSSB policy and guidelines.

## **K. Training**

16. This policy and the LCSSB mechanism shall become part of the mandatory training for all security professionals who are engaged in the LCSSB process.

## **L. Final Provisions**

17. This policy enters into force on 13 October 2017.
18. This policy is complemented by guidelines available in the *Security Management Operations Manual* (SMOM).
19. The Policy and Guidelines should be reviewed following two cycles of LCSSB on the basis of lessons learned from implementation.

<sup>18</sup> UNSMS SPM, Chapter II, Section A: "Framework of Accountability".

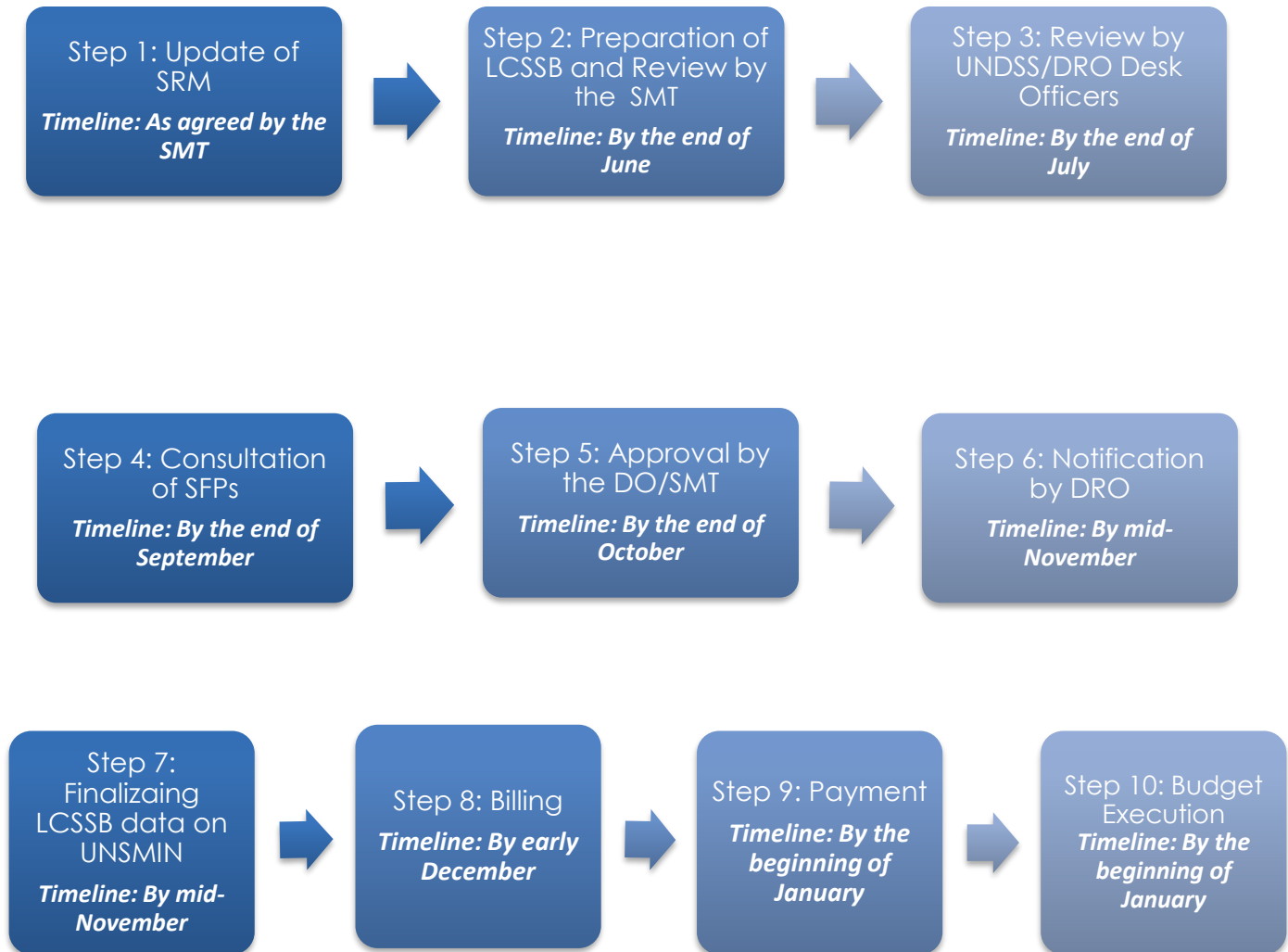
## **Annex A**

### **Terms of Reference for the Locally Cost-Shared Security Budget (LCSSB) Review Group**

1. The Review Group (RG) is intended to resolve an impasse in the approval of the LCSSB.
2. The Review Group shall convene whenever consensus cannot be established with regard to the DO's proposal on the LCSSB. The RG shall meet no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal.
3. The RG shall include the following members:
  - i. The Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, as Chair of the RG, with the relevant UNDSS/DRO Desk Officers present; and
  - ii. Headquarter SFPs of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations with a presence at the duty station.
4. The RG shall evaluate the DO's proposal in an effort to establish consensus.
  - i. If consensus is established, the Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, as Chair of the RG, shall notify the DO and Headquarter SFPs of approved LCSSB.
  - ii. If consensus cannot be established within fifteen (15) calendar days after UNDSS/DRO's initial receipt of the DO's proposal, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security (USG, UNDSS) shall take the final decision, either upholding the DO's proposal or incorporating any amendments.
5. The Director or Deputy Director of UNDSS/DRO, as Chair of the RG, shall ensure that a written summary of the RG's deliberations and related outcome is provided to the DO and Headquarter SFPs of respective parent organizations.

## Annex B

### Locally Cost-Shared Security Budget (LCSSB) Workflow



## CHAPTER VI

# Administrative and Logistic Support for Security Operations



## Section C

### MANAGEMENT OF STRESS CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS

Promulgation Date: 23 November 2015  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## A. Introduction

1. The primary goal of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) is to enable the conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the safety, security and well-being of personnel.<sup>1</sup> The conditions under which UNSMS personnel operate in the field have changed drastically over the years, particularly in light of the United Nations' shift to a "stay and deliver" approach to operating in high-risk environments. This has substantially increased the number of individuals exposed to stress and critical incident<sup>2</sup> stress. While many individuals who experience stress or critical incident stress are able to resume their daily activities with minimal or no disruption, some may encounter difficulty resuming such activities due to psychological, somatic or social reactions linked to such exposure.
2. This policy governs the coordination and provision of psycho-social services by Counsellors,<sup>3</sup> contracted or employed by UNSMS organizations, to those who are at risk of experiencing or experiencing stress or critical incident stress. The coordination and provision of such services shall be in accordance with the following principles:
  - (a) The management of stress and critical incident stress shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of immediacy, proximity and availability of high-quality professional services, which are embodied in the Management of Critical Incident Stress Framework (MCISF) (see Annex A, "Management of Critical Incident Stress Framework (MCISF)").
  - (b) The management of critical incident stress has three distinct phases:
    - (i) Pre-incident Preparedness;
    - (ii) Incident Response;
    - (iii) Post-incident Recovery.

## B. Applicability

3. This policy is applicable to all individuals covered under Chapter III of the UNSMS' *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) ("Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System").

<sup>1</sup> The UNSMS' Framework of Accountability, Section II, paragraph 5 states: "The goal of the UNSMS is to enable the conduct of United Nations activities while ensuring the safety, security and well-being of personnel and the security of United Nations premises and assets."

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this policy, a "critical incident" is "any sudden event or situation that involves actual, threatened, witnessed or perceived death, serious injury, or threat to the physical or psychological integrity of an individual or group" (Source: Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV).

<sup>3</sup> For purposes of this policy, a "Counsellor" shall include Staff Counsellors, Stress Counsellors and Staff Welfare Officers appropriately trained and certified in the provision of psycho-social services and contracted or employed by a UNSMS organization to provide such services.

## C. Structure

4. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security's (UNDSS) Critical Incident Stress Management Unit (CISMU) shall serve as the central body responsible for ensuring the adequate and timely coordination and provision of psycho-social services. In coordinating the provision of such services, CISMU shall take into account the respective capacity of each UNSMS organization to coordinate and provide such services to their respective personnel.
5. Such services shall be provided primarily at the field level through the establishment of a Critical Incident Stress Intervention Cell (CISIC), with coordination and support provided at the headquarter level, in accordance with the following structure:
  - (a) Headquarter level
    - (i) UNDSS/CISMU
      - a. Chief of CISMU
      - b. Regional Counsellors;
    - (ii) Staff Counselling/Welfare Units or Sections of UNSMS organizations<sup>4</sup>
      - a. Chiefs/Heads of Sections/Units<sup>5</sup>
      - b. Staff Counsellors/Staff Welfare Officers<sup>6</sup>;
    - (iii) Psycho-social Crisis Coordination Centre (PCCC)
      - a. The PCCC is a sub-group of the Crisis Coordination Centre (CCC) that is dedicated to coordinating the provision of psycho-social services to UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members in a crisis setting.<sup>7</sup> The Chief of CISMU shall determine when to activate the PCCC in a crisis setting. Upon activation, the PCCC shall operate twenty-four (24) hours per day and seven (7) days per week, whereby daily communication between relevant stakeholders listed under Section C ("Structure") shall be required;
    - (iv) Critical Incident Stress Working Group (CISWG)<sup>8</sup>;

<sup>4</sup> Excluding UNDSS, UNSMS organizations may maintain their own respective Staff Counselling/Welfare Units, at the headquarter level, under various titles.

<sup>5</sup> UNSMS organizations may employ their own respective Chiefs/Heads of their respective Staff Counselling/Welfare Units Counsellors, at the headquarter level, under various titles.

<sup>6</sup> UNSMS organizations employ their own Counsellors, at the headquarter level, dedicated to the provision of psycho-social services to their respective personnel, under various titles, including, but not limited to, "Staff Counsellor" or "Staff Welfare Officer".

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this policy, a crisis is any event that requires a United Nations system-wide coordinated response.

<sup>8</sup> The CISWG is a multi-disciplinary IASMN working group, chaired by the Chief of CISMU. CISWG members are nominated by their respective IASMN Security Focal Points (SFPs). Such members include Counsellors, Medical Officers, Human Resources Officers or Security Officers. The Office of the Ombudsman is represented as an Observer. The members meet throughout the year, either via Video Teleconference (VTC) or via formal meetings and reports on their progress to the IASMN. The CISWG draws upon lessons learned, promotes the identification of best practices and develops and promotes policies and guidelines to enhance the management of critical incident

- (b) Field level
    - (i) Critical Incident Stress Management Cell (CISIC);
    - (ii) UNDSS
      - a. CISMU-Field Counsellors;
    - (iii) Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) – Department of Field Support (DFS), Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
      - a. Staff Counsellors;
    - (iv) Staff Counselling/Welfare Units or Sections of UNSMS organizations<sup>9</sup>
      - a. Regional Staff Counsellors/Staff Counsellors/Staff Welfare Officers<sup>10</sup>.
6. In order to ensure the adequate and timely provision of psycho-social services, coordination with the following partners may be required:
- (a) Emergency Preparedness and Support Team (EPST)<sup>11</sup>;
  - (b) United Nations Medical Emergency Response Team (UNMERT)<sup>12</sup>;
  - (c) Representatives of UNSMS organizations;
  - (d) UNSMS security professionals
    - (i) Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN)
    - (ii) UNDSS/Division of Regional Operations (DRO)
    - (iii) UNDSS/Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services (DHSSS)
    - (iv) Designated Official (DO)/Security Management Team (SMT)
    - (v) Chief Security Advisers (CSAs)/Security Advisers (SAs), Chief Security Officers (CSOs), Single-Agency Security Officers (S-ASOs) or Country Security Focal Points (CSFPs);

stress, with the aim of improving the psycho-social well-being of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.

<sup>9</sup> Excluding UNDSS, UNSMS organizations may maintain their own respective Staff Counselling/Welfare Units, at the field level, under various titles.

<sup>10</sup> UNSMS organizations employ their own Counsellors, at the field level, dedicated to the provision of psycho-social services to their respective personnel, under various titles, including, but not limited to, “Regional Staff Counsellor,” “Staff Counsellor” or “Staff Welfare Officer”. Such Counsellors may also operate independently of the CISIC.

<sup>11</sup> Established in 2010, EPST coordinates and provides essential human resources support to United Nations personnel and their eligible family members during all phases of incidents related to malicious acts, natural disasters and other emergency incidents. It is housed under the Department of Management (DM)/Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM). More information is available at <http://un-epst.org>.

<sup>12</sup> Established in 2009, UNMERT is composed of over thirty (30) volunteer, emergency-trained medical professionals within the UN system who are ready to deploy globally at short notice to support mass casualty incidents (MCIs) affecting United Nations personnel. The UNMERT is managed by a Coordinator attached to MSD at UNHQ. It is deployed within the first twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48) hours of MCI and works closely with United Nations medical and security personnel in the field to identify, triage and provide emergency medical treatment for United Nations personnel and their eligible family members immediately following a MCI and to facilitate medical evacuation.

- (e) UNSMS network of Peer Helpers, Peer Support Volunteers and Family Focal Points (“PH/PSV/FFP”)<sup>13</sup>.

#### **D. Roles and Responsibilities of CISMU**

7. CISMU shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Developing standardized methods and procedures for managing stress and critical incident stress, needs assessment and data gathering tools, recording and reporting templates for all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”);
- (b) Developing mandatory certification and training courses for relevant UNSMS Counsellors, including guidance on how to establish a CISIC and maintain a functional network of PH/PSV/FFP;
- (c) Developing mandatory joint training courses for relevant UNSMS Counsellors, human resources, medical and security professionals, focusing on joint planning and coordination in the field and ways to coordinate with the CISIC at the duty station;
- (d) Developing mandatory training courses for UNSMS personnel<sup>14</sup> on managing stress and critical incident stress (e.g., preparation for deployment, emotional first-aid, burnout), including the development of “refresher” training courses;
- (e) Developing mandatory certification and training courses for External Mental Health Professionals (“EMHP”) and identifying EMHP in the field.<sup>15</sup>;
- (f) Maintaining regular communication with relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”), including the CISWG and IASMN.

#### **E. The Management of Critical Incident Stress: Three Phases**

##### **Pre-incident Preparedness**

8. CISMU shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Ensuring the capacity to respond to a critical incident through the establishment of a CISIC at a given duty station. In particular, CISMU shall (1) ensure the capacity to rapidly mobilize and deploy CISMU Regional or Field Counsellors, DPKO-DFS and/or DPA Staff Counsellors, PH/PSV/FFP and EMHP, in coordination with the CISWG as well as other relevant UNSMS Counsellors and UNSMS security professionals; and (2) immediately relay any request for psycho-social services to all relevant UNSMS organizations so that a consensus can be reached as to whether such services shall be funded by one or more select UNSMS organizations or, alternatively, through the local, cost-shared security budget.

<sup>13</sup> Integrated into the crisis management response structure to ensure managerial preparedness and enhance human resources crisis response during the aftermath of a MCI by providing comprehensive and compassionate support to survivors and surviving families of personnel.

<sup>14</sup> While not mandatory, eligible family members of UNSMS personnel should be strongly encouraged to attend any relevant training courses provided to UNSMS personnel.

<sup>15</sup> EMHP are externally trained and certified mental health professionals licensed to practice in their respective countries that may be trained, certified and/or employed by UNSMS organizations in order to play a role in the management of critical incident stress at the field level.



- i. At a minimum, a CISIC shall consist of one UNSMS Counsellor and a functional network of PH/PSV/FFP. A CISIC should also consist of EMHP, whenever possible.
- ii. At high-risk duty stations, CISMU shall regularly assess the need to establish a standing CISIC,<sup>16</sup> in consultation with the Designated Official (DO)/Security Management Team (SMT), based on the psycho-social needs of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.
  - 1. Ensuring that an updated and approved psycho-social contingency plan exists, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”)
  - 2. Ensuring the capacity to maintain regular communication and coordination with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”), including through formal briefings, based on up-to-date Terms of Reference (TORs). Such communication and coordination shall be sufficient to assess and address the psycho-social needs of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.
  - 3. In a crisis setting, the PCCC shall be responsible for implementing paragraphs 1-2 under Section E(a)(i) of this policy.
- (b) Chiefs/Heads of Staff Counselling/Welfare Units or Sections of UNSMS organizations<sup>17</sup> shall be responsible for the following:
  - (i) Establishing and implementing their respective Pre-incident Preparedness plans.
  - (ii) Sharing their respective Pre-incident Preparedness plans with CISMU.
  - (iii) Seeking support from CISMU whenever internal resources are insufficient or unavailable.
- (c) The DO/SMT shall be responsible for the following:
  - (i) Ensuring the availability of safety- and security-related resources required to implement any approved security contingency plan for the duty station, including the provision of psycho-social services, as required.<sup>18</sup>
- (d) CSAs/SAs, CSOs, S-ASOs or CSFPs shall be responsible for the following:
  - (i) Including the provision of psycho-social services in any security contingency plan for high-risk and safe haven<sup>19</sup> duty stations, in coordination with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>16</sup> The definition of a “high risk” duty station shall be in accordance with the UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV (Security Management), *Guidelines to Determining Acceptable Risk*.

<sup>17</sup> Excluding UNDSS.

<sup>18</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section H, paragraph 7 mandates the SMT to ensure “that resources are available to implement all measures which are approved.”

<sup>19</sup> A “safe haven” duty station is identified as part of the country-specific security plan.

<sup>20</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section J, paragraph 11 mandates CSAs/SAs to prepare, maintain and update “the country-specific security plan, contingency plans and security lists of personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants;” Annex, Section L, paragraph 13 mandates CSOs to contribute “to security risk assessments for all locations in the mission area where personnel are present, and actively participates in the planning and evaluation of the effectiveness of the country security plans and other aspects of security operations;” Annex, Section M, paragraph 1 mandates S-ASOs to advise and assist “the agency country representative or operations manager on his/her security responsibilities, including participation in

## Incident Response

9. UNDSS/DRO shall be responsible for the following:
  - (a) Informing CISMU of any critical incident occurring at a duty station that may endanger the well-being of UNSMS personnel or their eligible family members in a timely manner, thereby triggering an incident response.
  - (b) Maintaining regular communication with CISMU regarding any changes in the prevailing environment at the duty station and serving as a liaison between CISMU and UNSMS security professionals in the field.
10. Upon receiving notification from UNDSS/DRO, CISMU shall be responsible for the following:
  - (a) Rapidly assessing the needs of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members and mapping locally-available resources, including EMHP.
  - (b) Establishing or expanding a CISIC at the duty station in a timely manner, if necessary.
  - (c) Coordinating the appropriate incident response through regular communication with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”), including, but not limited to, the following:
    - (i) Mobilizing the deployment of CISMU Regional or Field Counsellors, DPKO-DFS and/or DPA Staff Counsellors, PH/PSV/FFP and EMHP, in coordination with other relevant UNSMS Counsellors and UNSMS security professionals, in order to ensure delivery of appropriate services to all individuals referenced in Section B (“Applicability”).
    - (ii) Activating any updated and approved psycho-social contingency plan, if necessary. Prior to activating any psycho-social contingency plan, such a plan shall first be adapted by CISMU, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders as listed under Section C (“Structure”), to the local context, including the prevailing security environment at the duty station, in a manner that ensures the well-being of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.
      - a. Maintaining regular communication with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”) so as to remain aware and rapidly react to any changes to the prevailing environment at the duty station, with the goal of ensuring the well-being of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.
      - b. *In a crisis setting*, the PCCC shall be responsible for implementing paragraphs 1-5 under Section E(b)(ii) of this policy.
11. The DO/SMT shall be responsible for the following:
  - (a) Ensuring the implementation of the approved security plan for the duty station, including the provision of psycho-social services, as required, with the aim of

operational planning, and provides security inputs, including information regarding compliance with United Nations security policies, practices and procedures,” Annex, Section K, paragraph 1 mandates CSFPs to manage “day-to-day security-related matters supported by UNDSS.”

maintaining the well-being of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.<sup>21</sup>

12. Representatives of UNSMS organizations shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Ensuring that their respective personnel, deployed to the duty station as part of the incident response, attend a security briefing<sup>22</sup> upon their initial arrival.<sup>23</sup>
- (b) Ensuring that all activities of UNSMS personnel, deployed to the duty station as part of the incident response, are conducted in a way that manages the security risks to such personnel.<sup>24</sup>

13. If established or expanded, the CISIC shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) Re-assessing the needs of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members at the duty station and clarifying strategies for carrying out the incident response with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”) and locally-available resources, including EMHP.
- (b) Providing psycho-social services to UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members as necessitated by the prevailing environment at the duty station, referring individuals to the most appropriate offices, if applicable (e.g., other UNSMS Counsellors, UNMERT, EPST and/or a UNDSS Field Office).
  - (i) All relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”) shall encourage the use of psycho-social services by UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members; ensure equal access to such services and work to counter any stigmatization associated with the use of such services.
  - (ii) The CISIC shall gather relevant data on various aspects of the incident response, in coordination with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”).
    - a. Maintaining regular communication and coordination with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C (“Structure”) so as to inform such stakeholders of any changes to the prevailing environment at the duty station and coordinate any shift in approach or allocation of resources, with the goal of ensuring the well-being of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members.

<sup>21</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section F , paragraph 1 mandates the DO to implement “the arrangements detailed in UN security policies and procedures as well as developing and implementing the required plans for the duty station with the aim of maintaining the security and safety of United Nations personnel, premises and assets”.

<sup>22</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section J, paragraph 14 mandates CSAs/SAs to establish a “system for briefing all personnel employed by the organizations of the United Nations system and their recognized dependants upon initial arrival, providing local security training as necessitated by changes in the security environment and ensuring such personnel are kept informed of matters affecting their security”.

<sup>23</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section G, paragraph 16 mandates representatives of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations to require their respective personnel to “attend appropriate security awareness training and briefings”.

<sup>24</sup> The Framework of Accountability, Annex, Section G, paragraph 8 mandates representatives of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations to ensure “that activities of their organization are conducted in a way that manages the risks to personnel, premises and assets”.

- b. In a crisis setting, the PCCC shall be responsible for implementing paragraphs 1-3 under Section E(b)(v) of this policy. The PCCC shall also be responsible for ensuring the rotation of CISMU Regional and Field Counsellors, in coordination with the CISWG and other UNSMS Counsellors, in order to avoid burnout.
- 14. Chiefs/Heads of Staff Counselling/Welfare Units or Sections of UNSMS organizations<sup>25</sup> shall be responsible for the following:
  - (a) Rapidly assessing the needs of their respective personnel and their eligible family members.
  - (b) Activating their respective Incident Response phase.
    - (i) Informing CISMU of their respective Incident Response and requesting CISMU's support whenever internal resources become insufficient or unavailable.
    - (ii) Coordinating their respective Incident Response phase with relevant, internal offices.

### **Post-incident Recovery**

- (a) If established or expanded, the CISIC shall be responsible for the following:
  - (i) Maintaining contact with and establishing adequate support mechanisms for impacted UNSMS personnel or eligible family members.
  - (ii) Maintaining regular communication and coordination with all relevant stakeholders listed under Section C ("Structure") so as to inform such stakeholders of psycho-social status of any UNSMS personnel or eligible family members and their ability to resume daily activities.
  - (iii) Submitting a written report to CISMU-HQ, including any relevant data, detailing their activities and observations at the duty station, including best practices and lessons learned, no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Incident Response phase has concluded.
- (b) CISMU shall be responsible for the following:
  - (i) Ensuring any necessary follow-up with impacted UNSMS personnel or eligible family or, alternatively, referring such individuals to UNSMS organizations with the ability to provide immediate and adequate psycho-social services.
  - (ii) Compiling and circulating all relevant reports received from the CISIC and other relevant stakeholders listed under Section C ("Structure") to relevant parties, respecting the confidential or classified nature of any information contained therein.
- (c) Chiefs/Heads of Staff Counselling/Welfare Units or Sections of UNSMS organizations<sup>26</sup> shall be responsible for the following:
  - (i) Implementing their respective Post-Incident Recovery phase, whereby continued access to counselling services for all respective personnel impacted by a given critical incident shall be ensured.
  - (ii) Coordinating their respective Post-Incident Recovery phase with relevant, internal offices.

<sup>25</sup> Excluding UNDSS.

<sup>26</sup> Excluding UNDSS.

## **F. Final Provisions**

15. This policy shall be made available to all UNSMS organizations and to all individuals covered under UNSMS *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) Chapter III (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).
16. This policy enters into force on 23 November 2015.
17. This policy hereby supersedes all previous UNDSS communiqués, memoranda and other communications related to the management of critical incident stress in the field.

## **Annex A**

### **Management of Critical Incident Stress Framework (MCISF)**

1. The Management of Critical Incident Stress Framework (MCISF) envisions an integrated and coordinated continuum of care that provides for the basic psycho-social needs of UNSMS personnel and their eligible family members. This multi-layered approach includes the local community resources in order to grant full access to all available United Nations resources, with all individuals involved in the management of stress and critical incident stress providing valuable feedback on their preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
2. The MCISF adopts a holistic approach, encompassing all three phases required in managing critical incident stress (i.e., Pre-Incident Preparedness, Incident Response and Post-Incident Recovery), taking into account the whole person and the systems to which he or she belongs: family, work and society. Psycho-social services must be provided with the highest degree of cultural awareness and sensitivity towards the needs of the individual and his or her local context. Such services focus on factors supporting human health and well-being, rather than those causing disease. The goal is to recognize and treat stress reactions on an as needed basis while recognizing that not all symptoms are pathological.
3. The management of critical incident stress begins well before the occurrence of a critical incident, primarily through the implementation of adequate preventative measures, and continues during and after the critical incident itself. Such services aim to mobilize the individual's intrinsic coping mechanisms, which are inherent to every human being. In this regard, an assessment is made to determine if a higher level of psycho-social intervention is necessary, with the ultimate goal of allowing the individual to resume his or her daily activities with no disruption.

## CHAPTER VII

### Provisions on Safety Matters



## Section A

### COMMERCIAL AIR TRAVEL SAFETY POLICY

Promulgation Date: 23 January 2019

## **A. Introduction**

1. United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) personnel<sup>1</sup> serve in some of the most challenging environments in the world, often working in difficult conditions while conducting their duties under the mandates, programmes and activities of their respective organizations.
2. Air transport is often the most practical mode of transport for reaching operational areas, particularly in challenging environments.
3. The United Nations system organizations have called for greater coordination to promote the harmonization of air travel management which includes consideration of safety factors in the selection of air operators.

## **B. Purpose**

4. The purpose of this policy is to provide a system-wide framework to enable due consideration of aviation safety factors in the selection of commercial air operators, for official travel of UNSMS personnel.

## **C. Scope**

5. This policy addresses the consideration of aviation safety factors in the use of commercial air operators and donated flights for official travel. It does not address UN chartered flights or air transport services procured, designed and operated for specific purposes (e.g. CASEVAC/MEDEVAC).
6. Aviation security<sup>2</sup> is outside the scope and not addressed in this policy.

## **D. Applicability**

7. The policy is applicable to all UNSMS entities and all individuals covered by the UNSMS, as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* “Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”. Such individuals shall herein be referred to as “personnel”.

## **E. Definitions**

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<sup>1</sup> See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III, Section B “Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System” for definition of United Nations personnel.

<sup>2</sup> Aviation Security refers to human and material resources used to safeguard civil aviation against unlawful interference. These include techniques and methods to protect aerodromes, passengers, employees, equipment and aircraft from accidental/malicious harm, crime and other threats.



8. Aviation Safety – For the purposes of this policy, aviation safety is the reliability of an air operator to function without safety-related incident (non-deliberate event).<sup>3</sup>
9. Commercial Air Operator – An operator, with a valid Air Operator Certificate (AOC) issued by the State of the operator,<sup>4</sup> which, for remuneration or hire, provides scheduled or non-scheduled<sup>5</sup> air transport services to the public for the carriage of passengers.
10. UN Chartered Flights – Air transport procured under contractual arrangement between an air operator and a UN organization for the sole purpose of providing short-term or long-term services to support UN-mandated activities.
11. Donated Flight – Flight provided without charge to one or more UNSMS entities for official travel. Such a flight may be operated by a commercial air operator, by a private operator or by a civilian, government or military entity of a member state.

## **F. Information, Analysis and Assessment**

12. The process for the provision of aviation safety information and analysis of commercial air operators and commercially operated donated flights is as follows:
  - a. The Commercial Air Travel Safety Unit (CATSU) in UNDSS collects and collates relevant information from specialized industry sources;
  - b. CATSU analyses the information, based on advice provided by the Aviation Technical Advisory Group (ATAG),<sup>6</sup> and establishes a list of commercial air operators that are recommended for official travel of personnel within the UNSMS;
  - c. Through the United Nations Security Management Information Network (UNSMIN),<sup>7</sup> CATSU communicates the list of recommended commercial air operators to the most senior security professional advising the DO<sup>8</sup> in

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<sup>3</sup> The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) defines safety as “The state in which risks associated with aviation activities, related to, or in direct support of the operation of aircraft, are reduced and controlled to an acceptable level.” Reference ICAO Annex 19 Safety Management and Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Manual (Doc 9735).

<sup>4</sup> Normally under the direction of a civil aviation authority or equivalent body.

<sup>5</sup> Non-scheduled air transport excluding charter.

<sup>6</sup> An inter-agency group established by the General Assembly consisting of aviation specialists from UN Department of Operational Support (DOS) and the World Food Programme (WFP) with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in an advisory capacity.

<sup>7</sup> A web portal accessible to UN managers with security responsibilities and UN security professionals that provides access to UNDSS systems.

<sup>8</sup> Principal/Chief/Security Advisers and Country Security Focal Points in their absence.

the field and to the focal point(s) nominated by UNSMS entities (see Paragraph 17.b);

- d. The focal point(s) in each UNSMS entity, in turn, shares the list internally with decision-makers and with UNSMS contractors subject to confidentiality requirements indicated in Paragraph 23; and
- e. UNSMS entities may, at their sole discretion and through their focal points, request CATSU to provide information, analysis and advice on the use of specific commercially operated donated flights. Upon request and subject to the availability of information, CATSU provides such information, analysis and advice.

13. CATSU may have information on commercial air operators that are not on the recommended list. This information will be summarized and provided by CATSU to UNSMS entities upon request. This information will not alter the UNSMS list of recommended air operators.

14. Taking account of the information and analysis provided by CATSU, decision-making for the use of a commercial air operator or commercially operated donated flight is made by each UNSMS entity for their personnel. For circumstances where no recommended commercial air operator exists, UNSMS entities should consider whether:

- a. To avail of an air operator that is not on the recommended list;
- b. To use existing alternative modes of travel such as road travel;
- c. Existing UN air assets may be used, subject to availability;
- d. A chartered flight is feasible, taking account of advice from UN aviation specialists involved in the provision of air transport services through air charter agreements;<sup>9</sup>
- e. To request CATSU to reconsider the analysis through an expanded technical review; or
- f. To request CATSU to initiate and coordinate an on-the-ground assessment for required routes, with a view to providing additional information to CATSU for inclusion in its analyses and recommendations.

15. CATSU can initiate expanded technical reviews and on-the-ground assessments. In all cases, CATSU determines the feasibility of an on-the-ground assessment of a commercial air operator based on inter alia, the cost-benefit of such an assessment, the agreement of governmental authorities and the commercial air operator to be assessed, the availability of a UN aviation specialist, and the availability of funds.

16. CATSU includes the results of the assessment in its analyses and communicates any changes to the list of recommended commercial air operators to UNSMS entities

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<sup>9</sup> The Department of Operational Support (DOS) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

through their respective focal point(s)<sup>10</sup>, and to senior security professionals<sup>11</sup> in the field.

## **G. Roles and Responsibilities**

17. Each UNSMS entity:

- a. Establishes its own internal mechanisms to determine whether to use an air operator for the official travel of their personnel;
- b. Identifies at least one focal point and one alternate to act as liaison and communicates to CATSU, those names and contact details. All communications regarding operational issues under this policy are channeled through these focal points;
- c. Encourages their personnel to provide information regarding the safety of a commercial air carrier and commercially operated donated flights, and through their focal points, communicate that information to CATSU. CATSU will, in turn, share the information with other UN aviation specialists, as appropriate; and
- d. Establishes its own internal mechanisms for managing the decision-making process for its personnel on the use, for official travel, of commercial air operators and for donated flights.<sup>12</sup>

18. Designated Official (DO): Notwithstanding Paragraph 14, in line with the Framework of Accountability, the DO has authority, in emergency situations, such as CASEVAC/MEDEVAC, evacuation and relocation for security purposes, to approve the use of any commercial air operator or commercially operated donated flight in the interest of ensuring personnel safety and security. Whenever practicable, such approval should be taken in consultation with the Heads of UNSMS entities in-country or their designate(s). In emergency situations, the DO may also contact CATSU directly when urgent information is needed.

19. Security Management Team (SMT) members: To promote coordination, members of the SMT should inform the SMT of their entities' decisions when using an air operator that is not on the recommended list.

20. The most senior security professional advising the DO:<sup>13</sup> is the channel of communication between the DO and CATSU. He or she conveys to the DO and the

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<sup>10</sup> See para. 17.b.

<sup>11</sup> See para. 20.

<sup>12</sup> The approval for the safe use of donated flights, including military or governments flights, is no longer submitted to the USG UNDSS. Each UNSMS entity establishes its own internal approval mechanism with regard to the safe use of donated flights.

<sup>13</sup> Principal/Chief/Security Advisers and Country Security Focal Points in their absence.

SMT, advice and guidance on the interpretation and application of this policy. He or she refers all issues regarding commercial aviation safety to the CATSU.

21. The Commercial Air Travel Safety Unit in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS):

- a. Serves as a central repository of commercial aviation safety information;
- b. Establishes and maintains a database of aviation safety information from specialized industry sources as well as reports received pursuant to Paragraph 22, regarding commercial air operators;
- c. Conducts analysis taking into account technical advice provided by ATAG;
- d. Provides aviation safety information and advice regarding commercial air operators to UNSMS entities; and
- e. Collects, analyses and provides information on commercially operated donated flights upon request and as available.

22. Personnel employed by organizations of the UN System should report to CATSU any aviation safety concerns relating to commercial air operators and commercially operated donated flights, either through their respective focal points or through UNDSS Security Professionals.

## **H. Confidentiality**

23. Information and analysis generated by CATSU in relation to aviation safety is intended for UNSMS use only and is confidential. Such information may be shared with other United Nations recipients and third parties on a need-to-know basis and provided suitable mechanisms are in place to maintain confidentiality.

## **I. Monitoring and Compliance**

24. Each UNSMS entity shall establish its internal mechanism for ensuring the implementation of this policy.

25. UNDSS and UNSMS entities are jointly and severally responsible for monitoring compliance of this policy.

## **J. Final Provisions**

26. This policy shall be made available to all UNSMS entities and personnel.

27. This policy enters into force on 25 March 2019.

28. This policy shall be reviewed by the IASMN in two years following the date of its approval.
29. This policy supersedes the UNSMS Air Travel Policy of 17 April 2015 and abolishes the Air Travel Operations Guidelines.

## CHAPTER VII

### Provisions on Safety Matters



## Section B

### FIRE SAFETY

Promulgation Date: 15 April 2012  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. Fire is a serious threat to the personnel and property of any organization, including the United Nations. Fires cause numerous injuries, deaths and losses of assets in organizations each year. Fire is a potential hazard in all United Nations premises because an outbreak of fire would jeopardize life, property and the delivery of programmes and projects.
2. While the primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel rests with the host country, all United Nations organizations are responsible and accountable for providing adequate measures to prevent fires and protect personnel members and others at United Nations facilities against fire. Individually, all United Nations personnel are responsible and accountable for compliance with fire safety standards and taking reasonable efforts to prevent fires.
3. Losses from fires are preventable by applying basic fire prevention principles and being prepared for emergencies. Within the United Nations, fire prevention is the primary strategy for fire safety; however, mitigation measures for rapid detection, raising the alarm, containment and suppression must also be put in place, in addition to reliable measures to rapidly evacuate personnel and others who may be present on United Nations premises.
4. This strategy requires the highest level of systematic planning and preparedness at the managerial level, including proper procedures and continuous training. Effective management practices require the development and implementation of policies and procedures to protect personnel and property by preventing and/or dealing with fires and preparing for emergencies.

## **B. Purpose**

5. This policy sets out the key elements of fire safety that all United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations shall follow to minimize the risk<sup>1</sup> from fire to personnel, to other occupants of United Nations premises, including visitors, and also to the premises itself and the property contained therein.
6. This policy must be read in conjunction with the “United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines”.

## **C. Applicability**

7. The policy is applicable to all organizations participating in the UNSMS and their personnel (herein referred to as “United Nations personnel”) as defined in Chapter III of the Security Policy Manual (“Applicability of United Nations Security Management System”).

<sup>1</sup> Please also refer to *Security Policy Manual* Chapter IV, Section A ( Security Risk Mangement).

8. This policy has special application for United Nations personnel and managers who are responsible for the implementation of and adherence to fire safety policy, procedures and programmes on United Nations premises.
9. As per *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section E (“Security of United Nations Premises”), United Nations premises are defined as all categories of land and physical areas that are utilized or occupied by the organizations of the United Nations Security Management System, including structures such as buildings, offices, warehouses, stores, shops, dwellings, containers, prefabs and tents.
10. For government facilities hosting United Nations personnel, this policy shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section N (“Minimum Operating Security Standards”), Appendix 1, paragraph 6.3.

#### **D. Conceptual Overview**

11. United Nations system organizations confront many challenges in achieving adequate and acceptable fire safety coverage. Major obstacles include the following:
  - (a) United Nations organizations are often located in spaces which pose fire safety hazards and over which the United Nations has no proprietary right to enforce or make significant structural changes;
  - (b) Limited or non-existent fire safety regulations resulting in buildings available to United Nations having minimal fire safety features;
  - (c) Inadequate infrastructure to support fire safety systems and provide the necessary resources to fight fires.
12. There are three key elements to overcoming these challenges:
  - (a) Using risk management principles, United Nations system organizations shall combine fire prevention and mitigation strategies and measures to protect United Nations personnel and facilities;
  - (b) Make adequate provisions within each relevant budget for fire safety requirements;
  - (c) Collaborate with host country authorities, including local fire services and, wherever possible, building owners.



## **E. Fire Safety Policy**

13. The strategy of the United Nations for managing the risks from fire hazards is one of both prevention and mitigation.<sup>2</sup> Prevention entails measures intended to lower the likelihood of a fire occurring, such as compliance with applicable fire codes, fire safety rules for building occupants, regular housekeeping, fire safety inspections and training of personnel. Mitigation entails measures intended to lower the impact of a fire once it has occurred, including fire detection and alarm systems, fire suppression systems, fire and smoke compartmentalization, training on the use of fire suppression equipment, fire safety and evacuation planning, emergency evacuation drills, functioning evacuation routes (including alternates) and exits and medical emergency procedures.
14. The principal risk management tool is the Fire Safety Plan. All United Nations premises must have a written Fire Safety Plan that is compliant with the provisions of and template in the “United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines”. The Fire Safety Plan is part of the larger Security Risk Management (SRM) Plan and describes actions required of those with key responsibilities in the prevention and mitigation of fire risks, as well as the responsibilities of United Nations personnel and visitors.
15. The existence of a Fire Safety Plan will be verified by all United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) compliance missions.
16. The “United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines” provide baseline guidance and standards. Where host country fire prevention codes, rules and regulations provide more detailed technically-acceptable guidance and direction, they take precedence over United Nations guidelines. The highest standards, whether they are host country standards or United Nations guidelines, must always take precedence.
17. Where host country fire prevention codes, rules and regulations are absent or inadequate, reference should be made to the United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines. If more comprehensive guidance is required than is contained in the United Nations guidelines, reference should be made to a fire code that is internationally recognized and that is most applicable to the geographical location, for example the International Fire Code. More detailed guidance is found in the United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines.<sup>3</sup>
18. In those countries where the host country has an established fire safety structure, including fire safety professionals, codes, rules and regulations, United Nations personnel charged with fire safety responsibilities are to consult with host country fire safety professionals and fire safety authorities to ensure that implementation of any provision of United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines is consistent and compatible with the applicable host country codes.

<sup>2</sup> Security Policy Manual, Chapter IV, Section A (“Security Risk Management”), paragraph 14.

<sup>3</sup> See United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines, 2011, Part V, subheading “Fire Codes”.

19. The provisions in the United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines are meant to be used, where applicable, for assessing, establishing and implementing fire safety programs in United Nations premises.
20. In addition to observing all host country fire safety requirements in all United Nations premises, United Nations personnel tasked with fire safety will ensure that fire safety policies and programmes are established in accordance with “United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines” and are in place.
21. Fire Safety Plans shall be regularly reviewed and updated to address any changes in the structure of buildings, functions, contents and any other matters which may have a bearing on fire safety.
22. Fire prevention and mitigation, including standards set out in local or international fire codes, must be factored into the design of United Nations premises and/or in the acquisition of existing premises for United Nations use.

## **F. Roles and Responsibilities**

23. Internationally, the proven and most important element of effective fire safety in any domain requiring fire safety protection is a positive fire safety culture. A positive fire safety culture is primarily achieved and maintained by raising awareness among personnel, applying appropriate fire safety rules and regulations and defining associated responsibilities and accountability. Responsibilities and accountability for safety and security, which includes fire safety, are clearly articulated in the “Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System”.<sup>4</sup>
24. Negligence and disregard for appropriate safety measures, including fire safety, at any level of responsibility is likely to directly add risk to lives, assets and programme delivery. Regardless of where personnel are located, each UNSMS organization has a duty of care to provide appropriate fire safety measures to lower the risk from fire to an acceptable level.
25. The following establishes the specific responsibilities for fire safety, primarily at the country level, within the UNSMS (see Annex A for schematic).

### *Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security*

26. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security has the delegated authority from the Secretary-General to make executive decisions regarding the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets and is therefore responsible for fire safety within the United Nations.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Security Management System , *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A (“Framework of Accountability” February 2011).

27. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security is responsible for developing fire safety policies, practices and procedures for the United Nations system worldwide and coordinating with organizations of the United Nations system to ensure implementation, compliance and support for fire safety aspects of their activities.

*Designated Official*

28. The Designated Official (DO) is responsible for ensuring the establishment, monitoring and annual review of all Fire Safety Plans within his/her area of responsibility.

*Chief Security Adviser (CSA)/Security Adviser (SA)/Country Security Focal Point (CSFP)*

29. The most senior security professional directly supporting the DO<sup>5</sup> is responsible for monitoring and annual reviews of the Fire Safety Plans within his/her area of responsibility and performs the following duties in this role:

- (a) Coordinates closely with representatives or organizations in his/her area of responsibility to ensure that each United Nations organization and integrated premises (if applicable) is aware of their requirement to have a functioning Fire Safety Focal Point;
- (b) Ensures each UNSMS organization within his/her area of responsibility has a current Fire Safety Plan;
- (c) Informs and regularly updates all UNSMS organizations on host country legislation relating to fire safety;
- (d) Monitors compliance with this policy, the United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines and applicable host country legislation relating to fire safety;
- (e) In consultation with Security Focal Points and facilities management, provides advice to the DO on the acquisition of new premises;
- (f) Provides an annual report to the DO and Security Management Team (SMT) regarding the current state of Fire Safety Plans of UNSMS organizations in his/her area of responsibility.

*Representative of Organization (country-level)*

<sup>5</sup> This is usually the Chief Security Adviser or another Security Adviser, including their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a Chief Security Adviser or Security Adviser is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point or Local Security Assistant (if necessary, in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present).

30. The country-level representative of organizations participating in the UNSMS:
- (a) Implements appropriate actions to provide for the safety and security of their respective personnel at the duty station;
  - (b) Ensures that fire safety is a core component of their respective security programmes in the country and that appropriate funding is provided;
  - (c) Appoints an existing staff member as Fire Safety Focal Point;
  - (d) Ensures that their personnel are familiar with all fire safety-related instructions;
  - (e) Takes action on instances of non-compliance with fire safety policies, practices and procedures;
  - (f) Reviews, approves and ensures that the organization's Fire Safety Plan is properly implemented.

*Fire Safety Focal Point (country-level)*

31. Each UNSMS organization shall appoint an existing staff member with the responsibilities of a Fire Safety Focal Point in each country where they have a presence.
32. The Fire Safety Focal Point is responsible for coordinating fire safety for the organization in-country in accordance with "United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines" and in collaboration with Chief Security Adviser/Security Adviser/Country Security Focal Point,:
- (a) Coordinates fire safety issues with facilities managers/owners, host country authorities and organization management;
  - (b) Coordinates fire safety inspections, fire safety risk assessments and recommends remedial fire safety measures;
  - (c) Prepares the Fire Safety Plan and Emergency Evacuation Plan;
  - (d) Nominates and trains fire wardens as part of the Fire Safety Plan;
  - (e) Ensures that a competent certified entity conducts periodic maintenance of fire safety and firefighting systems, where available;
  - (f) Rehearses building evacuation plans through regular drills, as required by United Nations Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS);
  - (g) Briefs and trains personnel on fire safety;
  - (h) Monitors adherence to fire safety policy;

- (i) Advises management on all aspects of fire safety;
- (j) In the event of a fire or an emergency evacuation, provides supervision and coordination in accordance with the Fire Safety Plan and Emergency Evacuation Plan.

33. In the absence of a competent local capacity, a qualified and certified fire safety entity may be engaged to carry out specific tasks listed in paragraph 31 above, however, the country-level representative of the UNSMS organization retains responsibility and accountability for those functions.

#### *United Nations Personnel*

34. United Nations personnel are responsible at all times for compliance with any fire safety regulations and procedures established at their duty station both on and off duty.

### **G. Training Requirements**

35. All United Nations personnel shall attend briefings and be familiar with fire safety and evacuation procedures in their workplace.

36. All United Nations personnel who have a specific role under the Fire Safety Plan for their organization must be adequately trained in their responsibilities and participate in fire safety and evacuation drills. Training will normally be delivered by, or under the direction of, the Fire Safety Focal Point.

37. Fire Safety Focal Points shall receive fire safety training as and when provided by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. Fire safety focal points are to be guided in the performance of their duties by the United Nations Fire Safety Guidelines.

### **H. Enforcement**

38. For the purpose of this policy, a fire safety violation is defined as an act or omission that compromises or may compromise fire safety at United Nations premises. Fire safety violations identified during fire safety inspections or as a result of an investigation must be remedied as soon as possible. In the event of an investigation into a fire incident, findings that any United Nations personnel have failed to abide by the terms of this policy may lead to administrative or disciplinary proceedings.

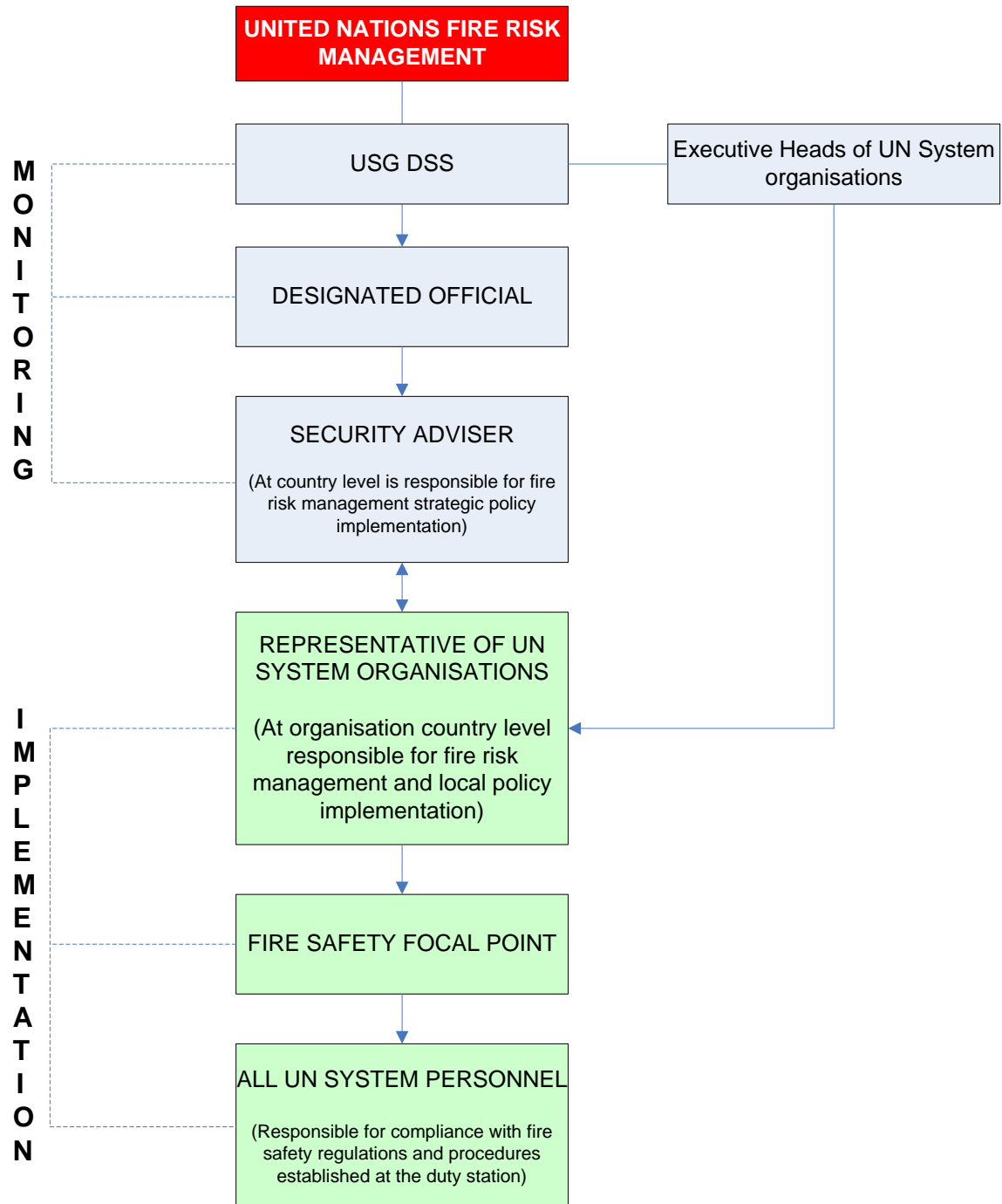
### **I. Final Provisions:**

39. This policy is meant to be made available to all United Nations personnel.

40. This policy enters into force on 15 April 2012.

## Annex A

### United Nations Fire Safety Responsibility and Accountability



## CHAPTER VII

### Provisions on Safety Matters



## Section C

### ROAD SAFETY

Promulgation Date: 31 October 2011  
Technical Review: 1 May 2017

## **A. Introduction**

1. Road and vehicle-related accidents are a common cause of injury and death among United Nations personnel. Poor road safety practices are not only a danger to drivers, passengers and other road users, they impede the ability of organizations to implement their programmes. Further, unsafe driving practices and road traffic accidents involving United Nations vehicles can generate resentment within the local population towards the United Nations, potentially creating further security incidents.

## **B. Purpose**

2. The purpose of this policy is to promote the safe operation of United Nations vehicles<sup>1</sup> world-wide, to ensure road safety and to describe the roles and responsibilities of relevant United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) actors in improving awareness and compliance with requirements and provisions for road safety.

## **C. Applicability**

3. The policy is applicable to all individuals covered by the UNSMS, as defined in Chapter III of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”) and to all non-United Nations personnel who are passengers in United Nations vehicles. For the purpose of this policy, the term “driver” applies to any person who operates a United Nations vehicle.

## **D. Conceptual Framework**

4. Global road safety has been a subject of attention by staff, managers and even Member States, who have repeatedly registered their concern at the burden of injury and death resulting from road traffic accidents. United Nations personnel have an obligation to promote road safety by their own behaviour as drivers and road users. The policy sets out safe practices for operating and driving United Nations vehicles.
5. The strategy of the United Nations for managing the risk from road safety hazards is one of both prevention and mitigation, as discussed in the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section A, “Policy on Security Risk Management (SRM)”, paragraph 14. Prevention entails measures intended to lower the likelihood of a road traffic accident occurring, such as driver training, driver regulations and safety-awareness programs. Mitigation entails measures intended to lower the impact of a road traffic accident once it has occurred, including the use of seatbelts and plans and preparations for medical attention, including first aid training drivers and other personnel.
6. Because of the large number of United Nations vehicles engaged in numerous road missions daily, there is a need for a global policy that sets out detailed requirements for the management of risks from road safety hazards.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this policy, “United Nations vehicle” means a wheeled, ground transport motor vehicle (either owned, leased or rented) operated by any member organization of the UNSMS.



7. The current policy shall be read in conjunction with the latest policies on the use of United Nations road transport and materials produced for any on-going road-safety campaigns, including those of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

#### **E. Requirements for United Nations System Organizations**

8. United Nations system organizations are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this policy for each location where they manage vehicles. Each United Nations system organization has a responsibility for ensuring the safety of its personnel and property and should disseminate policies and take other appropriate measures accordingly. Nothing in the provisions of this policy restricts United Nations organizations from implementing stricter measures for road safety or determines the non-safety-related vehicle policies that United Nations organizations have in place for driving authorization, use of vehicles, etc.
9. United Nations system organizations are responsible for initiating, in all locations where they manage vehicles, road safety information and awareness campaigns for their personnel, including the rules and regulations for road safety, United Nations statistics (and, where available, national statistics) on road traffic accidents, and for providing, in consultation and coordination with the UNDSS, safe-driving training for drivers that reinforces the notions of “safety first” and “defensive driving”.
10. United Nations organizations shall ensure that vehicles are properly managed and maintained in roadworthy condition, including according to local legislation.
11. United Nations organizations shall ensure the widest distribution of this policy to all personnel and the basic provision thereof in every United Nations vehicle.
12. In addition to the provisions of Section J below, United Nations system organizations are strongly encouraged to implement programs to reward drivers who demonstrate a safe driving record.
13. Designated Officials (DOs) are responsible for implementing first aid and medical response plans and preparations (including for adequate training and equipment) for their area of responsibility so that United Nations personnel injured in a road traffic accident can receive adequate medical response as soon as possible (in accordance with applicable medical guidelines). Casualty Evacuation and Medical Evacuation plans are also required and shall be included, along with other road safety requirements, as part of the country security plan, as per Chapter IV, Sections M and R of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM).

## **F. Requirements for United Nations Vehicles**

14. United Nations vehicles shall follow the standards set out in the SRM process as defined in the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM), Chapter IV, Section A, “Policy on Security Risk Management” and SRM Manual.<sup>2</sup>
15. In addition to the requirements from the SRM process, all United Nations vehicles must be equipped with properly functioning, standard safety features, including, but not limited to, seat belts for all driver and passenger seats, headlights, brake lights, signal lights, tires (including spares), special signalling for breakdowns (reflective vests, flares, etc.) and primary and emergency brakes.
16. United Nations system organizations should also consider the procurement of official vehicles with tested and proven safety features including, but not limited to, “Daytime Running Lights (DRL)”, “Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS)”, airbags and systems to alert maximum safe speeds.
17. United Nations vehicles shall be used for official purposes only, unless otherwise authorized.

## **G. Requirements for Drivers**

18. In order to lower the risks from road safety hazards, all persons operating a United Nations vehicle shall:
  - (a) Check, before departure and upon return, that the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition, has not been tampered with and that it contains all necessary functioning equipment required by MOSS and other requirements as per Section F above;
  - (b) Immediately report all defects in the vehicle and/or its safety-related equipment to the United Nations official responsible for vehicle and transport management in their respective organization;
  - (c) Use all safety-related equipment, including that outlined in Section F above, in the proper and prescribed manner;
  - (d) Be duly authorized by their respective United Nations system organization to operate the vehicle at the duty station, poses a valid driving licence recognized by the United Nations and/or the host country, possess all required certification not covered by standard driving licences (e.g., for heavy or special use vehicles), and pass any required practical and written driving and road safety tests;
  - (e) Be competent to operate the vehicle safely in all local conditions (including snow, ice and sandstorms), to invoke defensive driving techniques as necessary and to use radio/communications equipment properly;

<sup>2</sup> Any safety issues related specifically to armoured vehicles will be dealt with in separate documents on armoured vehicles standards.

- (f) Be medically cleared for driving by the United Nations and/or local authorities, including an approved eyesight test at least biennially, and be equipped with the prescribed methods for correcting vision (eye glasses, contact lenses, etc.);
- (g) Drive with due care at all times, maintaining the highest level of consideration towards passengers, other road users and pedestrians, including by obeying all national codes, driving regulations and speed limits;
- (h) Adjust the speed of the vehicle according to local driving conditions (e.g., low visibility, rain, snow, etc.) to ensure a safe speed at all times and a safe distance from other vehicles on the road;
- (i) Wear their seatbelt and advise passengers to also wear seat-belts;
- (j) Not operate the vehicle, in any situation or in any circumstance, under the influence of any substance that may impair their ability to operate the vehicle, including, but not limited to, alcohol, drugs, narcotics, psychotropic, chemical substances and medicines;
- (k) Not operate the vehicle knowing that his/her ability to do so safely has been impaired, affected or influenced by illness, fatigue or injury;
- (l) Abstain from activities that would interfere with, or distract from, their exercising full control over the vehicle, including, but not limited to, consuming food/beverages or smoking while the vehicle is in motion;
- (m) Refrain from operating radios, mobile cellular phones<sup>3</sup> or other communications devices while the vehicle is in motion, except where necessary as a security requirement and there are no other options;
- (n) Use other safety equipment as a vehicle may require, such as wearing helmets while operating motorcycles, mopeds, etc.;
- (o) Strictly adhere to any local security instructions regarding travel;
- (p) Ensure that no firearms are brought into or are transported in the vehicle, unless expressly permitted by the United Nations;
- (q) Report any request, order or pressure by anyone for the driver to violate the provisions of this policy.

## **H. Requirements for Passengers**

19. In order to lower the risk from road safety hazards, all passengers of a United Nations vehicle shall

- (a) Wear seat belts at all times while in the vehicle and not occupy a seat that is not fitted with a properly functioning seatbelt. In a security crisis situation, the number of passengers may exceed the number of seatbelts available.
- (b) Use other safety equipment as the vehicle may require, such as wearing helmets while a passenger on motorcycles, mopeds, etc.;

<sup>3</sup> This provision includes speaking, texting or other uses.

- (c) Not request, order or otherwise pressure the driver of the vehicle to violate any of the requirements as laid out in Section G above, including by conducting any required communication checks during the movement to release the driver of this obligation;
- (d) Not smoke or consume alcoholic beverages in the vehicle;
- (e) Strictly adhere to other security instructions regarding travel;
- (f) Report any observed dangerous or unsafe driving by United Nations drivers to the appropriate United Nations official in charge of managing the vehicle fleet and the applicable United Nations security official (passengers have the right to refuse transportation in United Nations vehicles if they have a reasonable belief that the vehicle is not roadworthy or that the driver is not in a condition to operate the vehicle safely).

## **I. Response in the Event of a Road Traffic Accident**

20. When a United Nations vehicle is involved in a road traffic accident, the United Nations driver (or other occupants if the driver is incapacitated) shall
  - (a) Remain at the accident scene until directed otherwise by local authorities, unless his/her personal safety, or the safety of the occupants, is manifestly endangered or local United Nations security protocols determine another course of action;
  - (b) If there are any persons injured, call for medical aid and take all necessary action to render the accident site safe, including rendering first aid to injured persons as he/she is qualified to administer. United Nations vehicles may be used to transport injured persons to medical assistance only under the direct request of medically-trained personnel;
  - (c) Report the accident as soon as possible to the United Nations official in charge of managing the vehicle fleet and the applicable United Nations security official. Local police authorities must also be informed as soon as practically feasible. United Nations security officials are responsible for liaising with the police authorities handling the case;
  - (d) Gather as much information as possible to assist the United Nations investigation of the incident;
  - (e) Not admit any personal liability or any liability on the part of the United Nations;
21. The driver must report road traffic accidents involving the vehicle. The accident report shall be submitted in accordance with existing guidelines.

**J. Enforcement**

22. In the event of an investigation into a road traffic accident, findings that any occupants of a vehicle have failed to abide by the terms of this policy may lead to administrative or disciplinary proceedings.

**K. Final Provisions**

23. This policy is meant to be distributed to all United Nations personnel.
24. This policy enters into force on 31 October 2011.



