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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES • BUREAU DES SERVICES DE CONTRÔLE INTERNE
INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION • DIVISION DE L'AUDIT INTERNE

TO: Mr. Nicolas Von Ruben,
A: Director of Mission Support, UNMIS

DATE: 25 July 2011

REFERENCE: IAD: 11- 00503

FROM: Fatoumata Ndiaye, Director
DE: Internal Audit Division, OIOS

Fatoumata

SUBJECT: **Assignment No. AP2011/632/15 – Audit of aviation safety in UNMIS**
OBJET:

Key controls relating to risk management and strategic planning of aviation safety programmes were satisfactory

1. I am pleased to present the report on the above-mentioned audit.
2. Please note that under General Assembly resolution 59/272, a Member State may request that the final audit report be made available. Also, note that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/263, OIOS will include the complete management response as an annex to the present report.
3. We wish to express our appreciation to the Management and staff of UNMIS for the assistance and cooperation extended to the auditors during this assignment.

cc: Ms. AnneMarie van den Berg, Chief Integrated Support Services, UNMIS
Mr. Jorge Rodriguez, Mission Aviation Safety Officer, UNMIS
Mr. Rakan Al Quran, Chief Aviation Operations, UNMIS
Mr. Samuel Abrokwa, Chief Aviation Officer, UNMIS
Mr. Swatantra Goolsarran, Executive Secretary, UN Board of Auditors
Ms. Susanne Frueh, Executive Secretary, Joint Inspection Unit
Mr. Moses Bamuwanye, Executive Secretary, IAAC
Mr. Zachary Ikiara, Chief, Oversight Support Unit, DM
Mr. Byung-Kun Min, Special Assistant to the USG-OIOS
Ms. Eleanor Burns, Chief, Peacekeeping Audit Service, OIOS
Ms. Amy Wong, Programme Officer, Internal Audit Division, OIOS

AUDIT REPORT

Audit of aviation safety in UNMIS

BACKGROUND

Management of aviation safety programmes in field missions involves clear identification of aviation hazards, evaluation of associated risks and implementation of appropriate risk mitigation measures. Within each field mission, aviation safety typically falls under the responsibility of the Aviation Safety Unit (ASU), which is part of the Office of Mission Support. The Head of Mission is responsible for the overall safety of air assets and the quality and performance of air carriers. However, some responsibilities are normally delegated to the Director of Mission Support (DMS).

The ASU in the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is responsible for the development and implementation of the aviation safety programme in line with the draft Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support (DFS) Aviation Safety Manual. The Unit is part of the Office of the DMS and the Head of Unit also has a reporting line to the Aviation Safety Section, Logistics Support Division, DFS on technical issues pertaining to aviation safety. The Aviation Safety Section is responsible to provide technical support and regular oversight over aviation safety matters in field missions, and to develop aviation safety policies and guidelines.

As at 30 April 2011, UNMIS operated 10 fixed-wing and 31 rotary-wing aircraft. The ASU had five authorized aviation safety posts, all of which were encumbered.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

This audit was conducted to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of UNMIS' risk management, control and governance processes in providing reasonable assurance regarding the effective implementation and management of its aviation safety programme. The key control tested for the audit included that related to risk management and strategic planning. The audit covered UNMIS' aviation safety activities related to this key control for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 April 2011 and its implementation of previous OIOS' recommendations.

AUDIT RESULTS

In OIOS' opinion, UNMIS' risk management, control and governance processes examined were **satisfactory** to provide reasonable assurance regarding UNMIS' effective management of its air safety programme.

UNMIS had implemented OIOS' previous recommendations, and there was an adequate operational risk management framework in place. Also, the Mission's Aviation Safety Council met regularly and it was functioning as intended, periodic risk assessments were done in accordance with the Aviation Safety Manual, and there was an up-to-date Aviation Emergency Response Plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OIOS wishes to express its appreciation to the Management and staff of UNMIS for the assistance and cooperation extended to the auditors during this assignment.