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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: Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Special Representative of the Secretary-
A: General and Head of Mission/United Nations Peacekeeping
Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

DATE: 2 September 2011

REFERENCE IAD: 11- 00554

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



SUBJECT: **Assignment No. AP2011/654/03 – Audit of aviation safety in UNFICYP**

OBJET:

Overall results relating to the effective implementation and management of UNFICYP's aviation safety programme were satisfactory

1. Attached please find the final report on the above-mentioned audit.
2. The audit identified a number of opportunities for improvement (see Annex). While OIOS will not report on the implementation of these opportunities, we encourage you to implement them to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your operations. OIOS will review their implementation as part of future audits.
3. Please note that under General Assembly resolution 59/272, a Member State may request that the final report be made available. Also note that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/263, OIOS has included the complete management response as an appendix to the present report.
4. We wish to express our appreciation to the Management and staff of UNFICYP for the assistance and cooperation extended to the auditors during this assignment.

cc: Major General Chao Liu, Force Commander, UNFICYP
Mr. Paul Aghadjanian, Chief of Mission Support, UNFICYP
Mr. Nabeel Arif, Director, Logistic Support Division, DFS
Mr. Ricardo Garcia, Regional Aviation Safety Officer, UNLB
Mr. Swatantra Goolsarran, Executive Secretary, UN Board of Auditors
Ms. Susanne Frueh, Executive Secretary, Joint Inspection Unit
Mr. Seth Adza, Chief, Audit Response Team, Department of Field Support
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 T. Burns, Chief, Peacekeeping Audit Service,
Ms. Amy Wong, Programme Officer, Internal Audit Division, OIOS

AUDIT REPORT

Audit of aviation safety in UNFICYP

BACKGROUND

Management of aviation safety programmes in field missions involves the identification of aviation hazards, evaluation of associated risks and implementation of appropriate risk mitigation measures. The Regional Aviation Safety Office (RASO) at the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) in Brindisi, Italy is responsible for the aviation safety oversight of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and is also responsible for the development and implementation of the Mission's aviation safety programme. The Mission does not have an Aviation Safety Unit. However, there is a Military Aviation Safety Officer (MASO) who serves as a focal point to the RASO on aviation safety matters. The MASO reports directly to the Chief of Mission Support. The Aviation Safety Section of the Department of Field Support (DFS) is responsible to provide technical support and regular oversight of the aviation safety programme in the Mission. As of 30 April 2011, UNFICYP had three helicopters.

This audit was included in the 2011 OIOS' risk-based work plan due to the high risk nature of air operations in peacekeeping missions.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The audit was conducted to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of UNFICYP's risk management, control and governance processes in providing reasonable assurance regarding the effective implementation and management of its aviation safety programme. The key controls tested for the audit included those related to: (a) risk management and strategic planning; and (b) oversight mechanisms. The audit covered UNFICYP's activities related to these key controls for the period from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2011.

AUDIT RESULTS

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

Mission Aviation Safety Council

The Mission Aviation Safety Council (MASC) met quarterly and was generally functioning as intended. Aviation safety issues were discussed during meetings and resolved in a timely manner.

Aviation Operational Risk Management

UNFICYP had developed standard operating procedures on Helicopters' Engine Running Operations using the Operational Risk Management (ORM) process in December 2010. In addition, other air operation processes for application of the ORM methodology had been identified including air mission planning, passenger and cargo handling, helicopter landing sites and ramp management, airspace management and military operations.

Aviation Emergency Response Plan

UNFICYP conducted two desktop exercises in November 2009 and May 2011 to test the Aviation Emergency Response Plan (AERP). An updated AERP, coordinated with all stakeholders in the Mission, had been approved. UNFICYP did not conduct any live exercises, as they did not have permission to conduct an exercise in coordination with local airports and the Civil Aviation Authorities. *A copy of UNFICYP's AERP has been provided to Larnaca Airport Authorities.*

Aviation Safety Assessment Visits

The RASO made seven Aviation Safety Assessment Visits to the Mission which resulted in 33 recommendations. All but one of the recommendations had been implemented.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OIOS wishes to express its appreciation to the Management and staff of UNFICYP and the Regional Aviation Safety Officer for the assistance and cooperation extended to the auditors during this assignment.