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08 Apr 09

Note to Mr. Kisambira

Your Letter to the Secretary-General, Dated 9 April 2009

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary-General dated 9 April 2009, which included a copy of the Staff Council's Resolution 43/05, entitled *Lack of Security Risk Analyses Threatens Staff Safety and Health*. Mr. Adlerstein's office has requested me to respond.

I understand that OHRM forwarded to you by email on 13 April 2009 Mr. Adlerstein's written response to the Staff Council's earlier resolution (43/02), which was adopted on 12 March 2009. This note adds to our views on the first resolution and also responds to the issues raised in the second resolution.


Mr. Adlerstein assures me that improving the safety and security of the staff is one of the main objectives of the CMP, and there has been no compromise of safety and security for the sake of expediency or cost savings. The Office of the Capital Master Plan continues to work closely with the host country and the Department of Safety and Security. We are in agreement that the selected off-site swing spaces need to be in conformity with UN standards and practices. Following the decision of the Chief Executives Board at its Spring session on 4 April 2009 in regard to Security Risk Management, the Department of Safety and Security has established a dedicated team to ensure the completion of Security Risk Assessments for swing-space locations by end June 2009.

Security for staff in the annex and swing space complies with HMOSS and includes standardized features such as access control and blast protection requirements. In addition, security vulnerability assessments for buildings intended for occupancy by the Organization were conducted by law enforcement officials of the Host City. Their recommendations were considered and incorporated into DSS security requirements planning for those buildings, where relevant.

The construction phase of the Capital Master Plan is well underway, and the relocations of staff from the Secretariat Building to the off-campus office swing spaces have begun and will continue through the summer and early fall. This is so that the Secretariat Building can be completely emptied in order for construction to begin. As you know, the Accelerated Strategy IV, as adopted by the General Assembly, called for the Secretariat to be renovated in a single phase. This strategy greatly reduces the risks associated with construction or renovation of occupied space.

With respect to the Joint Negotiating Committee in Staff Council resolution 43/03, and the appointment by the Staff Council of a new staff representative to that body, we understand that Mr. Adlerstein will respond in due course.

Mr. Adlerstein has a number of monthly Town Hall meetings planned throughout the summer to discuss the CMP, to which all staff members are encouraged to attend.

Mohammad Bani-Faris 
Officer-in-Charge
Department of Safety and Security
28 April 2009

cc: Mr. Adlerstein
Ms. Kane
Mr. Veness