

received
5 May 09

Note to Mr. Kisambira
Your Letter to the Secretary-General, Dated 9 April 2009

COPY
Tom

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*. The Secretary-General's office has requested me to respond on his behalf.

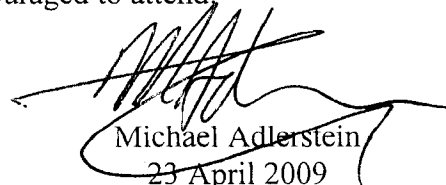
I understand that OHRM forwarded to you by email on 13 April 2009 our written response to the Staff Council's earlier resolution (43/02), which was adopted on 12 March 2009. This note adds to our views on the first resolution and also responds to the issues raised in the second resolution.

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 Department of Safety and Security, and we are in agreement that the selected off-site swing spaces must comply with the relevant UN standards and practices. The Department of Safety and Security has established a dedicated team to ensure the completion of Security Risk Assessments for all swing-space locations by end June 2009.

Security for staff in the annex and swing space locations includes standardized features such as access control and blast protection requirements. In addition, security vulnerability surveys and assessments for buildings intended for occupancy by the Organization are conducted by law enforcement officials of the Host City. Their recommendations are 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 will begin in a matter of weeks, continuing 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.

As for the reference made to the Joint Negotiating Committee in Staff Council resolution 43/03, we are still awaiting the appointment by the Staff Council of a new staff representative to that body. We look forward to resuming JNC meetings to discuss CMP matters, and I hope the Staff Council will provide a representative as soon as possible. We do have a number of monthly Town Hall meetings planned throughout the summer to discuss the CMP, to which all staff members are encouraged to attend.


Michael Adlerstein
23 April 2009

cc: Ms. Kane
Mr. Veness