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Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 3 (b))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

1. During its sixty-first session, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs ([E/AC.51/2021/3](#)).
2. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introducing the report. Representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed thanks to OIOS for it. One welcomed the positive analysis of the work of the Department on conflict prevention, while noting the conclusions that underlined areas for improvement. The same delegation noted the benefits of an integrated approach, as highlighted in the report. Given the challenges of integration, the Department was requested to provide its views on the OIOS observation on uneven integration of the regional divisions, as well as with the Department of Peace Operations, and on the steps being taken to address that issue. Information was also sought on how the Department aimed to create the right culture.
4. Support was expressed for recommendation 2, on establishing a mechanism for staff to anonymously voice different viewpoints on political analyses. A delegation highlighted the importance of such a mechanism in providing staff with an opportunity to express viewpoints. Conversely, another delegation expressed concern,



asking whether such a mechanism would have an impact on the decision-making process. The same delegation said that the Secretariat was not an academy of personal views, but an organization responsible for all Member States; all staff shouldered collective responsibility for the Organization and were individually accountable too. The delegation asked about the process for ensuring transparency and accountability in relation to such a mechanism. Other delegations asked why the mechanism should be anonymous.
