



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee for Programme and Coordination

### Forty-ninth session

8 June-2 July 2009

Agenda item 8

### Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-ninth session

## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Javad **Safaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

### Addendum

## Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs

*(Item 3 (b))*

1. At its 4th meeting, on 9 June 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs (E/AC.51/2009/3).
2. The Officer-in-Charge of OIOS introduced the report, and representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political Affairs responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

### Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report and remarked upon the importance of an independent evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs as the focal point for mediation and conflict prevention in the United Nations system. The Committee noted that all 10 recommendations in the report of OIOS on the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs regional divisions (E/AC.51/2006/4) had been endorsed by the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and that 4 of the 10 recommendations had been implemented by the Department of



Political Affairs. Delegations noted that the Department of Political Affairs should make additional efforts to implement the remaining six recommendations, especially given its additional resources of 49 posts approved by the General Assembly.

4. Delegations noted the report's finding to implement the recommendation to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations, which would be beneficial to the Department of Political Affairs. Delegations also noted that the conflict prevention strategy outlined by the Department of Political Affairs had not been endorsed by the General Assembly and asked OIOS to clarify its judgement that the recommendation to execute a strategy had been implemented. It was explained that because the Department of Political Affairs had articulated a clear role for its conflict prevention strategy, it was deemed implemented; however, it was the prerogative of the General Assembly to assess whether the strategy was satisfactory. Delegations also raised questions about the recommendation to conduct an independent external evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs Trust Fund for Preventive Action and the Trust Fund for Special Political Missions and Other Activities. It was explained that OIOS made that recommendation because sufficient monitoring and evaluation on the efficiency and effectiveness of the trust funds had not been undertaken and that OIOS lacked the resources to carry out an evaluation of the trust funds. Several other questions seeking clarification on the report were raised by member delegates, to which OIOS gave responses.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

5. **The Committee questioned the appropriateness of the view expressed by OIOS in paragraph 45 of its report E/AC.51/2009/3, and requested the General Assembly to recall the need for the Office to refrain from value judgements on issues that are still under consideration by the General Assembly.**

6. **The Committee recommended that the Office of Internal Oversight Services fully take into account the decision of the General Assembly on the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs when measuring the future implementation of the OIOS recommendations endorsed by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.**

7. **The Committee recalled the recommendation made in paragraph 387 of its report on its forty-sixth session (A/61/16), and recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to conduct an independent external evaluation of the Trust Fund for Preventive Action and the Trust Fund for Special Political Missions and Other Activities, to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and impact, as well as their management and operations.**

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the coordination between the Department of Political Affairs and regional organizations, such as the African Union and European Union, and request the Secretary-General to take into account the provisions of resolution 63/261 when initiating and/or strengthening the relations between the Department of Political Affairs and other regional organizations.**