

Efforts to strengthen the management of UN Environment Programme further to the audit of official travel by the Office of Internal Oversight Services

146th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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Back-to-Basics: Foundational Management Strategy for UNEP

- To adopt a multi-tiered approach with the objective of confirming that sound management and administration practices are in place, UNEP requires a focused strategy to address the challenges highlighted in the diagnostic.
- Improve programme delivery by ensuring that clear systems and frameworks are in place for UNEP to deliver on its mandate and to regain its foothold in leading the global environment agenda.
- The back-to-basic model will create scope for establishing best practices, defining the role of Corporate Services, improving transparency, accountability and credibility.

I. Re- establishing management tone at the top



Reinforce values, actions and model behavior by management.



Reinforce a culture of accountability and transparency.



Issuance of new Travel Guidelines and Procedures.



Increase capacity for risk management and training to staff on risk management.

II. Internal controls: Re-sensitizing and training staff on their role as gatekeepers and custodians of policies

Strengthen capacity building initiatives to empower staff on their role as gatekeepers and custodians.

Clarify and confirm the roles and responsibilities of CSD.

Role alignment within Corporate Services Division.

Review of existing policies and ensuring introduction of key new policies as well as updates that reflect the Secretary-General's reforms for greater efficiency.

New Policies

New Travel Guidelines

Anti-Fraud Policy

Guidelines on zero tolerance of harassment

Safeguards

III. Bench- marking best practices across UN agencies and the public sector



Strengthen and invigorate outreach to partners and proactively engaging in resource mobilization strategies.



Engage in a consultancy review to establish benchmarks on policies and strategies around Risk Management; Anti-Fraud; Management Safeguards; Harassment and Partnerships.



Engage in a wholistic review of the management of UN Environment resources.



Ensure a rigorous screening and selection of partners and maintaining an overview of all partnerships.

IV. Partnering with auditors and evaluation office to benefit from an external view

Agreed work plan for 2019, according to risk assessment, with auditors. For example Afghanistan, HR recruitment and MEAs.

Peer reviews that focus on quality assurance, risk management and lessons learned.

Provide updates with regard to the actions taken on closure of recommendations related to the 2018 travel audit in particular.

Upcoming audits:

Audit of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Audit of recruitment at the United Nations Environment Programme

Audit of partnerships

Completed audits:

Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Afghanistan Project Office

Evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme

V. Focusing on communication of results, improving our programme management and reporting, and improving transparency



Share project management best practices to enhance project design, development, reporting and monitoring.



Implementation of the evaluations undertaken.



Focus on communication of results and achievements internally and externally to improve transparency.



Processes underway:



Peer Reviews of UNEP projects



Partnership policy task force



Private Sector Partnerships Strategy



FMO/Administrative Officers Academy

Travel Audit Update



Compliance with the 21 day rule: As at end of May 2019 travel data indicates that there has been 64% compliance compared to 48% during the same period in 2018.



There has been a 40% reduction in the travel cost of Senior Management in the first quarter of 2019 when compared to the same quarter in 2018.



Outstanding balance to conference paymasters: UNON Accounts has confirmed that as of 14 June 2019 99.5% of the balance has been settled.



Open travel advances: 98% has been settled.



Balances in the ticket clearing account: 83% settled. A balance of \$82,506.43, of which \$25,958.82 is pending action from other UN Offices.