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UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11 (A)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me the floor.

I am pleased to brief the Council in my capacity as facilitator on the issue of the Office of Internal Oversight's (OIO) reports.

During the intersessional period since the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Council (EC-87), I convened informal consultations on 5 July to discuss the implementation in 2017 of the recommendations contained in the 2016 annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight (EC-88/DG.10, dated 1 June 2018) and the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 (EC-88/DG.6, dated 16 May 2018).

In the meeting, the Technical Secretariat provided a comprehensive briefing designed to give States Parties, especially those representatives who had not previously attended an OIO session, a thorough understanding of the mandate and work of the Office of Internal Oversight. The briefing highlighted the areas in which the OIO conducts audits, and the types of recommendations that the OIO makes, including those deemed critical to the effective functioning of the Organisation.

The Technical Secretariat noted that from 2012-2017, the OIO made a total of 262 recommendations, all of which the Director-General has accepted. Of the 262 recommendations, 202 have been implemented, an overall completion rate of 77.1%. Of the 60 pending recommendations, 21 are deemed critical. While most outstanding recommendations date from 2015 or more recently, there are a small number of recommendations that are older.

During the facilitation, States Parties expressed their appreciation for the ongoing work of the OIO in providing assurance to States Parties that the resources provided to the Organisation are used economically, efficiently, and effectively to meet the objectives of the Convention. States Parties sought clarification as to how the OIO decides what to audit, asked for further information on what obstacles are preventing the implementation of the 60 pending recommendations, especially for those more than three years old, and sought further clarification as to how the OIO splits its role between auditing a system and managing it, in the categories of Evaluations and Quality Management Assurance.

The Technical Secretariat provided thorough answers to the questions raised by States Parties, and noted that further information could be found within the OIO's 2017 report, including in a new section which contains an assessment of the impacts of the implemented



audit and evaluation recommendations. The Technical Secretariat also highlighted the recent Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters report (ABAF-44/1) which contains a section on the functioning of the OIO in 2017, and which notes the added value of OIO recommendations in strengthening the internal control, risk management, and governance systems in the Organisation.

I would like to close by thanking the OIO for putting together such a comprehensive briefing and for its continued work. This concludes my report.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I ask that this statement be an official document of the session and be posted on both the external server and the public website.

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