
Annex

Statement of the Chief Executives Board on safety and security of United Nations system staff

Thousands of women and men working for the United Nations system around the world regularly face violence and threats from armed conflict, terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, harassment and intimidation. Given the increasingly difficult and dangerous conditions faced by staff, the United Nations is at a critical juncture. Urgent and dramatic action is needed to strengthen a United Nations security framework that seeks to protect staff and allow operations to continue in insecure and unstable environments. We need to adopt a shift in culture and mindset from a “when to leave” to a “how to stay” approach to security management.

As executive heads of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and members of the Chief Executives Board, we:

- Will urgently address deficiencies in the current security management system
- Will provide guidance for the design of a new, stronger, more dynamic and proactive security and risk management architecture
- Recognize that the safety and security of United Nations system staff is an integral part of the activities undertaken by the United Nations, and should be included in the earliest stages of programme planning and at all levels, particularly at the country level
- Act collectively to implement a comprehensive plan for a strengthened and enhanced system-wide security management system as agreed by the Board at its 2009 spring session
- Recognize that there are financial costs associated with providing adequate security, and that there may be conflict between the mandate to carry out operations and the ability to do so without sufficient security resources
- Call on the governing bodies of CEB member organizations to ensure that safety and security of staff be mainstreamed at all levels of United Nations system activities, with the strategic aim of promoting security management as an integral and enabling part of policy, planning, operational and administrative considerations for United Nations system programmes and activities
- Urge Member States to fully uphold their responsibility as host Governments by recognizing the changed security environment within which United Nations system staff must operate and ensuring that all necessary mitigating measures are taken to protect staff from identified threats
- Call on Member States to support the core resources for the United Nations security system at a level sufficient to match the new reality, as well as to ensure that United Nations system organizations are provided with appropriate and sustainable funding for security to enable them to safely and effectively execute their mandates.