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SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR ON INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITIES

Summary

This report is a summary of the annual report of the Internal Auditor (Document C14/47) and responds to the decision taken by the Council at its 2014 session to make such summary publicly available on a temporary and exceptional basis until the Plenipotentiary Conference decides on a general policy. The annual report covers internal audit activities from the period between April 2013 and February 2014.

Internal audits

1. Document C14/47 contains elements related to the orientation and scope of internal audit activities as well as an overview of the assurance engagements and/or performance audits that were conducted in the time period reported on. All audits planned and taken forward were finalized on time, with the issuance of final reports including the comments of the managers concerned. Copies of the final audit reports were also systematically forwarded to the Independent Management Advisory Committee (IMAC) and the External Auditor. In accordance with ITU Financial Regulation 29.5, final internal audit reports can, upon written request to the Secretary-General, be made available to Member States or their designated representatives.
2. The specific audits done and related main issues identified were:
 - a. The Asia-Pacific Regional and Area Offices:

Internal Audit recommended that adequate insurance coverage be provided to ASP staff and premises, and also that banking arrangements be reviewed;
 - b. The Commonwealth of Independent States Area Office:

Internal Audit identified issues related to insurance and banking/cash arrangements, similar to the ones mentioned under point a. above;
 - c. The Americas Regional and Area Offices:

Internal Audit identified room for improvement mainly in the areas of safety and security, bank and cash management (for which ITU/HQ – in coordination with the RO/AO – had in the meantime already addressed the issues), internal and external communication.

The results of the audit work indicated that internal controls, policies and procedures were generally established and functioning although improvement is needed in certain areas. Specific findings from the audits indicated issues in relation to compliance with regulations or established procedures, and in relation to local management or headquarters controls. Recommendations made in the audit reports are being taken into consideration and actioned by concerned management, supported by the Secretary-General, with the aim of further strengthening ITU for fulfilling its mandate. A number of these recommendations have also been taken up and commented on by the External Auditor and the IMAC.

Follow up of internal audit recommendations

3. Throughout the period reported on, and in compliance with IIA¹ Standard 2500, Internal Audit continued to follow up on recommendations made in previous audit reports. Substantial progress was noted over the last 12 months.

¹ Institute of Internal Auditors