



UN Department of Safety and Security

Vision

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) is responsible for providing leadership, operational support and oversight of the UN's Security Management System, ensuring the maximum security for staff and eligible dependants, and, finally, enabling the safest and most efficient conduct of the programmes and activities of the United Nations System in Iran.

For the first half-century of its existence, the United Nations felt protected by its flag and the fact that it is a neutral, benevolent actor in world events. During that period, when United Nations personnel were directly targeted, such incidents were generally viewed as isolated events. However, since the early 1990s, there has been a rise in the number of deaths and injuries to UN staff as a result of deliberate and malicious acts. Regrettably, the security environment for the United Nations changed and became more



Security coordination for the visit of UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, 2012



IOM Building Earthquake Resistance Assessment

threatening. In addition, the mandate and work of the United Nations has expanded significantly, resulting in a larger number of United Nations staff members – notably from the humanitarian agencies – being deployed in potentially hazardous areas and missions. In 2001, the General Assembly authorized the creation of a full-time United Nations Security Coordinator at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

During the period 2002 to 2003, efforts were made by the United Nations Security Coordinator to professionalize the Organization's security for its staff through improved recruitment and training, and to institutionalize security coordination among United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes through the establishment of an Inter-Agency Security Management Network.

UNDSS was created through the adoption of General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/59/276, XI, 7) on 23 December 2004.

Work in Iran

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security in Iran was formally established on 1 January 2005. Since that



Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Training Exercise, 2014.



DSS Table top Exercise on Mass Casualty Incident & Crisis Management: Security Management Team in session.

time, the UNDSS in Iran has dedicated its work towards performing the following functions:

- To support and enable the effective conduct of United Nations activities by ensuring a coherent, effective and timely response to all security-related threats and other emergencies.
- To ensure effective risk mitigation through the establishment of a coordinated security threat and risk assessment mechanism within the framework of a common, system-wide methodology.
- To develop high-quality, best-practice security policies, standards and operational procedures across the United Nations system, including the appropriate degree of standardization.
- To support implementation and monitor compliance with those security policies, standards and operational procedures.
- To ensure the most cost-effective provision in implementing the UN risk mitigation strategy.

UNDSS Office in Iran is headed by the UN Security Advisor who acts as the principal advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator in his/her role as Designated Official (DO) for

the UN in Iran. With a small team, DSS coordinates all matters related to staff safety and security among UN agencies. The Security Advisor supports the DO and SMT (Security Management Team) in their performance of the security responsibilities. In doing so, DSS strictly follows the principles of the UN Charter, which emphasizes Host Government responsibility for the provision of security to UN staff in the country.

UNDSS performs security-related tasks, such as security information management, threat assessments, security risk analysis as it applies to the UN. It oversees the implementation of security strategy for UN / security decisions as adopted by the DO and SMT, security policy compliance and establishment of accountability at all levels, development of standard procedures, and plan and conduct security training for all UN personnel.

Aware of the high potential impact of threats arising from natural hazards (earthquakes) and the associated high risk to UN staff in Iran, UNDSS, through its various training and staff awareness programmes, focuses on maintaining a high standard of UN emergency crisis preparedness and response planning.

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