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**DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY  
OFFICE OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM      MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

**UNDSS COMMUNIQUÉ**

DATE: 7 January 2022

To: All United Nations Designated Officials  
A: All Agency Security Focal Points  
All Integrated Security Workforce

CC:

FROM: Gilles Michaud  
DE: Under-Secretary-General



SUBJECT: **Promulgation of Guidance on Commercial Air Travel Safety and Revisions to  
OBJET: Four Policies**

1. The Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) endorsed five guidance documents for the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) at its 34<sup>th</sup> session in Montreux. These documents, which consist of new guidance on commercial air travel safety and four revisions to existing UNSMS policies, were approved by the High-Level Committee on Management in December 2021.
2. The Commercial Air Travel Safety Guidance has been drafted by the Air Travel Working Group (ATWG) in response to the IASMN's request to revise the approach to commercial air travel safety. The ATWG decided that a shift from policy to guidance was better suited to the context, as the UNSMS does not manage the safety of global commercial air operators. In addition, a guidance document would facilitate the move of the UNDSS mandate for aviation safety to the Department of Support, as it would still be applicable post-transfer.

3. The four policies that have been revised are the Framework of Accountability, the Locally-Cost Shared Security Budget, Road Safety, and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).
  - The Framework of Accountability was revised to reflect the evolution and maturity of the UNSMS and ensure that security responsibilities are depicted accurately. Several new sections have been introduced to provide more detail on the functions of existing security actors such as the Security Cell and the Area Security Management Teams, among others. Two new security roles - the Area Security Adviser and the UNSMS Organization Country Security Focal Point – have been added.
  - The changes to the policy on the Locally Cost-Shared Security Budget have created a more coherent flow of tasks, resulting in some changes to the overall timeline. The SMT now reviews and approves the budget by the end of June of the yearly cycle, and the LCSSBs are endorsed by the end of October.
  - The policy on IEDs underwent a minor revision, with changes focused on third party contractors and the support that could be provided within peacekeeping operations. Since the changes to this policy were fairly small and technical in nature, the text has been retained from the previous version and additions were marked in yellow highlight.
  - Finally, the policy on road safety was revised to align it with UN road safety strategy and relevant frameworks.
4. With the issuance of this communiqué, the attached documents are hereby officially promulgated. The four revised policies will replace the previous versions, with simultaneous updates to the Security Policy Manual and [policy.un.org](http://policy.un.org). The four revised policies are effective as of 7 January 2022. With the promulgation of the Commercial Air Travel Safety Guidance, which will be part of the Security Management Operations Manual, the Commercial Air Travel Safety Policy (part of the Security Policy Manual) is abolished. The new guidance is effective as of 15 January 2022.
5. To assist with implementation of each document that is either new, or has undergone a complete revision, a package consisting of a PowerPoint presentation and a two-pager has been prepared.
6. For any policy-related questions, please contact [undss.policy@un.org](mailto:undss.policy@un.org).