

CHAPTER IV

Security Management

Section E

SECURITY OF UN PREMISES



A. Introduction

1. The primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel, eligible family members and organization property rests with the host Government. This responsibility flows from every Government's normal and inherent function of maintaining order and protecting persons and property within its jurisdiction. In the case of the United Nations, the Government has a special responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant agreements the host Government may have with individual United Nations organizations. The organizations of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) rely on the host Government for the provision of adequate security.¹
2. Without abrogating the responsibility of the host Government for its obligations, the United Nations has a duty as an employer to reinforce and supplement the capacity of the host Government to fulfil these functions in circumstances where United Nations personnel are subject to conditions of insecurity that require security measures beyond what the host Government can provide. This need for UNSMS organizations to reinforce and supplement what the host Government can provide for premises security is important when the whole or part of the United Nations premises is an "exclusive use area" of the United Nations in which the host Government has no authority.
3. The security of premises is a security risk management issue, but a specific policy focused on strengthening premises security is required for the following measures:
 - (a) Premises are static locations that are more vulnerable to detailed, planned criminal, terrorist, civil unrest or other attacks or the impact of attacks on neighbouring buildings;
 - (b) Premises concentrate personnel and/or assets within one location;
 - (c) United Nations premises can be considered as desirable, even iconic, targets for various forms of violence, including terrorism, civil unrest and crime;
 - (d) Most premises that the United Nations lease, rent or have provided by member states are not built with security and safety considerations;
 - (e) Security for premises often requires large financial and capital investments in security construction and systems, including physical security, as well as long term planning;
 - (f) Personnel expect United Nations premises to be places where they can feel safe and secure.

¹ In accordance with *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section D. "Relations with Host Countries on Security Issues", paragraph 10, if de facto local authorities and/or "non-state actors" are in control of the areas where United Nations premises are located, depending on the circumstances, it may be useful to apply the principles outlined in this policy even though non-state actors or de facto local authorities controlling areas are not host Governments.

B. Purpose

4. The purpose of this policy is to establish the basic principles and requirements for efficient and effective management of security risks associated with United Nations premises.

C. Application/Scope

5. The policy is applicable to all UNSMS organizations as well as all individuals defined in Chapter III, Section A, of the *Security Policy Manual* (SPM) (“Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System”).
6. This policy is primarily intended for all categories of security personnel and others with responsibility for acquisition, operation and maintenance of United Nations premises.
7. This policy only covers the security aspects of premises management, including fire safety. This policy does not address occupational health or safety issues or safety aspects relating to premises design, construction, refurbishment and management, including the technical assessment of the risks from natural hazards.
8. This policy is applicable to all United Nations premises worldwide.

D. Premises Security

9. For purposes of this policy, the term “United Nations premises” means all categories of land and physical structures occupied by personnel of one or more organizations of the UNSMS, including structures such as buildings, offices, warehouses, stores, shops, dwellings, containers, prefabs and tents.
10. This policy is that there must be a minimum standard for United Nations premises that is grounded on four important principles of premises security:
 - (a) Security Risk Management;
 - (b) Integrated Systems Approach;
 - (c) “Four Ds” (Deter, Detect, Delay and Deny);
 - (d) Concentric Layers of Security.
11. **Security Risk Management.** UNSMS officials will use the SRM process to determine appropriate situation-specific security procedures and measures for premises safety and security. Application of the SRM process for a specific United Nations premises will identify the actors with the intent and capability to carry out credible threats against the premises, with special emphasis on the threat actors that have the capability to exploit potential weaknesses in a premises’ security system. The weaknesses are documented in a security survey for the premises and analysed within the vulnerability assessment of the SRM process for the specific premises. In this approach, not all United Nations premises will be protected in the same way or to the same extent, but all premises protection will be commensurate with the specific security situation the premises faces. United Nations security professionals are to work in close collaboration with host Government, facilities

managers and other applicable parties in the applications of the SRM process to United Nations premises.

12. **Integrated Systems Approach.** Proper security and safety of United Nations premises require an approach that focuses on the total system and resulting management of it, rather than on the individual components of the system. The systems approach is an integration of physical,² procedural, technical and human aspects that create a self-reinforcing protection of the premises. The Integrated Systems Approach must also coordinate with areas of responsibility of the host Government outside of the premises.
13. **Four Ds.** Security systems for premises are based on the effective use of the following principles, for which the host Government is primarily responsible³:
 - (a) Deter – physical and procedural security that attempts to prevent undesirable action against the premises by influencing attacker’s decision-making (increase perception of effort or fear of failure);
 - (b) Detect – measures to detect and assess planning, or actual attempts to plan, by threat actors to penetrate security perimeter or to test the effectiveness of the security system in place;
 - (c) Delay – physical, technical, procedural or psychological barriers to restrict movement and to allow time for appropriate response⁴ (by security or host Government forces);
 - (d) Deny – the ability to oppose or negate the effects of an action against the premises, including denying access to information on the layout and contents of the premises. The premises security system must be designed to deny identified threat actors the ability to carry out a successful harmful action against the premises.
14. **Concentric Layers of Security.** The integration of the principles outlined in the Four Ds above requires the concept of Concentric Layers of Security (Defence in Depth). Proper premises security requires a system designed with enough diversity and redundancy so that the strength of one particular component offsets the weakness of another. Components of the security system must be designed in sufficient number of layers to make it more difficult to defeat the whole system. All United Nations premises require at least two physical layers of security between personnel or valuable assets and the areas beyond direct United Nations control, including a system to only allow authorized persons, vehicles and other items to cross these layers (access control). The principle of Concentric Layers of

² For the purposes of this policy, physical security entails the full range of construction, fixtures, equipment and related procedures that are integrated into the larger premises security system.

³ It is the responsibility of UNSMS officials to review and assess host Government ability to apply the “Four Ds”. If this assessment indicates that the host Government is lacking in any area, the UNSMS organization responsible for the premises must find means to compensate.

⁴ With the appropriate resources, time and planning capabilities, any security system can be defeated. Therefore, the security system must also include an appropriate response by host Government or other security forces to neutralize the threat or an appropriate response by management to evacuate the premises.

Security also requires UNSMS officials responsible for the premises to coordinate with areas of responsibility of the host Government outside of the premises.

15. Access control systems, beginning at the perimeter and continuing through each layer of protection within the premises, channel personnel and vehicle access through designated control points for verification of identity, authority to enter and other security checks. Access control systems must provide for detection of and response to unauthorized entry attempts or other security breaches. Physical security measures on the perimeter of United Nations premises must be capable of confining attempted intrusions to the perimeter and limiting the risk to personnel associated with the threat of a direct or targeted attack or delaying attempted intrusions for sufficient time to enable a response that will limit the risk to personnel. Proper selection, supervision, management and training of guard forces used in the premises security system are also required.
16. The UNSMS organization responsible for the premises is to work in close collaboration with United Nations security professionals, host Governments, facilities managers and other responsible parties during all phases of design, construction, refurbishment and management of premises security systems to ensure that the technical, architectural and engineering elements of the premises are appropriate for the security threats and risk determined by the SRM process. This collaboration is essential to ensure that United Nations resources are used efficiently. When a UNSMS organization is considering occupying a new premise, United Nations security professionals must be involved in a security evaluation and assessment of the premises and, after acquisition of premises, must be involved in ongoing planning of security arrangements. Any assessments conducted by facilities managers to determine the risk from natural hazards are to be reviewed by security personnel to ensure security contingency response plans for natural-hazard events affecting the premises are compatible with the design and structural elements of the premises. Planning should also consider future changes in the threats the premises may face and the fact that threats may increase faster than premises upgrades can reasonably be made.
17. United Nations premises facing a substantial threat from direct, targeted violence must ensure full-time supervision to oversee the premises' security system (including coordination with the host Government) and to ensure its continual proper operation.
18. Premises security systems must also incorporate fire safety issues⁵ and crisis contingency plans, including building evacuation plans and mass casualty plans.⁶

E. Roles and Responsibilities

19. In accordance with the “Framework of Accountability for the United Nations Security Management System”⁷ (herein “Framework of Accountability”), the UNSMS is to reinforce and supplement the capacity of the host Government to fulfil its responsibilities for the security and safety of United Nations premises. The Framework of Accountability

⁵ See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter VII, Section B, Fire Safety.

⁶ See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section B, Security Planning

⁷ See *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter III, Section A, Framework of Accountability.

describes the responsibilities of security managers within the UNSMS in relation to premises security.

20. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security is responsible for overseeing the development of this policy and coordinating its implementation with organizations of the UNSMS.
21. The Designated Official (DO), in consultation with the Security Management Team (SMT), is accountable for ensuring that the SRM process is applied to the United Nations premises in its respective duty stations/missions so that SRM measures recommended for the premises are cost-effective, relevant, implementable and sustainable. SRM measures will respond to the security risks identified and must be designed, implemented, supervised and maintained up-to-date to counter the capable threat actors identified. Special emphasis is placed on investments and procedures that address more than one security risk at the same time. All security arrangements at United Nations premises shall also comply with the current Minimum Operating Security Standards policy and the country-specific Minimum Operating Security Standards requirements.
22. The premises security system must be approved by the DO and implemented within an agreed timeframe according to its priority. Organizations of the UNSMS are responsible for providing adequate funding to meet the premises security needs of their respective agencies. The UNSMS cost-sharing mechanism should be applied to shared or common premises, as appropriate. Notwithstanding this, agencies, funds, programmes and organizations may implement additional SRM measures to their respective premises as they determine appropriate. If there are any significant problems with the proper application or implementation of premises security systems by UNSMS organizations, the DO must contact the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for support and/or intervention at the Headquarters level.
23. The DO and the most senior security professional directly supporting the DO⁸, along with the designated representative (and security professional, as applicable) of the UNSMS organization managing the premises, shall establish and maintain contact with both national and local security authorities to confirm the responsibility of host Governments for premises protection and security and to ensure proper host country collaboration in the planning, developing and maintaining of the United Nations premises security system. If host Government support is insufficient, the DO must contact the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for support and/or intervention at the Headquarters level.
24. If premises are purpose-built for use by an organization of the UNSMS, the security system for that premises, and the capital investment required, must be included in the earliest stages of planning.

⁸This is usually the Chief Security Adviser (CSA) or other Security Adviser (SA), or their officer-in-charge *ad interim*. Where a CSA or SA is not present, this term is equivalent to the titles of Chief Security Officer, Chief of Security and Safety Services, Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) or Local Security Assistant (if necessary in countries where no international professional security adviser has been assigned or is present).

25. The evaluation of premises for rent or purchase by an organization of the UNSMS must examine security consideration as early as possible and take into full account area-specific requirements, conditions and considerations.
26. Based on the outcome of the SRM process and prevailing conditions, a recommendation will be made by the DO, in consultation with the SMT, as to whether common premises, single-agency premises or a more diverse United Nations premises approach is appropriate to respond to the security threats and risks to the United Nations. Decisions on common premises must be guided by realistic assessments about the ability to create an appropriate premises security system for one location that will adequately protect a large number of staff despite the high-visibility and high value of the “target”. Cost-saving should never be the primary decision-maker regarding common premises.
27. United Nations security professionals are responsible for determining the security risks to United Nations premises through the SRM process and shall advise the DO, SMT and the UNSMS organization responsible for the premises. During the SRM process, security personnel shall engage with respective facilities managers to ensure that the required security response to non-security risks, such as natural hazards, are reflected in security plans and procedures. Security professionals should also consider occupational health and safety issues in the development of security contingency response plans.
28. While evaluating the security of premises and recommending appropriate security measures, United Nations security professionals should, when necessary, consult and/or engage necessary technical expertise⁹ and applicable UNSMS guidelines and technical standards.

F. Additional Considerations

29. Existing Inter-Agency fora, such as the Inter-Agency Network for Facilities Managers, the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Common Premises and, at the country level, Operations Management Teams should network and integrate efforts of all United Nations premises stakeholders. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the UNSMS organizations Security Focal Points must participate in the above to allow proper mainstreaming of safety and security in premises decisions.
30. Training for premises security planning and operation is to be developed and provided by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and other appropriate UNSMS organizations to all relevant personnel.
31. The implementation of the present policy will be monitored and supported by the compliance, evaluation and monitoring processes of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

⁹ Technical experts, if not available “in-house” may include, but are not limited to, qualified architects, engineers, design consultants, construction and blast engineers, counter-terrorism experts, law enforcement personnel, safety and security specialists and building management officials.

32. In accordance with the United Nations “Use of Force Policy”, deadly force can never be used to defend property.

G. Final Provisions

33. This policy is meant to be shared with all United Nations personnel.

34. This policy enters into effect on 08 November 2012.