



## Report by the Secretary-General

### ANNUAL MANAGEMENT LETTER ON PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SEA) AND REPORTING OF SEA ALLEGATIONS

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#### Purpose

The purpose of this annual Management Letter on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) is to certify the ITU commitment to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by its staff and related personnel.

#### Action required by the Council

This document is transmitted to the Council **for information**.

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#### References

Annual Management Letter on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)

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Since 2018, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres has requested that all United Nations senior leaders certify to their governing bodies, through a Management Letter, that they have:

- (i) fully and accurately reported all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving United Nations staff and related personnel serving in their organization, including to the most senior United Nations official in the country in which these allegations occurred;
- (ii) made the mandatory training available to their staff and related personnel, ensured that all have completed it and proactively raised awareness on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse;
- (iii) submitted an annual Action Plan to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and which ensures that a victim's right to assistance and support is properly addressed therein;
- (iv) ensured that all of its implementing partners have minimum standards in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse; and
- (v) conducted and acted upon the results of risk assessments for each of its field operations and programmes and continue to review these on an ongoing basis.

The UN Secretary-General has also requested that a copy of the annual Management Letter on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) covering the period from 1 January through 31 December 2023 be shared with its Governing Body (*copy attached*).

***Annex: 1***



## **End-of-Year Management Letter on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Reporting of SEA Allegations**

Taking into account Section 4.6 of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" (ST/SGB/2003/13), and in line with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) constituent instruments, regulatory framework, relevant rules and procedures and past practice, I, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the ITU, hereby certify that ITU has reported to the Secretary-General all allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) that have been brought to its attention and has taken all appropriate measures to address such allegations, in accordance with established rules and procedures for dealing with cases of misconduct.

I affirm ITU's commitment to the Secretary-General's priorities on protection from SEA and reporting of SEA allegations. ITU is currently developing a dedicated policy on PSEA. Once in place, ITU will then move to further implement measures related to prevention, awareness-raising, and engagement with stakeholders.

ITU has made available to staff, as well as ITU personnel, ethics training which includes a module on the prevention of SEA and which informs individuals of their obligation to report allegations of misconduct. While there were no allegations of SEA in 2023, which may be due primarily to the mandate of ITU and its work as a technical agency, ITU is committed to zero tolerance of SEA and to ensuring timely and victim-centred assessment and investigation. Furthermore, ITU is building on its 2023 action plan on measures undertaken to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.

I recognize that leadership, transparency and accountability are essential to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse within the United Nations system and hereby certify that I have exercised my duties in this regard diligently, in good faith and to the very best of my abilities.

  
*Doreen Bogdan-Martin*  
29 January 2024

The official seal of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It is a circular stamp in blue ink. The outer ring contains the text "UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS" at the top and "GENÈVE" at the bottom, separated by two small stars. Inside the ring, it says "LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL" and features the ITU logo (a globe with an arrow) in the center.