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The three recommendations aim to ensure the following: (a) achievement of the organization's strategic objectives (Recommendation 1); (b) reliability and integrity of financial and operational information (Recommendation 3); and (c) effectiveness and efficiency of operations (Recommendation 2).

OAI had ongoing investigations within procurement in the Country, not related to the Office, at the time of the audit. This audit thus included extra tests on the procurement process and extended testing samples of procured goods and services. No indication of wrongdoing was identified in the Office.

Management comments and action plan

The Country Director accepted the recommendations, and the Director of the Division of Management and Administration accepted the one corporate recommendation, and they are in the process of implementing them. Comments and/or additional information provided have been incorporated in the report, where appropriate.

Issues with less significance (not included in this report) have been discussed directly with management and actions have been initiated to address them.

Helge S. Ostveiten
Director
Office of Audit and Investigations
I.


II. Good


III.


A. Programme activities

...levels.

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Recommendation 1:

The Office should improve project/programme management by:

- a. establishing a process of disbursements in order to identify and resolve bottlenecks and set clear timelines for disbursements—reflected in Letters of Agreement(s) and Cooperation Agreement(s);
- b. determining the implementation modality and taking into account the Country context, partners' as well as the Office's capacity, to decide in which cases Letters of Agreements should be fully implemented by partners and where would the direct implementation remain as the most appropriate;
- c. with the main event/meeting/conference providers following the appropriate procurement procedures as prescribed by UN Women's Programme and Operations Manual.
OAI Response

acknowledges the action reported by management; this will be reviewed at a later stage as part of the standard desk follow-up process of OAI.

B. Operations

1. Human resources management

in is

the Human Resources Unit.
Recommendation 2:

The Office should document all instances of conflict of interest during the recruitment process and, where
the interview panel member declines to participate in the recruitment process, there is a

OAI Response

OAI acknowledges the action reported by management; this will be reviewed at a later stage as part of the
standard desk follow-up process of OAI.

2. Procurement and supplies management

...
**Recommendation 3:**

The Headquarters Procurement Unit should review and update the limits for the non-
competitive procurement chapter of the Programme and Operations Manual in line with the operating environment of the field offices while ensuring that all transactions are documented in the system.