

# INTERNAL OVERSIGHT: THE OIOS

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In the early 1990s the General Assembly set out to strengthen the almost-invisible UN internal oversight units. However, the new unified unit began slowly in 1994, with weak determination, questionable priorities, and a small and cautious new Investigations Section. Because the General Assembly makes poor use of its new "oversight" tool, and because the principle of "diplomat Inspector" leadership (an oxymoron) is now firmly established, IO Watch believes that -- a decade later -- the much-trumpeted new Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) unit has fallen far short of original expectations. A top US diplomat, who once called the OIOS "a victory for American taxpayers," is reported to have later characterized it as "a junkyard puppy" [rather than as a full-fledged watchdog.]

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*(Note: informally assembled by IO Watch, roughly ranked from "most useful" on down, and subject to change as new sources are added)*

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