

## **Background Note on UNGSC**

The history of this Base encompasses 25 years, when it was known as UNLB, “the United Nations Logistics Base”, then, a logistics depot. Indeed, UNLB was initially established to meet the need for a depot to store the material from UNPROFOR, the UN Base in former Yugoslavia, when the UN left the ground to NATO and the EU. The UN had a depot in Pisa, Italy, but it was too small, so this base was chosen to store, refurbish and dispatch material for reuse in other Peacekeeping missions; in other words a revolving cycle of material coming from downsizing or closing missions to be resent to other missions.

The establishment of the Strategic Deployment Stock (SDS) in 2001 represented an important signpost.

Another important signpost was the creation of the Department of Field Support in 2007 through a restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, with the intent to establish a UN Field dedicated support entity, providing support services to all Peacekeeping operations and enabling successful achievement of their mandates.

In 2008 it became evident that the world was in the grip of an economic crisis of unprecedented intensity and duration, and overall transformation of international order, which questioned the grounds of governance and the development models that had been predominant for the past 60 years.

In 2010, barely 3 years after its creation, DFS, with the blessing of Member States, commenced implementation of a major and far reaching strategic change initiative, called the Global Field Support Strategy, a five-year programme to transform service delivery to field missions, ie. to deliver more timely, rapid deployable and integrated support to Peacekeeping and peacemaking, providing better safety, security and quality of life for staff, reduced environmental impact, while ensuring accountability and achieving economies of scale.

The GFSS was the catalyst for a large-scale transformation of UNLB into the current Global Service Centre. From 1 January 2019, the establishment of DOS has continued to reinforce the UNGSC’s role in integrated supply chain management and a coherent environmental management program. DOS is the link from the present to the future, enabling further transformation to the nimble, responsive and innovative supply chain management and technology management organization that is UNGSC today.

From a singular logistics base in 1994, the UNGSC today is uniquely positioned to provide critical supply chain management services and solutions to peace operations. From a singular telecommunications facility, to now state-of-the-art twin technology centres in both Brindisi and Valencia, the UNGSC is the resilient operational hub for the delivery of technology services and solutions to its clients. With its clear operational vision and dedication to being nimble and responsive, UNGSC is now a central part of the UN’s support architecture and a vital tool in the service of peace.

# United Nations Nations Unies

GLOBAL SERVICE CENTRE

Piazza Del Vento, 1 • 72100 Brindisi, Italy

TEL.: +39 0831 056000 • FAX +39 0831 418758

Across each of its pillars, UNGSC has invested in expanding its role as an innovation hub for the United Nations: in information and communications technologies, in supply chain management, in engineering, and in environmental support services. In line with the Secretary-General's reform agenda, the UNGSC is exploring opportunities to leverage its existing infrastructure, skills and operational support capacities for a broader range of clients beyond the Secretariat, to include Headquarters, regional commissions, offices away from Headquarters, UN Agencies as well as other UN partners such as the African Union.

The UNGSC is also keen to create partnerships in Italy and Spain – with universities, in the private sector and with other local resources – in order to build synergies that enable collaboration, development of expertise and capacity building opportunities in the service of UNGSC clients.

UNGSC is also the host and support to several Tenant units, which have administrative reporting lines to UNGSC and functional reporting lines to the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) or the Department of Operational Support (DOS). These Tenants include the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (which report to DPO) plus the Strategic Air Operations Centre (SAOC) and the Field Central Review Bodies Unit (which report to DOS).